

Brussels, 12 June 2026  
(OR. en)

10525/26

DELECT 97  
PECHE 237

**COVER NOTE**

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From: Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine  
DEPREZ, Director

To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the  
European Union

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No. Cion doc.: C(2026) 3903 final

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Subject: COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... amending  
Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 of the European Parliament and of the  
Council on a multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish

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Delegations will find attached document C(2026) 3903 final.

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Encl.: C(2026) 3903 final



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**COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...**

**of 12.6.2026**

**amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 of the European Parliament and of the Council on  
a multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish**

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

### **1. CONTEXT OF THE DELEGATED ACT**

The purpose of the Delegated Regulation is to amend Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup> in order to implement changes as set out in ICCAT Recommendation 25-09 on the experimental use of traplines<sup>2</sup>, adopted at the 29th annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in November 2025.

### **2. CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT**

In accordance with Article 67(4) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053, the Commission consulted the Expert Group on Fisheries and Aquaculture on the draft regulation.

In line with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making<sup>3</sup>, the delegated regulation was submitted to the co-legislators (the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union) for consultation at expert level.

### **3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE DELEGATED ACT**

The Delegated Regulation amends Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 by providing for the use of a combination of hooks and loops that can be set or taken on board vessels targeting swordfish.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on a multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 and Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 188, 12.7.2019, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1154/oj>).

<sup>2</sup> Recommendation 25-09 by ICCAT on the experimental use of traplines, <https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2025-09-e.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making, Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making (OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_interinst/2016/512/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinst/2016/512/oj)).

**COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...**

**of 12.6.2026**

**amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 34, paragraph 1, points (e), thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Union is party to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), having approved accession to the ICCAT Convention pursuant to Council Decision 86/238/EEC<sup>2</sup>.
- (2) ICCAT adopts measures to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the ICCAT Convention area and to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources occur. Such measures may become binding upon the Union.
- (3) ICCAT has adopted, at its 2025 annual meeting, Recommendation 25-09<sup>3</sup> on fishing gear employed in the swordfish fishery. In the context of fishing gear, that Recommendation foresees the combined use of loops with the current system of hooks. That measure should be implemented into Union law.
- (4) As the provisions provided for in this Regulation have a direct impact on the planning of the fishing season of Union vessels and on related economic activities, this Regulation should enter into force as soon as possible,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 is amended as follows:

In Article 14, paragraphs 1 and 2 are replaced by the following:

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1154 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on a multiannual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 and Regulation (EU) 2017/2107 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 188, 12.7.2019, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1154/oj>)

<sup>2</sup> 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>3</sup> Recommendation 25-09 by ICCAT on the experimental use of traplines, <https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2025-09-e.pdf>

‘1. The maximum number of combined rigged hooks and loops (a series of concentric rings of increasing size where hooks and/or artificial bait can be placed in the smaller rings and lights can be attached to the larger rings) that may be set by or carried on board fishing vessels targeting Mediterranean swordfish shall be fixed at 2 500.

2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, a second set of 2 500 combined rigged hooks and loops shall be allowed on board fishing vessels for trips longer than two days provided that it is duly lashed and stowed in lower decks so that it may not readily be used.’

#### *Article 2*

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

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

Done at Brussels, 12.6.2026

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
*Ursula VON DER LEYEN*