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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION fixing for 2025 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea and amending Regulation (EU) 2024/257, 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 a non-paper.

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

2024/0213 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION

fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea for 2025 and amending Regulation (EU) 2024/257 as regards certain fishing opportunities in other waters

PUBLIC

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, as appropriate. Under Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council[1], 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 implications while also ensuring fair treatment between fishing sectors and taking into account the opinions expressed during consultations with stakeholders.

(3) Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council[2] 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 common fisheries policy (CFP) listed in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. In particular, the plan seeks to

[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).

[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).

ensure that the exploitation of living 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 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 31 May 2024, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) published its annual stock advice for Baltic stocks for 2025. According to ICES, the vast majority 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 2025, ICES advises zero catches of western Baltic herring, eastern Baltic cod and salmon in ICES subdivisions 22-31. Moreover, ICES recommends low catch levels for western Baltic cod for 2025. 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 by by-caught in many fisheries. A choke situation would particularly affect vessels fishing for flatfish and sprat, potentially forcing them to cease fishing operations in 2025 and leading to a premature closure of those fisheries. Based on the data from the European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products (EUMOFA), the first-sale value of the plaice and sprat fisheries that is allowed to be caught within the limits of the proposed TACs and expected to be caught in the relevant respective area is estimated at EUR 19.9 million and EUR 0.4 million respectively. Many fisheries, notably small-scale coastal fisheries for species not managed by a TAC would also need to cease fishing operations in 2025. 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 advises zero catches for that stock in 2025 for the 6th consecutive year. Moreover, ICES downgraded its assessment to category 3 precautionary assessment due to limited data and inconsistencies in certain model estimates. However, ICES remains confident about the biomass trends of the eastern Baltic cod stock, which have shown a slight increase. The spawning stock biomass nevertheless remains 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 maintain the suspension of the targeted fishery and other functionally linked remedial measures and to extend the prohibition of recreational fisheries to the entire management area. In accordance with Articles 2(1) and 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.

(7) As regards the western Baltic cod stock, ICES downgraded its advice last year to precautionary advice due to continued uncertainties in the advice and recommended extremely low catch levels for 2024 and 2025. Moreover, ICES estimated in 2021 that the stock fell below B_{lim} 15 years ago and has remained below that conservation reference point ever since, reaching a historic low in 2022. In accordance with Article 3(1) of of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139 and Article 16(4) of the CFP Basic Regulation, it is therefore appropriate to maintain the suspension of the targeted fishery and other functionally linked remedial measures. In accordance with Articles 2(1) and 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 2025 the possibility of continued targeted commercial and recreational coastal summer fisheries again to the area north of latitude 59° 30′ N (ICES subdivisions 29 North to 31) compared to ICES subdivision 31 in 2024. ICES however reduced its catch advice because the post-smolt survival of salmon declined to a historic low in 2021 and is uncertain for 2022, resulting in an increased uncertainty of the stock development forecast. Moreover, the spawning run has decreased substantially since 2021 and was in 2023 the lowest in the time series for the most productive salmon river by far. In addition, there is also 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 adjust the fishing area and the level of fishing opportunities compared to 2024 in line with the ICES advice, and to maintain the functionally linked remedial measures while discontinuing the possibility of recreational fisheries except in coastal summer fisheries north of latitude 59° 30′ N.

(9) In order to ensure the full use of coastal fishing opportunities for salmon in ICES subdivision 32, it is appropriate to maintain the limited inter-area flexibility for salmon between ICES subdivisions 22 to 31 and ICES subdivision 32 that was introduced in 2019.

(10) Prohibiting fishing for sea trout beyond four nautical miles measured from the baselines and limiting by-catches of sea trout to 3% of the combined catch of sea trout and salmon has contributed to a substantial reduction in the previously high levels of misreporting of catches in the salmon fishery, in particular as catches of sea trout. It is therefore appropriate to maintain the existing restrictions in order to continue ensuring low levels of misreporting.

(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 increased but remains below the conservation reference point ($B_{trigger}$), 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. Moreover, ICES notes that the number and the size of older individuals in the population is unlikely to increase if the fishing opportunities were set at the F_{MSY} point value. ICES finally notes that the stock is likely vulnerable to loss of genetic diversity.

In accordance with Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, it is appropriate to set the fishing opportunities accordingly.

