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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: 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

Delegations will find attached a consolidated version of the abovementioned proposal.

Delegations are kindly requested to verify this consolidated version, which includes the information provided in the form of two non-papers.

Henceforth, comments on the proposal should refer to this consolidated version.

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

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in particular Article 43(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Council is to adopt measures on the fixing and allocation of fishing opportunities, including certain conditions functionally linked to these fishing opportunities. Under Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, fishing opportunities are to be fixed in accordance with the objectives of the common fisheries policy (CFP) as set out in Article 2(2) of that Regulation. Under Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, fishing opportunities are to be allocated between Member States in such a way as to ensure the relative stability of fishing activities of each Member State for each stock or fishery.
- (2) The total allowable catches (TACs) should therefore be established, in accordance with Article 3 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, on the basis of the available scientific advice, taking into account biological and socio-economic aspects while also ensuring fair treatment between fishing sectors, and in the light of opinions expressed during consultation of stakeholders.
- (3) Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council² establishes a multiannual plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea and for the fisheries exploiting those stocks. In accordance with Article 3(1) of that Regulation, that plan aims to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the CFP listed in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. The plan also aims to ensure that the exploitation of marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY). The plan also aims to contribute to ensure

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) 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 establishing a multiannual plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1098/2007 (OJ L 191, 15.7.2016, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/1139/oj>).

that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term and are managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social, and employment benefits, and contributing to the availability of food supplies. These objectives, as further specified in Article 2(5), points (c) and (f), of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, include providing conditions for a viable and competitive fishing, capture and processing industry and land-based fishing related activities. Furthermore, they aim to ensure a fair standard of living for those dependent on fishing activities, particularly considering coastal fisheries and socio-economic aspects.

- (4) On 28 May 2025, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) published its annual stock advice for Baltic stocks for 2026, though for eastern Baltic cod, ICES re-issued its advice given for 2025. According to ICES, most of the fisheries in the Baltic Sea have at least some degree of mixing between stocks. That mixing concerns both stocks managed by a TAC and stocks not managed by a TAC. The most important degree of mixing occurs among pelagic species and demersal species respectively.
- (5) For 2026, ICES advises zero catches of western Baltic herring, eastern and western Baltic cod, and salmon in ICES subdivisions 22 to 31. Therefore, if the TACs for those stocks were established at the levels advised by ICES, the obligation to land all catches, including by-catches from those stocks in mixed fisheries, would lead to the phenomenon of choke species. Cod is by-caught in all fisheries, western herring is by-caught in the targeted sprat fisheries, and salmon can be by-caught in many fisheries. A choke situation would particularly affect vessels fishing for flatfish and pelagic species, potentially forcing them to cease fishing operations in 2026 and leading to a premature closure of those fisheries. Based on the data from the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products, the first-sale value of the plaice, sprat and relevant herring fisheries that are allowed to be caught within the limits of the TACs and expected to be caught in the relevant respective area is estimated at EUR 25 300 000, EUR 55 700 000 and EUR 43 400 000, respectively. Many fisheries, in particular small-scale coastal fisheries for species not managed by a TAC, would also need to cease fishing operations in 2026. In order to strike a balance between maintaining fisheries, in view of the potentially severe socio-economic implications of failing to do so and of the need to achieve a good biological status for those stocks, and taking account of the difficulty of fishing all stocks in a mixed fishery at MSY, it is appropriate to maintain the TACs exclusively for unavoidable by-catches for western Baltic herring, eastern Baltic cod, western Baltic cod, and main basin salmon.
- (6) As regards the eastern Baltic cod stock, ICES has advised zero catches for that stock since 2019. As the stock remains in the same critical state, for 2026 ICES re-issued its advice given for 2025 in which ICES was confident about the stock's biomass trends and that the biomass was well below the conservation reference point (B_{lim}), below which there may be reduced reproductive capacity. In accordance with Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 and Article 16(4) of the CFP Basic Regulation, it is therefore appropriate to suspend the targeted fishery and adopt functionally linked remedial measures. In accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 2(5), points (c) and (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the fishing opportunities for unavoidable by-catches should also be set at a low level in order to avoid the potentially severe socio-economic implications that would result from setting the fishing opportunities at zero.
- (7) As regards the western Baltic cod stock, after advising a low level of catches for several years, ICES advises zero catches for 2026 because the stock's biomass is estimated to be below B_{lim} in 2025 and not to recover above B_{lim} in 2027. In accordance with Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 and Article 16(4) of the CFP Basic Regulation, it is therefore appropriate to

