Council of the European Union

Brussels, 17 June 2026
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DELACT 103
PECHE 255

COVER NOTE

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
No. Cion doc.:	C(2026) 3963 final
Subject:	COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Delegations will find attached document C(2026) 3963 final.

Encl.: C(2026) 3963 final

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 17.6.2026
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COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) …/...

of 17.6.2026

amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE DELEGATED ACT

The Common Fisheries Policy provides for the phased introduction of the landing obligation to end the problem of discarding fish. This landing obligation is set out in Article 15(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013[1] of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy (the Basic Regulation).

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98[2] on the implementation of the EU's international obligations, based on Article 15(2) of the Basic Regulation, provides a series of derogations from the obligation to land fish for the purpose of implementing international obligations into Union law and that the EU complies with decisions adopted by regional fisheries management organisations, including the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), to which the EU is a contracting party.

At the 2025 ICCAT annual meeting from 17 to 24 November, the ICCAT contracting parties adopted ICCAT Recommendation 25-06[3], amending ICCAT Recommendation 19-05[4] on rebuilding programmes for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish. ICCAT Recommendation 25-06 amends Recommendation 19-05 by adding a provision setting out that once an ICCAT contracting party reaches its landing limit, all catches of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish are to be discarded.

The purpose of this delegated regulation is to amend Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 to bring it into line with Recommendation 25-06, so that the landing obligation in Article 15(1) of the Basic Regulation does not apply to EU vessels that catch blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish as by-catch.

2. CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT

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

In line with the principles set out in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making[5], the delegated regulation was presented to the co-legislators (the European Parliament and the Council) for consultation at expert level.

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1 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.

2 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 of 18 November 2014 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2015/98/2022-05-31.

3 https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2025-06-e.pdf

4 https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2019-05-e.pdf

5 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).

3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE DELEGATED ACT

The delegated regulation amends Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 by permitting a derogation from the landing obligation as set out in Article 15(1)(a) of the Basic Regulation, once Member States have reached their quota of blue marlin, white marlin and roundscale spearfish.

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) …/...

of 17.6.2026

amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 on the implementation of the Union's international obligations, as referred to in Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, under the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013[1] 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 and in particular Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The Union is party to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), having approved the ICCAT Convention pursuant to Council Decision 86/238/EEC[3].

(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 . Such measures may become binding on the parties, including the Union.

(3) Paragraph 3 of ICCAT Recommendation 25-06 amends ICCAT Recommendation 19-05[4] by permitting ICCAT contracting parties who reach their landing limits of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish to discard their catches.

(4) To ensure consistency between that Recommendation and Union law, the landing obligation in Article 15(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 should not apply to Union vessels participating in the fisheries covered by that Recommendation.

(5) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 should therefore be amended to take account of the decision taken by ICCAT.

(6) As this Regulation's provisions have a direct impact on Union vessels and on related economic activities, this Regulation should enter into force as soon as possible,

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[1] 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.

[3] 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.

[4] https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2019-05-e.pdf

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98, the following Article is added:

'*Article 5b*

Blue marlin and white marlin/ roundscale spearfish

By way of derogation from Article 15(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, once Member States have reached their quotas, all catches of blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish shall be discarded.'

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, 17.6.2026

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN