

Brussels, 26 October 2026
(OR. en)

14874/26

LIMITE

PECHE 443

Interinstitutional File:
2026/0240 (NLE)

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 2027 and amending Regulation (EU) 2026/249 as regards certain fishing opportunities in other waters - Political agreement

Delegations will find enclosed the final Presidency compromise on the abovementioned proposal:

1. Changes to recitals and articles;
2. Revised TAC tables in the annex;
3. Statements.

The changes shown in this document relate to the consolidated version of the Commission's proposal (doc. 13861/26).

Changes are marked in **bold underlined** and ~~**bold strikethrough**~~. Only the changes are shown; parts that are unchanged are not shown in this document.

1. CHANGES TO RECITALS AND ARTICLES

Recital 8 is modified as follows:

- (8) As regards main basin salmon, ICES did not issue new advice for 2027. Hence the advice given for 2026 is the best available scientific advice. In its advice for 2026 ICES maintained its zero-catch advice, while considering the possibility of continued directed 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 abundance of salmon in the most important salmon river in the main basin. ~~In addition, ICES stated in its advice for 2026 that there is post-release mortality of wild salmon in recreational fisheries for adipose fin-clipped salmon.~~ In accordance with Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, 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 ~~maintain~~**adopt three the** functionally linked remedial measures, ~~namely to prohibit i) the use of longlines, ii) to fish for sea trout outside coastal areas and iii) recreational fisheries except when and where targeted commercial fisheries are allowed.~~

Recital 12 is modified as follows:

- (12) As regards western Baltic herring, for the ninth consecutive year, ICES advises zero catches for that stock for 2027 and 2028. ICES modified the reference points and increased its biomass estimate which however is estimated to be only 56% of B_{lim} in 2026. Furthermore, recruitment remains relatively low and the biomass is not expected to recover to above B_{lim} in 2028. ~~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 exemption 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 be set at a low level in order to avoid the socio-economic consequences that would result from setting the fishing opportunities at zero.

Article 10 is modified as follows:

Article 10

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.
- 1a. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, recreational fisheries of salmon shall be allowed under the following cumulative conditions:**
 - (a) no more than one specimen of adipose fin-clipped salmon may be caught and retained per recreational fisher per day;**
 - (b) after catching and retaining the first adipose fin-clipped salmon, the recreational fisher shall stop the fishing of salmon for the remainder of the day;**
 - (c) all specimens of any fish species retained shall be landed whole.**
2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, recreational fisheries of salmon shall be allowed north of latitude 59° 30' N in areas within four nautical miles measured from the baselines from 1 May to 31 August.
3. This Article is without prejudice to more stringent national measures under Articles 19 and 20 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

Article 14

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 2027.

By way of derogation from the second paragraph, Article 13 shall apply from 1 January 2026, **except for Article 13(3) in relation to Annex IA, Part B, Table 122, which shall apply from 1 November 2026 until 31 October 2027.**

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

2. CHANGES TO THE ANNEXES OF THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL

ANNEX I

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

Table 1

Species: Herring <i>Clupea harengus</i>	Zone: Subdivisions 22-24 (HER/3BC+24)
Denmark	~~64~~ 110 ⁽¹⁾ Analytical TAC
Germany	~~241~~ 435 ⁽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	~~57~~ 103 ⁽¹⁾
Sweden	~~78~~ 140 ⁽¹⁾
Union	~~437~~ 788 ⁽¹⁾
TAC	~~437~~ 788 ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, 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.

By way of further derogation from the first subparagraph, fishing this quota is permitted for Union fishing vessels of less than 12 meters length overall fishing with gillnets, entangling nets, handlines, pound nets or jigging equipment. Masters of those fishing vessels shall ensure that their fishing activity can be monitored at any time by the control authorities of the competent Member State.

