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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	8 October 2025
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Updates to Commission proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea for 2026 and amending Regulation (EU) 2025/202 as regards certain fishing opportunities in other waters - Commission services non-paper

Delegations will find in the annex a non-paper on the abovementioned subject as received from the Commission services.

Annex

COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

8 OCTOBER 2025

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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 fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea for 2026 and amending Regulation (EU) 2025/202 as regards certain fishing opportunities in other waters [COM(2025) 458 final]

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1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Council Regulation (EU) 2025/202[1] sets the total allowable catch (TAC) for albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean Sea for 2025.

On 29 September 2025, Türkiye agreed to transfer to the EU 50 kg of its quota for albacore in the Mediterranean Sea for 2025, in accordance with the applicable rules adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas as regards transfers. Therefore, it is proposed to amend the EU quota and Member States' quotas under that EU quota accordingly and update footnote 4 to clarify that the EU quota takes into account such transfer.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recitals (21) to (23) are replaced by the following:

"

(21) Council Regulation (EU) 2025/202[2] sets the total allowable catch (TAC) for albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean Sea for 2025. On 29 September 2025, Türkiye agreed to transfer to the Union 50 kg of its quota for albacore in the Mediterranean Sea for 2025, in accordance with the applicable rules adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas as regards transfers. That transfer should be implemented in Union law.

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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 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).

(22) Regulation (EU) 2025/202 should therefore be amended accordingly.

(23) To avoid the interruption of fishing activities and safeguard the livelihood of fishers, the provisions of this Regulation relating to the Baltic Sea should apply from 1 January 2026. However, the provisions relating to Norway pout in the Skagerrak-Kattegat and in the North Sea should apply retroactively from 1 November 2025 until 31 October 2026 because that is the fishing season for Norway pout. In addition, the provisions relating to Mediterranean albacore should apply retroactively from 1 January 2025, in order to maintain the reporting period for the TAC, which applied from 1 January 2025. Such retroactive application does not affect the principles of legal certainty and protection of legitimate expectations, as the quotas under those TACs have not yet been exhausted or are increased. For reasons of urgency, this Regulation should enter into force immediately after publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

”

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLE

Article 14(2) is replaced by the following:

“

(2) In Annex ID, Table 9 is replaced by the following:

“

Table 9			
Species:	Mediterranean Albacore *Thunnus alalunga*		Zone: Mediterranean Sea (ALB/MED)
Greece	385,31		Analytical TAC
Spain	99,47		Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
France	14,45		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Croatia	6,74		
Italy	1 128,26		
Cyprus	416,07		
Malta	39,68		
Union	2089,98	(4)	

TAC	2 500,00 [(1)(2)(3)]	

(1)	In order to protect juvenile swordfish, a closure period shall also apply to longline vessels targeting Mediterranean albacore from 1 October to 30 November. In addition, Mediterranean albacore, either as a targeted species or as by-catch, shall not be caught, retained on board, transhipped or landed during the following periods: – Greece, Croatia, Italy and Cyprus: 1 October to 30 November and 1 to 31 March; – Spain, France and Malta: 1 January to 31 March.
(2)	Each Member State shall limit the number of their fishing vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean albacore to the number of fishing vessels authorised to fish this species in 2017. Member States may apply a tolerance of 10 % to this capacity limit.
(3)	Special condition: by-catches of albacore are to be counted against this quota but shall be reported separately (ALB/MED-BC). Dead catches of albacore from sport and recreational fisheries are to be counted against this quota but shall be reported separately (ALB/MED-SR).
(4)	After transfer of 50 kg from Türkiye.

”

”

Article 15(b) is replaced by the following:

“

(b) Article 14, point (2), shall apply from 1 January 2025.

”

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2. AMENDMENTS AS REGARDS THE BALTIC SEA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposal contains two errors which should be corrected.

First, the proposal contains derogations for scientific fisheries for several stocks. Due to an oversight, the derogations in Article 8(2) and Article 9(2)(a) are unduly limited to each Member State's initial quota allocation. That error should be corrected.

Second, when calculating the TAC proposal for salmon in ICES subdivisions 22-31, 50 specimens of salmon were unduly deducted from the overall amount. The overall amount should therefore be 25 537 individuals instead of 25 487 individuals.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

1) Article 8(2) is replaced by the following:

“

2. The prohibition laid down in paragraph 1 shall not apply for fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with the conditions set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

”

2) Article 9(2)(a) is replaced by the following:

“

(a) fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with the conditions set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241;

”

AMENDMENT TO THE ANNEX

In the Annex, TAC table 8 relating to Atlantic salmon in subdivisions 22-31 is replaced by the following:

“

Table 8

Species:	Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*		Zone:	Union waters of subdivisions 22-31 (SAL/3BCD-F)
Denmark	5 292	(1)(2)	Analytical TAC	
Germany	589	(1)(2)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
Estonia	538	(1)(2)(3)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
Finland	6 599	(1)(2)		
Latvia	3 366	(1)(2)		
Lithuania	396	(1)(2)		
Poland	1 605	(1)(2)		
Sweden	7 152	(1)(2)		
Union	25 537	(1)(2)		
TAC	Not relevant			

(1) Expressed by number of individual fish.

(2) Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.

By way of derogation from the first paragraph, fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations may be directed to salmon provided that those investigations are carried out in full compliance with the conditions set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

By way of derogation from the first paragraph, fishing this quota is permitted for Union fishing vessels in areas within four nautical miles measured from the baselines during the following periods and areas:

- from 1 June to 31 August in ICES subdivision 29 north of latitude 59° 30′ N;
- from 1 May to 31 August in ICES subdivisions 30 and 31, with an exception for May in the area within four nautical miles measured from the mouth of river Råneälven.

(3) Special condition: no more than 450 specimens of this quota may be fished in Union waters of subdivision 32 (SAL/*3D32).

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