(13) As regards western Baltic herring, ICES advises zero catches for that stock for the 7th consecutive year. ICES also revised the estimates of the spawning stock biomass downward for previous years and estimates the biomass to still be only 60% of B_{lim} in 2024, even if it has continously increased since 2020. Furthermore, recruitment remains at historically low levels and the biomass is not expected to recover above B_{lim} in 2026. In accordance with Article 4(6) and 5(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, it is therefore appropriate to maintain the suspension of the targeted fisheries and to discontinue the exception for small-scale fishers. In accordance with Articles 2(1) and 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. For 2024, ICES estimates that, due to increased weight-at-age and strong recruitment in 2022, the stock has increased above B_{lim} but is still far below $B_{trigger}$. The catch advice is for an increase compared with 2024, but ICES underlines that the recruitment estimates for 2023 and 2024 are uncertain. Moreover, the probability that the stock will remain below $B_{trigger}$ in 2026 is still 55% even with no fishing at all and despite the estimated positive forecast. In accordance with Article 5(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, it is therefore appropriate to set the fishing opportunities accordingly.

(15) As regards herring in the Gulf of Riga, ICES estimatess that the biomass is above $B_{trigger}$ and the fishing pressure at 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 plaice, according to ICES, cod is by-caught in the plaice fisheries. Moreover, the discard rate of plaice has increased substantially in recent years. In accordance with Article 4(4) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, it is therefore appropriate to take these factors into account and to set the fishing opportunities for plaice accordingly.

(17) As regards sprat, ICES estimatess that, while the biomass is still above $B_{trigger}$, the biomass has decreased substantially due to historically low recruitment since 2021. Moreover, ICES underliness that the forecast is based on a recruitment estimate that is optimistic and uncertain. In addition, none of the catch scenarios within the F_{MSY} ranges ensures that the probability of the stock biomass falling below B_{lim} in 2026 is less than 5%. In accordance with Article 4(6) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, it is therefore appropriate to set the fishing opportunities accordingly.

(18) The use of the fishing opportunities set out in this Regulation is subject to Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009[3] and in particular Article 33 thereof on the recording of catches and fishing effort and Article 34 thereof on the transmission of data on the exhaustion of fishing opportunities to the Commission. This Regulation should therefore

[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).

specify the codes relating to landings of stocks subject to this Regulation that Member States are to use when sending data to the Commission.

(19) Articles 3 and 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96[4] provide for year-to-year flexibility for quotas for stocks subject to precautionary and analytical TACs. Under Article 2 of that Regulation, the Council is, when fixing the TACs, to decide the stocks to which Articles 3 and 4 are not to apply, in particular on the basis of their biological status. 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. In addition, 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.

(20) 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 2025. 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 2025 so that catches in 2025 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 2025. The relevant Member States have therefore made a similar commitment regarding year-to-year flexibility in relation to main-basin salmon catches in 2025.

(21) [*placeholder for Norway pout:* Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257[5] fixes fishing opportunities for Norway pout until 31 October 2024 in ICES division 3a (the Skagerrak-Kattegat), United Kingdom and Union waters of subarea 4, and United Kingdom waters of 2a (the North Sea). The fishing period for Norway pout is from 1 November to 31 October. To enable the start of the fishery on 1 November 2024, and based on new scientific advice and following consultations with the United Kingdom, it is necessary to fix a provisional TAC for Norway pout in ICES division 3a, United Kingdom and Union waters of subarea 4, and United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a from 1 November 2024 to 31 December 2024. This provisional TAC should be fixed in line with ICES advice published on 11 October 2024.]

(22) [placeholder for other modifications to Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257].

(23) Regulation (EU) 2024/257 should therefore be amended accordingly.

(24) To avoid the interruption of fishing activities, the provisions of this Regulation relating to the Baltic Sea should apply from 1 January 2025. However, this Regulation should apply to Norway pout in the Skagerrak-Kattegat and in the North Sea for purposes of clarity]from 1 November 2024 until 31 October 2025 because that is the fishing season for Norway pout.

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[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] Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 of 10 January 2024 fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters (OJ L 2024/0, 11.1.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/257/oj).

For reasons of urgency, this Regulation should enter into force immediately after publication,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

PUBLIC

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 2025 and amends certain fishing opportunities in other waters fixed by Regulation (EU) 2024/257.

Article 2
Scope

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

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

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 Council[6];

(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;

[6] 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).

(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 such as 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.

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 accordance 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 accordance with the conditions set out in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council[7];

   (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 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.

[7] 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).

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 accordance 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.

Article 8

Measures on recreational fisheries of cod in subdivisions 22 to 32

Recreational fisheries of cod shall be prohibited in subdivisions 22 to 32.

Article 9

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 north of latitude 59° 30′ N shall be allowed from 1 May to 31 August in areas within four nautical miles measured from the baselines.

3. This Article is without prejudice to more stringent national measures under Articles 19 and 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

Article 10

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 11
Data transmission

When Member States send data relating to 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 12
Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2024/257

Regulation (EU) 2024/257 is amended as follows:

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

“

Table 122

Species:	Norway pout and associated by-catches *Trisopterus esmarkii*				Zone:	3a; United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (NOP/2A3A4.)
Year	**2024**		**2025**			
						Analytical TAC
Denmark	8 226	(1)(3)	*pro memoria* (*pm*)	(1)(6)		Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply
Germany	2	(1)(2)(3)	pm	(1)(2)(6)		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply
Netherlands	6	(1)(2)(3)	pm	(1)(2)(6)		
Union	8 234	(1)(3)	pm	(1)(6)		
Norway	2 058	(4)	pm	(4)		
Faroe Islands	0	(5)	pm	(5)		

United Kindom	0	(2)(3)		pm	(2)(6)
TAC	10 292				

(1)	Up to 5% of the quota may consist of by-catches of haddock and whiting (OT2/*2A3A4). By-catches of haddock and whiting counted against the quota pursuant to this provision and by-catches of species counted against the quota pursuant to Article 15(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall, together, not exceed 9% of the quota.
(2)	This quota may only be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 2a, 3a and 4.
(3)	May only be fished from 1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024.
(4)	A sorting grid shall be used.
(5)	A sorting grid shall be used. Includes a maximum of 15% of unavoidable by-catches (NOP/*2A3A4), to be counted against this quota.
(6)	May be fished from 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025.

‘‘

(2) [placeholder for other modifications to Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257].

Article 13
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 2025.

By way of derogation from the second subparagraph:

(a) Article 12, point (1), shall apply from 1 November 2024 until 31 October 2025;

(b) [placeholder for other modifications to Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257].

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

PUBLIC

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
Clupea harengus	HER	Herring
Gadus morhua	COD	Cod
Pleuronectes platessa	PLE	Plaice
Salmo salar	SAL	Atlantic salmon
Sprattus sprattus	SPR	Sprat

Table 1

Species:	Herring *Clupea harengus*		Zone:	Subdivisions 30-31 (HER/30/31.)
Finland		54 476	Analytical TAC	
Sweden		11 970		
Union		66 446		
TAC		66 446		

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Table 2

Species:	Herring *Clupea harengus*		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)		
TAC	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.

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Table 3

Species:	Herring *Clupea harengus*		Zone:	Union waters of subdivisions 25-27, 28.2, 29 and 32 (HER/3D-R30)
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 *Clupea harengus*		Zone:	Subdivision 28.1 (HER/03D.RG)
Estonia		19 227	Analytical TAC	
Latvia		22 408	Article 6 of this Regulation applies.	
Union		41 635		
TAC		41 635		

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Table 5

Species:	Cod *Gadus morhua*		Zone:	Union waters of subdivisions 25-32 (COD/3DX32.)
Denmark	44	(1)	Precautionary TAC	
Germany	17	(1)	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
Estonia	4	(1)		
Finland	3	(1)		
Latvia	16	(1)		
Lithuania	11	(1)		
Poland	52	(1)		
Sweden	44	(1)		
Union	191	(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.

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Table 6

Species:	Cod *Gadus morhua*		Zone:	Subdivisions 22-24 (COD/3BC+24)
Denmark	41	(1)	Precautionary TAC	
Germany	20	(1)	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
Estonia	1	(1)		
Finland	1	(1)		
Latvia	3	(1)		
Lithuania	2	(1)		
Poland	11	(1)		
Sweden	14	(1)		
Union	93	(1)		
TAC	93	(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 *Pleuronectes platessa*	Zone:	Union waters of subdivisions 22-32 (PLE/3BCD-C)
Denmark	8 105	Analytical TAC	
Germany	900	Article 6 of this Regulation applies.	
Poland	1 697		
Sweden	611		
Union	11 313		
TAC	11 313		

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Table 8

Species:	Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*		Zone:	Union waters of subdivisions 22-31 (SAL/3BCD-F)
Denmark	7 209	(1)(2)	Analytical TAC	
Germany	802	(1)(2)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
Estonia	733	(1)(2)(3)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
Finland	8 989	(1)(2)		
Latvia	4 585	(1)(2)		
Lithuania	539	(1)(2)		
Poland	2 187	(1)(2)		
Sweden	9 743	(1)(2)		
Union	34 787	(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 north of latitude 59° 30′ N in areas within four nautical miles measured from the baselines during the period from 1 May to 31 August.

(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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Table 9

Species:	Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*			Zone:	Union waters of subdivision 32 (SAL/3D32.)
Estonia		832	(1)	Precautionary TAC	
Finland		7 285	(1)		
Union		8 117	(1)		
TAC		Not relevant			

(1) Expressed by number of individual fish.

Table 10

Species:	Sprat *Sprattus sprattus*		Zone:	Union waters of subdivisions 22-32 (SPR/3BCD-C)
Denmark		11 548	Analytical TAC	
Germany		7 316	Article 6 of this Regulation applies.	
Estonia		13 410		
Finland		6 045		
Latvia		16 196		
Lithuania		5 859		
Poland		34 371		
Sweden		22 325		
Union		117 070		
TAC		Not relevant		

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