Table 2

Species: Herring <i>Clupea harengus</i>	Zone: Union waters of subdivisions 25-27, 28.2, 29 and 32 (HER/3D-R30)
Denmark	~~3~~ 165 3 635 Analytical TAC
Germany	~~839~~ 964 Article 6 of this Regulation applies.
Estonia	~~16~~ 162 18 563
Finland	~~31~~ 548 36 234
Latvia	~~3~~ 989 4 581
Lithuania	~~4~~ 200 4 824
Poland	~~35~~ 842 41 165

Sweden	~~48 115~~ <u>55 262</u>
Union	~~143 860~~ <u>165 228</u>
TAC	Not relevant

Table 4

Species:	Herring <i>Clupea harengus</i>	Zone:	Subdivisions 30-31 (HER/30/31.)
Finland	~~46 985~~ <u>51 241</u>	Analytical TAC	
Sweden	~~10 323~~ <u>11 259</u>		
Union	~~57 308~~ <u>62 500</u>		
TAC	~~57 308~~ <u>62 500</u>		

Table 5

Species:	Cod <i>Gadus morhua</i>	Zone:	Union waters of subdivisions 25-32 (COD/3DX32.)
Denmark	~~48 99~~ ⁽¹⁾	Precautionary TAC	
Germany	~~49 39~~ ⁽¹⁾		
Estonia	~~5 10~~ ⁽¹⁾	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
Finland	~~4 8~~ ⁽¹⁾		
Latvia	~~18 37~~ ⁽¹⁾		
Lithuania	~~12 24~~ ⁽¹⁾		
Poland	~~56 113~~ ⁽¹⁾		
Sweden	~~49 100~~ ⁽¹⁾		
Union	~~211 430~~ ⁽¹⁾		
TAC	Not relevant		

⁽¹⁾ Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, 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 ~~13~~ <u>116</u> ⁽¹⁾	Precautionary TAC
Germany ~~7~~ <u>57</u> ⁽¹⁾	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
Estonia ~~0~~ <u>3</u> ⁽¹⁾	
Finland ~~0~~ <u>2</u> ⁽¹⁾	
Latvia ~~1~~ <u>10</u> ⁽¹⁾	
Lithuania ~~1~~ <u>6</u> ⁽¹⁾	
Poland ~~4~~ <u>31</u> ⁽¹⁾	
Sweden ~~5~~ <u>41</u> ⁽¹⁾	
Union ~~31~~ <u>266</u> ⁽¹⁾	
TAC ~~31~~ <u>266</u> ⁽¹⁾	
⁽¹⁾ Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota. By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, 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~~ <u>861</u>	Analytical TAC
~~8~~ <u>050</u>	
Germany ~~873~~	Article 6 of this Regulation applies.
~~894~~	
Poland ~~1~~ <u>646</u>	
~~1~~ <u>686</u>	
Sweden ~~593~~	
~~607~~	
Union ~~10~~ <u>973</u>	
~~11~~ <u>237</u>	
TAC ~~10~~ <u>973</u>	
~~11~~ <u>237</u>	

ANNEX II

Regulation (EU) 2026/249 is amended as follows:

(1) Annex IA is amended as follows:

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

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	2027	2028	Analytical TAC
Denmark	~~-283~~ <u>299,722</u> (1)(2)	0 (4)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Germany	~~-0~~ <u>0,057</u> (1)(2)(3)	0 (4)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Netherlands	~~-0~~ <u>0,221</u> (1)(2)(3)	0 (4)	
Union	~~-283~~ <u>300,000</u> (1)(2)(3)	0 (4)	
United Kingdom	~~-100~~ <u>100,000</u> (1)(2)(3)	0 (4)	
TAC	~~-400~~ <u>400,000</u> (1)	0 (4)	
(1) May only be fished from 1 November 2026 to 31 October 2027.			
(2) Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.			
(3) By-catch quota may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of ICES zones 2a, 3a and 4 only.			
(4) May only be fished from 1 November 2027 to 31 October 2028.			

(2) Annex IB is amended as follows:

(a) Table 3 is replaced by the following:

Table 3			
Species:	Cod	Zone:	Greenland waters in ICES subareas 2, 5, 12, 14 (COD/GL251214)
	<i>Gadus morhua</i>		
Germany	2 050	(4)	Analytical TAC
Union	2 050	(1)(2)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
TAC	Not relevant		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
(4)	May be fished only in Greenland waters of 12a and 14b (COD/*GL12A14B). However, may not be fished from 1 March to 31 May within the ‘Kleine Bank management area’ bounded by the lines joining the following coordinates:		
	Point	Latitude	Longitude
	1	65°00'N	38°00'W
	2	65°00'N	35°15'W
	3	64°00'N	35°15'W

4	64°00'N	38°00'W
---	---------	---------

(2)

In addition to this Union quota, the following amount may be fished in Greenland waters of 2, 5 and 14a; Greenland waters due west of 14a to 42°W (COD/GL51442):

900 *

* May only be fished from 12 February 2026 to 31 December 2026 by vessels in the framework of the experimental fishery and conducting scientific sampling. That scientific sampling shall be carried under conditions to be determined by the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources. That amount shall be allocated equally among Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, Lithuania and Portugal, resulting in an allocation of 150 tonnes per Member State. That allocation applies only for that period and is without prejudice to any allocation of possible future Union quotas for cod in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 2, 5 and division 14a; Greenland waters due west of ICES division 14a to 42°W.

