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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Impact Assessment regarding the Commission's proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the conservation of fisheries resources through technical measures in the Atlantic and the North Sea

Lead DG: DG FISH

Agenda planning: 2006/FISH/004

SUMMARY OF THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

on the proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the conservation of fisheries resources through technical measures

{COM(2008) 324}
{SEC(2008) 1978}

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The Impact Assessment regards a draft proposal for the Regulation concerning the conservation of fisheries resources through technical measures in the Atlantic and the North Sea.

The proposal for a new regulation on technical conservation measures in the Atlantic and the North Sea was identified in the Commission Action Plan 2006-2008 on simplification of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)¹ legislation as a fundamental test case of simplification. The proposal is also part of the Commission's Rolling Simplification Programme.

Recognising that the technical measures legislation for the Atlantic and the North Sea grew too complex and difficult to interpret, control and enforce, the Council invited the Commission to submit a simplified proposal. In its conclusions on promoting more environmentally-friendly fishing methods, the Council also recommended a localised approach where measures are adapted to regional conditions, when appropriate.

Simplification is therefore a key objective of the new proposed regulation. The specific operational aims are as follows:

- to incorporate all revised conditions and amendments in a comprehensive and easy to understand, control and enforce package of technical measures;
- to establish a balance between measures which are generally applicable in all areas and measures which are applicable specifically on a regional basis as defined by the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Areas.

The scope of the proposal is relatively small as it does not change the substance of related legislation but only the legislative approach and therefore the likely environmental, social and economic impacts are modest. This is a proportionate impact assessment, for which no inter-service steering group was set up. Scientific and Stakeholder Committees have been consulted.

Details of consultation processes, options and impacts are provided.

¹ COM(2005) 647 final