



NARRATIVE REPORT

2nd E€OFISH PROGRAMME REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

March 16th, 2021
Indian Ocean Commission, Ebène, Mauritius

Promu et financé par

Partenaires de mise en oeuvre



European Union



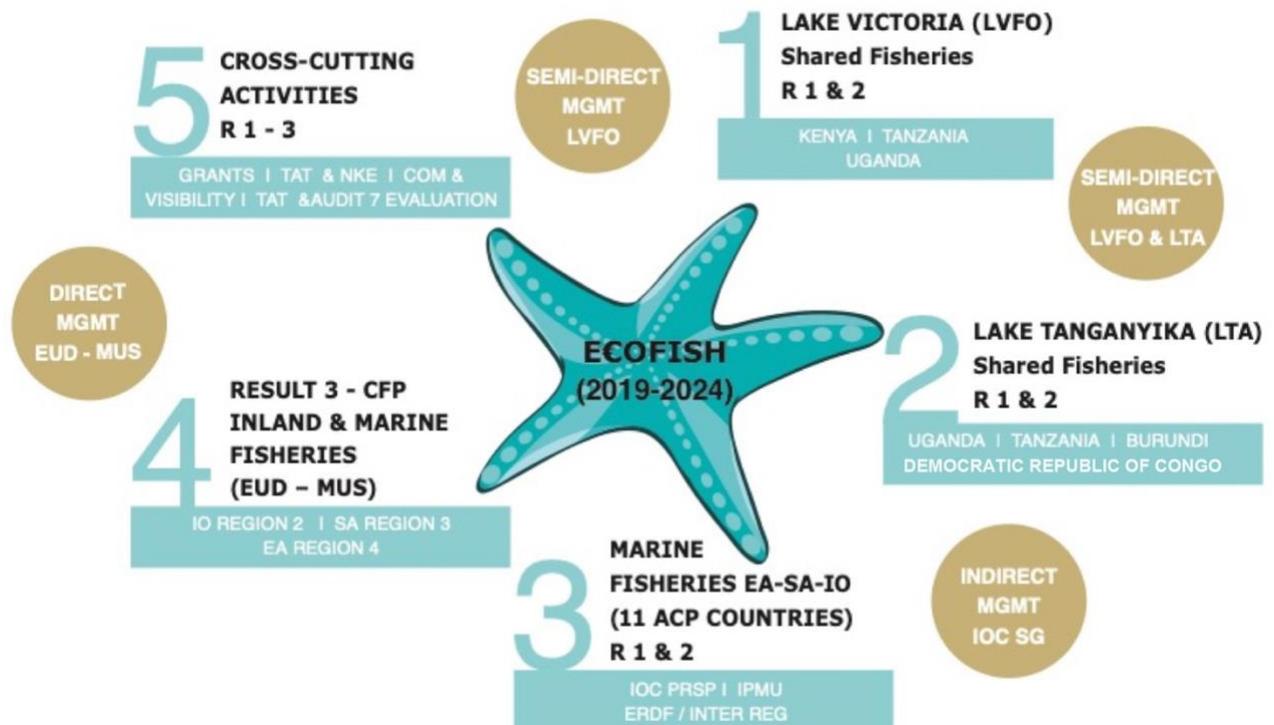
The E€OFISH programme support the sustainable management and development of fisheries to contribute to poverty alleviation food and nutrition security while addressing climate change resilience and enhancing marine biodiversity. It builds on the achievement of previous projects to enhance the sustainable and inclusive management of the marine and inland fisheries resources and ecosystems of the EA, SA and IO region to contribute to the aspirations of the UN-SDG 2020. It also reflects the" AU Transforming Africa 2030 and Blue Economy Strategy" as well as other analogous marine fisheries and environment international and regional instruments, including the *AU Policy Frameworks and Reform Strategies* for the small-scale fisheries 2017.

The E€OFISH financing agreement was signed on September 23, 2018. This was subsequently followed by a high-level consultative meeting in November 2018, eventually followed by the first Programme Steering Committee in February 2020. The Integrated Programme Management Unit (IPMU) was not established until July 2020, when some of the staff were recruited.