suspend the targeted fishery and adopt functionally linked remedial measures. In accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 2(5), points (c) and (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the fishing opportunities for unavoidable by-catches should also be set at a low level to avoid the socio-economic consequences that would result from setting the fishing opportunities at zero.

- (8) As regards salmon in ICES subdivisions 22 to 31, ICES has maintained its zero-catch advice, while considering for 2026 the possibility of continued targeted commercial and recreational coastal summer fisheries in the area north of latitude 59° 30' N (ICES subdivisions 29 North to 31). ICES also reduced its catch advice further compared to 2025 because of additional uncertainties about the salmon abundance in the most important salmon river. Moreover, ICES mentions that starting fishing only in June in ICES subdivision 29 North and outside the river mouth of river Råneälven would contribute to the further protection of this particularly fragile wild salmon population as well as of other early migrating wild salmon populations. In addition, there is post-release mortality of wild salmon in recreational fisheries for adipose fin-clipped salmon. In accordance with Article 16(4) of the CFP Basic Regulation, it is therefore appropriate to set the level of fishing opportunities and the fishing area and period in line with the ICES advice, and to adopt functionally linked remedial measures (prohibition to use longlines and to fish for sea trout outside coastal areas; allow recreational fisheries only when and where targeted commercial fisheries are allowed).
- (9) In order to ensure the full use of coastal fishing opportunities for salmon in ICES subdivision 32, it is appropriate to allow limited inter-area flexibility for salmon between ICES subdivisions 22 to 31 and ICES subdivision 32.
- (10) In order to reduce the risk of salmon being misreported as sea trout in the salmon fisheries, it is appropriate to prohibit fishing for sea trout beyond four nautical miles measured from the baselines and to limit by-catches of sea trout to 3% of the combined catch of sea trout and salmon.
- (11) Measures on recreational fisheries of cod and salmon and measures for the conservation of sea trout and salmon stocks should be without prejudice to more stringent national measures under Articles 19 and 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.
- (12) As regards herring in the Gulf of Bothnia, ICES estimates that the biomass has continued to decrease and is now halfway between B_{lim} and the conservation reference point ($MSY B_{trigger}$), below which appropriate remedial measures are to be taken to ensure the rapid return of the stock at levels above those capable of producing MSY. ICES also mentions uncertainties in the estimation of the young age groups and of weight-at-age. Moreover, ICES continues to note that the proportion of older individuals in the population is unlikely to increase if the fishing opportunities were set at the F_{MSY} point value. Furthermore, ICES notes that the stock is likely vulnerable to loss of genetic diversity. None of the catch scenarios within the F_{MSY} ranges ensures that the probability of the stock biomass falling below B_{lim} in 2027 is less than 5%. Furthermore, even with no fishing at all the stock is projected to recover above $MSY B_{trigger}$ in 2027 with a probability of only 30%. In accordance with Article 4(6) and Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, it is therefore appropriate to set the fishing opportunities accordingly set the fishing opportunities accordingly and to establish a three-month spawning closure period as a functionally linked remedial measure.
- (13) As regards western Baltic herring, ICES advises zero catches for that stock for the 8th consecutive year. As was the case in 2024, ICES revised the estimates of the biomass downward for previous years and estimates the biomass to be only 52% of B_{lim} in 2025, even

if it has continuously increased since 2021. Furthermore, recruitment remains at historically low levels and the biomass is not expected to recover above B_{lim} in 2027. In accordance with Article 4(6) and Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, it is therefore appropriate to suspend the targeted fisheries and to discontinue the exception for small-scale fishers. In accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 2(5), points (c) and (f) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the fishing opportunities for unavoidable by-catches should also be set at a low level in order to avoid the socio-economic consequences that would result from setting the fishing opportunities at zero.