2

(b) Table 3(1) is deleted.

Table 3

Species:	Cod <i>Gadus morhua</i>	Zone:	Greenland waters of 12a and 14b (COD/GL12A14B)
Germany	2 050 ⁽¹⁾	Analytical TAC	
Union	2 050 ⁽¹⁾	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	Not relevant	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

(1)

May not be fished from 1 March to 31 May within the 'Kleine Bank management area' bounded by the lines joining the following coordinates:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	65°00'N	38°00'W
2	65°00'N	35°15'W
3	64°00'N	35°15'W
4	64°00'N	38°00'W

Table 3(1)

Species:	Cod <i>Gadus morhua</i>	Zone:	Greenland waters of 2, 5 and 14a; Greenland waters due west of 14a to 42°W (COD/GL51442)
Union	900 ⁽¹⁾	Analytical TAC	
TAC	Not relevant ⁽¹⁾	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

(1)

May only be fished from 12 February 2026 to 31 December 2026 by vessels in the framework of the experimental fishery and conducting scientific sampling. That scientific sampling shall be carried under conditions to be determined by the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources. This quota shall be allocated equally among Germany, Estonia, Spain, France, Lithuania and Portugal, resulting in an allocation of 150 tonnes per Member State. That allocation applies only for that period and is without prejudice to any allocation of possible future Union quotas for cod in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 2, 5 and division 14a; Greenland waters due west of ICES division 14a to 42°W.

3. STATEMENTS

Joint Statement by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden on the application of Article 15(9) of the Basic Regulation as regards eastern Baltic cod and western Baltic cod in 2027

Given that the biomass of the stocks of eastern Baltic cod and western Baltic cod are below B_{lim} , and in order to ensure the recovery of the stock in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden undertake not to make use of inter-annual flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 with regard to these stocks to and in 2027, i.e. transferring to 2027 quantities unfished in 2026, and landing additional quantities in 2027. This undertaking is a response to the current exceptional circumstances for the eastern Baltic cod and western Baltic cod stocks.

Joint Statement by Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden on the application of Article 15(9) in the Basic Regulation as regards western Baltic herring in 2027

Given that the biomass of the stock of western Baltic herring is below B_{lim} , and in order to ensure the recovery of the stock in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/1139, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden undertake not to make use of inter-annual flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 with regard to this stock to and in 2027, i.e. transferring to 2027 quantities unfished in 2026, and landing additional quantities in 2027. This undertaking is a response to the current exceptional circumstances for the western Baltic herring stock.

Joint Statement by Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland on the application of Article 15(9) in the Basic Regulation as regards main basin salmon in 2027

Given that in ICES subdivisions 22-29S almost all wild salmon river stocks are well below R_{lim} , and in order to ensure the recovery of the stocks, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland undertake not to make use of inter-annual flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 with regard to these stocks to and in 2027, i.e. transferring to 2027 quantities unfished in 2026, and landing additional quantities in 2027. This commitment is a response to the current exceptional circumstances for the wild salmon river stocks south to latitude 59°30'N.

Joint Statement by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden on exchanges of eastern and western Baltic cod quotas

In a spirit of solidarity, a Member State not needing its entire by-catch quota for eastern or western Baltic cod will seek to agree on quota exchanges with a Member State that can demonstrate it will be confronted with a choke effect due to its limited eastern or western Baltic cod quota.

Joint Statement by Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania and Poland on transfers of Main Basin salmon quotas

In a spirit of solidarity and recognising the conservation efforts made by Finland and Sweden, which have led to healthy stocks in their waters, a Member State which cannot use its entire quota for Main Basin salmon will consider a voluntary transfer of the unused or unusable part of that quota to Finland and/or Sweden.

Joint Statement by Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania and Sweden on best practices for recreational fisheries for adipose fin-clipped salmon

Recognising the need to minimise post-release mortality of wild salmon caught incidentally in recreational fisheries targeting adipose fin-clipped salmon, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, and Sweden undertake to exchange experiences and develop best practices for the handling and release of wild salmon. This work will include consideration of appropriate hook sizes, hook types, minimising air exposure and handling time, and other practices that may reduce injury and post-release mortality.