To ensure effective management of the E€OFISH Programme, Steering Committee's (PSC) have been established for Workplans 1,2 and 3. The PSC meets annually to take stock of progress achieved and approve the annual workplan's. In this context, the second PSC meeting for workplan 3 is scheduled for the 16th March 2021. This Narrative report has been prepared to get the gist of the achievements of the E€OFISH programme to date. The report reviews Result 1,2 and 3 of the E€OFISH Marine Fisheries for the EA, SA and IO region. Note that Result 3 is managed by the EUD with technical inputs from E€OFISH and relates to call for proposal launched by the EUD in April 2020.

THE E€OFISH PROGRAMME

From a project management perspective, E€OFISH comprises 5 Work Plans which are embedded into the mandated objectives and guidelines of its Financial Agreement.



Work Plans 1 and 2 are indulged in the shared fisheries of Africa’s two Great Lakes: Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika. LTA and LVFO are two inland Regional Fisheries Management Organisations that are institutionally connected to EAC. The LTA Work Plan is managed jointly by the LTA and EUD Burundi and is implemented by the FAO through a Contribution Agreement. The LVFO Work Plan is implemented by the LVFO Secretariat under the supervision of EUD Uganda.

Work Plan 3 relates to the Marine Fisheries of the EA-SA-IO region which is implemented by the IOC Secretariat through a dedicated IPMU. It is a multi-faceted work plan that embraces all mandated strategic actions of the E€OFISH programme that include the IOC Regional Fisheries Surveillance Programme, commonly known as “PRSP” to combat IUU fishing in the SWIO region. The IPMU became operational in July 2020 with a reduced staff complement.

Work Plan 4 relates to Result 3 – Call for Proposals. Nine (9) awarded projects (3 in the EA, SA and IO Region) are concerned.

Work Plan 5 consists of the direct management and cross-cutting components such as the Technical Assistance Contract with the Consortium INCATEMA-DT Global-AESA, Grant Contracts to financially support regional fisheries sea and air patrols, Communication and Visibility budget and provision for External Evaluations and audits.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The mandated development partners of the EEOFISH programme consist of the following sub-regional economic and fisheries organisations.

- i) Five Duly Mandated Regional Organisations: COMESA, EAC, IGAD, IOC and SADC
- ii) Two inland Regional Fisheries Management Organisations: LVFO and LTA
- iii) One Marine Regional Fisheries Management Organisation: IOTC
- iv) Two marine Regional Fisheries Bodies: SWIOFC and potentially, SIOFA
- v) Other fisheries-related partner agencies include AU-IBAR, FAO, EFCA and UNEP-NC

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

This section summarizes the works performed by Results.

MARINE FISHERIES WORK PLAN

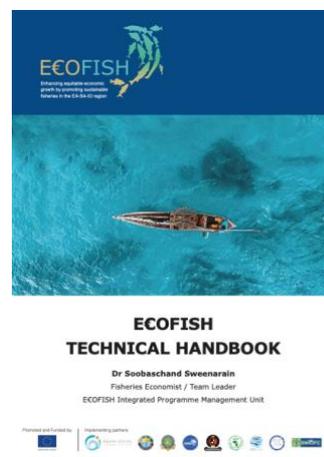
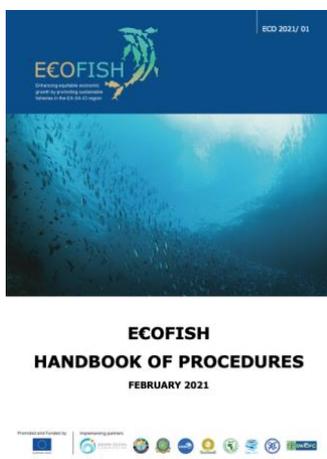
Mauritius was declared COVID-safe in the 3rd Semester of 2020 but was almost cut-off from the rest of the world to remain safe from the proliferation of the coronavirus. The quasi-lockdown and travel restrictions within the EA-SA-IO region have slowdown the activities of the programme. Thus, the focus was laid on activities that could be carried by teleworking/virtually or in house.

