

Brussels, 22 August 2025
(OR. en)

12189/25

PECHE 233
DELECT 109

COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	21 August 2025
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	C(2025) 5534 final
Subject:	COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the prolongation of technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland

Delegations will find attached document C(2025) 5534 final.

Encl.: C(2025) 5534 final



Brussels, 8.8.2025
C(2025) 5534 final

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

of 8.8.2025

amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the prolongation of technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE DELEGATED ACT

The progressive elimination of discards in all EU fisheries is a key objective of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)¹. Certain demersal fisheries have been subject to a landing obligation since 1 January 2016 and as of 1 January 2019 this applies to all catches of species subject to catch limits in the North-Western Waters. The Regulation also provides for increased regionalisation, to ensure that the rules are adapted to the specific characteristics of each fishery and sea basin.

Regulation (EU) 2019/1241², which came into force on 14 August 2019, lays down a framework of technical measures to help the EU achieve the CFP objectives of fishing at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels, reducing unwanted catches and eliminating discards, while contributing to the achievement of good environmental status under Directive 2008/56/EC³. Such technical measures should contribute to protect juveniles and spawning aggregations of marine species through the use of selective gear. Annex VI of this Regulation establishes regional technical measures for the North Western Waters.

Where the Commission has been granted powers to adopt measures by means of delegated acts, Article 18 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 provides that Member States with a direct management interest may submit joint recommendations to achieve the objectives of the relevant EU conservation measures, multiannual plans or specific discard plans.

Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts to take account of the regional specificities of the relevant fisheries, in accordance with Article 29 of that Regulation and Article 18 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

In accordance with Article 18 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the Member States of the North Western Waters (Belgium, Spain, France, Ireland and the Netherlands), who have a direct management interest in the relevant fisheries in the North Western Waters stocks of cod and whiting in the Celtic Sea that are below the limit reference point for spawning stock biomass (B_{lim}), submitted to the Commission a joint recommendation on 30 April 2021 proposing remedial measures for cod and whiting in the Celtic Sea and additional selectivity measures aiming to reduce gadoid by-catches in the Irish Sea. This joint recommendation was implemented through Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2324⁴ and subsequently

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 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, 25.07.2019, p. 105, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1241/oj>).

³ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) (OJ L 164, 25.06.2008, p. 19, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2008/56/oj>).

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2324 of 23 August 2021 amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland (OJ L 465, 29.12.2021, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2021/2324/oj).

updated and prolonged three times, most recently by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/283⁵.

Joint measures between the EU and the UK are currently being discussed in the Specialised Committee on Fisheries (SCF) but have not yet been agreed upon. Without an agreement between the EU and the UK on technical measures, in particular for fish stocks caught in mixed fisheries in the Celtic Sea, and in view of the concerning state of fish stocks in the Celtic Sea and the Irish Sea, remedial measures for stocks with biomass levels below B_{lim} , as provided for in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2019/472⁶ (multiannual plan for western waters), will remain necessary to ensure that the stock or functional unit concerned can return to levels above those capable of producing MSY as soon as possible.

The technical measures adopted under Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/283 will expire on 31 December 2025. On 2 June 2025, the North Western Waters Member States Regional Group therefore submitted a Joint Recommendation to the Commission requesting that the technical measures be prolonged until 31 December 2026.

2. CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT

For the purpose of implementing the regionalised approach, the Member States of the North Western Waters submitted a joint recommendation proposing specific technical measures for the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and West of Scotland.

Following a positive evaluation of the joint recommendation by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)⁷, the technical measures were implemented through Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2324 and subsequently updated and prolonged three times, most recently by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/283.

The technical measures adopted under the latter Regulation will expires on 31 December 2025, and on 2 June 2025 the North-Western Waters Member States Regional Group submitted a Joint Recommendation requesting that the technical measures be prolonged until 31 December 2026. This would allow continuing to optimise exploitation patterns, increase gear selectivity and reduce unwanted catches, in the absence of agreement between the EU and the UK on appropriate technical measures.

The Expert Group for Fisheries and Aquaculture was consulted on 8 July 2025.

3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE DELEGATED ACT

The main legal action is to extend the validity of the current technical measures to facilitate implementation of the landing obligation, contribute to the elimination of discards and reduce

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/283 of 28 November 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland (OJ L, 2025/283, 10.2.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2025/283/oj).

⁶ 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, 25.03.2019, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/472/oj>).

⁷ https://stecf.ec.europa.eu/document/download/ec098f64-3df1-4feb-850c-1cb04ae58f86_en

the level of unwanted catches. The Regulation specifies the species and fisheries to which the specific technical measures would apply.

Legal basis

Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241. All the proposed measures aim to contribute to the conservation of fishing resources in the sea basin, as originally proposed in a joint recommendation submitted by the Members States with a direct management interest in those areas, in order to amend Annex VI of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

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

of 8.8.2025

amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the prolongation of technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to 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 2187/2005¹, and in particular Article 15(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 lays down specific provisions regarding technical measures at regional level for Union waters in the North Western Waters.
- (2) That Regulation was amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2324² as regards remedial measures to reduce by-catch of cod and whiting in the Celtic Sea and additional selectivity measures aiming to reduce gadoid by-catches in the Irish Sea. The measures concerned, aiming to help achieving the objectives of conservation measures, the multiannual plans and the discard plan in the North Western Waters, were subsequently updated and prolonged three times, by Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2022/2588³, (EU) 2024/492⁴ and (EU) 2025/283⁵ respectively.

¹ OJ L 198, 25.7.2019, p. 105, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1241/oj>.

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2324 of 23 August 2021 amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland (OJ L 465, 29.12.2021, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2021/2324/oj).

³ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/2588 of 20 October 2022 amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland (OJ L 338, 30.12.2022, p. 44, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2022/2588/oj).

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/492 of 30 November 2023 amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the prolongation of technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland (OJ L, 2024/492, 13.2.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2024/492/oj).

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/283 of 28 November 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards technical measures for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Celtic Sea, the Irish Sea and the West of Scotland (OJ L, 2025/283, 10.2.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2025/283/oj).

- (3) Those measures, introduced in Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/283, expire on 31 December 2025.
- (4) By a joint recommendation submitted on 2 June 2025, the North Western Waters Member States Regional Group (Belgium, Spain, France, Ireland and the Netherlands) requests the prolongation of those measures until 31 December 2026.
- (5) As the remedial measures for stocks with biomass at levels below B_{lim} provided for by Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2019/472 remain necessary to ensure rapid return of the stock or functional unit concerned to levels above those capable of producing MSY, in view of the concerning state of the fish stocks in the Celtic Sea and the Irish Sea and ongoing discussions between the Union and the UK on technical measures relating to fish stocks caught in mixed fisheries in the Celtic Sea, those remedial measures should be prolonged until 31 December 2026, in order to continue optimising exploitation patterns, increase gear selectivity and reduce unwanted catches.
- (6) The Expert Group on Fisheries and Aquaculture was consulted on 8 July 2025.
- (7) As the measures 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 on the day following that of its publication. Since the measures to be prolonged expire on 31 December 2025, this Regulation should apply with effect from 1 January 2026 in order to ensure legal continuity.
- (8) The measures introduced by this Regulation applicable to Union waters are in pursuit of the objectives set out in Article 494(1) and (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 part⁶ and have regard to the principles referred to in Article 494(3) of that agreement. They are without prejudice to any measures applicable in waters of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- (9) Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Annex VI to Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2026.

⁶ OJ L 149 30.04.2021, p. 10, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2021/689\(1\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2021/689(1)/oj).

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

Done at Brussels, 8.8.2025

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN