



Council of the  
European Union

015478/EU XXVI. GP  
Eingelangt am 20/03/18

Brussels, 20 March 2018  
(OR. en)

7078/18

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**Interinstitutional File:**  
**2018/0053 (NLE)**

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PECHE 87

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS**

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Subject: COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EU) 2018/120 as regards  
certain fishing opportunities

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**COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2018/...**

**of ...**

**amending Regulation (EU) 2018/120  
as regards certain fishing opportunities**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EU) No 2018/120<sup>1</sup> fixes the fishing opportunities for 2018 for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in Union waters and, for Union vessels, in certain non-Union waters.
- (2) Certain reporting codes should be modified in order to allow for accurate reporting of catches. Certain references to the footnotes and their wording should be corrected.
- (3) In Regulation (EU) 2018/120, the total allowable catch (TAC) for sandeel in ICES divisions 2a and 3a and ICES subarea 4 was set at zero. Sandeel is a short lived species and the relevant scientific advice becomes available in the second half of February, while fishing activities start in April.
- (4) The catch limits for sandeel in ICES divisions 2a and 3a and ICES subarea 4 should now be amended in line with the latest scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), issued on 23 February 2018.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120 of 23 January 2018 fixing for 2018 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/127 (OJ L 27, 31.1.2018, p. 1).

- (5) For sandeel fisheries, ICES divisions 2a and 3a and ICES subarea 4 are divided into management areas, on the basis of scientific advice. Management area 3r is mainly located in Norwegian waters. However, it also includes Union waters, and some important fishing banks straddled across management areas 2r and 3r. ICES advice sets out that on average 8 % of catches in management area 3r are taken in Union waters. Catch limits for Union waters of management area 3r should be established in accordance with that advice.
- (6) The TAC for cod in ICES subarea 1 and division 2b should be amended to correctly reflect the fishing opportunities available for Union vessels in that area.
- (7) The maximum number of longliners allowed for Malta in the ICCAT Convention area that may be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean should be amended, to take account of the increased number of vessels that are so authorised.
- (8) Regulation (EU) 2018/120 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (9) The catch limits provided for in Regulation (EU) 2018/120 apply from 1 January 2018. The provisions introduced by this Regulation concerning catch limits should therefore also apply from that date. Such retroactive application is without prejudice to the principles of legal certainty and protection of legitimate expectations as the fishing opportunities concerned have not yet been exhausted,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

### *Article 1*

Annexes IA, IB and IV to Regulation (EU) 2018/120 are amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

### *Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2018.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council*

*The President*

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## ANNEX

1. Annex IA is amended as follows:

- (a) the fishing opportunities table for sandeel and associated by-catches in Union waters of 2a, 3a and 4 is replaced by the following:

"

Species:	Sandeel and associated by-catches <i>Ammodytes</i> spp.	Zone:	Union waters of 2a, 3a and 4 <sup>(1)</sup>
Denmark	195 875 <sup>(2)</sup>	Analytical TAC	
United Kingdom	4 282 <sup>(2)</sup>	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Germany	300 <sup>(2)</sup>	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Sweden	7 193 <sup>(2)</sup>		
Union	207 650		
TAC	207 650		

<sup>(1)</sup> Excluding waters within six nautical miles of the UK baselines at Shetland, Fair Isle and Foula.

<sup>(2)</sup> Up to 2 % of the quota may consist of by-catches of whiting and mackerel (OT1/\*2A3A4). By-catches of whiting and mackerel counted against the quota pursuant to this provision and by-catches of species counted against the quota pursuant to Article 15(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall, together, not exceed 9 % of the quota.

Special condition: within the limits of the abovementioned quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in the following sandeel management areas, as defined in Annex IID:

Zone: Union waters of sandeel management areas

	1r	2r <sup>(1)</sup>	3r	4	5r	6	7r
	(SAN/234_1R)	(SAN/234_2R)	(SAN/234_3R)	(SAN/234_4)	(SAN/234_5R)	(SAN/234_6)	(SAN/234_7R)
Denmark	126 837	4 717	8 177	55 979	0	165	0
United Kingdom	2 772	103	179	1 224	0	4	0
Germany	194	7	13	86	0	0	0
Sweden	4 658	173	300	2 056	0	6	0
Union	134 461	5 000	8 669	59 345	0	175	0
Total	134 461	5 000	8 669	59 345	0	175	0

<sup>(1)</sup> In management area 2r the TAC may only be fished as a monitoring TAC with an associated sampling protocol for the fishery.

