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PECHE 214

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject:	COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EU) 2020/123 as regards certain fishing opportunities for 2020 in Union and non-Union waters

COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2020/…

of …

amending Regulation (EU) 2020/123
as regards certain fishing opportunities for 2020
in Union and non-Union waters

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123[1] fixes for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in Union waters and, for Union vessels, in certain non-Union waters.

(2) In Regulation (EU) 2020/123, the total allowable catch (TAC) for anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) subareas 9 and 10 and in Union waters of Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) division 34.1.1 was set at zero. In Council Regulation (EU) 2020/900[2], which amends the Regulation (EU) 2020/123, a provisional TAC was established to allow fishing activity to continue. Anchovy is a shortlived species and the latest scientific advice was issued by ICES on 18 June 2020. The catch limits for anchovy in ICES subareas 9 and 10 and in Union waters of CECAF division 34.1.1 should be amended in line with that scientific advice and set at 15 699 tonnes.

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1 Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123 of 27 January 2020 fixing for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters (OJ L 25, 30.1.2020, p. 1).

2 Council Regulation (EU) 2020/900 of 25 June 2020 amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1838 as regards certain fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Baltic Sea and amending Regulation (EU) 2020/123 as regards certain fishing opportunities in 2020 in Union and non-Union waters (OJ L 207, 30.6.2020, p. 4).

(3) In the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations between the Faroe Islands and the European Union for 2020 both parties have agreed to grant each other reciprocal access to one another's waters to fish for blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) in Union and international waters of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14 and Faroese waters, within a limit of 37 500 tonnes. A special condition in the TAC table grants the Union access to Faroese waters and limits, in the form of a percentage of the total Union share, the amount of blue whiting that Member States may fish from their own quotas in the Faroese waters. That percentage should represent the proportion of the Union access rights in Faroese waters of 37 500 tonnes compared to the total Union share of 326 484 tonnes of blue whiting. 37 500 tonnes amounts to a percentage of 11,4 % of the total Union share of 326 484 tonnes of blue whiting. Since the percentage of the total Union share of blue whiting that Member States may fish from their own quotas in Faroese waters is currently set at 7 %, that percentage should be amended accordingly.

(4) In the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations between Norway and the European Union on ad hoc fisheries arrangements on the management of blue whiting and Norwegian spring-spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring for 2020, both parties are granted access to fish 190 809 tonnes of blue whiting in each other's waters. In the TAC table for blue whiting granting Norway's fishing access in Union waters of 2, 4a, 5, 6 north of 56° 30' N and 7 west of 12° W, a special condition limits the catch in 4a to no more than 40 000 tonnes (in accordance with the Agreed Record on fisheries consultations between Norway and the European Union for 2020). That catch limit in 4a amounts to 21 % of Norway's total access quota. That percentage, currently set at 18 %, should be amended accordingly.

(5) The Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand[1], and the Protocol[2] thereto, provides that the Union is to receive 7,7 % of the TAC for capelin (*Mallotus villosus*) to be fished in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14. In accordance with that Protocol, on 12 June 2020 Greenland offered the Union 13 053 tonnes of capelin to be fished between 20 June 2020 and 15 April 2021. The fishing opportunities table for capelin should therefore be amended accordingly.

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1 OJ L 172, 30.6.2007, p. 4.

2 Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for by the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand (OJ L 305, 21.11.2015, p. 3).

(6) Regulation (EU) 2020/123 should therefore be amended accordingly.

(7) The catch limits provided for in Regulation (EU) 2020/123 apply from 1 January 2020 for blue whiting in Union waters of 2, 4a, 5, 6 north of 56° 30' N and 7 west of 12° W, from 20 June 2020 for capelin in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14, and from 1 July 2020 for anchovy in ICES subareas 9 and 10 and in Union waters of CECAF division 34.1.1. The provisions introduced by this Regulation concerning catch limits should therefore enter in force as soon as possible and should apply retroactively for blue whiting from 1 January 2020, for capelin from 20 June 2020, and for anchovy from 1 July 2020. Such retroactive application does not affect the principles of legal certainty and protection of legitimate expectations as the fishing opportunities concerned are increased and have not yet been exhausted.