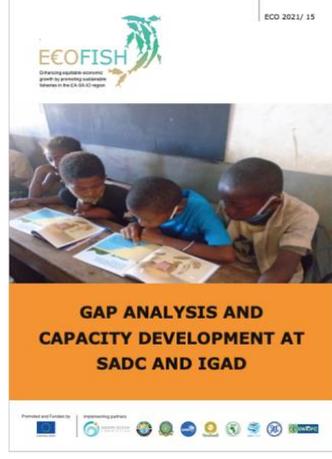
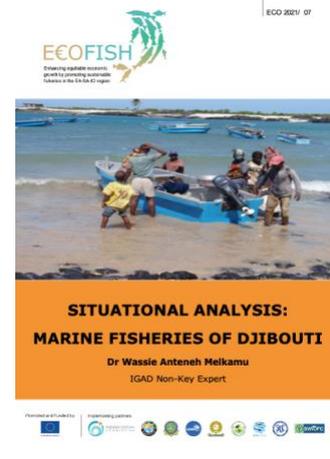
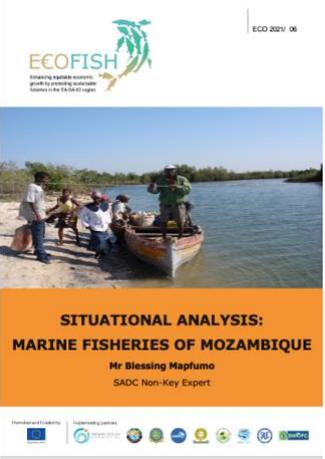
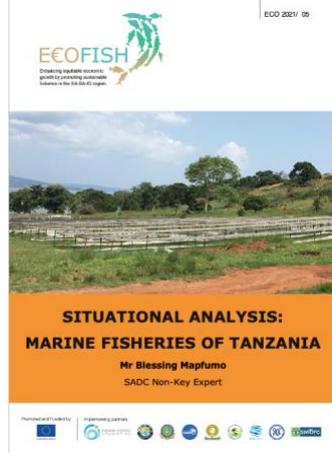
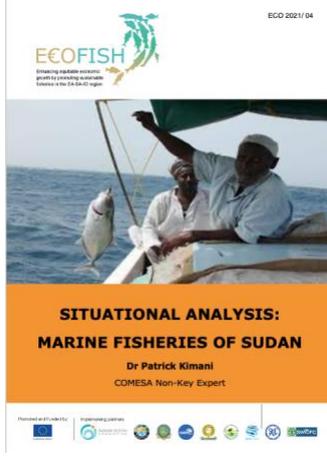
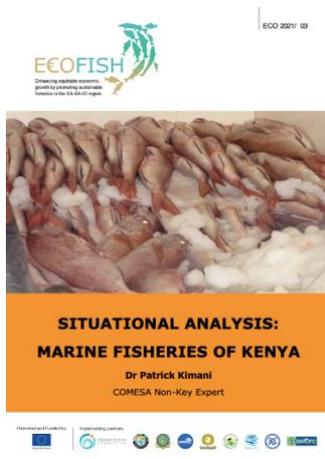
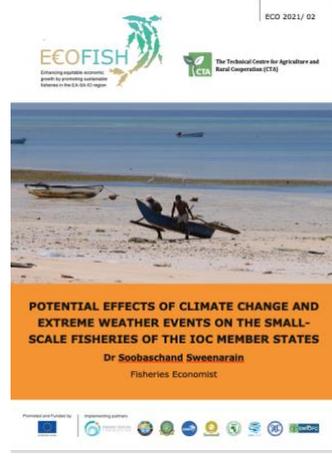
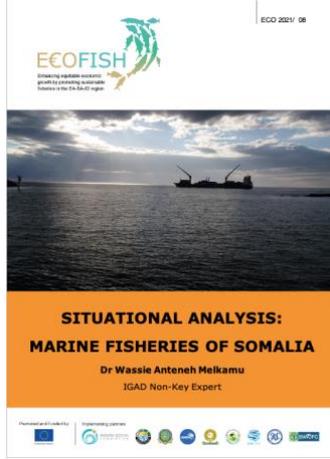
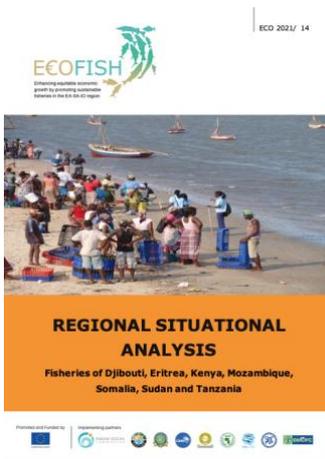
Result 1 - Enhanced regional policies and institutional frameworks to secure more sustainable fisheries management to secure more sustainable fisheries management and contribute to marine biodiversity and climate resilience.