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- (b) the fishing opportunities table for greater silver smelt in Union waters of 3a and 4 is replaced by the following:

"

Species: Greater silver smelt <i>Argentina silus</i>		Zone: Union waters of 3a and 4 (ARU/3A4-C)
Denmark	1 093	Precautionary TAC
Germany	11	
France	8	
Ireland	8	
The Netherlands	51	
Sweden	43	
United Kingdom	20	
Union	1 234	
TAC	1 234	

".

- (c) the fishing opportunities table for tusk in 3a is replaced by the following:

"

Species: Tusk <i>Brosme brosme</i>		Zone: 3a (USK/03A.)
Denmark	15	Precautionary TAC
Sweden	8	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies
Germany	8	
Union	31	
TAC	31	

".



- (d) the fishing opportunities table for tusk in Union and international waters of 5, 6 and 7 is replaced by the following:

"

Species: Tusk <i>Brosme brosme</i>		Zone: Union and international waters of 5, 6 and 7 (USK/567EI.)
Germany	17	Precautionary TAC
Spain	60	Article 12(1) of this Regulation applies
France	705	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies
Ireland	68	
United Kingdom	340	
Others	17 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Union	1 207	
Norway	2 923 <sup>(2)(3)(4)(5)</sup>	
TAC	4 130	
<sup>(1)</sup>	Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.	
<sup>(2)</sup>	To be fished in Union waters of 2a, 4, 5b, 6 and 7 (USK/*24X7C).	
<sup>(3)</sup>	Special condition: of which an incidental catch of other species of 25 % per ship, at any moment, is authorised in 5b, 6 and 7. However, this percentage may be exceeded in the first 24 hours following the beginning of the fishing on a specific ground. The total incidental catch of other species in 5b, 6 and 7 shall not exceed the following amount, in tonnes (OTH/*5B67-): 3 000. By-catch of cod under this provision in area 6a may not be more than 5 %.	
<sup>(4)</sup>	Including ling. The following quotas for Norway shall only be fished with long-lines in 5b, 6 and 7:	
	Ling (LIN/*5B67-)	7 500
	Tusk (USK/*5B67-)	2 923.
<sup>(5)</sup>	The tusk and ling quotas for Norway are interchangeable up to the following amount, in tonnes: 2 000.	

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(e) the fishing opportunities table for haddock in 3a is replaced by the following:

"

Species:	Haddock <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Zone:	3a (HAD/03A.)
Belgium	12	Analytical TAC	
Denmark	2 070		
Germany	132		
The Netherlands	2		
Sweden	245		
Union	2 461		
TAC	2 569		

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(f) the fishing opportunities table for hake in 3a is replaced by the following:

"

Species:	Hake <i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Zone:	3a (HKE/03A.)
Denmark	2 890 <sup>(1)</sup>	Analytical TAC	
Sweden	246 <sup>(1)</sup>	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies	
Union	3 136		
TAC	3 136 <sup>(2)</sup>		
<sup>(1)</sup>	Transfers of this quota may be effected to Union waters of 2a and 4. However, such transfers shall be notified in advance to the Commission.		
<sup>(2)</sup>	Within the following overall TAC for the northern stock of hake: 111 785.		

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- (g) the fishing opportunities table for blue whiting in Union and international waters of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14 is replaced by the following:

"

Species: Blue whiting <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>		Zone: Union and international waters of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14 (WHB/1X14)
Denmark	61 277 <sup>(1)</sup>	Analytical TAC
Germany	23 825 <sup>(1)</sup>	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies
Spain	51 949 <sup>(1) (2)</sup>	
France	42 644 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Ireland	47 451 <sup>(1)</sup>	
The Netherlands	74 720 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Portugal	4 826 <sup>(1) (2)</sup>	
Sweden	15 158 <sup>(1)</sup>	
United Kingdom	79 513 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Union	401 363 <sup>(1) (3)</sup>	
Norway	110 000	
Faroe Islands	10 000	
TAC	Not relevant	
<sup>(1)</sup>	Special condition: within a total access quantity of 21 500 tonnes for the Union, Member States may fish up to the following percentage of their quotas in Faroese waters (WHB/*05-F.): 9,2 %.	
<sup>(2)</sup>	Transfers of this quota may be effected to 8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CEECAF 34.1.1. However, such transfers shall be notified in advance to the Commission.	
<sup>(3)</sup>	Special condition: from the EU quotas in Union and international waters of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14 (WHB/*NZJM1) and in 8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CEECAF 34.1.1 (WHB/*NZJM2), the following quantity may be fished in the Norwegian Economic Zone or in the fishery zone around Jan Mayen: 227 975.	