(8) According to the scientific advice of ICES, catches of Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*) in ICES subarea 4 and ICES division 3a in the period from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020 should not exceed 167 105 tonnes. From that stock, the Union reserved a share of 92 000 tonnes and set a preliminary Union quota of 65 000 tonnes in Council Regulation (EU) 2019/1838[1]. Following consultations, in December 2019, the Union transferred only 14 500 and 5 000 tonnes from the remaining reserved amount to Norway and the Faroe Islands respectively. As a result, the remaining 7 500 tonnes should be added to the current Union quota.

(9) The United Kingdom has been consulted in accordance with Article 130(1) of the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community[2],

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

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1 Council Regulation (EU) 2019/1838 of 30 October 2019 fixing for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/124 as regards certain fishing opportunities in other waters (OJ L 281, 31.10.2019, p. 1).

2 OJ L 29, 31.1.2020, p. 7.

Article 1

Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2020/123

Regulation (EU) 2020/123 is amended as follows:

(1) Annex IA is amended as follows:

(a) the fishing opportunities table for anchovy in ICES subareas 9 and 10 and Union waters of CECAF division 34.1.1 is replaced by the following:

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Species:	Anchovy *Engraulis encrasicolus*		Zone:	9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (ANE/9/3411)
Spain	7 494	(1)	Precautionary TAC	
Portugal	8 175	(1)		
Union	15 669	(1)		
TAC	15 669	(1)		

(1) The quota may only be fished from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

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

‘(1) Special condition: within a total access quantity of 37 500 tonnes for the Union, Member States may fish up to the following percentage of their quotas in Faroese waters (WHB/*05-F.): 11,4 %.’;

(c) in the fishing opportunities table for blue whiting in Union waters of 2, 4a, 5, 6 north of 56° 30' N and 7 west of 12° W, footnote 2 is replaced by the following:

‘(2) Special condition: the catch in 4a shall be no more than the following amount (WHB/*04A-C): 40 000

This catch limit in 4a amounts to the following percentage of Norway’s access quota: 21 %’;

(d) the fishing opportunities table for Norway pout and associated by-catches in ICES division 3a and Union waters of ICES division 2a and ICES subarea 4 is replaced by the following:

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Species:	Norway pout and associated by-catches *Trisopterus esmarkii*	Zone:	3a; Union waters of 2a and 4 (NOP/2A3A4.)
Year	2020		
Denmark	72 433 (1)(3)	Analytical TAC	
Germany	14 (1)(2)(3)	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
The Netherlands	53 (1)(2)(3)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	72 500 (1)(3)		
Norway	14 500 (4)		
Faroe Islands	5 000 (5)		
TAC	Not relevant		

(1) Up to 5 % of the quota may consist of by-catches of haddock and whiting (OT2/*2A3A4). By-catches of haddock and whiting counted against the quota pursuant to this provision and by-catches of species counted against the quota pursuant to Article 15(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall, together, not exceed 9 % of the quota.

(2) Quota may be fished in Union waters of ICES zones 2a, 3a and 4 only.

(3) Union quota may only be fished from 1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020.

(4) A sorting grid shall be used.

(5) A sorting grid shall be used. Includes a maximum of 15 % of unavoidable by-catches (NOP/*2A3A4), to be counted against this quota.

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(2) In Annex IB, the fishing opportunities table for capelin in Greenland waters of 5 and 14 is replaced by the following:

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Species:	Capelin *Mallotus villosus*		Zone:	Greenland waters of 5 and 14 (CAP/514GRN)
Denmark	2 595		Analytical TAC	
Germany	113		Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Sweden	186		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
United Kingdom	24			
All Member States	134	(1)		
Union	3 053	(2)		
Norway	10 000	(2)		
TAC	Not relevant			

(1) Denmark, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom may access the “All Member States” quota only once they have exhausted their own quota. However, Member States with more than 10 % of the Union quota shall not access the “All Member States” quota at all.

(2) For a fishing period from 20 June 2020 to 15 April 2021.

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Article 2

Entry into force and application

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

Article 1(1) point (a) shall apply from 1 July 2020, points (b) and (c) shall apply from 1 January 2020.

Article 1(2) shall apply from 20 June 2020.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President