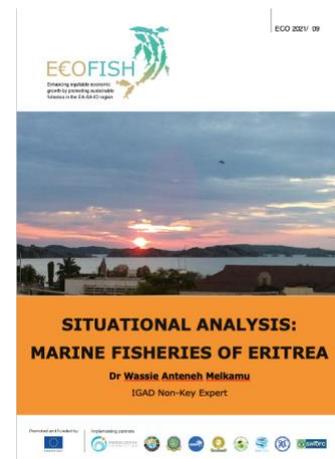
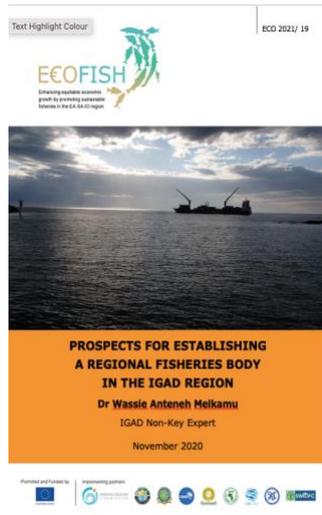
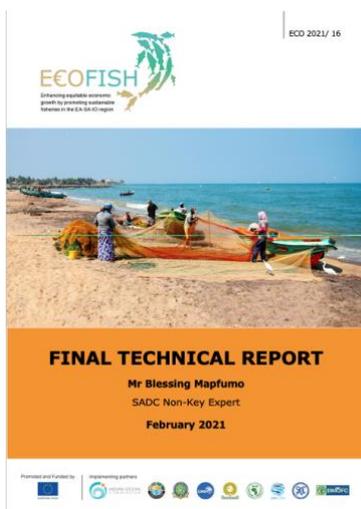
- Several approved Concept Notes and Terms of Reference regarding the strategic actions were developed and finalised in consultation with the relevant stakeholders. The implementation was delayed not only because of COVID 19 but also, the complexity of the EU procedures for hiring consultants on the Marine Fisheries PE. The IPMU is examining alternative approaches to simplify and accelerate these procedures in consultation with the EUD Mauritius.
- A major stride of Result 1 during this period has been the procurement of three NKE's (SA 1.4) for 60 working days each and seconded to work at SADC, COMESA and IGAD to support them is the implementation of their prioritised activities and selected cross-regional strategic actions. However, this initiative has suffered from unnecessary delay on the part of IOC. To date the recruitment process of an NKE for the IOC is still pending.
- A short-term expert has been hired to develop a platform for the operationalisation of the RCM.
- Recruitment of STE's for recreational & ornamental fisheries (Act 1.2.3/4) suffered from a lack of interest due to heavy EU procedures. Finally, NKE's have been recruited for these activities.
- Concept note was prepared for Act 1.3.2 (registration and licensing frameworks). This activity will soon be launched along with other activities under SA 1.3

- Non key experts hired under SA 1.4 (Strengthening DMRO's & RFB's) has now finished their work with COMESA, IGAD and SADC tackling the priority Actions identified by the DMRO's. 7 National situational Analysis were produced for the following countries Kenya, Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Mozambique and Tanzania. These are on Ecofish Website. Other reports have been produced, namely on IGAD MCSCC and an RFB for the horn of Africa. Report on Gap analysis and capacity development of SADC & IGAD has been produced.
- A senior consultant has been hired by Incatema to work on the Blue Economy Fisheries Satellite Account (SA 1.6) for the region. Work has been initiated in February 2021. Discussions with the Mauritius Oceanographic Institute are well advanced and a decision from the board is awaited with regards to the MOI/Ecofish collaboration on SA 1.7, climate change adaptation etc.
- Ecofish has also been discussing with the Open University of Mauritius to set up a degree/diploma course on sustainable fisheries development and the Blue economy and an MOU will soon be signed by both parties. Collaboration of the N. Mandela University, Fish Force and other interested parties have been sought.
- The Ecofish programme was officially launched on the 9th December 2020. The Ecofish Technical handbook was published and shared on that occasion. A handbook on Ecofish administrative procedures has just been completed.
- It should be pointed out that bulk of the activities of Ecofish relates to studies and workshops. Workshops have not been tackled as yet due to the restriction on travelling, however a series of 10 webinars are planned for 2021. Most of the work done so far has been in house and expenses has been minimal.

Some of the reports published:







Result 2 – Strengthening the capacity to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the EA-SA-IO region.

