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From:	Joint Committee on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, House of Oireachtas, Ireland
On:	2 October 2025
To:	The President of Council of the European Union, c/o Secretary General Thérèse Blanchet

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Subject:	<p>Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Regulation (EU) 2018/975 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) Convention Area, Regulation (EU) 2019/833 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, Regulation (EU) 2021/56 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention, Regulation (EU) 2022/2056 laying down conservation and management measures applicable in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area, Regulation (EU) 2022/2343 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Area of Competence, and Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean [ST 8775/25 + ADD 1- COM(2025)195 + annex]</p> <p>- Opinion on the application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality</p>
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Delegations will find enclosed the opinion<sup>1</sup> of the Irish parliament (Houses of the Oireachtas) on the above.

The Commission reply will be available at the following address: <https://national-parliaments-opinions.ec.europa.eu/home> “

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- a. <sup>1</sup> Translation(s) of the opinion may be available on the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange website (IPEX) at the following address: <https://secure.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/document/COM-2025-0195>



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Our Ref: CORRESPONDENCE NUMBER: S - 2025 - 0052 -

FISH 02/10/2025

President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola MEP  
President of the Council of the European Union, c/o Secretary General Thérèse Blanchet

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### **Political Contribution on COM (2025) 195**

Dear Presidents,

The Joint Committee on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs has considered the proposal, **COM (2025) 195**, concerning a Regulation that would implement into Union law certain measures adopted by a number of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) of which the EU is a member.

The Committee considers this proposal to be of major significance to Ireland and to the European Union.

The Committee has agreed to issue the enclosed contribution for your consideration as part of the political dialogue process between the European Union institutions and national parliaments.

Yours sincerely,



# An Comhchoiste um Iascach agus Gnóthaí Muirí

An Cion Polaitiúil maidir le COM (2025) 195

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Meán Fómhair 2025

## Joint Committee on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

Political Contribution on COM (2025) 195

September 2025

34/JCFMA/01

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## Introduction

1. The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (“the Committee”)

considers COM (2025) 195<sup>1</sup> to be significantly important to Ireland and the EU.

## Scrutiny by the Joint Committee

2. The Committee first considered the proposal at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025. At this meeting the Committee agreed to write to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to request further information on the proposal.

## Decision of the Joint Committee

3. On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025, the Committee also agreed to draft a political contribution and to forward a copy to Martin Heydon T.D. Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Timmy Dooley T.D. Minister of State with responsibility for Fisheries, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, Roberta Metsola MEP, President of the European Parliament, and to the President of the Council of the European Union.
4. The Committee further agreed that, in the interests of interparliamentary cooperation on EU matters, a copy of this report be forwarded to the appropriate Committee in the National Parliament of each EU Member State and to Ireland’s MEPs.

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<sup>1</sup> Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Regulation (EU) 2018/975 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) Convention Area, Regulation (EU) 2019/833 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, Regulation (EU) 2021/56 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention, Regulation (EU) 2022/2056 laying down conservation and management measures applicable in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area, Regulation (EU) 2022/2343 laying down management,

conservation and control measures applicable in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Area of Competence, and Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

## Opinion of the Joint Committee

5. Having considered the proposal in detail, the Committee makes the following observations: -

- a. The Committee recognises that the primary objective of this proposal is to implement certain measures that were previously agreed at an international level into European law and the Committee is supportive of international co- operation in the area of fisheries and maritime affairs.
- b. The Committee wishes to make several observations in relation to this proposal in particular, in relation to Ireland's bluefin tuna quota.
- c. The Committee emphasises its disappointment that Ireland does not have a national quota for bluefin tuna and expresses its strong support for the Irish Government to vigorously pursue a fair national quota for bluefin tuna.
- d. The Committee is of the view that Ireland continues to be denied a share of the EU's allocation of quota of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, assigned to the EU from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Even when this allocation substantially increased, no allocation was made to Ireland.
- e. The Committee questions the reasons that Ireland is denied a bluefin tuna quota due to "relative stability" and Ireland's established fishing track record, when this justification is not consistent with the approach taken in the reciprocal access negotiations with the UK that led to the EU- UK Trade and Cooperation and Agreement (recently extended until June 30, 2038).
- f. The Committee highlights, in particular, that the current quota allocation in relation to bluefin tuna is profoundly unjust. The Committee underlines the fact that Irish waters are abundant with stock of bluefin tuna and despite the fact that hundreds of fish are tagged every year under the Tuna CHART programme, Irish fishermen find themselves unable to fish these due to the lack of a national bluefin tuna quota.

- g. The Committee notes reports that Atlantic Bluefin Tuna, a lucrative species, is in abundance within the Irish Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) waters, but Irish fishermen can only adhere to a catch and release directive, while fishermen from other Member States get to fish their quota within those waters and while fishermen from outside the EU catch the species outside Ireland's EEZ in international waters.
- h. The Committee highlights that Atlantic Bluefin Tuna is a large predatory species that feeds on sardines, herring, mackerel, eels, squid and crustaceans and expresses its concern that not only are Irish fishermen denied a quota of this fish, but the species that they can fish is being depleted, to ultimately enrich fishermen from other EU Member States and internationally.
- i. The Committee highlights that Ireland, at present, relies on a small, shared by- catch quota, while countries like Spain, France and Italy hold thousands of tonnes of quota and can target these fish directly. In addition, the European quota for bluefin tuna is 30,000 tonnes per year, of which Ireland's share is zero.
- j. The Committee recognizes that Irish fishermen are already operating under one of the lowest shares of quota in Europe, despite the richness of Irish waters and underlines that any new rules, even small ones, add to the pressures on an industry that is already under severe strain.
- k. The Committee is of the view that if Ireland were to have a bluefin tuna allocation, this would bring several benefits, including benefits for the catch and release sport fishing sector, which is hugely valuable for small locally owned sports fishing boat owners and which has a very significant spin-off value for the local communities within which they operate. The sport fishing sector has offered an economic lifeline for many small inshore boat owners, whose industry has been largely decimated over the years and for the coastal communities within which they operate.

## Recommendations of the Joint Committee

6. The Committee recommends that the Irish Government should vigorously pursue and strongly advocate for a fair and proper national quota for Bluefin Tuna at an EU level.

Conor D McGuinness T.D. Cathaoirleach  
Joint Committee on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs [30  
September 2025]

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