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- (h) the fishing opportunities table for blue ling in Union and international waters of 3a is replaced by the following:

"

Species:	Blue ling <i>Molva dypterygia</i>	Zone:	Union and international waters of 3a (BLI/03A-)
Denmark	3	Precautionary TAC	
Germany	2		
Sweden	3		
Union	8		
TAC	8		

".  
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- (i) the fishing opportunities table for ling in Union waters of 3a is replaced by the following:

"

Species:	Ling <i>Molva molva</i>	Zone:	Union waters of 3a (LIN/03A.)
Belgium	6	Precautionary TAC	
Denmark	50		
Germany	6		
Sweden	19		
United Kingdom	6		
Union	87		
TAC	87		

".  
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- (j) the fishing opportunities table for ling in Union and international waters of 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14 is replaced by the following:

"

Species: Ling <i>Molva molva</i>		Zone: Union and international waters of 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14 (LIN/6X14.)
Belgium	48 <sup>(1)</sup>	Precautionary TAC
Denmark	8 <sup>(1)</sup>	Article 12(1) of this Regulation applies
Germany	173 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Spain	3 498	
France	3 730 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Ireland	935	
Portugal	8	
United Kingdom	4 296 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Union	12 696	
Norway	7 500 <sup>(2)(3)(4)</sup>	
Faroe Islands	200 <sup>(5)(6)</sup>	
TAC	20 396	
<sup>(1)</sup>	Special condition: not more than 15 % of this quota may be fished in Union waters of 4 (LIN/*04-C.).	
<sup>(2)</sup>	Special condition: of which an incidental catch of other species of 25 % per ship, at any moment, is authorised in 5b, 6 and 7. However, this percentage may be exceeded in the first 24 hours following the beginning of the fishing on a specific ground. The total incidental catch of other species in 5b, 6 and 7 shall not exceed the following amount, in tonnes (OTH/*6X14.): 3 000. By-catch of cod under this provision in area 6a may not be more than 5 %.	
<sup>(3)</sup>	Including tusk. The quotas for Norway shall only be fished with long-lines in 5b, 6 and 7, and they amount to:	
	Ling (LIN/*5B67-)	7 500
	Tusk (USK/*5B67-)	2 923.
<sup>(4)</sup>	The ling and tusk quotas for Norway are interchangeable up to the following amount, in tonnes: 2 000.	
<sup>(5)</sup>	Including tusk. To be fished in 6b and 6a north of 56° 30' N (LIN/*6BAN.).	
<sup>(6)</sup>	Special condition: of which an incidental catch of other species of 20 % per ship, at any moment, is authorised in 6a and 6b. However, this percentage may be exceeded in the first 24 hours following the beginning of the fishing on a specific ground. The total incidental catch of other species in 6a and 6b shall not exceed the following amount, in tonnes (OTH/*6AB.): 75.	

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- (k) the fishing opportunities table for Norway lobster in 3a is replaced by the following:

"

Species:	Norway lobster <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Zone:	3a (NEP/03A.)
Denmark	8 626	Analytical TAC	
Germany	25	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies	
Sweden	3 087		
Union	11 738		
TAC	11 738		

";

- (l) in footnote 3 of the fishing opportunities table for skates and rays in Union waters of 6a, 6b, 7a-c and 7e-k the reporting code "(RJE/7FG)" is replaced by "(RJE/7FG.)";

- (m) the fishing opportunities table for common sole in 3a and Union waters of Subdivisions 22-24 is replaced by the following:

"

Species: Common sole <i>Solea solea</i>		Zone: 3a; Union waters of Subdivisions 22-24 (SOL/3ABC24)
Denmark	376	Analytical TAC
Germany	22 <sup>(1)</sup>	
The Netherlands	36 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Sweden	14	
Union	448	
TAC	448	
<sup>(1)</sup> Quota may be fished in Union waters of 3a, Subdivisions 22-24 only.		

";

- (n) the fishing opportunities table for horse mackerel and associated by-catches in Union waters of 4b, 4c and 7d is replaced by the following:

"

Species:	Horse mackerel and associated by-catches <i>Trachurus</i> spp.	Zone:	Union waters of 4b, 4c and 7d (JAX/4BC7D)
Belgium	14	(1)	Precautionary TAC
Denmark	5 985	(1)	
Germany	529	(1) (2)	
Spain	111	(1)	
France	497	(1) (2)	
Ireland	376	(1)	
The Netherlands	3 604	(1) (2)	
Portugal	13	(1)	
Sweden	75	(1)	
United Kingdom	1 425	(1) (2)	
Union	12 629		
Norway	2 550	(3)	
TAC	15 179		
(1)	Up to 5 % of the quota may consist of by-catches of boarfish, haddock, whiting and mackerel (OTH/*4BC7D). By-catches of boarfish, haddock, whiting and mackerel counted against the quota pursuant to this provision and by-catches of species counted against the quota pursuant to Article 15(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall, together, not exceed 9 % of the quota.		
(2)	Special condition: up to 5 % of this quota fished in division 7d may be accounted for as fished under the quota concerning the following zone: Union waters of 2a, 4a, 6, 7a-c, 7e-k, 8a, 8b, 8d and 8e; Union and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14 (JAX/*2A-14).		
(3)	May be fished in Union waters of 4a but may not be fished in Union waters of 7d (JAX/*04-C.).		