The key milestones passed, and outputs delivered during the reporting period include the following:

- i) The RCU members of the PRSP were designated and two RCU meetings were organised.
- ii) A mobile application for sharing fisheries surveillance data among the national Fisheries Inspectors was developed by the MCS Expert.
- iii) A regional database for the localisation of the seasonal concentration of industrial tuna fishing in the SWIO region was based on the IOTC 5° x 5° square historical catch and efforts database.
- iv) Participation of 2 PRSP partner countries (Madagascar and Mozambique) in regional fisheries surveillance patrol organized by La Reunion/France with FEDER/INTERREG funding. The first regional mission of MSV Osiris II focused on the Southern Entrance of the Mozambique Channel and the Malagasy waters. This regional operation suffered from the fallouts of COVID 19 related restrictions and the delay in the activation of the grant contracts.
- v) Attendance to the regional MCS meetings organized by SADC and SWIOFC Working Party on collaboration and cooperation on tuna fisheries of SWIO region.

- vi) Closing of the old PRSP-SmartFish grant contract and the development of a new PRSP-E€OFISH grant contract.
- vii) Launching of the Electronic Monitoring System or electronic observer project through the use of CCTV cameras onboard in all PRSP member States.
- viii) Collaboration and coordination with other regional initiatives of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (SCS) including SADC MCS CC, Regional Center for Maritime Information Fusion (CRFIM), SWIOFC ... and other NGOs: Global Fishing Watch, Trygg Mat Tracking (TMT) ...

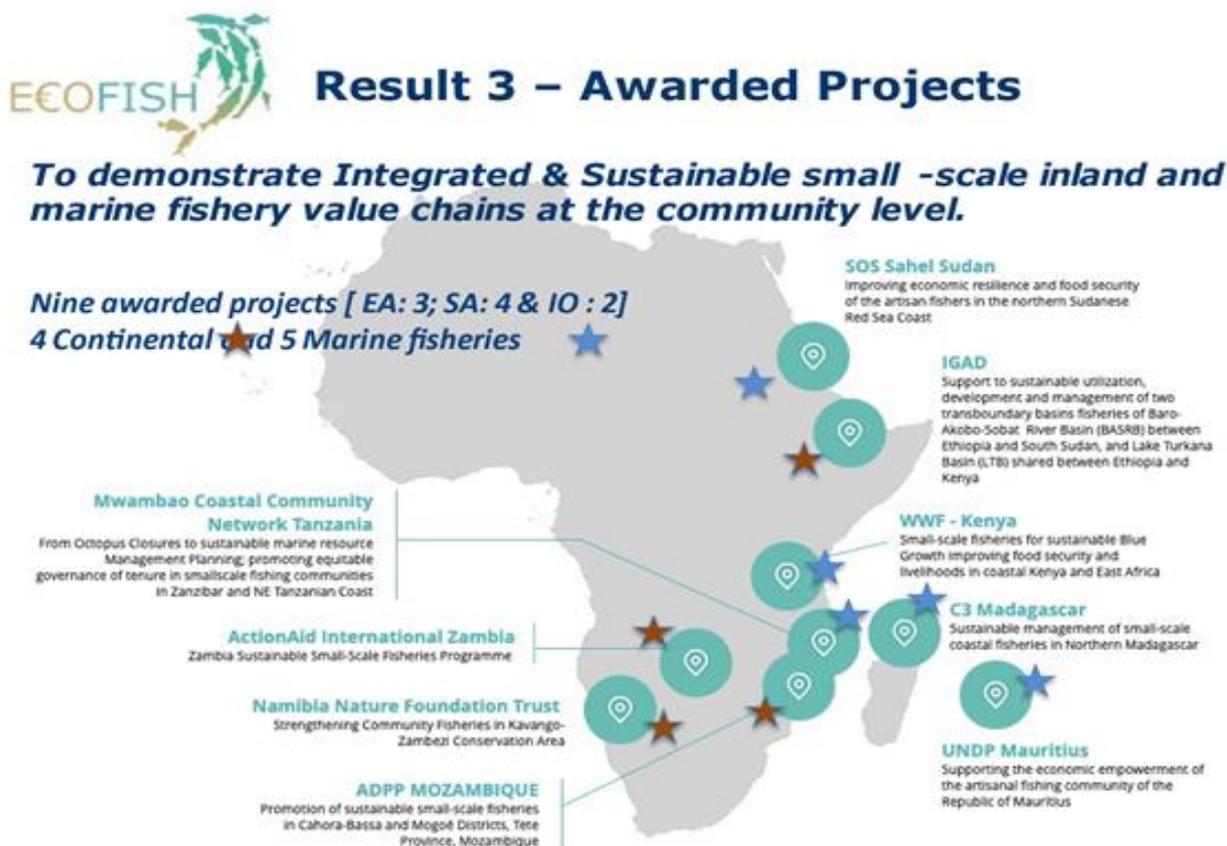
The reactivation of the Regional Coordination Unit is the first step towards the operationalisation of PRSP and due emphasis should be laid on the reactivation of the Regional VMS and StaRFISH which is a dedicated regional MCS database to inform fisheries surveillance strategic intelligence.