- (14) As regards central Baltic herring, ICES estimates that the stock has been below B_{lim} most of the last 30 years. ICES estimates that, due to increased weight-at-age and stronger recruitment in 2022, the stock has been above B_{lim} since 2024 but is still far below $MSY B_{trigger}$. ICES estimates that recruitment in 2024 and 2025 could be strong but underlines that these estimates are uncertain. The recruitment in 2023 is below average. Moreover, ICES recalls that continued species misreporting is increasing the uncertainty of the advice. None of the catch scenarios within the F_{MSY} ranges ensures that the probability of the stock biomass falling below B_{lim} in 2027 is less than 5%. Furthermore, the probability that the stock will remain below $MSY B_{trigger}$ in 2027 is still 52% even with no fishing at all and that despite the estimated positive forecast. In accordance with Article 4(4) and Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, it is therefore appropriate to set the fishing opportunities accordingly and to establish a three-month spawning closure period as a functionally linked remedial measure.
- (15) As regards herring in the Gulf of Riga and plaice, ICES estimates that the biomass is above $MSY B_{trigger}$ and the fishing pressure below F_{MSY} . In accordance with Article 4(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, it is therefore appropriate to set the fishing opportunities accordingly.
- (16) As regards sprat, ICES estimates that, while the biomass is still above $MSY B_{trigger}$, the biomass has continued to decrease due to confirmed historically low recruitment from 2021 to 2023. The biomass is estimated to be in 2025 at its lowest level since 1990 and close to $MSY B_{trigger}$. ICES estimates that recruitment in 2024 could be exceptionally high, but underlines that the estimate is uncertain and that the probability for the biomass to be below the conservation reference points might be underestimated. Furthermore, ICES recalls that continued species misreporting is increasing the uncertainty of the advice. In accordance with Article 4(4) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, it is therefore appropriate to set the fishing opportunities accordingly. In accordance with Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) 1380/2013, the Commission also proposes to maintain the existing three-month spawning closure period.
- (17) The use of the fishing opportunities set out in this Regulation will be monitored and controlled in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009³, in particular Articles 33 and 34 of that Regulation, concerning the recording of catches and fishing effort, and the notification of data on the exhaustion of fishing opportunities to the Commission. It is therefore necessary

³ Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy, amending Regulations (EC) No 847/96, (EC) No 2371/2002, (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 2115/2005, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007, (EC) No 676/2007, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 1300/2008, (EC) No 1342/2008 and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1627/94 and (EC) No 1966/2006 (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/1224/oj>).

to specify the codes used by Member States when sending data to the Commission data on landings of stocks covered by this Regulation.

