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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a Council Regulation 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 • Commission services non-paper

Delegations will find attached the above-mentioned non-paper, as received from the European Commission services.

COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

5 NOVEMBER 2024

This document serves as a basis for discussion at the Working Party on Fisheries Policy.
It cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission.
It is intended solely for those to whom it is addressed.

Updates to Commission proposal for a Council Regulation fixing 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 [COM(2024) 506 final]

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1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO COD IN THE KATTEGAT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 28 June 2024, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) published its scientific advice[1] for cod (*Gadus morhua*) in ICES subdivision 21 (Kattegat) for 2025 and 2026. ICES published precautionary advice for that stock and advised that there should be zero catches in 2025 and in 2026.

However, if the TAC for that stock were set at zero, the obligation to land all catches, including by-catches from that stock in mixed fisheries, would give rise to the phenomenon of 'choke species'[2] in the fisheries targeting Norway lobster. To strike a balance between maintaining those fisheries, in view of the potentially severe socio-economic implications of failing to do so, and the need to achieve a good biological status for cod in the Kattegat, taking account of the difficulty of fishing all stocks in a mixed fishery at MSY, it is proposed to set total allowable catches (TAC) exclusively for by-catches of that stock for the fisheries targeting Norway lobster, pursuant to Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council[3] and Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council[4], in conjunction with Article 2(1) and (5), points (c) and (f), of that Regulation. Specifically, it is proposed to set the level of that by-catch TAC at 72 tonnes (-17% compared to TAC for 2024), corresponding to the level of catches of cod in the Kattegat in 2023. Moreover, as the advice published by ICES is the best available scientific advice for the entire advice period (i.e. 2025 and 2026), it is proposed to set that by-catch TAC for 2025 and for 2026.

In addition, in order to ensure that the fishing mortality of cod in the Kattegat continues to decrease compared to the 2023 level it is proposed to maintain for 2025 and 2026 the existing remedial measures for cod in the Kattegat.

Finally, the proposed EU quota for cod in the Kattegat is to take account of discards based on established exemptions; these quantities will not be landed and counted against the quota, and are therefore deducted from the EU quota. Pending the calculation of those quantities, EU and Member States quotas for cod in the Kattegat are marked *'pro memoria'*.

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1 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019213.v1

2 'Choke species' are species with a lack of quota that can cause one or more fishing vessels to stop fishing even if they still have quota for other species.

3 Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008 (OJ L 179, 16.7.2018, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/973/oj).

4 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).

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (11) is replaced by the following:

“

(11) For certain stocks, ICES advice remains valid for several years and that advice remains the best available scientific advice for the entire advice period. In those cases, annual TACs covering the entire advice period should be set (‘multiannual TAC’). However, if new ICES advice becomes available during that period, it should be ensured that the multiannual TAC remains consistent with the new advice. Moreover, it should be ensured that the annual deductions from the Union quotas, to take account of exemptions from the landing obligation, remain consistent with the available data.

”

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Article 19, the square brackets are deleted.

In Article 60, the following point is inserted after point (c):

“

(ca) Article 19 shall apply from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026.

”

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex IA, Part A, Table 3 is replaced by the following:

“

Table 3				
Species:	Cod *Gadus morhua*		Zone:	Kattegat (COD/03AS.)
Year	**Each 2025 and 2026**			
Denmark	pm	(1)	Precautionary TAC Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Germany	pm	(1)		
Sweden	pm	(1)		
Union	pm	(1)		
TAC	72,00	(1)		
(1)	Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.			

”

2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO NORWAY LOBSTER IN THE SKAGERRAK-KATTEGAT, IN THE BAY OF BISCAY AND IN ATLANTIC IBERIAN WATERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 31 October 2024, ICES published its scientific advice for Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) for 2025 in: (i) ICES division 3a (Skagerrak and Kattegat), functional units (FUs) 3 and 4[5]; and (ii) ICES divisions 8a and 8b (northern and central Bay of Biscay), FUs 23 and 24[6]. ICES published maximum sustainable yield (MSY) advice for both stocks.

Regarding Norway lobster in ICES division 3a, it is therefore proposed to set the TAC for that stock for 2025 at the lowest value within the range of F_{MSY} (MSY F_{lower})[7], i.e. 7 732 tonnes (-8% compared to TAC for 2024), in order to support the recovery of cod in the Kattegat, which, according to ICES, is mainly a by-catch of the Norway lobster fishery[8] and for which ICES advised zero catches for 2025 and for 2026.

