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To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Delegations will find attached document C(2026) 7015 annex.

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ANNEX

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

amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources of the Celtic Sea, West of Scotland, Irish Sea and the Channel

ANNEX

Annex VI to Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 is amended as follows:

(1) In Part B, points 1.3 to 1.6 are replaced by the following:

“1.3 By way of derogation from points 1.1 and 1.2, the following shall apply to fishing vessels operating with bottom otter trawls (OTB, OTT, OTP, PTB, PTT, TBN) or seines (SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV) in ICES divisions 7g, the part of 7h north of latitude 49° 30' North and the part of 7j north of latitude 49° 30' North and east of longitude 11° West:

(a) unless points (b) or (c) apply, fishing vessels operating with bottom otter trawls or seines shall use gear with one of the following mesh sizes:

- (i) a 110 mm cod-end with 120 mm square mesh panel; or
- (ii) a 120 mm cod-end;

(b) where catches comprise more than 30 % of Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) and by way of derogation from the provisions laid down in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 494/2002, fishing vessels operating with bottom otter trawls or seines, shall use 80 mm cod-end and one of the following gears:

- (i) a 300 mm square mesh panel;
- (ii) a seltra¹ 300 mm square mesh sorting box; or
- (iii) a Nordmøre² sorting grid with a maximum bar spacing of 35 mm or a similar Netgrid³ selectivity device;
- (iv) any alternative fishing gear proven to be at least equally selective for cod, haddock and whiting, according to an assessment made by the STECF. Such gear shall comply with the requirements of Article 15(4) and shall be approved by the Commission.

(c) where catches comprise more than 55 % of anglerfish (*Lophiidae*), hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) or megrim (*Lepidorhombus spp.*) combined, fishing vessels operating with bottom otter trawls or seines, shall use one of the following gears:

- (i) a 100 mm cod-end with a 100 mm square mesh panel;
- (ii) a 100 mm T90 cod-end and extension piece.

1.4 This point shall apply by way of derogation from point 1.2.

1.4.1 The following shall apply to fishing vessels operating with bottom otter trawls (OTB, OTT, OTP, PTB, PTT, TBN) or seines (SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV) in ICES divisions 6a and 5b, within Union waters, east of 12°W (West of Scotland) in Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) fisheries:

¹ ‘seltra 300 mm square mesh sorting box’ means a selectivity device which: (i) consists of a top panel of at least 300 mm mesh size (square mesh), placed in a four-panel box section, in the straight section of a cod end; (ii) is at least 3 metres long; (iii) is positioned no more than 4 metres from the cod line; and (iv) is the full width of the top sheet of the box section of the trawl (i.e. from selvedge to selvedge)

² ‘Nordmøre sorting grid’ means a selectivity device which consists of a rigid grid with a maximum bar spacing of 35 mm.

³ ‘Netgrid device’ means a selectivity device consisting of a four-panel section inserted into a two-panel trawl with an inclined sheet of diamond mesh netting with a mesh size of at least 200 mm leading to an escape hole in the top of the trawl.

- (a) vessels deploying a cod-end mesh size less than 100 mm shall use a square mesh panel (positioning retained) with a mesh size of at least 300 mm; for vessels of less than 12 metres in length overall or with engine power of 200 kW, or less and which deploy a cod-end mesh size less than 100mm, the panel overall length shall be at least 2 metres and the panel mesh size may be of at least 200 mm;
 - (b) vessels with catches comprising more than 30 % of Norway lobster shall use a square mesh panel (positioning retained) of at least 160 mm for vessels deploying a cod-end mesh size of 100-119 mm.
- 1.4.2 The following shall apply to fishing vessels operating with bottom otter trawls (OTB, OTT, OTP, PTB, PTT, TBN) or seines (SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV) in ICES division 7a (Irish Sea):
- (a) unless point (b) applies, vessels operating with bottom otter trawls or seines with a cod-end mesh size equal to or greater than 70 mm and less than 100 mm and with catches comprising more than 30 % of Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) shall use one of the following gears:
 - (i) a 300 mm square mesh panel; however, fishing vessels of less than 12 metres in length overall may use a 200 mm square mesh panel;
 - (ii) a seltra 300 mm square mesh sorting box;
 - (iii) a Nordmøre sorting grid with a maximum bar spacing of 35 mm or a similar Netgrid selectivity device; or
 - (iv) any alternative fishing gear proven to be at least equally selective for cod, haddock and whiting, according to an assessment made by the STECF. Such gear shall comply with the requirements of Article 15(4) and shall be approved by the Commission.
 - (b) vessels of 12 metres in length overall or more operating with bottom otter trawls or seines with catches comprising more than 10 % of haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), cod (*Gadus morhua*), skates and rays (*Rajiformes*) combined, shall use 120 mm cod-end;
- 1.5 This point shall apply by way of derogation from the mesh size specifications set out in the first column of the table under point 1.2. The associated conditions set out in the third column of that table shall continue to apply.
- 1.5.1 In ICES division 7e (Western Channel);
- (a) fishing vessels operating with bottom otter trawls (OTB, OTT, OTP, PTB, PTT, TBN) and seines (SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV) with catches comprising more than 25 % cod (*Gadus morhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) or saithe (*Pollachius virens*) combined, shall use 100 mm cod-end; and
 - (b) fishing vessels operating with bottom otter trawls (OTB, OTT, OTP, PTB, PTT, TBN), beam trawls (TBB), and seines (SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV) with catches comprising more than 30 % sole or plaice combined and, in the case of otter trawls or seines with additional catches comprising less than 25 % cod, haddock, whiting or saithe combined, shall use 90 mm cod-end.
- 1.5.2 In ICES division 7d (Eastern Channel), fishing vessels fishing with bottom otter trawls (OTB, OTT, OTP, PTB, PTT, TBN), beam trawls (TBB), and seines (SSC,

SDN, SPR, SX, SV) with catches comprising more than 30 % sole or plaice combined, shall use 90 mm cod-end.

1.6 The catch percentages in points 1.3 to 1.5 shall be calculated as the proportion by live weight of all marine biological resources landed after each fishing trip, in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 and Article 27(2) of this Regulation.”

(2) In Part B, the following point is added:

“1.7 Measures in points 1.3 to 1.6 shall apply until 31 December 2027.”

(3) In Part C, point 10 is replaced by the following:

“10. Restrictions on fishing with bottom otter trawls and seines in the Celtic Sea

10.1 It shall be prohibited for vessels to fish with bottom otter trawls (OTB, OTT, OTP, PTB, PTT, TBN) and seines (SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV) in ICES divisions 7b, 7c and from 7g to 7k.

This prohibition shall not apply to vessels in case:

- (a) they use a cod-end mesh size of at least 100 mm, without prejudice to the cod-end mesh size specified in point (b) of point 1.3 of part B of this Annex in the area specified under point 1.3 of part B of this Annex; or
- (b) their by-catches of cod do not exceed 1,5 %, when fishing outside of the areas specified under point 1.3 of part B of this Annex .

10.2 Measures in point 10.1 shall be applicable until 31 December 2027.”