Joint Statement by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands on the application of Article 15(9) of the Basic Regulation as regards Norway pout in the North Sea in the 2027 fishing season

Given that ICES forecasts that the biomass of Norway pout in the North Sea (NOP/2A3A4.) is below B_{lim} and given that ICES advises zero catches for the 2027 fishing season (1 November 2026 to 31 October 2027), and in order to ensure the recovery of the stock, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands undertake not to make use of inter-annual flexibility under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 with regard to that stock to and in the 2027 fishing season, i.e. transferring to 2027 quantities unfished in 2026, and landing additional quantities in 2027. This undertaking is a response to the current exceptional circumstances of that stock.

Joint statement by Denmark and Sweden on ICES advice and ecosystem-based fisheries management

Denmark and Sweden reaffirm their commitment to a science-based fisheries policy. Denmark and Sweden urge the Commission to ensure a holistic approach in their requests to ICES, thus that the scientific advice provided by ICES on fishing opportunities also reflects size and population structures and that the advice from ICES in addition to having fisheries parameters also includes the complex realities of marine ecosystems, including the effects of human activities, mortality from predators, and broader ecosystem dynamics.

Joint statement by Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden on cormorants and seals

Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden urge the Commission, without delay, to find solutions for better management of great cormorants and seals, in order to take into account their impact on fish stocks and ensuring the balance of the ecosystem.

Joint statement by Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland on the Council Regulation fixing for 2027 the fishing opportunities applicable in the Baltic Sea

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania would like to emphasize that the TACs and quota setting have to follow the ranges of the best available scientific advice. This year the ICES provided ranges whereby the Flower range would have allowed increase of quota of 93% for the Central Herring. Deviations from F ranges should not set a precedent for the future discussions on the EU managed quotas.

Joint statement by the Commission and Denmark on by-catch quotas for western Baltic cod, eastern Baltic cod, and western Baltic herring

Recognising the poor state of the stocks of western Baltic cod, eastern Baltic cod, and western Baltic herring, the Commission and Denmark underline that by-catches of these stocks should be avoided as far as possible. The setting and use of by-catch quotas should take into account the low uptake of these quotas in recent years and the need to avoid any increase in fishing pressure on the stocks concerned. By-catch quotas should cover unavoidable by-catches and should not provide incentives for directed fishing. The Commission and Denmark will continue to promote the effective implementation of applicable selectivity measures and the monitoring of by-catches, with a view to minimising unwanted catches and supporting the recovery of the stocks concerned.

Statement by the Commission on the political agreement reached by the Council

The Commission takes note of the political agreement reached by the Council on the fishing opportunities for 2027 in the Baltic Sea. The Commission is concerned that the following elements of that agreement are less likely to contribute to the rebuilding of the fisheries that rely on the recovery of certain stocks for their economic activities than the Commission proposal: (1) the total allowable catches (TACs) for western Baltic herring should have been set at a level which ensures that the probability for the stocks to remain below B_{lim} in 2028 is less than 5%; and (2) there should be no targeted fisheries, commercial or recreational, of western Baltic herring and main basin salmon (except when and where targeted commercial fisheries are allowed) for which the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea advises to stop all fishing.

Joint statement by the Commission, Portugal and Spain on sole species in ICES zones 8cde, 9 and 10

Recognising the importance of reporting catches, weighing fisheries products and submitting the required information in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 and its implementing and delegated acts, and in order to ensure effective monitoring of quota uptake for sole species – namely common sole, Senegalese sole and sand sole – in the Cantabrian Sea and Iberian waters, Portugal firmly commits to addressing the misreporting of common sole as other sole species, including by carrying out inspections at landing and verification of data reported in logbooks, weighing records, sales notes and transport documents.

Furthermore, in the event that 80% of the unallocated sub-TAC for common sole (SOL/8CDE34) is exceeded, Portugal and Spain commit to ensure more frequent reporting of catches to ensure timely monitoring of quota uptake in accordance with Article 34 of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009.

Portugal and Spain will continue to cooperate with the Commission to identify ways of improving the management of common sole, which is currently based on an unallocated EU quota, with a view to reducing the risk of overfishing of that stock. Finally, Portugal and Spain commit to continuing efforts to improve data availability for sole species, with the aim of enabling a higher category advice by ICES.