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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	10 September 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	C(2026) 6210 final
Subject:	COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... amending Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

Delegations will find attached document C(2026) 6210 final.

Encl.: C(2026) 6210 final



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 10.9.2026
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COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...

of 10.9.2026

**amending Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council
establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and
the Mediterranean**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE DELEGATED ACT

The purpose of the delegated regulation is to amend Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ in order to implement changes as set out in ICCAT Recommendation 21-08 in relation to the multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean², adopted at the 27th annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in November 2021, as well as to update a reporting deadline to facilitate the consolidation of the EU bluefin tuna annual plan.

Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 was most recently amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/497 of 4 March 2026³. However, the changes brought by ICCAT Recommendation 21-08 still need to be incorporated into Regulation (EU) 2023/2053.

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 laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making⁴, the delegated regulation was presented to the co-legislators (the European Parliament and the Council) for consultation at expert level.

3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE DELEGATED ACT

The delegated regulation amends Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 by:

- bringing forward by two weeks the deadline for Member States to submit their annual plans, in order for the Commission to review, consolidate and submit the Union annual plans by the deadline set by ICCAT Recommendation 25-04;
- amending Annex VI to Regulation (EU) 2023/2053, by modifying the table to be used by the operators for transfer declarations;

¹ Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 (OJ L 238, 27.9.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2053/oj>).

² Recommendation 21-08 by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, <https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2021-08-e.pdf>
Current version: Recommendation 25-04 by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 24-05 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, <https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2025-04-e.pdf>.

³ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/497 of 4 March 2026 amending Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the management of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and in the Mediterranean (OJ L, 2026/497, 13.5.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2026/497/oj).

⁴ Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making (OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1, http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2016/512/oj).

- amending Annex XIV to Regulation (EU) 2023/2053, by modifying the table to be used by the operators for caging declarations.

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

of 10.9.2026

amending Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627¹, and in particular Article 66, paragraph 1, points (b) and (k), 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/EEC².
- (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 are binding upon the Union.
- (3) For the Union to comply with the deadline set by Recommendation 25-04 in relation to the management of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and in the Mediterranean³ on the submission of annual plans, the deadline applicable to the Member States must be brought forward.
- (4) Moreover, a number of amendments need to be made to Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 to update the transfer declaration form in Annex VI, as well as the caging declaration form in Annex XIV.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 (OJ L 238, 27.9.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2053/oj>).

² 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, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/1986/238/oj>).

³ ICCAT Recommendation 25-04 replacing Recommendation 24-05 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, <https://iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-c/2025-04-e.pdf>.

- (5) 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) 2023/2053 is amended as follows:

- (1) In Article 16, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

‘By 16 January of each year, each Member State with a bluefin tuna quota shall submit the following plans to the Commission:

- (a) the annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, established in accordance with Article 11;
- (b) the annual fishing capacity management plan established in accordance with Article 13;
- (c) the annual monitoring, control and inspection plan established in accordance with Article 14; and
- (d) the annual farming management plan established in accordance with Article 15.’

- (2) Annexes VI and XIV are 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*.

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

Done at Brussels, 10.9.2026

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN