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## LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

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Subject: COUNCIL REGULATION fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2025/202

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**COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2026/...**

**of ...**

**fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 the fishing opportunities  
for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and,  
for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters,  
and amending Regulation (EU) 2025/202**

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) The Council is to adopt measures on the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities, including certain conditions functionally linked to those fishing opportunities, as appropriate. In accordance with Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup>, fishing opportunities are to be fixed in accordance with the objectives and rules of the common fisheries policy (CFP), as set out in Article 2(2) of that Regulation. Fishing opportunities are also to be fixed in accordance with requirements of Regulations (EU) 2018/973<sup>2</sup> and (EU) 2019/472<sup>3</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing multiannual plans (MAPs) for certain stocks fished in the North Sea and the Western Waters, and for fisheries exploiting those stocks. Pursuant to Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, fishing opportunities allocated among the Member States are to ensure the relative stability of fishing activities of each Member State for each fish stock or fishery.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj>).

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008 (OJ L 179, 16.7.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/973/oj>).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for stocks fished in the Western Waters and adjacent waters, and for fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Regulations (EU) 2016/1139 and (EU) 2018/973, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007 and (EC) No 1300/2008 (OJ L 83, 25.3.2019, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/472/oj>).

- (2) The total allowable catches (TACs) should be established, in accordance with Article 3 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, in accordance the best available scientific advice, based on a long-term perspective, taking into account regional specificities, and in the light of opinions expressed during the consultation of stakeholders.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, all stocks for which there are catch limits have been subject to the landing obligation since 1 January 2019, although certain exemptions apply. On the basis of joint recommendations by the Member States and in accordance with Article 15(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the Commission adopted Delegated Regulations (EU) 2023/2459<sup>4</sup> and (EU) 2023/2623<sup>5</sup> laying down details for the implementation of the landing obligation for certain fisheries.

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<sup>4</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2459 of 22 August 2023 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying details of the landing obligation for certain fisheries in the North Sea for the period 2024-2027 (OJ L, 2023/2459, 6.11.2023, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_del/2023/2459/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/2459/oj)).

<sup>5</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2623 of 22 August 2023 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying details of the landing obligation for certain fisheries in Western Waters for the period 2024-2027 (OJ L, 2023/2623, 22.11.2023, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_del/2023/2623/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/2623/oj)).

- (4) Fishing opportunities for stocks covered by the landing obligation should take account of the fact that discarding is in principle no longer allowed. Therefore, fishing opportunities should be based on the scientific advice figure for total catches as provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), where available. The quantities that, by way of exemption from the landing obligation, may continue to be discarded should be deducted from the advice figure for total catches. Moreover, fishing opportunities for stocks for which ICES provides only landings advice should be set on the basis of that advice.
- (5) The MAPs established by Regulations (EU) 2018/973 and (EU) 2019/472 set out targets and measures for the long-term management of the stocks covered by those MAPs. Fishing opportunities for the stocks listed in Article 1(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/973 and in Article 1(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/472 ('target stocks') should be fixed in accordance with the range of fishing mortality values resulting in maximum sustainable yield (MSY) ('ranges of  $F_{MSY}$ '), or should be fixed at a lower level, and, where relevant, in accordance with the biomass safeguards provided for in those Regulations. The ranges of  $F_{MSY}$  are set out in the relevant ICES advice. Fishing opportunities for target stocks for which ranges of  $F_{MSY}$  cannot be determined, as well as for stocks referred to in Article 1(4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/973 and in Article 1(4) of Regulation (EU) 2019/472 ('by-catch stocks'), should be fixed in accordance with the objectives set out in Article 2(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 or, where no adequate scientific information is available, in accordance with the precautionary approach to fisheries management, as defined in Article 4(1), point (8), of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

- (6) Pursuant to Article 4(6) of Regulation (EU) 2018/973 and Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) 2019/472, fishing opportunities for target stocks should be fixed to ensure that there is less than 5 % probability of the biomass falling below the limit biomass reference point ( $B_{lim}$ )<sup>6</sup>.
- (7) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2018/973 and Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2019/472, where scientific advice indicates that the spawning stock biomass of any of the target stocks is below  $MSY B_{trigger}$ <sup>7</sup>, remedial measures are to be taken. In particular, the fishing opportunities should be fixed at a level corresponding to the fishing mortality that is reduced proportionally to take into account the decrease in the biomass. Where scientific advice indicates that the spawning stock biomass of any of the target stocks is below  $B_{lim}$ , further remedial measures are to be taken to ensure the rapid return of the stock to levels above those capable of producing  $MSY$ . In particular, those remedial measures can include suspending the targeted fishery for the stock in question and the adequate reduction of fishing opportunities for those or other stocks in the fisheries.

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<sup>6</sup>  $B_{lim}$  is the biomass below which there may be reduced reproductive capacity.

<sup>7</sup>  $MSY B_{trigger}$  is the biomass level below which management action is to be taken to allow a stock to rebuild above the level capable of producing  $MSY$  in the long term.

- (8) There are certain stocks for which ICES advises zero catches or low catches, or ICES forecasts that a less than 5 % probability of the biomass falling below  $B_{lim}$  could only be achieved with low catches; could only be achieved with zero catches; or could not even be achieved with zero catches. However, if TACs for those stocks were established at those levels, the obligation to land all catches, including by-catches from those stocks in mixed fisheries, may cause one or more fishing vessels to stop fishing even if they still have quota for other species, which in turn may lead to a premature closure of certain fisheries. Pursuant to Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/973, Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/472 and Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, in conjunction with Article 2(1) and Article 2(5), points (c) and (f), of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and in order to strike a balance between maintaining mixed fisheries, in view of the potentially severe socio-economic impacts of failing to do so, and the need to achieve a good biological status for those stocks, taking account of the difficulty of fishing all stocks in a mixed fishery at MSY, it is appropriate to establish specific TACs for by-catches for those stocks. Those by-catch TACs should be set at levels that avoid the risk of a premature closure of fisheries that still have quota for targeted species due to fishing vessels' lack of quota for stocks caught as by-catch, where such a premature closure could have severe socio-economic impacts in the short-term. At the same time, the by-catch TACs should also ensure the conservation of the stocks concerned, where failing to conserve stocks could have severe long-term environmental and socio-economic impacts, as well as associated short-term socio-economic impacts. Those by-catch TACs should also be fixed at levels based on specific, reliable and verifiable evidence regarding potential premature closures, potential short-term socio-economic impacts as well as long-term environmental impacts. In order to reduce catches of the stocks for which by-catch TACs are set, fishing opportunities for the mixed fisheries in which fish from those stocks are by-caught should be set at levels that help the biomass of vulnerable stocks to recover to sustainable levels.

- (9) In order to guarantee, to the extent possible, the use of fishing opportunities in mixed fisheries in accordance with Article 16(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, it is appropriate to establish a pool for quota exchanges for Member States. Such a pool for quota exchanges would make unused quotas for certain by-catches available to Member States to cover their unavoidable by-catches in certain areas in circumstances where those Member States would otherwise have no quota.
- (10) In accordance with Article 2(2) and Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, for stocks that are not covered by Regulations (EU) 2018/973 and (EU) 2019/472, where adequate scientific information is available, fishing opportunities should be fixed in line with the  $F_{MSY}$  point value<sup>8</sup> and, where relevant, at levels that restore stocks above levels capable of producing MSY. Where that scientific information is not available, fishing opportunities should be fixed in line with the precautionary approach to fisheries management.

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<sup>8</sup> 'F<sub>MSY</sub> point value' is the value of the estimated fishing mortality that with a given fishing pattern and under current average environmental conditions gives the long-term MSY.



- (11) For certain stocks, ICES advice remains valid for several years and that advice remains the best available scientific advice for the entire advice period. In those cases, annual TACs covering the entire advice period should in principle be set ('multiannual TACs'). If new ICES advice becomes available during that period, it should be ensured that the multiannual TACs remain consistent with the new advice, as soon as possible after the publication of such new ICES advice. Moreover, it should be ensured that the annual deductions from the advice figure for total catches, to take account of exemptions from the landing obligation, remain consistent with the available data. However, for certain stocks, and in particular for stocks showing recent significant variations in biomass or fishing mortality, it may be appropriate to continue setting annual TACs.

- (12) In accordance with Article 4(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/472, Spain and France should jointly ensure that, when determining their quotas for commercial fisheries for European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in ICES divisions 8a and 8b, the sum of those quotas, commercial discards, recreational landings and recreational dead discards do not exceed the lowest value within the range of  $F_{MSY}$  (' $MSY F_{lower}$ ') for total removals for that area, i.e. 3 883 tonnes. In order to allow the Commission to monitor the correct application of the objectives and rules set out in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and in Regulation (EU) 2019/472, Spain and France should submit information regarding their respective quotas in commercial fisheries for European seabass to the Commission.
- (13) Additional measures for recreational fisheries for European seabass in ICES divisions 8a and 8b should be maintained, in view of the significant impact of recreational fisheries on the fishing mortality for that stock.

- (14) There are certain stocks for which ICES advises catches above a low level. However, if TACs for those stocks were established at those levels, the obligation to land all catches, including by-catches from those stocks in mixed fisheries, may cause one or more fishing vessels to stop fishing even if they still have quota for other species, which in turn may lead to a premature closure of certain fisheries. Pursuant to Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/973, Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) 2019/472 and Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, in conjunction with Article 2(1) and Article 2(5), points (c) and (f), of that Regulation and in order to strike a balance between maintaining mixed fisheries, in view of the potentially severe socio-economic impacts of failing to do so, and the need to achieve a good status for those stocks, taking account of the difficulty of fishing all stocks in a mixed fishery at MSY, it is appropriate to establish specific TACs for by-catches for those stocks. Those by-catch TACs should be set at levels that avoid the risk of a premature closure of fisheries due to fishing vessels' lack of quota for stocks caught as by-catch, where such a premature closure could have severe socio-economic impacts in the short-term, while also at the same time ensuring the conservation of the stocks concerned, where failing to conserve stocks could have severe long-term environmental and socio-economic impacts, as well as associated short-term socio-economic impacts. Those by-catch TACs should also be fixed based on specific, reliable and verifiable evidence regarding potential premature closures, potential short-term socio-economic impacts as well as long-term environmental impacts. In order to reduce catches of the stocks for which by-catch TACs are set, fishing opportunities for the mixed fisheries in which fish from those stocks are by-caught should be set at levels that help the biomass of vulnerable stocks to recover to sustainable levels.

- (15) According to the relevant ICES advice, recreational catches of pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in ICES subarea 8 and division 9a are non-negligible. It is therefore appropriate to establish limits for recreational catches of pollack in that area and in adjacent areas, namely in ICES subareas 8, 9 and 10 and Union waters of Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) area 34.1.1.
- (16) In May 2022, ICES noted that, despite Member States' efforts for the recovery of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), no overall progress had been made in achieving the 40 % silver eel biomass escapement objective across the entire Union, as required by Article 2(4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007<sup>9</sup>, and that no clear patterns for mortality were observed. In November 2025, ICES advised once again that, when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be zero catches of European eel in all habitats and at all life stages, throughout its natural range, which includes the north-east Atlantic and the Mediterranean. That concerns both recreational and commercial catches and includes catches of glass eels for restocking and aquaculture.

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<sup>9</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel (OJ L 248, 22.9.2007, p. 17, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2007/1100/oj>).

- (17) Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194<sup>10</sup> extended to six months the closure period for any commercial eel fishing activity in Union marine and brackish waters of the north-east Atlantic. It also prohibited all recreational eel fisheries in those waters. It was considered that a six month closure period would better protect the stock than the Union and national measures that had been implemented until 2022. It was also considered that the extended closure period would further the achievement of the escapement objective of at least 40 % of silver eels. Council Regulations (EU) 2024/257<sup>11</sup> and (EU) 2025/202<sup>12</sup> maintained those measures while clarifying the criteria for setting the closure period and the possible derogation for continued limited eel fisheries during the eel migration period. Given the continued critical status of the European eel, it is appropriate to maintain those measures in 2026.

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<sup>10</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, as well as fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks (OJ L 28, 31.1.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/194/oj>).

<sup>11</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 of 10 January 2024 fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 (OJ L, 2024/257, 11.1.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/257/oj>).

<sup>12</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2025/202 of 30 January 2025 fixing for 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2024/257 as regards fishing opportunities for 2025 (OJ L, 2025/202, 31.1.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/202/oj>).

- (18) Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007, restocking of glass eel is a conservation measure chosen by certain Member States in their eel management plans. In order to enable those Member States to continue implementing that measure, glass eel catches in Union marine and brackish waters of the north-east Atlantic at the appropriate time of the year and possibly during their main migration period may be required. Therefore, Member States may allow further glass eel fishing exclusively for restocking for an additional 50 days during the main migration period of glass eel.
- (19) According to ICES, the biomass of sole (*Solea solea*) in ICES subdivisions 20 to 24 is estimated to be below  $B_{lim}$  in 2026. In accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/973, remedial measures should be established for that stock for 2026, to ensure its rapid return to the biomass level above that capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield. Such remedial measures should be established for the fisheries with substantial by-catches of sole, i.e. both for the mixed gillnet fisheries targeting plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) and for the mixed trawl fisheries targeting Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*). As by-catch of common sole is minimal in gillnet fisheries in subdivision 24 and in small-scale coastal fisheries in subdivision 22 south of a latitude 55°N, those areas should be exempted from such measures.