- (18) Articles 3 and 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96⁴ provide for year-to-year flexibility for quotas for stocks subject to both precautionary and analytical TACs. Under Article 2 of that Regulation, when fixing the TACs, the Council is to decide the stocks to which Articles 3 and 4 are not to apply, in particular on the basis of their biological status as this mechanism leads to quota levels being available in a given year which exceed the quotas initially set for that year. Until now, these Articles were not applied to stocks with a biomass below B_{lim} . Given the fragile state of the Baltic Sea ecosystem and its fish stocks, it is appropriate to also not apply these Articles to stocks with a biomass between B_{lim} and $MSY B_{trigger}$. Moreover, Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 provides for further year-to-year flexibility for all stocks that are subject to the landing obligation. In order to avoid excessive flexibility that would undermine the achievement of the objectives of the CFP, year-to-year flexibility for quotas pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 and Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 should not apply cumulatively. Year-to-year flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 should, where relevant, be excluded on the basis of the biological status of stocks.
- (19) The biomass of the eastern Baltic cod, western Baltic cod and western Baltic herring stocks is below B_{lim} . For all these stocks only by-catch and scientific fisheries are permitted in 2026. The biomass of Bothnian herring and central Baltic herring is well below $MSY B_{trigger}$. Therefore, and given the relatively low resilience of the Baltic Sea ecosystem, the Member States that have a quota share of the relevant TACs have undertaken not to apply the year-to-year flexibility provided for in Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 to those stocks in 2026 so that catches in 2026 do not exceed the relevant TACs. Furthermore, south of latitude 59° 30' N, the biomass of almost all salmon river stocks is below the limit reference point for smolt production (R_{lim}) and only by-catch and scientific fisheries are permitted in 2026. The relevant Member States have therefore made a similar commitment regarding year-to-year flexibility in relation to main-basin salmon catches in 2026.
- (20) The Union and the United Kingdom held bilateral consultations on 20 October 2025 on the TAC for Norway pout in ICES division 3a (Skagerrak-Kattegat), United Kingdom and Union waters of ICES subarea 4 and United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a (North Sea) for the period from 1 November 2025 until 31 October 2026. Those consultations were held pursuant to Article 498(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 part ('TCA')⁵. The Union participated in those consultations on the basis of specifications to the Union position endorsed by the Council on 14 October 2025, pursuant to Article 2 of Council Decision (EU) 2021/1875⁶. The Union and the United Kingdom agreed on a TAC based on the ICES advice for Norway pout in in ICES subarea 4 and division 3a for that period published on 10 October 2025. The outcome of the consultation was documented in the Written Record, which was signed by the

⁴ Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96 of 6 May 1996 introducing additional conditions for year-to-year management of TACs and quotas (OJ L 115, 9.5.1996, p. 3, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/847/oj>).

⁵ OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 10, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/1875/oj>.

⁶ Council Decision (EU) 2021/1875 of 22 October 2021 concerning the position to be adopted on behalf of the Union in the annual consultations with the United Kingdom to agree on total allowable catches (OJ L 378, 26.10.2021, p. 6, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/1875/oj>).

Heads of Delegation of the Union and the United Kingdom on 24 October 2025. The TAC for the period from 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2026 should therefore be fixed at the level set out in that Written Record.

- (21) Council Regulation (EU) 2025/202⁷ 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.
- (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*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter

This Regulation fixes the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks in the Baltic Sea for 2026 and amends certain fishing opportunities in other waters fixed by Regulation (EU) 2025/202.

Article 2

Scope

1. This Regulation applies to Union fishing vessels operating in the Baltic Sea.

It also applies to recreational fisheries where they are expressly referred to in the relevant provisions.

⁷ 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>).

Article 3
Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the definitions laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 apply.

In addition, the following definitions apply:

- (1) ‘subdivision’ means an International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) subdivision of the Baltic Sea as defined in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 218/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸;
- (2) ‘total allowable catch (TAC)’ means:
 - (a) in fisheries subject to the exemption from the landing obligation referred to in Article 15(4) to (7) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the quantity of fish that may be landed from each stock each year;
 - (b) in all other fisheries, the quantity of fish that may be caught from each stock each year;
- (3) ‘quota’ means a proportion of the TAC allocated to the Union, a Member State or a third country;
- (4) ‘recreational fisheries’ means non-commercial fishing activities exploiting marine biological resources for recreation, tourism or sport;
- (5) ‘analytical assessment’ means a quantitative evaluation of trends in a given stock, based on data about the stock’s biology and exploitation, including based on proxies, which scientific review has indicated to be of sufficient quality to provide scientific advice;
- (6) ‘analytical TAC’ means a TAC for which an analytical assessment is available;
- (7) ‘precautionary TAC’ means a TAC for which an analytical assessment is not available and for which either an assessment based on the precautionary approach is available or no assessment is available.

CHAPTER II
FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Article 4
TACs and allocations

The TACs, quotas and, where appropriate, measures functionally linked thereto, are set out in the Annex.

⁸ Regulation (EC) No 218/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in the north-east Atlantic (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 70, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/218/oj>).

