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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EU) 2025/202 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 (2nd amendment) - Commission services non-paper

Delegations will find attached a Commission services non-paper on the abovementioned subject.

COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

23 JUNE 2025

*This document serves as a basis for discussion at the Working Party on Fisheries Policy.
It cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission.
It is intended solely for those to whom it is addressed.*

Updates to Commission proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2025/202 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 [COM(2025) 257 final]

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1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO NORTHERN PRAWN IN THE SKAGERRAK-KATTEGAT AND IN GREENLAND WATERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Council Regulation (EU) 2025/202¹ provisionally set at zero the total allowable catch (TAC) for Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) in EU and Norwegian waters of International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) division 3a (Skagerrak and Kattegat) for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, pending the publication by ICES of its scientific advice for Northern prawn in ICES divisions 3a and 4a east (Skagerrak, Kattegat and northern North Sea in the Norwegian deep) for that period.

On 6 June 2025, ICES published that advice². Following the publication of that ICES advice, the EU held bilateral consultations with Norway on: (i) the level of the overall fishing opportunities for Northern prawn in ICES divisions 3a and 4a east for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026; (ii) the level of the TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a for that period; and (iii) additional technical measures for that stock.

The EU participated in those consultations, which concluded on 23 June 2025, on the basis of the EU position endorsed by the Council on 13 June 2025. The outcome of those consultations was documented in an Agreed Record signed on 23 June 2025. The EU and Norway agreed to set the level of the overall fishing opportunities for Northern prawn in ICES divisions 3a and 4a east for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 based on the ICES headline advice, at the level of 4 010 tonnes. In addition, the EU and Norway agreed to set the TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 at the level of 2 807 tonnes. Moreover, the EU and Norway agreed on additional technical measures for that stock, in the form of the following revision of the joint real-time closure (RTC) system for Northern shrimp: (i) a lower trigger value for juvenile shrimp in a single haul; (ii) an increase in the maximum size of the closed area; (iii) an increase in the duration of the RTCs; and (iv) the termination of the exemption for vessels equipped with size-selective grid from operating in a real-time closure. It is therefore proposed to set the TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a at the level agreed with Norway and to establish the additional technical measures agreed with Norway. Those additional technical measures should only apply until the relevant delegated act become applicable.

In accordance with paragraph 5.4.1 of the Agreed Record of bilateral fisheries consultations between the EU and Norway for 2025³, signed on 5 December 2024, the Parties considered exchanges of Northern prawn in Norwegian waters of the North Sea south of 62°N from Norway to the EU. Regulation (EU) 2025/202 does not allocate to Member States the full fishing opportunities for Northern prawn in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14 for 2025, in order for EU to pay for these possible exchanges. Since it was not possible for the EU and Norway to agree on additional exchanges of Northern prawn in the North Sea, the unallocated fishing opportunities for Northern prawn in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14 should now be allocated to Member States. It

¹ 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>).

² <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27202809.v1>

³ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f622a804-e195-44e7-b647-bb743b9ab408_en?filename=2023-12-08-EU-NO-Bilateral-Agreed-Record-2024.pdf

is therefore proposed to amend the Member States quotas for Northern prawn in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14 accordingly.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (3) is replaced by the following:

“

- (3) On 23 June 2025, the Union and Norway concluded consultations on: (i) the level of the overall fishing opportunities for Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) in ICES divisions 3a and 4a east for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026; (ii) the level of the TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a; and (iii) additional technical measures for that stock. The outcome of those consultations was documented in an Agreed Record signed on 23 June 2025. The TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a should therefore be set at the level agreed with Norway, and the additional technical measures agreed with Norway should be established. The functionally linked additional technical measures should only apply until the relevant delegated act become applicable. In addition, the Union and Norway considered during those consultations exchanges of Northern prawn in Norwegian waters of the North Sea south of 62°N from Norway to the Union. Since it was not possible for the Union and Norway to agree on additional transfers of Northern prawn in the North Sea, the unallocated fishing opportunities for Northern prawn in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14 should be allocated to Member States. The Member States quotas for Northern prawn in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14 should therefore be amended accordingly.

”

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Article 1, the following point (2a) is inserted:

“

- (2a) The following Article (18a) is inserted:

“

Article 18a

Technical measures for Northern shrimp 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) 2019/2201⁴, is more than 30 % of the overall

⁴ 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).

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. Trawl vessels 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.
 5. Certain demersal trawlers equipped with a Nordmøre sorting grid, as referred to in Article 11 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2201, shall be subject to the prohibition on fishing, as referred to in that Article.
- ”
- ”

In Article 1, the following point (2b) is inserted:

“

- (2b) In Article 63, the following point (da) is inserted:

“

- (da) Article 18a shall apply from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 or until the date on which a Commission Delegated Regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2201 becomes applicable, whichever is earlier;

”

”

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEX

In the Annex, point 2 is replaced by the following:

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- (2) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 77 is replaced by the following:

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Table 77			
Species:	Northern prawn <i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Zone:	3a (PRA/03A.)
Denmark	974	(1)	Analytical TAC
Sweden	525	(1)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Union	1 499	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
TAC	2 807	(1)	
(1) This quota may only be fished from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.			

”

”

In the Annex, the following point (5a) is inserted:

“

(5a) In Annex IB, Table 13 is replaced by the following:

“

Table 13			
Species:	Northern prawn <i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Zone:	Greenland waters of 5 and 14 (PRA/514GRN)
Denmark	1 225		Analytical TAC
France	1 225		Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Union	2 450		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Norway	1 700		
Faroe Islands	0		
TAC	Not relevant		

”

”