- (20) In its advice for certain stocks of elasmobranchs (namely skates, sharks and rays) for 2026, ICES recommends zero catches, due to the poor conservation status of elasmobranchs and given that even limited fishing activity could give rise to a serious conservation risk. Therefore, the fishing for such species should be prohibited. In addition, pursuant to Article 15(4), point (a), of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the landing obligation does not apply to species for which fishing is prohibited. When accidentally caught, those species should not be harmed and should be promptly released. Discarding of such elasmobranchs is not considered to raise their fishing mortality significantly and supports the conservation of those stocks as they have high survival rates when discarded.
- (21) In order to maximise the use of fishing opportunities, it is appropriate to allow for the implementation of a flexible arrangement between certain TAC areas where the same biological stock is concerned.

- (22) Articles 3 and 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96<sup>13</sup> provide for year-to-year flexibility for quotas for stocks subject to both precautionary TACs and analytical TACs. Pursuant to Article 2 of that Regulation, when fixing TACs, the Council is to decide to which stocks Articles 3 and 4 of that Regulation are not to apply, on the basis of the biological status of stocks and commitments reached with third countries. Moreover, Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 provides for further year-to-year flexibility for all stocks that are subject to the landing obligation. In order to avoid excessive flexibility that would undermine the achievement of the objectives of the CFP, year-to-year flexibility for quotas pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 and Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 should not apply cumulatively. Year-to-year flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 should, where relevant, be excluded on the basis of the biological status of the stock and of commitments reached with third countries.

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<sup>13</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96 of 6 May 1996 introducing additional conditions for year-to-year management of TACs and quotas (OJ L 115, 9.5.1996, p. 3, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/847/oj>).



- (23) Where a stock is fished by one Member State only, it is appropriate to empower that Member State to fix a TAC for that stock, in accordance with Article 2(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Such empowerment is appropriate, provided that, when determining the TAC level, the Member State complies with the objectives and rules set out in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and in Regulations (EU) 2018/973 and (EU) 2019/472. In order to allow the Commission to monitor the correct application of those objectives and rules, Member States should submit information regarding the TACs to the Commission. In addition, the Commission may request that the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) assess those TACs, and in the event that the STECF assesses those TACs as not being in compliance with the objectives and rules set out in Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and in Regulations (EU) 2018/973 and (EU) 2019/472, Member States should amend the TACs on the basis of the STECF advice.
- (24) It is necessary to establish the fishing effort limitations for sole in the Western Channel (ICES division 7e) in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 2019/472.

- (25) It is necessary to establish the fishing effort ceilings for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in part of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Convention area, specifically in the Atlantic Ocean, east of 45°W, in accordance with Articles 6, 11, 13 and 16 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>14</sup>.
- (26) The use of fishing opportunities available to Union fishing vessels set out in this Regulation is subject to Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009<sup>15</sup>, and in particular to Articles 33 and 34 of that Regulation, concerning the recording of catches and fishing effort, and the notification of data on the exhaustion of fishing opportunities. It is therefore necessary to specify the codes to be used by Member States when sending data to the Commission on catches and fishing effort for stocks subject to this Regulation.

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<sup>14</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 (OJ L 238, 27.9.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2053/oj>).

<sup>15</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, amending Regulations (EC) No 847/96, (EC) No 2371/2002, (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 2115/2005, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007, (EC) No 676/2007, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 1300/2008, (EC) No 1342/2008 and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1627/94 and (EC) No 1966/2006 (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj>).

- (27) At its 2025 annual meeting, the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) did not adopt a recommendation setting the TAC for beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2026. Pending the possible adoption of a NEAFC recommendation for that stock, the TAC for beaked redfish in ICES subareas 1 and 2 should be provisionally set at zero.
- (28) At its 2025 annual meeting, NEAFC also did not adopt a recommendation for Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) in ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2026. The Union quota for Greenland halibut in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2026 should therefore be set at 1 711 tonnes. That level corresponds to 9,25 % of the level recommended by ICES advice in its advice for 2023 (18 494 tonnes), which constitutes the best available scientific advice for that stock.

- (29) Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*), blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) and Atlanto-Scandian herring (*Clupea harengus*) in the North-East Atlantic are subject to coastal States consultations on the fisheries management for those stocks, and are stocks that are also managed by NEAFC. The Union participates in coastal States consultations for 2026 on the basis of the positions endorsed by the Council on 13 October 2025. Regarding Atlanto-Scandian herring and blue whiting, the outcome of the consultations was documented in agreed records signed on 21 and 23 October 2025 respectively. At its annual meeting in 2025, NEAFC adopted a recommendation on conservation and management measures for 2026 for Atlanto-Scandian herring but not for blue whiting. It is therefore appropriate to set the TAC for Atlanto-Scandian herring based on the relevant NEAFC recommendation and the TAC for blue whiting in the north-east Atlantic for 2026 at the level of fishing opportunities agreed in the relevant coastal States Agreed Record. Regarding mackerel, the coastal States consultations are still ongoing and, at its annual meeting for 2025, NEAFC did not adopt any recommendation. It is therefore appropriate to set a provisional TAC for mackerel for the first half of 2026. Given the seasonality of the mackerel fishery, it is appropriate to set the provisional TAC at 156 921 tonnes, which corresponds to 90 % of the TAC advised by ICES.

- (30) Blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) in the north-east Atlantic is subject to coastal States consultations on the fisheries management for that stock and is a stock that is also managed by NEAFC. The Union participated in coastal States consultations on the basis of the position endorsed by the Council on 7 October 2025. The outcome of the coastal States consultations on blue whiting was documented in an agreed record signed on 23 October 2025. At its annual meeting in 2025, NEAFC did not adopt a recommendation on conservation and management measures for blue whiting for 2026. The level of the TAC for blue whiting for 2026 should therefore be set at the level set out in that agreed record of 23 October 2025.
- (31) At its 2025 annual meeting, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) maintained existing measures for certain stocks in the ICCAT Convention area for 2026. In addition, ICCAT increased the TAC level for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and decreased the retention allowance for shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) in the southern Atlantic for 2026 compared to 2025. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (32) The Union quotas for stocks in the ICCAT Convention area for 2026 were adjusted during the 2025 ICCAT annual meeting, in accordance with several ICCAT recommendations under which the Union may, upon request, carry over a set percentage of its unused quota of fishing opportunities from either 2024 to 2026 or from 2025 to 2026. Pending such possible adjustments to Union quotas, quotas for individual Member States should be established on the basis of the total Union quota for 2026 as agreed by the ICCAT before any such adjustments.

- (33) At its 2025 annual meeting, the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) adopted catch limits for stocks in the CCAMLR Convention area for the period from 1 December 2025 to 30 November 2026. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (34) At its 2025 annual meeting, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) established the following measures in its Area of Competence for 2026: it maintained the existing measures adopted for yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), it reviewed the catch limits for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), and it adopted catch limits for skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) for the first time. Those measures should be implemented in Union law. The Union quota for skipjack tuna in the IOTC Area of Competence for 2026 should be allocated to the Member States concerned based on the average relative level of fishing activities of those Member States during two reference periods: the best five years of each Member State in the period from 2015 to 2024, and the period from 2022 to 2024.
- (35) The annual meeting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) is scheduled for 2 to 6 March 2026. Consequently, existing measures in the SPRFMO Convention area that are functionally linked to the TACs should be temporarily maintained until the annual meeting takes place and the 2026 TACs are established.
- (36) At its 2025 annual meeting, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) changed some of the existing measures applicable in the IATTC Convention area while maintaining the existing number of drifting fish aggregating devices (FADs) for 2026. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

- (37) At its 2023 annual meeting, the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) adopted the TAC for Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) for a three-year period from 2024 to 2026. That measure should be implemented in Union law for 2026.
- (38) At its 2025 annual meeting, the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) maintained for 2026 the existing TACs in the SEAFO Convention area. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (39) At its 2025 annual meeting, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) maintained for 2026 the measures adopted for 2025. In addition, the WCPFC adopted a by-catch limit for Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) for the WCPFC Convention area. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (40) At its 47th annual meeting in 2025, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) adopted fishing opportunities for certain stocks in the NAFO Convention area for 2026. It also maintained for 2026 the existing measures that are functionally linked to the fishing opportunities of shortfin squid (*Illex illecebrosus*) in NAFO subareas 3 and 4 and yellowtail flounder (*Limanda ferruginea*) in NAFO divisions 3LNO, aimed at minimising the levels of by-catches of non-target species and without which the fishing opportunities for those stocks would have to be reduced to protect the non-target species. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

- (41) At its 2025 annual meeting, the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) revised the existing measures for deep-water sharks, including the existing closure of fishing areas and the list of shark species for which directed fishing in the SIOFA Agreement Area is prohibited. In addition, SIOFA adopted a new measure for benthic fisheries, which includes closing certain areas for all bottom fishing activities and in certain areas only allowing bottom longline fishing. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (42) Under Article 498(2) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part<sup>16</sup> (the ‘Trade and Cooperation Agreement’), the Union and the United Kingdom are to hold annual consultations to agree, by 10 December of each year, the TACs for the following year for the stocks listed in Annex 35 to that Agreement.

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<sup>16</sup> OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 10, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_international/2021/689\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2021/689(1)/oj).



- (43) In 2025, the Union and the United Kingdom held bilateral consultations on the setting of a large number of TACs for 2026 for stocks listed in Annex 35 to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Those consultations were conducted pursuant to Article 498(2), (4) and (6) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and the Union participated in those consultations on the basis of the Union position endorsed by the Council on 21 October 2025, and in accordance with Commission services' non-papers endorsed by the Council on 21, 23 and 31 October and 11 and 25 November 2025. The outcome of the consultations was documented in a written record signed by the Heads of Delegation on 10 December 2025. The relevant fishing opportunities should therefore be fixed at the levels set out in that written record, and the other measures functionally linked to the fishing opportunities also set out in that written record should be implemented in Union law.
- (44) The Union and the United Kingdom agreed on a reciprocal access from 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2030, to target 560 tonnes of northern albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the exclusive economic zones of the Member States and the United Kingdom. That agreement excludes access to areas referred to in Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.
- (45) The Union and the United Kingdom agreed on remedial measures for cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*), sole and plaice across the Celtic Sea, Irish Sea and Channel. Such measures are functionally linked to the TAC for the stocks concerned, as without such measures, the TAC levels would not ensure sufficient stock recovery. To ensure a level-playing field for Union operators vis-à-vis United Kingdom operators, those measures should apply from 1 June 2026.

- (46) According to the relevant ICES advice for 2026, recreational catches of pollack in ICES subareas 6 and 7 comprise a significant share of total catches. It is therefore appropriate to establish limits for recreational catches of pollack in those areas.
- (47) Seasonal closures for sandeel fisheries with certain towed gear in ICES divisions 2a, 3a and ICES subarea 4 should continue to allow for the protection of spawning grounds and limitation of juvenile catches.
- (48) In 2025, the Union, the United Kingdom and Norway held trilateral consultations on six shared and jointly managed stocks occurring within the areas under their respective jurisdiction. Those consultations were conducted between 27 October and 4 December 2025, on the basis of the Union position endorsed by the Council on 21 October 2025, and in accordance with the Commission services' non-papers endorsed by the Council on the 23 and 27 October 2025. The outcome of the consultations was documented in an agreed record, signed by the Heads of Delegation on 5 December 2025. The relevant fishing opportunities should be set at the level agreed with the United Kingdom and Norway, together with the other provisions of the agreed record.

- (49) Existing accompanying measures for the Northern Shelf cod should be maintained. In addition, remedial measures should be introduced in order to reduce fishing mortality, and increase the protection of juvenile cod. Those include two new closures for cod in Union waters of ICES division 4b, two extended closures in Union waters of division 3a and 2, updates to the Real Time Closure (RTC) regimes from 1 January to 31 March 2026 in Eastern Channel (ICES division 7d), Southern North Sea (ICES division 4c) and central North Sea (ICES division 4b and 3), and restrictions on targeting cod in the Southern and central North Sea (ICES divisions 4c and 4b), through a limitation on the total of cod catch in those two divisions.

- (50) The Union held bilateral consultations with Norway on the management of seven shared stocks in the Skagerrak area: cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), herring (*Clupea harengus*), Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*), plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*), sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) and whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*). Those consultations were held with a view to agreeing on the management of those stocks and fishing opportunities for 2026, as well as on exchange of quotas and access arrangements for six jointly managed stocks in the North Sea. Those consultations were successfully concluded on 16 and 18 December 2025 and the outcome was documented in three agreed records. The bilateral agreement on fisheries arrangements in the Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2026 and the protocol of fisheries consultations between Norway and the European Union on behalf of Sweden for 2026 were signed by the Heads of Delegation on 16 December 2025. The agreement on exchanges of quota and access to waters for North Sea jointly managed stocks was signed by Heads of Delegation on 18 December 2025. The relevant fishing opportunities should be set at the level agreed with Norway, and the other provisions of those agreed records should also be implemented in Union law.
- (51) Consultations between the Union and Norway are still ongoing regarding access to their respective waters for Atlanto-Scandian herring (*Clupea harengus*) and blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*). Pending the conclusion of those consultations, those access levels should be marked as ‘to be established’.

- (52) For blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*), transfers of quotas from WHB/8C3411 to WHB/1X14 for 2025 should be allowed to allow for the agreed transfer of quota for blue whiting from the Union to Norway for 2026. That should be without prejudice to the principle of relative stability of fishing activities. Regulation (EU) 2025/202 should be amended accordingly.
- (53) In accordance with the procedure provided for in the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Government of Greenland and the Government of Denmark, of the other part<sup>17</sup>, and the implementing Protocol thereto<sup>18</sup>, the Parties agreed at the Joint Committee meeting held on 19 and 20 November 2025 on the level of fishing opportunities available for the Union in Greenland waters for 2026. The relevant fishing opportunities should therefore be fixed at the level set out in the signed minutes of the Joint Committee meeting, and taking into account the transfers from the Union to Norway in the agreed records signed by the Heads of Delegation on 16 December 2025.

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<sup>17</sup> Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Government of Greenland and the Government of Denmark, of the other part (OJ L 175, 18.5.2021, p. 3, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_internation/2021/793/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2021/793/oj)).

<sup>18</sup> Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Government of Greenland and the Government of Denmark, of the other part (2025–2030) (OJ L, 2024/3203, 30.12.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/prot/2024/3203/oj>).

- (54) The Treaty of 9 February 1920 relating to Spitsbergen (Svalbard) (the ‘1920 Treaty of Paris’) grants equal and non-discriminatory access to resources around Svalbard for all Parties to that Treaty, including with respect to fishing. The Union’s position concerning that access has been outlined in several *notes verbales* to Norway, with the most recent being dated 26 February 2021, 28 June 2021, 1 August 2022 and 26 October 2023. As regards the fishing opportunities for snow crabs (*Chionoecetes* spp.) around Svalbard, it is appropriate to limit the number of fishing vessels that are authorised to conduct such fishing activities, ensuring that the exploitation of snow crabs around Svalbard is consistent with non-discriminatory management rules set by Norway, which holds sovereignty and jurisdiction in the area in accordance with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1920 Treaty of Paris. The allocation of such fishing opportunities among Member States is limited to 2026. In the Union, the primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with applicable law lies with flag Member States.

- (55) As regards the fishing opportunities for cod in the north-east Arctic, and in light of the absence of a reference TAC for 2026, it is appropriate to establish a provisional Union quota for cod in Svalbard waters and international waters of ICES subarea 1 and division 2b, in order to ensure the continuation of fishing activities of the Union fleet for 2026. The provisional Union quota should correspond to half of the Union quota established for 2025 and be limited to period from 1 January to 30 June 2026. That provisional Union quota should be allocated to the Member States in accordance with Council Decision 87/277/EEC<sup>19</sup>, subject to the adaptations necessary due to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union as set out in Annex 36, Table E, to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.
- (56) In accordance with the Union's Declaration addressed to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the granting of fishing opportunities in Union waters to fishing vessels flying the flag of Venezuela in the exclusive economic zone off the coast of French Guiana, approved on behalf of the Union by Council Decision (EU) 2015/1565<sup>20</sup>, it is necessary to fix the maximum number of fishing authorisations for snapper available to Venezuela in Union waters for 2026.

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<sup>19</sup> Council Decision 87/277/EEC of 18 May 1987 on the allocation of the catch possibilities for cod in the Spitsbergen and Bear Island area and in Division 3M as defined in the NAFO Convention (OJ L 135, 23.5.1987, p. 29, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1987/277/oj>).

<sup>20</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2015/1565 of 14 September 2015 on the approval, on behalf of the European Union, of the Declaration on the granting of fishing opportunities in EU waters to fishing vessels flying the flag of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the exclusive economic zone off the coast of French Guiana (OJ L 244, 19.9.2015, p. 55, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2015/1565/oj>).

- (57) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission to authorise individual Member States to manage fishing effort allocations in accordance with a kilowatt per day system, to grant additional days at sea for the permanent cessation of fishing activities and for enhanced scientific observer coverage and to establish spreadsheet formats for the collection and transmission of information on transfers of days at sea between fishing vessels flying the flag of a Member State. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>21</sup>.
- (58) To ensure continuous application and prevent legal uncertainty during the period between the end of the year and the date of entry into force of the Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities for the subsequent year, the provisions of this Regulation concerning prohibitions and closed seasons should continue to apply at the beginning of 2027 until the entry into force of the Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities for 2027.

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<sup>21</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj>).



- (59) For reasons of urgency and to provide legal certainty as soon as possible, this Regulation should enter into force on the day of its publication.
- (60) To avoid the interruption of fishing activities and safeguard the livelihood of fishers, this Regulation should apply retroactively with effect from 1 January 2026.
- (61) Moreover, certain international measures that create or restrict fishing opportunities for the Union were adopted by the relevant regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) at the end of 2025 and became applicable before the entry into force of this Regulation. In order to reflect this situation, the provisions of this Regulation that implement such measures in Union law should therefore apply retroactively with effect from 1 December 2025. In particular, as the fishing season in the CCAMLR Convention area runs from 1 December to 30 November, and as certain fishing opportunities or prohibitions in the CCAMLR Convention area are laid down for a period starting from 1 December 2025, the relevant provisions of this Regulation should apply from that date. In addition, the fishing season for toothfishes in the SIOFA Agreement Area runs from 1 December to 30 November, and as the TACs for that group of species are established for a period starting from 1 December 2025, the TACs should apply from that date. Such retroactive application does not prejudice the principle of legitimate expectation as it is forbidden for fishing vessels flying the flag of the Contracting Party to fish in the CCAMLR Convention area and the SIOFA Agreement Area without authorisation.

- (62) Furthermore, the provisions that amend Regulation (EU) 2025/202 to allow for transfer of quota for blue whiting from WHB/8C3411 to WHB/1X14 for 2025 should apply retroactively. Such retroactive application does not affect the principle of legitimate expectations, as the quotas under those TACs have not yet been exhausted,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

# **TITLE I**

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### *Article 1*

#### *Subject matter*

1. This Regulation fixes fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.
2. The fishing opportunities referred to in paragraph 1 include:
  - (a) catch limits for the year 2026 and, where specified in this Regulation, also for 2027 and 2028;
  - (b) fishing effort limits for the year 2026, except the fishing effort limits set out in Annex II, for the period from 1 February 2026 to 31 January 2027;
  - (c) fishing opportunities for the period from 1 December 2025 to 30 November 2026 for certain stocks in the CCAMLR Convention area and for certain stocks in the SIOFA Agreement Area; and
  - (d) fishing opportunities for the period from 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2027 in the NPFC Convention area.

## *Article 2*

### *Scope*

1. This Regulation applies to the following fishing vessels:
  - (a) Union fishing vessels; and
  - (b) third country fishing vessels in Union waters.
2. This Regulation also applies to:
  - (a) certain recreational fisheries expressly referred to in the relevant provisions of this Regulation; and
  - (b) commercial fisheries from shore.

## *Article 3*

### *Definitions*

For the purposes of this Regulation, the definitions in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 apply. In addition, the following definitions apply:

- (a) ‘third country fishing vessel’ means a fishing vessel flying the flag of, and registered in, a third country;
- (b) ‘recreational fisheries’ means non-commercial fishing activities exploiting marine biological resources in the context of recreation, tourism or sport;

- (c) 'international waters' means waters outside the sovereignty or jurisdiction of any State;
- (d) 'total allowable catch' (TAC) means:
  - (i) in fisheries subject to the exemption from the landing obligation referred to in Article 15(4) to (7) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the quantity of fish that may be landed from each stock each year;
  - (ii) in all other fisheries, the quantity of fish that may be caught from each stock each year;
- (e) 'quota' means a proportion of a TAC that is allocated to the Union, a Member State or a third country;
- (f) 'analytical assessment' means a quantitative evaluation of trends in a given stock, based on data about the stock's biology and exploitation, including based on proxies, which scientific review has indicated to be of sufficient quality to provide scientific advice;
- (g) 'analytical TAC' means a TAC for which an analytical assessment is available;
- (h) 'precautionary TAC' means a TAC for which an analytical assessment is not available but rather an assessment based on the precautionary approach is available or no assessment is available;

- (i) ‘mesh size’ means the mesh size of fishing nets as defined in Article 6, point (34), of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>22</sup>;
- (j) ‘Union fishing fleet register’ means the register maintained by the Commission pursuant to Article 24(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;
- (k) ‘fishing logbook’ means the logbook referred to in Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009;
- (l) ‘instrumented buoy’ means a buoy clearly marked with a unique reference number allowing identification of its owner and equipped with a satellite tracking system to monitor its position;
- (m) ‘operational buoy’ means any instrumented buoy, previously activated, switched on and deployed at sea on a drifting fish aggregating device (FAD) or log, which transmits positions and other available information such as echo-sounder estimates.

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<sup>22</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1224/2009 and Regulations (EU) No 1380/2013, (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973, (EU) 2019/472 and (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 894/97, (EC) No 850/98, (EC) No 2549/2000, (EC) No 254/2002, (EC) No 812/2004 and (EC) No 2187/2005, (OJ L 198, 25.7.2019, p. 105, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1241/oj>).

*Article 4*  
*Fishing zones*

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following fishing zone definitions apply:

- (a) ‘ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) zones’ means the geographical areas specified in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 218/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>23</sup>;
- (b) ‘Skagerrak’ means the geographical area bounded on the west by a line drawn from the Hanstholm lighthouse to the Lindesnes lighthouse and on the south by a line drawn from the Skagen lighthouse to the Tistlarna lighthouse and from that point to the nearest point on the Swedish coast;
- (c) ‘Kattegat’ means the geographical area bounded on the north by a line drawn from the Skagen lighthouse to the Tistlarna lighthouse and from that point to the nearest point on the Swedish coast and on the south by a line drawn from Hasenøre to Gribens Spids, from Korshage to Spodsbjerg and from Gilbjerg Hoved to Kullen;

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<sup>23</sup> Regulation (EC) No 218/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in the north-east Atlantic (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 70, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/218/oj>).

(d) 'functional unit 16 of ICES subarea 7' means the geographical area bounded by rhumb lines sequentially joining the following positions:

- 53°30'N 15°00'W,
- 53°30'N 11°00'W,
- 51°30'N 11°00'W,
- 51°30'N 13°00'W,
- 51°00'N 13°00'W,
- 51°00'N 15°00'W;

(e) 'functional unit 25 of ICES division 8c' means the geographical sea area bounded by rhumb lines sequentially joining the following positions:

- 43°00'N 9°00'W,
- 43°00'N 10°00'W,
- 44°00'N 10°00'W,
- 44°00'N 9°00'W,
- 44°30'N 9°00'W,
- 44°30'N 8°00'W,
- 43°30'N 8°00'W;



- (f) ‘functional unit 26 of ICES division 9a’ means the geographical area bounded by rhumb lines sequentially joining the following positions:
- 43°00’N 8°00’W,
  - 43°00’N 10°00’W,
  - 42°00’N 10°00’W,
  - 42 00’N 8°00’W;
- (g) ‘functional unit 27 of ICES division 9a’ means the geographical area bounded by rhumb lines sequentially joining the following positions:
- 42°00’N 8°00’W,
  - 42°00’N 10°00’W,
  - 38°30’N 10°00’W,
  - 38°30’N 9°00’W,
  - 40°00’N 9°00’W,
  - 40°00’N 8°00’W;
- (h) ‘functional unit 30 of ICES division 9a’ means the geographical area under the jurisdiction of Spain in the Gulf of Cádiz and in the adjacent waters of ICES division 9a;

- (i) ‘functional unit 31 of ICES division 8c’ means the geographical sea area bounded by rhumb lines sequentially joining the following positions:
- 43°30'N 8°00'W,
  - 44°30'N 8°00'W,
  - 44°30'N 2°00'W,
  - 43°00'N 2°00'W,
  - 43°00'N 6°00'W,
  - 43°30'N 6°00'W;
- (j) ‘Gulf of Cádiz’ means the geographical area of ICES division 9a east of longitude 7° 23' 48" W;
- (k) ‘CCAMLR (Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) Convention area’ means the geographical area defined in the Convention on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources<sup>24</sup>;

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<sup>24</sup> OJ L 252, 5.9.1981, p. 27, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/convention/1981/691/oj>. The Union approved the CCAMLR Convention by Council Decision 81/691/EEC of 4 September 1981 on the conclusion of the Convention on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources (OJ L 252, 5.9.1981, p. 26, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1981/691/oj>).

- (l) ‘CECAF (Committee for Eastern Central Atlantic Fisheries) areas’ means the geographical areas specified in Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 216/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>25</sup>;
- (m) ‘IATTC (Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission) Convention area’ means the geographical area defined in the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (Antigua Convention)<sup>26</sup>;

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<sup>25</sup> Regulation (EC) No 216/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in certain areas other than those of the North Atlantic (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/216/oj>).

<sup>26</sup> OJ L 224, 16.8.2006, p. 24, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/convention/2005/26/oj>. The Union approved the Convention for the Strengthening of IATTC by Council Decision 2006/539/EC of 22 May 2006 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community of the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (OJ L 224, 16.8.2006, p. 22, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2006/539/oj>).

- (n) ‘ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) Convention area’ means the geographical area defined in the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas<sup>27</sup>;
- (o) ‘IOTC (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) Area of Competence’ means the geographical area defined in the Agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission<sup>28</sup>;

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<sup>27</sup> OJ L 162, 18.6.1986, p. 34, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/convention/1986/238\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/convention/1986/238(1)/oj). The Union acceded to the ICCAT by Council Decision 86/238/EEC of 9 June 1986 on the accession of the Community to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, as amended by the Protocol annexed to the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the States Parties to the Convention signed in Paris on 10 July 1984 (OJ L 162, 18.6.1986, p. 33, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1986/238/oj>).

<sup>28</sup> OJ L 236, 5.10.1995, p. 25, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_internation/1995/399/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1995/399/oj). The Union acceded to the IOTC by Council Decision 95/399/EC of 18 September 1995 on the accession of the Community to the Agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (OJ L 236, 5.10.1995, p. 24, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1995/399/oj>).

- (p) ‘NAFO (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation) Convention Area’ and ‘NAFO areas’ means the geographical areas defined in the Convention on future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-West Atlantic Fisheries<sup>29</sup>;
- (q) ‘NAFO Regulatory Area’ means the part of the NAFO Convention Area which is beyond national jurisdiction;
- (r) ‘NPFC Convention area’ means the geographical area defined in the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean<sup>30</sup>;

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<sup>29</sup> OJ L 378, 30.12.1978, p. 2, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/convention/1978/3179/oj>. The Union acceded the NAFO Convention by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3179/78 of 28 December 1978 concerning the conclusion by the European Economic Community of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (OJ L 378, 30.12.1978, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1978/3179/oj>).

<sup>30</sup> OJ L 55, 28.2.2022, p. 14. The Union acceded to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean by Council Decision (EU) 2022/314 of 15 February 2022 on the accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (OJ L 55, 28.2.2022, p. 12, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/314/oj>).

- (s) ‘SEAFO (South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation) Convention area’ means the geographical area defined in the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South-East Atlantic Ocean<sup>31</sup>;
- (t) ‘SIOFA (Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement) Agreement Area’ means the geographical area defined in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement<sup>32</sup>;

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<sup>31</sup> OJ L 234, 31.8.2002, p. 40, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/convention/2001/319/oj>. The Union approved the SEAFO Convention by Council Decision 2002/738/EC of 22 July 2002 on the conclusion by the European Community of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South-East Atlantic Ocean (OJ L 234, 31.8.2002, p. 39, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2002/738/oj>).

<sup>32</sup> OJ L 196, 18.7.2006, p. 15, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_internation/2006/496/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2006/496/oj). The Union approved the SIOFA by Council Decision 2008/780/EC of 29 September 2008 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (OJ L 268, 9.10.2008, p. 27, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2008/780/oj>).

- (u) ‘SPRFMO (South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation) Convention area’ means the geographical area defined in the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean<sup>33</sup>;
- (v) ‘WCPFC (Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission) Convention area’ means the geographical area defined in the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean<sup>34</sup>;
- (w) ‘high seas of the Bering Sea’ means the geographical area of the high seas of the Bering Sea beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial seas of the coastal States of the Bering Sea is measured;
- (x) ‘overlap area between IATTC and WCPFC Convention areas’ means the geographical area defined by the following limits:
- longitude 150° W,
  - longitude 130° W,
  - latitude 4° S,
  - latitude 50° S.

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<sup>33</sup> OJ L 67, 6.3.2012, p. 3, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/convention/2012/130/oj>. The Union approved the SPRFMO Convention by Council Decision 2012/130/EU of 3 October 2011 on the approval, on behalf of the European Union, of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (OJ L 67, 6.3.2012, p. 1, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2012/130\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2012/130(1)/oj)).

<sup>34</sup> OJ L 32, 4.2.2005, p. 3, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/convention/2005/75/oj>. The Union acceded to the WCPFC by Council Decision 2005/75/EC of 26 April 2004 on the accession of the Community to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (OJ L 32, 4.2.2005, p. 1, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2005/75\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2005/75(1)/oj)).

# **TITLE II**

## **FISHING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS**

#### **Chapter I**

##### **General provisions**

###### *Article 5*

###### *TACs and allocations*

1. The TACs for Union fishing vessels in Union waters and certain non-Union waters, their allocation among Member States and, where appropriate, the conditions functionally linked thereto are set out in Annex I.
2. Union fishing vessels may be authorised by the coastal State concerned to fish in waters under the jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Norway and in the fishing zone around Jan Mayen subject to the TACs set out in Annex I to this Regulation and subject to the conditions provided for in Article 25 of this Regulation, in Part A of Annex V to this Regulation and in Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>35</sup> and in delegated acts adopted by the Commission on the basis of that Regulation.

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<sup>35</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the sustainable management of external fishing fleets, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008 (OJ L 347, 28.12.2017, p. 81, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/2403/oj>).



3. Union fishing vessels may be authorised by the United Kingdom to fish in waters under its jurisdiction subject to the TACs in Annex I to this Regulation, the conditions provided for in Article 25 of this Regulation and in Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 and in delegated acts adopted by the Commission on the basis of that Regulation.

#### *Article 6*

##### *TACs to be determined by Member States*

1. The TACs set out in Annex I to this Regulation shall, where specified in that Annex, be determined by the Member State concerned.
2. The TACs to be determined by a Member State referred to in paragraph 1 shall:
  - (a) be consistent with the objectives and rules set out in Regulations (EU) No 1380/2013, (EU) 2018/973 and (EU) 2019/472, in particular the objective of sustainable exploitation of the stock; and
  - (b) result in an exploitation of the stock that is:
    - (i) if an analytical assessment is available, in line with maximum sustainable yield (MSY), with as high a probability as possible; or
    - (ii) if an analytical assessment is unavailable or incomplete, consistent with the precautionary approach to fisheries management.

3. By 15 March, each Member State concerned shall submit the following information to the Commission:
  - (a) the TACs that it has determined;
  - (b) the data that it has collected, assessed and used as a basis for the determination of the TACs; and
  - (c) details as to how the determined TACs comply with the conditions laid down in paragraph 2.
4. Where appropriate, the Commission may request advice from the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), in which the STECF:
  - (a) assesses the information referred to in paragraph 3, points (b) and (c); and
  - (b) assesses whether the TACs determined by Member States comply with the conditions laid down in paragraph 2.
5. If, according to the advice of STECF, the information submitted by Member States is insufficient, the Member States concerned shall submit to the Commission updated information, together with justifications for the updated information in relation to the STECF advice, no later than one month after the publication of the STECF advice.

6. If, according to the advice of STECF, the TACs determined by Member States do not comply with the conditions laid down in paragraph 2, the Member States concerned shall submit to the Commission updated TACs together with justification for those updated TACs in relation to the STECF advice as well as, where relevant, together with information referred to in paragraph 5, no later than one month after the publication of that advice.

## *Article 7*

### *Conditions for landing catches and by-catches*

1. Catches that are not subject to the landing obligation under Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall be retained on board or landed only if they:
  - (a) have been taken by fishing vessels flying the flag of a Member State that has a quota and that quota has not been exhausted; or
  - (b) make up a share of a Union quota that has not been allocated among Member States and that has not been exhausted.
2. For the purposes of the derogation from the obligation to count catches against the relevant quotas, as provided for in Article 15(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the stocks of non-target species within safe biological limits referred to in that Article are identified in Annex I to this Regulation.

## Article 8

### *Quota exchange mechanism for TACs for unavoidable by-catches*

1. The quota exchange mechanism set out in paragraphs 2 to 5 applies to the TACs identified in Annex IA.
2. 6 % of each quota from the TACs for cod (*Gadus morhua*) in the Celtic Sea (COD/7XAD34), cod in the West of Scotland (COD/5BE6A), whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in the Irish Sea (WHG/07A.) and plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in ICES divisions 7h, 7j and 7k (PLE/7HJK.), and 3 % of each quota from the TAC for whiting in the West of Scotland (WHG/56-14), allocated to each Member State, shall be made available for a pool for quota exchanges (the 'pool'), which shall open on 1 January. Member States without a quota shall have exclusive access to the pool until 31 March.
3. The quantities drawn from the pool may not be exchanged or transferred to the following year. After 31 March, any unused quantities shall be returned to the Member States that initially contributed to the pool.
4. Member States without a quota shall provide in return quotas for stocks listed in Part C of Annex IA unless the Member State without a quota and the Member State contributing to the pool agree otherwise.

5. The quotas provided in return as referred to in paragraph 4 shall be of equivalent commercial value, determined on the basis of a market exchange rate or other mutually acceptable exchange rates. In the absence of alternatives, the equivalent commercial value shall be determined on the basis of average Union prices from the previous year, as provided by the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products.
6. Where the quota exchange mechanism set out in paragraphs 2 to 5 does not allow Member States to cover their unavoidable by-catches to a similar extent, Member States shall endeavour to agree on quota exchanges pursuant to Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, ensuring that quotas exchanged are of equivalent commercial value.

### *Article 9*

#### *Fishing effort limits in ICES division 7e*

1. For the period referred to in Article 1(2), point (b), of this Regulation, fishing effort limitations for sole (*Solea solea*) in ICES division 7e (the Western Channel) are set out in Annex II.
2. At the request of a Member State in accordance with point 7.4 of Annex II, the Commission may adopt an implementing act by which it allocates to that Member State a number of days at sea in addition to those referred to in point 5 of Annex II, on which it may authorise a fishing vessel under its flag to be present in ICES division 7e when carrying on board any regulated gear. The Commission shall adopt that implementing act in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 61(2) of this Regulation.

3. At the request of a Member State, the Commission may adopt an implementing act by which it allocates to that Member State a maximum of three days at sea between 1 February 2026 and 31 January 2027, in addition to those referred to in point 5 of Annex II, on which a fishing vessel may be present in ICES division 7e on the basis of an enhanced programme of scientific observer coverage, as referred to in point 8.1 of Annex II. The Commission shall make such an allocation on the basis of the description submitted by that Member State in accordance with point 8.3 of Annex II and following consultation with the STECF. That implementing act shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 61(2) of this Regulation.

#### *Article 10*

##### *Measures on European seabass fisheries*

##### *in ICES divisions 4b, 4c and 6a and ICES subarea 7*

1. It shall be prohibited for Union fishing vessels, as well as for any commercial fisheries from shore, to fish for European seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in ICES divisions 4b and 4c and in ICES subarea 7 or to retain on board, tranship, relocate or land European seabass caught in that area.
2. The prohibition set out in paragraph 1 shall not apply to by-catches of European seabass in shore-based commercial netting activities. This exemption applies to historic numbers of beach nets set at pre-2017 levels. Shore-based commercial netting activities shall not target European seabass and only unavoidable by-catches of European seabass may be landed.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, in January 2026 and from 1 April to 31 December 2026, Union fishing vessels in ICES divisions 4b, 4c, 7d, 7e, 7f and 7h may fish for, retain on board, tranship, relocate or land European seabass caught in that area with the following gear and within the following limits:
- (a) using demersal trawls<sup>36</sup>, for unavoidable by-catches not exceeding 10,0 tonnes per fishing vessel and per year and 20 % of the weight of the total catches of marine organisms on board caught by the fishing vessel concerned per fishing trip;
  - (b) using seines<sup>37</sup>, for unavoidable by-catches not exceeding 10,0 tonnes per fishing vessel and per year and 20 % of the weight of the total catches of marine organisms on board caught by the fishing vessel concerned per fishing trip;
  - (c) using hooks and lines<sup>38</sup>, not exceeding 8,0 tonnes per fishing vessel and per year;
  - (d) using fixed gillnets<sup>39</sup>, for unavoidable by-catches not exceeding 5,4 tonnes per fishing vessel and per year.

The derogations set out in the first subparagraph, point (c), shall apply to Union fishing vessels that have recorded catches of European seabass using hooks and lines over the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2016.

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<sup>36</sup> All types of demersal trawls (OTB, OTT, PTB, TBB, TBN, TBS and TB).

<sup>37</sup> All types of seines (SSC, SDN, SPR, SV, SB and SX).

<sup>38</sup> All long lines or pole and line or rod and line fisheries (LHP, LHM, LLD, LL, LTL, LX and LLS).

<sup>39</sup> All fixed gillnets and traps (GTR, GNS, GNC, FYK, FPN and FIX).

The derogations set out in the first subparagraph, point (d), shall apply to Union fishing vessels that have recorded catches of European seabass using fixed gillnets over the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2016.

In the case of a replacement of a Union fishing vessel, Member States may allow the derogations to apply to another Union fishing vessel provided that the number of Union fishing vessels subject to each of the derogations and their overall fishing capacity do not increase.

4. The catch limits set out in paragraph 3 shall not be transferable between fishing vessels.
5. In recreational fisheries, including from shore, in ICES divisions 4b, 4c, 6a and 7a to 7k:
  - (a) from 1 February to 31 March 2026:
    - (i) only ‘catch and release’ fishing with a rod or a handline for European seabass shall be allowed; and
    - (ii) it shall be prohibited to retain, relocate, tranship or land European seabass caught in that area;
  - (b) in January 2026 and from 1 April to 31 December 2026:
    - (i) not more than three specimens of European seabass may be caught and retained per fisher per day;
    - (ii) the minimum size of European seabass retained shall be 42 cm; and
    - (iii) fixed nets shall not be used to catch or retain European seabass.



6. Paragraph 5 shall apply without prejudice to more stringent national measures on recreational fisheries.

### *Article 11*

#### *Measures for European seabass fisheries in the ICES divisions 8a and 8b*

1. When determining their fishing opportunities for commercial fisheries for European seabass in ICES divisions 8a and 8b (the Bay of Biscay), Spain and France shall jointly ensure that the sum of their respective fishing opportunities, commercial discards, recreational landings and recreational dead discards does not exceed 3 883 tonnes. Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 shall apply to those fishing opportunities.
2. By 15 March, Spain and France shall inform the Commission of the fishing opportunities referred to in paragraph 1 and how those fishing opportunities comply with that paragraph.
3. Catches in commercial fisheries under the fishing opportunities referred to in paragraph 1 shall be reported by Spain and by France (BSS/8AB).
4. In recreational fisheries, including from shore, in ICES divisions 8a and 8b:
  - (a) a maximum of two specimen of European seabass may be caught and retained per fisher per day; and
  - (b) fixed nets shall not be used to catch or retain European seabass.

5. Paragraph 4 shall apply without prejudice to more stringent national measures on recreational fisheries.

#### *Article 12*

##### *Measures on recreational fisheries for pollack in ICES areas 6 and 7*

1. In recreational fisheries, including from shore, in ICES subareas 6 and 7, a maximum of three specimens of pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) may be caught and retained per fisher per day.
2. Paragraph 1 shall apply without prejudice to more stringent national measures on recreational fishing.

#### *Article 13*

##### *Measures for pollack in ICES subareas 8, 9 and 10 and Union waters of CECAF area 34.1.1*

1. A minimum conservation reference size of 42 cm shall apply for catches of pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in ICES subareas 8, 9 and 10 and Union waters of CECAF area 34.1.1.
2. In recreational fisheries, including from shore, in ICES subareas 8, 9 and 10 and Union waters of CECAF area 34.1.1:
  - (a) a maximum of two specimens of pollack may be caught and retained per fisher per day; once that ceiling has been reached, ‘catch and release’ fishing may be carried out; and

- (b) no specimens of pollack are permitted to be caught and retained from 1 January to 30 April; ‘catch and release’ fishing may nevertheless be carried out during that period.
- 3. Paragraph 2 applies without prejudice to more stringent national measures on recreational fishing.

#### *Article 14*

##### *Measures on European eel fisheries in Union waters of ICES subareas 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9*

- 1. This Article applies to Union marine and brackish waters of ICES subareas 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9, and to adjacent Union brackish waters, including estuaries, coastal lagoons and transitional waters.
- 2. This Article does not apply to commercial fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations with or without a fishing vessel, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with the conditions set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 and that the STECF has confirmed to the Commission and the Member States concerned that such scientific investigations are justified on scientific grounds.

3. Commercial fishing activities for European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) at all life stages for a period of at least six months between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027 shall be prohibited. In addition, Member States and fishers shall undertake all reasonable efforts to minimise and where possible eliminate incidental catch of European eel. When accidentally caught, specimens of European eel shall not be harmed and shall be promptly released. To that effect, the Member State concerned, either individually or jointly, shall determine one or more closure periods subject to the following conditions:
- (a) where appropriate, the closure period or periods may differ between Member States or within one Member State from one fishing area to another in order to take account of the geographical and temporal migration pattern of European eel at its different life stages;
  - (b) the closure period or periods shall last for a consecutive or non-consecutive time span of at least six months, which shall apply to all fishers concerned in the relevant fishing area;
  - (c) the closure period or periods shall be consistent with the conservation objectives set out in Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007, and with national management plans established pursuant to Article 2 of that Regulation; and
  - (d) the closure period or periods shall cover the main migration period or periods, including the respective peak, of European eel at the respective life stage in the Member State concerned.

4. By way of derogation from paragraph 3, point (d), for European eel of an overall length of 12 cm or more, the Member State concerned may allow fishing activities for up to a total of 30 consecutive or non-consecutive days, which shall apply to all fishers concerned in the relevant fishing area, during the main migration period. In that case, the Member States concerned shall determine an additional closure of an equivalent period of time during the main migration period or, subsidiarily, just before or after it. In cases where a Member State allows fishing on non-consecutive days, the fishing gear shall be taken out of the water during any period between of those non-consecutive days of fishing activities.
5. By way of derogation from paragraph 3, point (d), the Member State concerned may allow fishing for European eel of an overall length of 12 cm or more when migrating from Union waters to their spawning grounds in the Sargasso Sea ('downstream migration') for up to a total of 50 consecutive or non-consecutive days. That derogation applies to all fishers concerned in the relevant fishing area, during the main migration period, under the following cumulative conditions:
- (a) the fishing activity shall only be allowed when the only access available to the European eel to marine waters necessarily passes through non-Union brackish waters;
  - (b) the catches taken in ICES subdivisions 22 to 32 shall meet the minimum conservation reference size of 35 cm, in accordance with Part A of Annex VIII to Regulation (EU) 2019/1241;

- (c) any European eel that is sexually mature and is caught shall not be harmed, shall be transported without undue delay and shall be immediately released to nearby Union marine waters at a place designated by the Member State concerned, which would allow it to continue downstream migration;
  - (d) any incidentally caught European eel that is not sexually mature shall not be harmed and shall be immediately released back into the water; and
  - (e) the fishing activity shall be undertaken with the involvement of a national scientific body.
6. For European eel of an overall length of 12 cm or more in ICES subarea 3, the closure period or periods referred to in paragraph 3 and the derogation thereof referred to in paragraph 4 shall be agreed by all the Member States concerned so as to ensure an effective protection of European eel on its migration from the Baltic Sea into the North Sea. In the absence of such an agreement by 1 April 2026, the closure period shall be 15 September 2026 to 15 March 2027 in Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland and Sweden, and without the possibility of the derogation referred to in paragraph 4.

7. By way of derogation from paragraph 3, point (d), for European eel of an overall length of less than 12 cm, the Member States concerned may allow fishing activities for up to a total of 30 consecutive or non-consecutive days, which shall apply to all fishers concerned in the relevant fishing area, during the main migration period. In addition, the Member States concerned may allow fishing exclusively for restocking for up to an additional 50 days during the main migration period. In both cases, the Member States concerned shall determine an additional closure of an equivalent period of time during the main migration period or, subsidiarily, just before or after it. In cases where a Member State allows fishing on non-consecutive days, the fishing gear shall be taken out of the water during any period between of those non-consecutive days of fishing activities.
8. Recreational fisheries of European eel at all life stages shall be prohibited.
9. The Member States concerned, either individually or jointly, shall inform the Commission:
  - (a) by 1 May, of the closure period or periods determined in accordance with paragraphs 3 to 7, together with the supporting information justifying the chosen period or periods;
  - (b) within two weeks of their adoption, of national measures relating to the closure period or periods that were determined in accordance with paragraphs 3 to 7;

- (c) within eight weeks before the start of the closure period or periods determined in accordance with paragraphs 3 to 7, of the fishing activities held in accordance with paragraph 5, namely of:
  - (i) the place or places and date or dates of the fishing activities;
  - (ii) the expected number and type of operators, and the national scientific body involved; and
  - (iii) the designated place or places for release; and
- (d) within a maximum of eight weeks from the end of the fishing activities held in accordance with paragraph 5, of:
  - (i) the number and type of operators;
  - (ii) the number of sexually mature European eels caught during those fishing activities;
  - (iii) the number of European eels that are not sexually mature caught during those fishing activities; and
  - (iv) the number of sexually mature European eels that were tagged.



## *Article 15*

### *Special provisions on allocations of fishing opportunities*

1. The allocation of fishing opportunities among Member States set out in this Regulation shall be without prejudice to:
  - (a) exchanges pursuant to Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;
  - (b) deductions and additions pursuant to Article 37 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009;
  - (c) reallocations pursuant to Articles 12 and 47 of Regulation (EU) 2017/2403;
  - (d) additional landings allowed under Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 and Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;
  - (e) quantities withheld in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 and Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;
  - (f) deductions and adjustments pursuant to Articles 105, 106, 107 and 107a of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009; and
  - (g) quota transfers and exchanges pursuant to Articles 26 and 55 of this Regulation.

2. Stocks subject to precautionary or analytical TACs for the purposes of the year-to-year management of TACs and quotas provided for in Regulation (EC) No 847/96 are identified in Annex I to this Regulation.
3. Except where otherwise specified in Annex I to this Regulation, Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall apply to stocks subject to a precautionary TAC, and Article 3(2) and (3) and Article 4 of that Regulation shall apply to stocks subject to an analytical TAC.
4. Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply where a Member State uses the year-to-year flexibility provided for in Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

#### *Article 16*

##### *Closed fishing seasons for sandeels*

Commercial fishing for sandeels (*Ammodytes* spp.) with demersal trawl, seine or similar towed gears with a mesh size of less than 16 mm shall be prohibited in ICES divisions 2a and 3a and in ICES subarea 4 from 1 January to 31 March 2026 and from 1 August to 31 December 2026.

#### *Article 17*

##### *Remedial measures for cod in the North Sea*

1. The areas closed to fishing, except with pelagic gear (purse seines and trawls), and the periods during which the closures apply are set out in Annex IV.

2. Fishing vessels fishing with bottom trawls and seines with a minimum mesh size of 70 mm in ICES divisions 4a and 4b or 90 mm in ICES division 3a, and longlines<sup>40</sup> shall be prohibited from fishing in Union waters of ICES division 4a, north of latitude 58°30'00"N and south of latitude 61°30'00"N, and in Union waters of ICES divisions 3a.20 (Skagerrak), 4a and 4b, north of latitude 57°00'00"N and east of longitude 5°00'00"E.
3. By way of derogation from paragraph 2, fishing vessels referred to in that paragraph may fish in the areas referred to in that paragraph provided that they fulfil at least one of the following criteria:
- (a) their cod catches do not account for more than 5 % of their total catches per fishing trip; fishing vessels whose cod catches did not exceed 5 % of their total catches in 2017 to 2019 are presumed to comply with this criterion provided that they continue to use the same gear that they used in that period; this presumption may be rebutted;
  - (b) a regulated and highly selective bottom trawl or seine is used, resulting, according to a scientific study, in at least a 30 % reduction in cod catches compared to fishing vessels fishing with the baseline mesh size for towed gears, as specified in Part B, point 1.1, of Annex V to Regulation (EU) 2019/1241; such studies may be evaluated by the STECF and in the case of a negative evaluation, the gears concerned shall no longer be considered valid for use in the areas referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article;

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<sup>40</sup> Gear codes: OTB, OTT, OT, TBN, TBS, TB, TX, PTB, SDN, SSC, SX, LL, LLS.

- (c) for fishing vessels fishing with bottom trawls and seines with mesh sizes equal to or larger than 100 mm (TR1), the following highly selective gears are used:
  - (i) belly trawls with a minimum belly mesh size of 600 mm;
  - (ii) raised fishing line (0,6 m); or
  - (iii) horizontal separating panel with large mesh escape panel;
- (d) for fishing vessels fishing with bottom trawls and seines with mesh sizes equal to or larger than 70 mm in ICES division 4a and 90 mm in ICES division 3a, and less than 100 mm (TR2), the following highly selective gears are used:
  - (i) horizontal sorting grid with maximum 50 mm bar spacing separating flatfish and roundfish, with an unblocked fish outlet for roundfish;
  - (ii) seltra panel with 300 mm square mesh size; or
  - (iii) sorting grid with maximum 35 mm bar spacing, with an unblocked fish outlet;

- (e) fishing vessels are subject to a national cod avoidance plan to sustain cod catches in line with the fishing mortality corresponding to the fishing opportunities fixed, based on scientific advice levels, through spatial or technical measures, or a combination thereof; such plans shall be assessed no later than two months following their implementation, by the STECF in the case of Member States or by the relevant national scientific body in the case of third countries, and, where deemed necessary, further revised if such assessments find that the objective of the national cod avoidance plan will not be met.
- 4. Member States shall enhance the monitoring and surveillance of fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 2 in order to ensure compliance with the conditions laid down in paragraph 3.
- 5. This Article does not apply to fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

## Article 18

### *Real-time closures of certain fisheries in the North Sea and Skagerrak*

1. From 1 January to 31 March 2026, in the Eastern Channel (ICES division 7d), Southern North Sea (ICES division 4c) and central North Sea (ICES division 4b), if the quantity of cod in the sample exceeds 25 % as compared to the total of cod, haddock, saithe and whiting, the catch trigger level, as referred to in Article 4(2) of Commission Regulation (EU) 724/2010<sup>41</sup>, shall be 7,5 % by weight of juveniles as compared to the total of those four species in a haul.
2. When the closed area is based on one sample and lying outside the waters up to 12 miles from the baseline of the coastal Member State, as referred to in Article 7(2), point (c), of Commission Regulation (EU) 724/2010, the size of the closures shall be from 50 nm<sup>2</sup> up to 225 nm<sup>2</sup>, except in Skagerrak (ICES division 3a), Eastern Channel (ICES division 7d) and Southern North Sea (ICES division 4c) where the size of the closures shall be from 50 nm<sup>2</sup> up to 100 nm<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>41</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 724/2010 of 12 August 2010 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of real-time closures of certain fisheries in the North Sea and Skagerrak (OJ L 213, 13.8.2010, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2010/724/oj>).

## Article 19

### *Technical measures for the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland*

1. The following shall apply to fishing vessels fishing with otter trawls and seines in ICES divisions 7f, 7g, the part of 7h north of latitude 49° 30' North and the part of 7j north of latitude 49° 30' North and east of longitude 11° West:
  - (a) fishing vessels fishing with otter trawls or seines shall use gear with one of the following mesh sizes:
    - (i) 110 mm cod-end with 120 mm square mesh panel; or
    - (ii) 120 mm cod-end;
  - (b) In addition, fishing vessels fishing with otter trawls whose catches weighed before any discards consist of at least 20 % of haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) shall use a fishing gear that is constructed with a minimum of one metre spacing between the fishing line and ground gear; Member States may exempt from the application of this point fishing vessels fishing with otter trawls whose catches, weighed before any discards, consist of less than 1,5 % of cod, provided those vessels are subject to a progressive increase of observer coverage at sea up to at least 20 % of all their fishing trips;

- (c) fishing vessels fishing with otter trawls or seines with catches comprising more than 30 % of Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) shall use 80 mm cod-end and one of the following gears:
  - (i) 300 mm square mesh panel;
  - (ii) seltra 300 mm square mesh sorting box; or
  - (iii) Nordmøre sorting grid with a maximum bar spacing of 35 mm or a similar Netgrid selectivity device.
- (d) fishing vessels fishing with otter trawls or seines with catches comprising more than 55 % of anglerfish (*Lophiidae*), hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) or megrim (*Lepidorhombus* spp.) combined, shall use one of the following gears:
  - (i) 100 mm cod-end with a 100 mm square mesh panel; or
  - (ii) 100 mm T90 cod-end and extension.



2. The following shall apply to fishing vessels fishing with otter trawls or seines in ICES divisions 6a and 5b, within Union waters, east of 12°W (West of Scotland) in Norway lobster fisheries:
- (a) fishing vessels shall use a square mesh panel (positioning retained) of at least 300 mm for vessels deploying a cod-end mesh size less than 100 mm; for vessels below 12 m in length overall or with engine power of 200 kW or less, the panel overall length may be 2 m and the panel mesh size may be 200 mm;
  - (b) fishing vessels with catches comprising more than 30 % of Norway lobster shall use a square mesh panel (positioning retained) of at least 160 mm for vessels deploying a cod-end mesh size of 100-119 mm.
3. The following shall apply to fishing vessels fishing with otter trawls or seines in ICES division 7a (Irish Sea):
- (a) fishing vessels fishing with otter trawls or seines with a cod-end mesh size equal to or larger than 70 mm and smaller than 100 mm and with catches comprising more than 30 % of Norway lobster shall use one of the following gears:
    - (i) 300 mm square mesh panel; fishing vessels below 12 metres in length overall may use a 200 mm square mesh panel;
    - (ii) seltra 300 mm square mesh sorting box; or
    - (iii) Nordmøre sorting grid with a maximum bar spacing of 35 mm or a similar Netgrid selectivity device.

- (b) fishing vessels equal to or greater than 12 metres in length overall operating with otter trawls or seines with catches comprising more than 10 % of haddock, cod and skates and rays (*Rajiformes*) combined, shall use 120 mm cod-end.
- 4. The catch percentages in paragraphs 1 to 3 of this Article shall be calculated as the proportion by live weight of all marine biological resources landed after each fishing trip, in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 27(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.
- 5. In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2019/1241, it shall be prohibited for fishing vessels to fish with otter trawls and seines in the following zones:
  - (a) in ICES divisions 7b and 7c;
  - (b) in the area west of 5° W longitude in ICES division 7e; and
  - (c) in ICES divisions from 7f to 7k.

This prohibition shall not apply to fishing vessels where:

- (a) they use a cod-end mesh size of at least 100 mm; or
- (b) their by-catches of cod do not exceed 1,5 %, as assessed by the STECF, when fishing outside the areas referred to in paragraph 1.

6. For the purpose of this Article, the following definitions apply:
- (a) ‘otter trawls’ means trawls held open by otter boards towed on the seabed;
  - (b) ‘seltra 300 mm square mesh sorting box’ means a selectivity device which:
    - (i) consists of a top panel of at least 300 mm mesh size (square mesh), placed in a four-panel box section, in the straight section of a cod end;
    - (ii) is at least 3 metres long;
    - (iii) is positioned no more than 4 metres from the cod line; and
    - (iv) is the full width of the top sheet of the box section of the trawl (i.e. from selvedge to selvedge);
  - (c) ‘Nordmøre sorting grid’ means a selectivity device which:
    - (i) consists of a rigid grid with a maximum bar spacing of 35 mm; and
    - (ii) is fitted with a square mesh panel of 120 mm mesh size, positioned between 9 and 12 metres from the codline;
  - (d) ‘Netgrid device’ means a selectivity device consisting of a four-panel section inserted into a two-panel trawl with an inclined sheet of diamond mesh netting with a mesh size of at least 200 mm leading to an escape hole in the top of the trawl.

*Article 20*  
*Technical measures for the Channel*

1. The following shall apply in ICES division 7e:
  - (a) fishing vessels operating with otter trawls or seines with catches comprising more than 25 % cod, haddock, whiting or saithe combined, shall use 100 mm cod-end; and
  - (b) fishing vessels operating with otter trawls, beam trawls, and seines with catches comprising more than 30 % sole or plaice combined and, in the case of otter trawls or seines additionally with catches comprising less than 25 % cod, haddock, whiting and saithe combined, shall use 90 mm cod-end.
2. Fishing vessels fishing in ICES division 7d with otter trawls, beam trawls, and seines with catches comprising more than 30 % sole or plaice combined, shall use 90 mm cod-end.
3. The catch percentages set out in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be calculated as the proportion by live weight of all marine biological resources landed after each fishing trip, in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 27(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

## Article 21

### *Technical measures for Northern prawn in the Skagerrak*

1. If the proportion of juveniles of Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*), as referred to in Article 5(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2201<sup>42</sup>, is more than 30 % of the overall catch of that species, control authorities may recommend a real-time closure on the basis of one sample, as referred to in that Article.
2. Trawlers targeting Northern prawn with a size selective Nordmøre grid, as referred to in Article 6(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2201, shall be subject to the closed area, as referred to in that Article.
3. The closed area, as referred to in Article 7(b) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2201, shall not exceed 100 square nautical miles.
4. The area, as referred to in Article 8(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2201, shall be closed for 21 days after which it shall automatically cease to apply at midnight UTC.

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<sup>42</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2201 of 1 October 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council with detailed rules for the implementation of real-time closures for Northern prawn fisheries in the Skagerrak (OJ L 332, 23.12.2019, p. 3, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_del/2019/2201/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2019/2201/oj)).

5. Demersal trawls with a mesh size of at least 32 mm targeting Northern prawn, which are equipped with a Nordmøre sorting grid with a maximum bar spacing of 19 mm and without a fish retention device, as referred to in Article 11 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2201, shall be subject to the closed area, as referred to in Article 6(1) of that Regulation.

## *Article 22*

### *Remedial measures for common sole in the Skagerrak, Kattegat and western Baltic Sea*

1. Union fishing vessels fishing in ICES subdivisions 20-23 with bottom set gillnets<sup>43</sup> shall not use mesh sizes between 80 mm and 119 mm.
2. Paragraph 1 shall not apply to:
  - (a) Union fishing vessels that target non-quota species and whose by-catches of common sole (*Solea solea*) are below 1 % in the sea area south of latitude 55° 00' N and up to two nautical miles measured from the baselines; or
  - (b) fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

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<sup>43</sup> Gear codes: GTR, GTN, GNS, GNC.

*Article 23*  
*Prohibited species*

1. Union fishing vessels shall not fish for, retain on board, tranship or land the following species:
  - (a) starry ray (*Amblyraja radiata*) in United Kingdom and Union waters of ICES subarea 4 and division 7d, United Kingdom waters of division 2a and Union waters of division 3a;
  - (b) splendid alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*) in NAFO subarea 6;
  - (c) sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*) in all waters other than the Mediterranean;
  - (d) common skate (*Dipturus batis*) complex (*Dipturus* cf. *flossada* and *Dipturus* cf. *intermedia*) in United Kingdom and Union waters of ICES subareas 4, 6, 7 and 8, United Kingdom waters of division 2a and subarea 5 and Union waters of subareas 3, 9 and 10;
  - (e) great lanternshark (*Etmopterus princeps*) in United Kingdom and Union waters of ICES subarea 4, United Kingdom waters of division 2a and international waters of subareas 1 and 14;

- (f) tope shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) when taken with longlines in United Kingdom and Union waters of ICES subareas 4, United Kingdom waters of division 2a, United Kingdom and international waters of subarea 5, United Kingdom, Union and international waters of subareas 6 to 8, and international waters of subareas 12 and 14;
- (g) orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) in United Kingdom, Union and international waters of ICES subareas 1 to 10, 12 and 14;
- (h) porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) in all waters;
- (i) thornback ray (*Raja clavata*) in Union waters of ICES division 3a;
- (j) undulate ray (*Raja undulata*) in United Kingdom and Union waters of ICES subarea 6 and Union waters of ICES subarea 10;
- (k) whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) in all waters;
- (l) common guitarfish (*Rhinobatos rhinobatos*) in the Mediterranean; or
- (m) deep-sea species listed in Part D of Annex IA in Union, United Kingdom and international waters of ICES zones 1, 2 (except United Kingdom waters of division 2a), 5 to 10, 12 and 14, and CECAF areas 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2, as well as in Union and United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a and subarea 4, where specified in that Annex.

2. When accidentally caught, specimens of the species referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be harmed and shall be promptly released.



## *Article 24*

### *Data transmission*

When Member States submit by electronic means to the Commission or the body designated by it data relating to catches and fishing effort pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, they shall use the stock codes set out in the Annexes to this Regulation.

## **Chapter II**

### **Fishing authorisations in third country waters**

## *Article 25*

### *Fishing authorisations*

1. The maximum numbers of fishing authorisations for Union fishing vessels in third-country waters, where applicable, are set out in Part A of Annex V.
2. Where, in accordance with Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, a Member State, after notifying the Commission, transfers quota to another Member State in the fishing areas set out in Part A of Annex V to this Regulation, the transfer shall be accompanied, where relevant, by an appropriate transfer of fishing authorisations. The total number of authorisations for each fishing area, as set out in Part A of Annex V to this Regulation, shall not be exceeded. That transfer of fishing authorisations shall be notified by the transferring Member State to the Commission at the time of the notification to the Commission of the quota transfer.

# **Chapter III**

## **Fishing opportunities managed by regional fisheries management organisations**

### **SECTION 1**

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

##### *Article 26*

##### *Quota transfers or exchanges*

1. Where the rules of a regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) permit quota transfers or exchanges between the Contracting Parties to that RFMO, a Member State (the ‘Member State concerned’) may discuss an outline of the quota transfer or exchange with a Contracting Party to that RFMO and establish a possible outline of an intended quota transfer or exchange, as appropriate. The Member State concerned shall notify the Commission of that outline.
2. On being notified in accordance with paragraph 1, the Commission may endorse the outline of the intended quota transfer or exchange. If the Commission endorses that outline, it shall express, without undue delay, the consent to be bound by the intended quota transfer or exchange. It shall notify the secretariat of the relevant RFMO of the transfer or exchange in accordance with the rules of that RFMO.

3. The Commission shall inform the Member States of any agreed quota transfer or exchange.
4. The fishing opportunities received or transferred by the Member State concerned under the quota transfer or exchange shall be deemed to be quotas added to, or deducted from, its allocation as of the moment when the transfer or exchange takes effect under the terms of the agreement with the relevant Contracting Party to the RFMO or in accordance with the rules of the relevant RFMO, as appropriate. Such transfers or exchanges shall not affect the distribution key for allocating fishing opportunities among Member States in accordance with the principle of relative stability of fishing activities.

## SECTION 2

### ICCAT CONVENTION AREA

#### *Article 27*

#### *Fishing, farming and fattening capacity limitations*

1. The number of Union bait boats and trolling boats authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm in the eastern Atlantic shall be limited as set out in point 1 of Annex VI.
2. The number of Union coastal artisanal fishing vessels authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm in the Mediterranean shall be limited as set out in point 2 of Annex VI.

3. The number of Union fishing vessels fishing for bluefin tuna in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm shall be limited as set out in point 3 of Annex VI.
4. The number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall be limited as set out in point 4 of Annex VI.
5. The number of traps engaged in bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall be limited as set out in point 5 of Annex VI.
6. The number of authorised farms to operate for bluefin tuna and the maximum input of wild-caught bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall be limited as set out in point 6 of Annex VI.
7. The maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for northern albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) as a target species in accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>44</sup> shall be limited as set out in point 7 of Annex VI to this Regulation.

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<sup>44</sup> Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2017 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EC) No 1984/2003 and (EC) No 520/2007 (OJ L 315, 30.11.2017, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/2107/oj>).

8. The maximum number of Union fishing vessels of at least 20 m length fishing for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) in the ICCAT Convention area shall be limited as set out in point 8 of Annex VI.

#### *Article 28*

##### *Recreational fisheries*

Where appropriate, Member States shall allocate a specific share from their allocated quotas to recreational fisheries, as set out in Annex ID.

#### *Article 29*

##### *Prohibitions relating to thresher sharks and shortfin mako*

1. In addition to the prohibitions established in Articles 32 to 36 of Regulation (EU) 2017/2107, direct fishing for species of thresher sharks of the *Alopias* genus shall be prohibited. That additional prohibition shall be without prejudice to the prohibition to retain on board, tranship or land any part or whole carcass for bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) set out in Article 32 of Regulation (EU) 2017/2107.
2. It shall be prohibited to retain on board, tranship or land any part or whole carcass of shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) in the Atlantic Ocean, north of 5°N, caught in fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area.

*Article 30*  
*FADs for tropical tunas*

1. It shall be prohibited to use FADs in the ICCAT Convention area from 17 March to 30 April.
2. From 2 March to 16 March, Member States shall ensure that their fishing vessels do not deploy FADs.

**SECTION 3**  
**CCAMLR CONVENTION AREA**

*Article 31*  
*Exploratory fisheries notifications for toothfish for the 2026-2027 fishing season*

1. Member States may participate in, or authorise their fishing vessels to participate in, longline exploratory fisheries for toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) in Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations (FAO) subareas 48.6, 88.1 and 88.2 and FAO divisions 58.4.1, 58.4.2 and 58.4.3a outside areas of national jurisdiction in the period from 1 December 2026 to 30 November 2027, in accordance with Article 7(2) to (7) of Council Regulation (EC) No 601/2004<sup>45</sup>.

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<sup>45</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 601/2004 of 22 March 2004 laying down certain control measures applicable to fishing activities in the area covered by the Convention on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 3943/90, (EC) No 66/98 and (EC) No 1721/1999 (OJ L 97, 1.4.2004, p. 16, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2004/601/oj>).

2. By way of derogation from the deadlines set out in Article 7(5) and (6) of Regulation (EC) No 601/2004, Member States intending to participate in, or authorise their fishing vessels to participate in, exploratory fisheries as referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall notify the CCAMLR Secretariat no later than 1 June 2026.

### *Article 32*

#### *Toothfish fishery during the 2025-2026 fishing season*

1. In addition to the special requirements for exploratory fisheries set out in Article 7a of Regulation (EC) No 601/2004, fishing for toothfish in the period from 1 December 2025 to 30 November 2026 shall be limited to the Member States, subareas and number of fishing vessels set out in Table A in Annex VII of this Regulation. For that fishery, the TACs, and by-catch limits set out in Table B in that Annex shall apply.
2. Direct fishing for shark species for purposes other than scientific research shall be prohibited. Any by-catch of shark, especially juveniles and gravid females, taken accidentally in the toothfish fishery shall be released alive.
3. Where applicable, fishing for toothfish in any small-scale research unit (SSRU) shall cease when the reported catch reaches the specified TAC, and the SSRU shall be closed to fishing for the remainder of the fishing season.

4. Fishing shall take place over a geographical and bathymetric range as large as possible, so as to obtain the information necessary to determine fishery potential and avoid an overconcentration of catch and fishing effort. However, fishing in FAO subareas 48.6, 88.1 and 88.2 shall be prohibited in depths shallower than 550 m.

### *Article 33*

#### *Krill fishery during the 2026-2027 fishing season*

1. For the purposes of Article 5a of Regulation (EC) No 601/2004, Member States intending to fish for krill (*Euphausia superba*) in the CCAMLR Convention area during the period from 1 December 2026 to 30 November 2027 shall notify the Commission thereof by 1 May 2026, using the form in Part B of the Appendix to Annex VII of this Regulation.
2. By way of derogation from the deadlines set out in Article 7(5) and (6) of Regulation (EC) No 601/2004, and on the basis of the information provided by the Member States concerned, the Commission shall submit the notifications to the CCAMLR Secretariat by 30 May 2026.
3. The notification referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall include the information provided for in Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 601/2004 for each fishing vessel to be authorised to participate in the krill fishery.



4. A Member State intending to fish for krill in the CCAMLR Convention area shall notify the Commission thereof only in respect of authorised fishing vessels that, at the time of the notification:
- (a) are flying its flag; or
  - (b) are flying the flag of another CCAMLR member and are expected to be flying the flag of that Member State at the time the fishery takes place.
5. Where an authorised fishing vessel notified to the CCAMLR Secretariat in accordance with paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 is prevented from participating in a krill fishery due to legitimate operational reasons or force majeure, the Member State concerned may authorise its replacement by another fishing vessel. In such a case, the Member State concerned shall immediately inform the CCAMLR Secretariat, with the Commission in copy, providing:
- (a) full details of the intended replacement fishing vessel or vessels, including the information provided for in Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 601/2004; and
  - (b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

## SECTION 4

### IOTC AREA OF COMPETENCE

#### *Article 34*

#### *Limitation of fishing capacity of fishing vessels*

1. The maximum number of Union fishing vessels fishing for tropical tunas in the IOTC Area of Competence and the corresponding capacity in gross tonnage shall be as set out in point 1 of Annex VIII.
2. The maximum number of Union fishing vessels fishing for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the IOTC Area of Competence and the corresponding capacity in gross tonnage shall be as set out in point 2 of Annex VIII.
3. Member States may reallocate fishing vessels assigned to one of the fisheries referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 to the other fishery, provided that they can demonstrate to the Commission that such change does not lead to an increase of fishing effort in respect of the fish stocks concerned.

4. Where a transfer of capacity to the fleet of a Member State is proposed, that Member State shall ensure that fishing vessels to be transferred are on the IOTC record of authorised fishing vessels or on the record of fishing vessels of other RFMOs managing tuna fisheries. Fishing vessels that appear on any RFMO's list of vessels that have engaged in illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities may not be transferred.
5. Member States may increase their fishing capacity beyond the ceilings referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 only within the limits set out in the development plans submitted to the IOTC.

#### *Article 35*

#### *Drifting FADs and supply vessels*

1. Drifting FADs shall be equipped with instrumented buoys. The use of any other buoys, such as radio buoys, shall be prohibited.
2. A purse seine fishing vessel shall follow no more than 250 operational buoys at any time.
3. No more than 400 instrumented buoys shall be acquired annually for each purse seine fishing vessel.
4. No more than three supply vessels shall operate in support of not fewer than 12 purse seine fishing vessels, all flying the flag of a Member State. This paragraph shall not apply to Member States using only one supply vessel.

5. A single purse seine fishing vessel shall not be supported by more than one supply vessel flying the flag of a Member State at any time.
6. The Union shall not register new or additional supply vessels in the IOTC record of authorised fishing vessels.

## **SECTION 5**

### **SPRFMO CONVENTION AREA**

#### *Article 36*

#### *Pelagic fisheries*

1. Only those Member States that have actively exercised pelagic fisheries activities in the SPRFMO Convention area in 2007, 2008 or 2009 may fish for pelagic stocks in that area in accordance with the TACs set out in Annex IH.
2. The Member States referred to in paragraph 1 may use the fishing opportunities set out in Annex IH only if they send the following information to the Commission by the fifteenth day of the following month, so that the Commission can communicate it to the SPRFMO Secretariat:
  - (a) a list of vessels actively fishing or engaged in transshipment in the SPRFMO Convention area; and
  - (b) monthly catch reports.

## SECTION 6

### IATTC CONVENTION AREA

#### *Article 37*

#### *Purse seine fisheries*

1. Purse seine fishing vessels shall not fish for yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) or skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*):
  - (a) either from 00.00 hours on 6 August 2026 to 24.00 hours on 8 October 2026 or from 00.00 hours on 9 November 2026 to 24.00 hours on 11 January 2027 in the area defined by the following limits:
    - the Pacific coastlines of the Americas,
    - longitude 150° W,
    - latitude 40° N,
    - latitude 40° S; and
  - (b) from 00.00 hours on 9 October 2026 to 24.00 hours on 8 November 2026 in the area defined by the following limits:
    - longitude 96° W,
    - longitude 110° W,
    - latitude 4° N,
    - latitude 3° S.

2. For each of the fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 1 and flying the flag of a Member State, that flag Member State shall inform the Commission before 15 June 2026 which of the closure periods referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), the fishing vessel has selected.
3. Purse seine fishing vessels fishing for tuna in the IATTC Convention area shall retain on board and then tranship or land all yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tuna that they catch.
4. Paragraph 3 shall not apply:
  - (a) where the fish is considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size; or
  - (b) during the final set of a trip, when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set.
5. For each of the purse seine fishing vessels fishing in the IATTC Convention area and flying the flag of a Member State, that flag Member State shall transmit to the Commission by 1 February data on annual catches of bigeye tuna in the IATTC Convention area in the previous year. The Commission shall compile and promptly transmit that information to the IATTC Secretariat.

6. The closure periods referred to in paragraph 1 shall be extended for Union purse seine fishing vessels, on the basis of their catches of bigeye tuna in the IATTC Convention area during the previous year, as follows:
- (a) for fishing vessels that caught between 1 200 tonnes and 1 499 tonnes, the closure period is extended by 10 days;
  - (b) for fishing vessels that caught between 1 500 tonnes and 1 799 tonnes, the closure period is extended by 13 days;
  - (c) for fishing vessels that caught between 1 800 tonnes and 2 099 tonnes, the closure period is extended by 16 days;
  - (d) for fishing vessels that caught between 2 100 tonnes and 2 399 tonnes, the closure period is extended by 19 days; and
  - (e) for fishing vessels that caught 2 400 tonnes or more, the closure period is extended by 22 days.
7. The extensions of the closure periods referred to in the paragraph 6 apply as follows:
- (a) for the closure period referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), the additional days are added before the start of that closure period; and
  - (b) for the closure period referred to in paragraph 1, point (b), the additional days are added after the end of that closure period.

8. For each of the fishing vessels concerned, the relevant flag Member State shall inform the Commission of the extensions of the closure periods when informing the Commission of the selected closure periods pursuant to paragraph 2.

### *Article 38*

#### *Drifting FADs*

1. A purse seine fishing vessel shall have no more than the number of FADs set out in the table below active at any time in the IATTC Convention area. A FAD shall be considered active when it is deployed at sea, starts transmitting its location and is being tracked by the fishing vessel, its owner or operator. A FAD shall be activated only on board a purse seine vessel.

Fishing vessels with a capacity below 1 200 m <sup>3</sup>	210 FADs
Fishing vessels with a capacity equal to or greater than 1 200 m <sup>3</sup>	340 FADs

2. During the 15 days before the start of the closure period selected in accordance with Article 37(1), point (a), of this Regulation a purse seine fishing vessel shall, in the IATTC Convention area:
- (a) refrain from deploying FADs; and
  - (b) recover the same number of FADs as initially deployed.



### *Article 39*

#### *Catch limits for bigeye tuna in longline fisheries*

The total annual catches of bigeye tuna in the IATTC Convention area by each Member State's longline fishing vessels are set out in Annex II.

### *Article 40*

#### *Records of releases of oceanic whitetip sharks*

Fishing vessel operators shall record the number of releases of oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) performed in accordance with Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/56<sup>46</sup>, with indication of status (dead or alive) and report that information to the Member State of which they are nationals. Member States shall transmit that information collected during 2025 to the Commission by 31 January 2026.

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<sup>46</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/56 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 January 2021 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention area and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 520/2007 (OJ L 24, 26.1.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/56/oj>).

## SECTION 7

### SEAFO CONVENTION AREA

#### *Article 41*

#### *Prohibition of directed fishing for deep-water sharks*

Directed fishing for the following deep-water sharks in the SEAFO Convention area shall be prohibited:

- (a) ghost catshark (*Apristurus manis*);
- (b) blurred smooth lanternshark (*Etmopterus bigelowi*);
- (c) shorttail lanternshark (*Etmopterus brachyurus*);
- (d) great lanternshark (*Etmopterus princeps*);
- (e) smooth lanternshark (*Etmopterus pusillus*);
- (f) skates (*Rajidae*);
- (g) velvet dogfish (*Scymnodon squamulosus*);
- (h) sharks of the *Selachimorpha* super-order;
- (i) picked dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*).

## SECTION 8

### WCPFC CONVENTION AREA

#### *Article 42*

#### *Measures for bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna and South Pacific albacore fisheries*

1. Member States shall ensure that no more than 403 fishing days are allocated to purse seine fishing vessels fishing for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in the high seas areas between 20° N and 20° S of the WCPFC Convention area.
2. Union fishing vessels shall not target South Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the WCPFC Convention area south of 20° S.
3. The maximum number of Union purse seine fishing vessels authorised to fish for tropical tuna in the high seas areas between 20° N and 20° S of the WCPFC Convention area shall not exceed the limits set out in Annex IX, Table 2.

### *Article 43*

#### *Management of fishing with FADs*

1. In the part of the WCPFC Convention area located between 20° N and 20° S, purse seine fishing vessels, tender vessels, and any other vessels operating in support of purse seine fishing vessels, shall not deploy, service or set nets on FADs between 00.00 hours on 1 July 2026 and 24.00 hours on 15 August 2026.
2. In addition to the prohibition set out in paragraph 1, it shall be prohibited to set nets on FADs on the high seas of the WCPFC Convention area located between 20° N and 20° S for one additional month, from 00.00 hours on 1 April 2026 to 24.00 hours on 30 April 2026, or from 00.00 hours on 1 May 2026 to 24.00 hours on 31 May 2026, or from 00.00 hours on 1 November 2026 to 24.00 hours on 30 November 2026, or from 00.00 hours on 1 December 2026 to 24.00 hours on 31 December 2026.
3. The Member States concerned shall jointly determine which of the closure periods referred to in paragraph 2 shall apply to purse seine fishing vessels flying their flag. The Member States shall jointly inform the Commission by 15 February 2026 of the closure period selected. The Commission shall notify the secretariat of the WCPFC of the joint closure period selected by Member States concerned before 1 March 2026.
4. Each Member State shall ensure that none of its purse seine fishing vessels deploy at sea, at any time, more than 350 FADs with activated instrumented buoys. Buoys shall be activated exclusively on board a purse seine fishing vessel.

#### *Article 44*

##### *Maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for swordfish*

The maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in areas of the WCPFC Convention area south of 20° S shall be as set out in Annex IX.

#### *Article 45*

##### *Catch limits for swordfish in longline fisheries south of 20° S*

Member States shall ensure that catches of swordfish south of 20° S by longliners in 2026 do not exceed the limit set out in Table 2 of Annex IG. They shall also ensure that this does not result in a shift of the fishing effort for swordfish to the area north of 20° S.

## **SECTION 9**

### **BERING SEA**

#### *Article 46*

##### *Prohibition on fishing for pollock in the high seas of the Bering Sea*

It shall be prohibited to fish for pollock (*Gadus chalcogrammus*) in the high seas of the Bering Sea.

## SECTION 10

### SIOFA AGREEMENT AREA

#### *Article 47*

#### *Limits to bottom fishing*

Member States shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag that fish in the SIOFA Agreement Area:

- (a) limit their annual bottom fishing effort to the levels set out in Annex X;
- (b) do not engage in bottom fishing except using demersal longlines;
- (c) do not fish in the benthic fishery closures of Gulden Draak, Rusky, Fools-Flat, East Broken Ridge, Mid-Indian Ridge, Atlantis Bank, Bridle, Banana and Middle of What, as defined in Annex IK;
- (d) do not fish in the benthic fishery closures of Walter's Shoal, Coral and Magneto, as defined in Annex IK, except with demersal longlines and on condition of having a scientific observer on board at all times while fishing in those areas; and
- (e) do not fish using demersal longlines in subarea 5, as defined in Annex IK.

## Article 48

### *Toothfish fishery measures*

Member States shall ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag that fish for toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) in the SIOFA Agreement Area:

- (a) do not fish in depths shallower than 500 metres;
- (b) have at least one scientific observer on board at all times with a target of observing 25 % of hooks hauled per line over the duration of the fishing deployment; and
- (c) tag and release toothfish specimens at a rate of at least five fish per tonne of green weight caught; once 30 or more toothfish have been caught a minimum overlap statistic of at least 60 % shall apply for tag release.

## Article 49

### *Prohibition of directed fishing for deep-water sharks*

Directed fishing for the following deep-water sharks in the SIOFA Agreement Area shall be prohibited:

- (a) Portuguese dogfish (*Centroscymnus coelolepis*), except in the context of the by-catch allowance as set out in Annex IK;
- (b) birdbeak dogfish (*Deania calceus*);
- (c) gulper shark (*Centrophorus granulosus*);
- (d) kitefin shark (*Dalatias licha*);

- (e) Bach's catshark (*Bythaelurus bachi*);
- (f) dark-mouth chimaera (*Chimaera buccanigella*);
- (g) Falkor chimaera (*Chimaera didierae*);
- (h) seafarer's ghostshark (*Chimaera willwatchi*);
- (i) longnose velvet dogfish (*Centroselachus crepidater*);
- (j) largespine velvet dogfish (*Scymnodon macracanthus*);
- (k) velvet dogfish (*Zameus squamulosus*);
- (l) whitecheek lanternshark (*Etmopterus albus*);
- (m) smallbelly catshark (*Apristurus indicus*);
- (n) Pacific longnose chimaera (*Harriotta raleighana*);
- (o) narrowhead catshark (*Bythaelurus tenuicephalus*);
- (p) frilled shark (*Chlamydoselachus anguineus*);
- (q) bigeyed six-gill shark (*Hexanchus nakamurai*);
- (r) smooth lanternshark (*Etmopterus pusillus*);
- (s) southern sleeper shark (*Somniosus antarcticus*);
- (t) goblin shark (*Mitsukurina owstoni*);



- (u) blue-eye lanternshark (*Etmopterus viator*);
- (v) blurred smooth lanternshark (*Etmopterus bigelowi*);
- (w) leafscale gulper shark (*Centrophorus squamosus*);
- (x) little gulper shark (*Centrophorus uyato*);
- (y) shortspine spurdog (*Squalus mitsukurii*);
- (z) longsnout dogfish (*Deania quadrispinosa*);
- (za) arrowhead dogfish (*Deania profundorum*);
- (zb) Cristina's skate (*Bathyraja tunae*);
- (zc) paddlenose chimaera (*Rhinochimaera africana*);
- (zd) dusky snout catshark (*Bythaelurus naylori*).

## SECTION 11

### NPFC CONVENTION AREA

#### *Article 50*

#### *Chub mackerel fishery*

1. For Union fishing vessels fishing in the NPFC Convention area, flag Member States shall transmit the following aggregated data to the Commission by the following dates:
  - (a) monthly catches under the catch limits for chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) for all NPFC Contracting Parties for trawlers and purse seiners respectively, as set out in Annex IM when utilisation of those catch limits is below 60 %, by the seventh day of the following month; and
  - (b) weekly catches of chub mackerel under the catch limits referred to in point (a) when utilisation of those catch limits is above 60 % and below 95 %, by Tuesday of the following week.

The Commission shall compile and promptly transmit that data to the NPFC Executive Secretary.

2. Within two days of the issue date of notifications of the NPFC Executive Secretary that the utilisation of the catch limits referred to in paragraph 1, point (a), has reached 95 %, the Commission shall close the fisheries under those catch limits.
3. The Commission shall compile and transmit annual catches of chub mackerel in the NPFC Convention area to the NPFC Executive Secretary by the end of February of the following year.
4. This Article shall apply in addition to the reporting obligations on catches set out in Article 33 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

#### *Article 51*

##### *Prohibition of fishing for sharks*

1. Union fishing vessels fishing in the NPFC Convention area shall not fish for, retain on board, tranship or land sharks in the NPFC Convention area.
2. When accidentally caught, specimens of the species referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be harmed and shall be promptly released.

## *Article 52*

### *Prohibition of fishing for anadromous fish*

1. Union fishing vessels fishing in the NPFC Convention area shall not fish for, retain on board, tranship or land Chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), Cherry salmon (*Oncorhynchus masou*) and Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).
2. When accidentally caught, specimens of the species referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be harmed and shall be promptly released.

## **TITLE III**

### **FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIRD-COUNTRY FISHING VESSELS IN UNION WATERS**

## *Article 53*

### *Fishing vessels flying the flag of Norway or of the Faroe Islands*

Fishing vessels flying the flag of Norway or of the Faroe Islands may be authorised by the Commission to fish in Union waters subject to the TACs set out in Annex I and subject to the conditions provided for in this Regulation and in Title III of Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 and delegated acts adopted by the Commission on the basis of that Regulation.

#### *Article 54*

*Fishing vessels flying the flag of the United Kingdom,  
registered in the United Kingdom, the Bailiwick of Guernsey,  
the Bailiwick of Jersey or the Isle of Man,  
and licensed by a United Kingdom fisheries administration*

Fishing vessels flying the flag of the United Kingdom, registered in the United Kingdom, the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Bailiwick of Jersey or the Isle of Man, and licensed by a fisheries administration of the United Kingdom may be authorised by the Commission to fish in Union waters subject to the TACs set out in Annex I, and subject to the conditions provided for in this Regulation and in Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 and delegated acts adopted by the Commission on the basis of that Regulation.

#### *Article 55*

*Quota transfers or exchanges with the United Kingdom*

1. Any quota transfer or exchange between the Union and the United Kingdom shall take place in accordance with this Article.
2. A Member State intending to transfer or exchange quotas with the United Kingdom shall discuss with the United Kingdom an outline of the quota transfer or exchange. The Member State concerned shall notify the Commission of that outline.

3. If the Commission endorses an outline of the quota transfer or exchange referred to in paragraph 2 notified by the Member State concerned, it shall express, without undue delay, its consent to be bound by such quota transfer or exchange. The Commission shall notify the Member States and the United Kingdom of the agreed quota transfer or exchange.
4. The fishing opportunities received from or transferred to the United Kingdom under the agreed quota transfer or exchange shall be deemed to be quotas added to, or deducted from, the allocation of the Member State concerned as of the moment when the quota transfer or exchange has been notified in accordance with paragraph 3. Such transfers or exchanges shall not affect the distribution key for allocating fishing opportunities among Member States in accordance with the principle of relative stability of fishing activities.

#### *Article 56*

##### *Fishing vessels flying the flag of Venezuela*

Fishing vessels flying the flag of Venezuela shall be subject to the conditions provided for in this Regulation and in Title III of Regulation (EU) 2017/2403 and delegated acts adopted by the Commission on the basis of that Regulation.

*Article 57*  
*Fishing authorisations*

The maximum number of fishing authorisations for third-country fishing vessels operating in Union waters shall be as set out in Part B of Annex V.

*Article 58*  
*Conditions for landing catches and by-catches*

The conditions laid down in Article 7 shall apply to the catches and by-catches of third-country fishing vessels fishing under the fishing authorisations referred to in Article 57 of this Regulation, *mutatis mutandis*.

*Article 59*  
*Prohibited species*

1. Third-country fishing vessels shall not fish for, retain on board, tranship or land the following species in Union waters:
  - (a) sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*) in all Union waters;
  - (b) starry ray (*Amblyraja radiata*) in Union waters of ICES divisions 3a and 7d, and Union waters of ICES subarea 4;
  - (c) common skate (*Dipturus batis*) complex (*Dipturus* cf. *flossada* and *Dipturus* cf. *intermedia*) in Union waters of ICES subareas 3, 4 and 6 to 10;

- (d) tope shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) when taken with longlines in Union waters of ICES subareas 4, 6, 7 and 8;
- (e) orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) in Union waters of ICES subareas 3, 4 and 6 to 10;
- (f) porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) in all Union waters;
- (g) thornback ray (*Raja clavata*) in Union waters of ICES division 3a;
- (h) undulate ray (*Raja undulata*) in Union waters of ICES subareas 6 and 10;
- (i) common guitarfish (*Rhinobatos rhinobatos*) in Union waters of the Mediterranean;
- (j) whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) in all Union waters; or
- (k) deep-sea species listed in Part D of Annex IA in Union waters of ICES subareas 6 to 10 and CECAF areas 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2, as well as in Union waters of ICES subarea 4, where specified in that Annex.

2. When accidentally caught, specimens of the species referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be harmed and shall be promptly released.



## TITLE IV

### FINAL PROVISIONS

#### *Article 60*

#### *Amendment to Regulation (EU) 2025/202*

Regulation (EU) 2025/202, is amended as follows:

- (1) in Article 19, the title is replaced by the following:

*‘Article 19*

*Remedial measures for cod in the Kattegat in 2025’;*

- (2) the following Article is inserted:

*‘Article 19a*

*Remedial measures for cod in the Kattegat in 2026*

1. Union fishing vessels fishing in the Kattegat with bottom trawls and seines<sup>47</sup> with minimum mesh size of 70 mm shall use one of the following selective gears:
  - (a) sorting grid with maximum 35 mm bar spacing, with an unblocked fish outlet;
  - (b) sorting grid with maximum 50 mm bar spacing separating flatfish and roundfish, with an unblocked fish outlet for roundfish;
  - (c) seltra panel with 300 mm square mesh size; or

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<sup>47</sup> Gear codes: OTB, OTT, OT, TBN, TBS, TB, TX, PTB, SDN, SSC, SX.

(d) highly selective gear, the technical attributes of which shall result, according to a scientific study assessed by the STECF, for fishing vessels exclusively carrying on board such a gear, in a proportion of cod catches of less than 1,5 % of total catches.

2. Union fishing vessels participating in a project run by a Member State and having functioning equipment for fully documented fisheries may use a gear that complies with the requirements set in Part B of Annex V, to Regulation (EU) 2019/1241, except for the gears that comply with the alternative requirement set in the second sentence of the footnotes in point 1.1 of that Part. By 31 March, the Member State concerned shall communicate a list of such vessels to the Commission.

3. This Article does not apply to fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.’;

(3) in Article 63, point (e) is replaced by the following:

‘(e) Article 19 shall apply from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025;’;

(4) in Article 63, the following point (ea) is inserted:

‘(ea) Article 19a shall apply from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026 or until the date on which a delegated act adopted in accordance with Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 and amending Annex V of that Regulation regarding remedial measures for cod in the Kattegat becomes applicable, whichever is earlier;’;

(5) in Annex IA, Part B, Table 59 is replaced by the following:

‘

Table 59		
Species: Blue whiting <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>		Zone: 8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (WHB/8C3411)
Spain	44 604 <sup>(2)</sup>	Analytical TAC
Portugal	11 151 <sup>(2)</sup>	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies
Union	55 755 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	
TAC	1 447 054	
<sup>(1)</sup>	Special condition: from the Union 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 and Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (WHB/*NZJM2), the following quantity may be fished in the Norwegian Economic Zone or in the fishery zone around Jan Mayen:  To be established	
<sup>(2)</sup>	Transfers of this quota may be effected to United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14. However, such transfers shall be notified in advance to the Commission.	

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*Article 61*  
*Committee procedure*

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture established by Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

*Article 62*  
*Entry into force and application*

1. This Regulation shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
2. This Regulation shall apply from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026.

However:

- (a) Article 13(1) shall apply from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026 or until the date on which a delegated act adopted in accordance with Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 and amending Part A of Annex VII to that Regulation regarding the minimum conservation reference size for pollack in ICES subareas 8, 9 and 10 and Union waters of CECAF area 34.1.1 becomes applicable, whichever is earlier;

- (b) Article 14(1) to (8) shall apply from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027;
- (c) Article 14(9) shall apply from 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2027;
- (d) Articles 19 and 20 shall apply from 1 June 2026 to 31 December 2026;
- (e) Article 21 shall apply from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 or until the date on which a Commission Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2201 becomes applicable, whichever is earlier;
- (f) Article 22 shall apply from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026 or until the date on which a delegated act adopted in accordance with Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 and amending Annex V of that Regulation regarding remedial measures for common sole in the Skagerrak, Kattegat and western Baltic Sea becomes applicable, whichever is earlier;
- (g) Article 26 shall apply from 1 January 2026 to 31 January 2027;
- (h) Article 29(2) shall apply from 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2026 or the date on which an amendment to Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 introducing a prohibition to retain on board, tranship or land any part or whole carcass of shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) in the Atlantic Ocean, north of 5°N, caught in fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area becomes applicable, whichever is earlier;
- (i) Article 32 and Annex VII shall apply from 1 December 2025 to 30 November 2026;

- (j) Article 37(1), point (a), shall apply from 1 January 2026 to 11 January 2027;
- (k) Article 40(3) shall apply from 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2026 or the date on which an amendment to Regulation (EU) 2021/56 regarding the recording by fishing vessel operators of the number of releases of oceanic whitetip sharks within indication of status and the reporting of that information to the Member State of which they are nationals becomes applicable, whichever is earlier;
- (l) Section 11 shall apply from 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2027 or until the date on which a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down corresponding measures becomes applicable;
- (m) Annexes IA to IJ, and IL shall also apply in 2027 and 2028, where specified in those Annexes;
- (n) Article 60(5) shall apply from 1 January 2025;
- (o) Annex IA, Part B, Tables 116 to 118, footnotes 1, shall apply from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026 or until the date on which a delegated act adopted in accordance with Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 regarding a derogation from the landing obligation for picked dogfish becomes applicable, whichever is earlier;
- (p) Annex IK shall apply from 1 December 2025 to 30 November 2026, where specified in that Annex;

- (q) Annexes IM and XI shall apply from 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2027;
- (r) Annex II shall apply from 1 February 2026 to 31 January 2027;
- (s) catch and effort limits fixed by this Regulation for the year 2026 and, where specified in this Regulation, also in 2027 and in 2028, shall continue to apply in 2026, and where relevant in 2027 and in 2028, exclusively for the purposes of:
  - (i) exchanges pursuant to Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;
  - (ii) deductions and additions pursuant to Article 37 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009;
  - (iii) quantities withheld in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 and Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013; and
  - (iv) deductions and adjustments pursuant to Articles 105, 106, 107 and 107a of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 2 of this Article, Articles 9 to 14, 16 to 23, 29, 40, 41, 46, 47, 49, 51, 52, 59 shall continue to apply from the day after the application end dates set out in that paragraph until the entry into force of the Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities for 2027. The previous sentence shall not apply where the application of the provisions referred to in paragraph 2 ends as a result of start of application of the legal acts referred to therein.

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

Done at ..., ...

*For the Council*

*The President*

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