Article 5

Special provisions on allocation of fishing opportunities

1. The allocation of fishing opportunities among Member States set out in this Regulation shall be without prejudice to:
 - (a) exchanges made pursuant to Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;
 - (b) deductions and reallocations made pursuant to Article 37 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009;
 - (c) additional landings allowed under Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 and under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;
 - (d) quantities withheld in compliance with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 and transferred under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;
 - (e) deductions made pursuant to Articles 105, 106 and 107 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.
2. Stocks subject to precautionary or analytical TACs for the purposes of the year-to-year management of TACs and quotas provided for in Regulation (EC) No 847/96 are identified in the Annex to this Regulation.
3. Except where otherwise specified in the Annex to this Regulation, Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall apply to stocks subject to a precautionary TAC, and Article 3(2) and (3) and Article 4 of that Regulation shall apply to stocks subject to an analytical TAC.
4. Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply where a Member State uses the year-to-year flexibility provided for in Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

Article 6

Conditions for landing of catches and by-catches

The stocks of non-target species within safe biological limits referred to in Article 15(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 to which the derogation from the obligation to count catches against the relevant quotas applies are identified in the relevant TAC tables in the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 7

Closures to protect cod spawning

1. It shall be prohibited to fish with any type of fishing gear in subdivisions 25 and 26 from 1 May to 31 August.
2. The prohibition laid down in paragraph 1 shall not apply in the following cases:
 - (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 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁹;

- (b) Union fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length overall that fish with gillnets, entangling nets or trammel nets, with bottom set lines, longlines, drifting lines, handlines and jigging equipment or similar passive gear, in areas where the water depth is less than 20 metres according to the coordinates on the official sea chart issued by the competent national authorities;
 - (c) without prejudice to the closure periods set out in Article 8(1)(a) and Article 9(1), Union fishing vessels that fish in subdivision 25 for pelagic stocks for direct human consumption, using gears with a mesh size of 45 mm or less, in areas where the water depth is less than 50 metres according to the coordinates on the official sea chart issued by the competent national authorities, and whose landings are sorted.
3. It shall be prohibited to fish with any type of fishing gear in subdivisions 22 and 23 from 15 January to 31 March and in subdivision 24 from 15 May to 15 August.
4. The prohibition laid down in paragraph 3 shall not apply in the following cases:
- (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;
 - (b) Union fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length overall that fish with gillnets, entangling nets or trammel nets, with bottom set lines, longlines, drifting lines, handlines and jigging equipment or similar passive gear, in areas where the water depth is less than 20 metres according to the coordinates on the official sea chart issued by the competent national authorities;
 - (c) Union fishing vessels that fish in subdivision 24 for pelagic stocks for direct human consumption, using gears with a mesh size of 45 mm or less, in areas where the water depth is less than 40 metres according to the coordinates on the official sea chart issued by the competent national authorities, and whose landings are sorted;
 - (d) Union fishing vessels that fish with dredges for bivalve molluscs in subdivision 22, in areas where the water depth is less than 20 metres according to the coordinates on the official sea chart issued by the competent national authorities.
5. Masters of Union fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 2, points (b) or (c), and paragraph 4, points (b), (c) or (d), shall ensure that their fishing activities can be monitored at any time by the control authorities of the competent Member State.

⁹ 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, 25.7.2019, p. 105, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1241/oj>).

Article 8

Closures to protect herring spawning in subdivisions 25, 26, 27, 28.2, 29, 30, 31 and 32

1. It shall be prohibited to fish for pelagic species using pelagic trawl in coastal areas up to four nautical miles measured from the baselines and where the water depth is less than 20 metres according to the coordinates on the official sea chart issued by the competent national authority during the following periods and areas:
 - (a) from 16 March to 15 June in subdivisions 25 and 26;
 - (b) from 1 April to 30 June in subdivisions 27 and 28.2;
 - (c) from 1 May to 31 July in subdivisions 29 to 32.
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.