RESULT 3: CONCRETE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE INITIATIVES IN SMALL-SCALE INLAND AND MARINE FISHERIES SUPPORTED.

The FE/TL has worked closely with the EUD Mauritius Project Manager for the implementation of Result 3. Technical advice was provided as and when needed through the process of finalizing the grant contracts with the project awardees. An inception meeting was organized with 8 out of the 9 projects. The promoters have been exposed to the organisational culture of E€OFISH, including its project management and governance practices that may serve as good practices for these projects. They are requested to provide a monthly update on their activities which are reviewed at the monthly IPMU meeting and they are cooperating well. Several relevant technical documents and advice were provided to them on a case-by-case basis.

A representative of the TAT and EUD Mauritius will participate in their respective annual Steering Committee meeting. The Communication and Visibility Expert will work closely with them to communicate on local social innovations for more sustainable and inclusive fisheries.

These projects have shown some resilience to the COVID 19 related social and economic crises probably because of their geographic isolation. Most of them have completed the installation phase and are now rolling out their planned activities. No field visit has been undertaken. The figure below illustrates the thematic scope and location of these awarded projects.



Result 3 has awarded 9 projects, namely to UNDP (Mauritius), C3 (Madagascar), IGAD (Djibouti), Mwambao (Zanzibar), ADPP (Mozambique), SOS Sahel (Sudan), WWF (Kenya), Action Aid (Zambia)

COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The activities under this component mainly focused on setting up the visibility and communication structures. Therefore, progress was made mainly for the crosscutting activities. The following outputs were delivered:

- The branding guidelines have been approved.
- The communication strategy has been approved.

- The E€OFISH programme was officially launched.
- Its website and Facebook account were launched.
- 27 articles were published in the press.
- The first two programme's quarterly newsletter were disseminated.
- Visibility materials are available to partners (banner, video, brochure, etc.).
- Draft ToR for the recruitment of service provider for C&V of ECOFISH was developed

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT.

The activities under this component (information technology and database management) focused on the implementation of information technology tools. The following were delivered:

- A monitoring and evaluation system for Ecofish programme activities has been created and operationalised.
- Inventory and launch of the Regional Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) completed.
- The StarFish database has been reactivated and work is in progress on its use by countries.
- The Ecofish programme information management and data archiving strategy is now operational.
- A Regional database for the Regional Coordination Mechanism is under preparation and will soon be launched.

Finance and Administration

Some 2.8% of the budget has been spent so far. It is to be noted that spending's cannot be taken as an indicator of performance as plenty of work has been achieved in house without having any recourse to external experts. It is also to be noted that we are presently working under different conditions due to the Covid pandemic.

Fig 1: Distribution of Ecofish total budget of 28M Euro's.

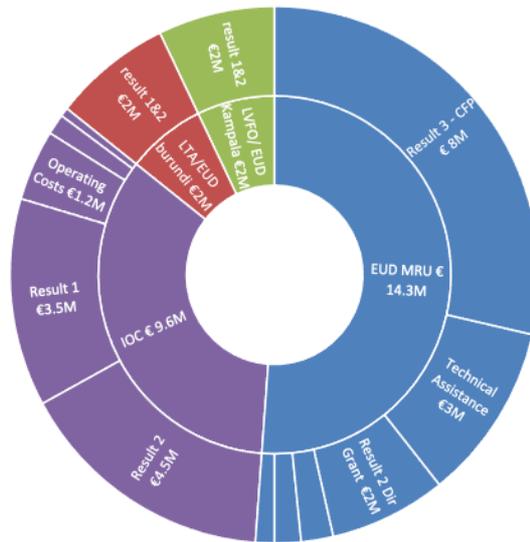


Fig 2: Distribution of budget for IOC Marine Fisheries Workplan 3.

