



# Audit of the French fisheries control system

**Audit of the French SAI : 2010  
- 2012**



# Audit background

- **European Court of Justice ruling in 2005 on continued failure by France to comply with fisheries obligations**
  - First ruling in 1991
  - In 2005, France was failing to comply with the 1991 ruling and significant deficiencies persisted
  - Lump sum fine of 20 M€ and penalty payment of 57 M€
  
- **New European fisheries control system**
  - Council regulation n°1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy.

# Audit scope

- **Compliance of the French fisheries control system with the European regulation**
  - French control and surveillance system
  - Enforcement and sanction : effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties
- **Cost of the fisheries control system**

# Results

## ■ French control and surveillance system

- 7 administrations are involved in fisheries control
  - Coordination
  - Lack of training of some staff
- Efficiency of the system is improving
  - Inspection at sea - role of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres
  - Inspection of landings – difficulties to comply with the level of inspection in ports set by annex I of regulation 1224/2009

# Results

## ■ Enforcement and sanction

- Sanctions – difficulty to assess the current situation
  - No data on administrative sanctions
  - No reconciliation of statistics (controls, administrative sanctions, criminal sanctions)
- Implementation of regulation 1224/2009
  - Point system for serious infringements (art. 92)
  - National register of infringements (art. 93)

# Results

## ■ Cost of the fisheries control system

- Lack of data : no reliable cost accounting
- Overall cost in 2009 : 59,39 M€
  - Harvest value : 940 M€
  - Cost of the fisheries control : 6 % of harvest value
- Average cost of controls
  - 1 263 € for each control
  - 26 821 € for a control at sea conducted by the navy – 378 € for a control on land conducted by the directorate generate for competition and fraud

# Summary

<b>Audit scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ok (not too broad)</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ no data on administrative sanctions</li> <li>■ no reliable cost accounting</li> <li>■ reconciliation of statistics</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ national assessment of the compliance with the European fisheries control system</li> <li>■ 17 recommendations to improve the efficiency of French control system and its compliance with European rules.</li> </ul>
<b>Prospects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ performance audit of the cost of fisheries management compared to fisheries contribution to GDP</li> <li>■ national register of infringements</li> </ul>