Article 9

Closures to protect sprat spawning in subdivisions 25, 26, 27, 28.2, 29 and 32

1. It shall be prohibited from 1 May to 31 July for Union fishing vessels to fish for pelagic stocks with active gear in areas beyond 12 nautical miles measured from the baselines in subdivisions 25, 26, 27, 28.2, 29 and west of 24° 00' E in subdivision 32.
2. The prohibition laid down in paragraph 1 shall not apply in the following cases:
 - (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;
 - (b) Union fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length overall that fish with gillnets, entangling nets or trammel nets, with bottom set lines, longlines, drifting lines, handlines and jigging equipment or similar passive gear.

Article 10

Measures on recreational fisheries of cod in subdivisions 22 to 32

1. Recreational fisheries of cod shall be prohibited in subdivisions 22 to 32. Any specimen of cod caught accidentally shall be immediately released back into the sea.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, incidental by-catches of cod in recreational fisheries for other species in subdivisions 27 to 32 may be retained.

Article 11

Measures on recreational fisheries of salmon in subdivisions 22 to 31

1. Recreational fisheries of salmon shall be prohibited in subdivisions 22 to 31. Any specimen of salmon caught accidentally shall be immediately released back into the sea.
2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, recreational fisheries of salmon shall be allowed in areas within four nautical miles measured from the baselines during the following periods and areas:

- (a) from 1 June to 31 August in ICES subdivision 29 north of latitude 59° 30' N;
 - (b) from 1 May to 31 August in ICES subdivisions 30 and 31, except for May in the area within four nautical miles measured from the mouth of river Råneälven.
3. This Article is without prejudice to more stringent national measures under Articles 19 and 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

Article 12

Measures for the conservation of the sea trout and salmon stocks in subdivisions 22 to 32

1. Union fishing vessels shall not fish for sea trout beyond four nautical miles measured from the baselines in subdivisions 22 to 32. When fishing for salmon beyond four nautical miles measured from the baselines in subdivision 32, by-catches of sea trout shall not exceed 3% of the total catch of salmon and sea trout on board at any moment or landed after each fishing trip.
2. Fishing with longlines for sea trout or salmon beyond four nautical miles measured from the baselines in subdivisions 22 to 31 shall be prohibited.
3. This Article is without prejudice to more stringent national measures under Articles 19 and 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

Article 13

Data transmission

When Member States send data on quantities of stocks caught or landed to the Commission pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, they shall use the stock codes set out in the Annex to this Regulation.

**CHAPTER III
FINAL PROVISIONS**

Article 14

Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2025/202

Regulation (EU) 2025/202 is amended as follows:

- (1) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 122 is replaced by the following:

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Table 122			
Species:	Norway pout and associated by-catches <i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>	Zone:	3a; United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (NOP/2A3A4.)
Year	2025	2026	Analytical TAC
Denmark	299, 722 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	299,722 ^{(4) (2)(3)}	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Germany	0, 057 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	0,057 ^{(4) (2)(3)}	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Netherlands	0, 221 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	0,221 ^{(4) (2)(3)}	

Union	300	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	300	⁽⁴⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾
United Kingdom	100	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	100	⁽⁴⁾⁽²⁾
TAC	400	⁽¹⁾	400	⁽⁴⁾

- ⁽¹⁾ May only be fished from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025.
- ⁽²⁾ Exclusively for bycatches. No direct fisheries for Norway pout are permitted under this quota.
- ⁽³⁾ By-catch quota may be fished in 3a, United Kingdom and European Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a only.
- ⁽⁴⁾ May only be fished from 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2026.

“

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

“

Species:	Mediterranean Albacore <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	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
Entry into force and application

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 to 31 December 2026.

By way of derogation from the second subparagraph:

- (a) Article 14, point (1), shall apply from 1 November 2025 until 31 October 2026;
- (b) Article 14, point (2), shall apply from 1 January 2025.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

ANNEX

TACs APPLICABLE TO UNION FISHING VESSELS IN AREAS WHERE TACs EXIST BY SPECIES AND BY AREA

The following tables set out the TACs and quotas (in tonnes live weight, except where otherwise specified) by stock and measures functionally linked thereto.

The references to fishing zones are references to ICES zones.