".



2. Annex IB is amended as follows:

(a) the fishing opportunities table for cod in 1 and 2b is replaced by the following:

"

Species:	Cod	Zone:	1 and 2b
	<i>Gadus morhua</i>		(COD/1/2B.)
Germany	5 409 <sup>(3)</sup>	Analytical TAC	
Spain	12 047 <sup>(3)</sup>	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
France	2 461 <sup>(3)</sup>	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Poland	2 359 <sup>(3)</sup>		
Portugal	2 472 <sup>(3)</sup>		
United Kingdom	3 552 <sup>(3)</sup>		
Other Member States	390 <sup>(1) (3)</sup>		
Union	28 690 <sup>(2)</sup>		
TAC	Not relevant		
<sup>(1)</sup>	Except Germany, Spain, France, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom.		
<sup>(2)</sup>	The allocation of the share of the cod stock available to the Union in the zone Spitzbergen and Bear Island and the associated by-catches of haddock are entirely without prejudice to the rights and obligations deriving from the 1920 Treaty of Paris.		
<sup>(3)</sup>	By-catches of haddock may represent up to 14 % per haul. The by-catch quantities of haddock are in addition to the quota for cod.		

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- (b) the fishing opportunities table for redfish (pelagic) in Greenland waters of NAFO 1F and Greenland waters of 5, 12 and 14 is replaced by the following:

"

Species:	Redfish (pelagic) <i>Sebastes</i> spp.	Zone:	Greenland waters of NAFO 1F and Greenland waters of 5, 12 and 14 (RED/N1G14P)
Germany	858	(1) (2) (3)	Analytical TAC
France	4	(1) (2) (3)	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
United Kingdom	6	(1) (2) (3)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Union	868	(1) (2) (3)	
Norway	628	(1) (2)	
Faroe Islands	0	(1) (2) (4)	
TAC	Not relevant		
(1)	May only be fished from 10 May to 31 December.		
(2)	May only be fished in Greenland waters within the Redfish Conservation Area bounded by the lines joining the following coordinates:		
	Point	Latitude	Longitude
	1	64°45'N	28°30'W
	2	62°50'N	25°45'W
	3	61°55'N	26°45'W
	4	61°00'N	26°30'W
	5	59°00'N	30°00'W
	6	59°00'N	34°00'W
	7	61°30'N	34°00'W
	8	62°50'N	36°00'W
	9	64°45'N	28°30'W
(3)	Special condition: this quota may also be fished in international waters of the Redfish Conservation Area mentioned above (RED/*5-14P).		
(4)	May only be fished in Greenland Waters of 5 and 14 (RED/*514GN).		

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3. In Annex IV, point 4, table A is replaced by the following:

"Table A

Number of fishing vessels <sup>(1)</sup>							
	Cyprus <sup>(2)</sup>	Greece <sup>(3)</sup>	Croatia	Italy	France	Spain	Malta <sup>(4)</sup>
Purse Seiners	1	1	16	12	20	6	1
Longliners	20 <sup>(5)</sup>	0	0	30	8	31	54
Baitboat	0	0	0	0	37	60	0
Handline	0	0	12	0	33 <sup>(6)</sup>	2	0
Trawler	0	0	0	0	57	0	0
Other artisanal <sup>(7)</sup>	0	42	0	0	118	184	0

<sup>(1)</sup> The numbers shown in sections 1, 2 and 3 may decrease in order to comply with international obligations of the Union.  
<sup>(2)</sup> One medium size purse seiner may be replaced by no more than 10 longline vessels or one small purse seiner and no more than three longline vessels.  
<sup>(3)</sup> One medium size purse seiner may be replaced by no more than 10 longline vessels or one small size purse seine vessel and three other artisanal vessels.  
<sup>(4)</sup> One medium size purse seiner may be replaced by no more than 10 longline vessels.  
<sup>(5)</sup> Polyvalent vessels, using multi-gear equipment.  
<sup>(6)</sup> Line vessels operating in the Atlantic.  
<sup>(7)</sup> Polyvalent vessels, using multi-gear equipment (longline, handline, trolling line).

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