Fish stocks are referred to according to the alphabetical order of the scientific names of the species.

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following comparative table of scientific names and common names is provided:

Scientific name	Alpha-3 code	Common name
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	HER	Herring
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	COD	Cod
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	PLE	Plaice
<i>Salmo salar</i>	SAL	Atlantic salmon
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	SPR	Sprat

Table 1

Species: Herring <i>Clupea harengus</i>	Zone: Subdivisions 30-31 (HER/30/31.)
Finland	20 956 Analytical TAC
Sweden	4 604 Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
Union	25 560 Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
TAC	25 560

Table 2

Species: Herring <i>Clupea harengus</i>	Zone: Subdivisions 22-24 (HER/3BC+24)
Denmark	55 ⁽¹⁾ Analytical TAC
Germany	218 ⁽¹⁾ Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
Finland	0 ⁽¹⁾ Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
Poland	51 ⁽¹⁾
Sweden	70 ⁽¹⁾
Union	394 ⁽¹⁾

(1) 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 herring provided that those investigations are carried out in full compliance with the conditions set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

Table 3

Species:	Herring	Zone:	Union waters of subdivisions 25-27, 28.2, 29 and 32 (HER/3D-R30)
	<i>Clupea harengus</i>		
Denmark	1 845	Analytical TAC	
Germany	489	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
Estonia	9 424	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
Finland	18 395		
Latvia	2 326		
Lithuania	2 449		
Poland	20 898		
Sweden	28 055		
Union	83 881		
TAC	Not relevant		

Table 4

Species:	Herring	Zone:	Subdivision 28.1 (HER/03D.RG)
	<i>Clupea harengus</i>		
Estonia	15 870	Analytical TAC	
Latvia	18 497	Article 6 of this Regulation applies.	
Union	34 367		
TAC	34 367		

Table 5

Species:	Cod	Zone:	Union waters of subdivisions 25-32 (COD/3DX32.)
	<i>Gadus morhua</i>		
Denmark	37 (1)	Precautionary TAC	
Germany	15 (1)	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
Estonia	4 (1)		
Finland	3 (1)		
Latvia	14 (1)		
Lithuania	9 (1)		

Poland	40 ⁽¹⁾
Sweden	37 ⁽¹⁾
Union	159 ⁽¹⁾
TAC	Not relevant

⁽¹⁾ 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 cod provided that those investigations are carried out in full compliance with the conditions set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

Table 6

Species: Cod <i>Gadus morhua</i>		Zone: Subdivisions 22-24 (COD/3BC+24)
Denmark	18 ⁽¹⁾	Precautionary TAC
Germany	9 ⁽¹⁾	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
Estonia	0 ⁽¹⁾	
Finland	0 ⁽¹⁾	
Latvia	2 ⁽¹⁾	
Lithuania	1 ⁽¹⁾	
Poland	5 ⁽¹⁾	
Sweden	7 ⁽¹⁾	
Union	42 ⁽¹⁾	
TAC	42 ⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ 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 cod provided that those investigations are carried out in full compliance with the conditions set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

Table 7

Species: Plaice <i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>		Zone: Union waters of subdivisions 22-32 (PLE/3BCD-C)
Denmark	7 861	Analytical TAC
Germany	873	Article 6 of this Regulation applies.
Poland	1 646	
Sweden	593	
Union	10 973	
TAC	10 973	

Table 8

Species: Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>		Zone: Union waters of subdivisions 22-31 (SAL/3BCD-F)
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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).

Table 9

Species: Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	Zone: Union waters of subdivision 32 (SAL/3D32.)
Estonia	1 049 (1)
Finland	9 183 (1)
Union	10 232 (1)
TAC	Not relevant

(1) Expressed by number of individual fish.

Table 10

Species: Sprat <i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Zone: Union waters of subdivisions 22-32 (SPR/3BCD-C)
Denmark	13 761
Germany	8 718
Estonia	15 979
Finland	7 203

Latvia	19 299
Lithuania	6 981
Poland	40 957
Sweden	26 602
Union	139 500
TAC	Not relevant