Regarding Norway lobster in ICES divisions 8a, 8b, 8d and 8e (Bay of Biscay), it is therefore proposed to set the TAC for that stock for 2025 in line with the MSY advice, i.e. 3 502 tonnes (-39% compared to TAC for 2024).

On 30 June 2022, 30 June 2023 and 31 October 2024, ICES published three relevant pieces of scientific advice for setting the TAC for Norway lobster in ICES subareas 9 and 10 (Iberian waters and waters around the Azores) and EU waters of Committee for Eastern Central Atlantic Fisheries (CECAF) division 34.1.1 (east of Madeira and of the Canary Islands).

First, on 30 June 2022, ICES published its advice for Norway lobster in ICES division 9a, FUs 26 and 27 (Atlantic Iberian waters East, western Galicia, and northern Portugal), for *inter alia* 2025[9]. ICES published MSY advice for that stock and advised that there should be zero catches in *inter alia* 2025.

Second, on 30 June 2023, ICES published its advice for Norway lobster in ICES division 9a, FUs 28 and 29 (Atlantic Iberian waters East and southwestern and southern Portugal) for *inter alia*

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5 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019408.v1

6 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019390.v1

7 As defined in Articles 2(2) and 2(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/973 and Regulation (EU) 2019/4723 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the multiannual plans (MAPs) respectively for the North Sea and for the Western Waters*.
* Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for stocks fished in the Western Waters and adjacent waters, and for fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Regulations (EU) 2016/1139 and (EU) 2018/973, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007 and (EC) No 1300/2008 (OJ L 83, 25.3.2019, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/472/oj).

8 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019213.v1

9 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19453496

2025[10]. ICES published precautionary advice for that stock and advised that catches should be no more than 213 tonnes in inter alia 2025.

Third, on 31 October 2024, ICES published its advice for Norway lobster in ICES division 9a, FU 30 (Atlantic Iberian waters East and Gulf of Cádiz) for 2025[11]. ICES published precautionary advice for that stock and advised that catches should be no more than 26 tonnes in 2025.

In light of the above, it is therefore proposed to set the TAC for Norway lobster in ICES subareas 9 and 10 and EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1. for 2024 at 239 tonnes (rollover compared to TAC for 2024), corresponding to the sum of the ICES scientific advice for Norway lobster in: (i) FUs 26 and 27; (ii) FUs 28 and 29; and (iii) FU 30. Moreover, it is proposed to set at zero catches in FUs 26 and 27 and to limit catches in FU 30 at 26 tonnes.

Finally, the proposed EU quotas for Norway lobster in the Skagerrak-Kattegat, in the Bay of Biscay and in Atlantic Iberian waters are to take account of discards based on established exemptions; these quantities will not be landed and counted against the quotas, and are therefore deducted from the EU quotas. Pending the calculation of those quantities, EU and Member States quotas for Norway lobster in the Skagerrak-Kattegat, in the Bay of Biscay and in Atlantic Iberian waters are marked *'pro memoria'*.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex IA, Part A, Tables 8, 9 and 12 are replaced by the following:

"

Table 8			
Species:	Norway lobster *Nephrops norvegicus*	Zone:	3a (NEP/03A.)
Denmark	pm	Analytical TAC	
Germany	pm		
Sweden	pm		
Union	pm		
TAC	7 732		

Table 9			
Species:	Norway lobster *Nephrops norvegicus*	Zone:	8a, 8b, 8d and 8e (NEP/8ABDE.)
Spain	pm	Analytical TAC	
France	pm		
Union	pm		
TAC	3 502		

10 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21840963.v1

11 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019393.v1

Table 12					
Species:	Norway lobster *Nephrops norvegicus*			Zone:	9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (NEP/9/3411)
Spain		pm	(1)	Precautionary TAC	
Portugal		pm	(1)		
Union		pm	(1)(2)		
TAC		239	(1)(2)		

(1) Shall not be taken in functional units 26 and 27 of division 9a.

(2) Within the limit of this quota, no more than the following amount may be taken in functional unit 30 of division 9a (NEP/*9U30):

26

”

3. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO UNDULATE RAY IN THE BAY OF BISCAY AND ATLANTIC IBERIAN WATERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*) in ICES subarea 8 (Bay of Biscay and Cantabrian Sea) and in subarea 9 (Atlantic Iberian waters) are stocks listed in Annex 36, table F, 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[12]. That Annex lists stocks that are only present in one Party's waters.

On 4 October 2024, ICES published its scientific advice for undulate ray *inter alia* for 2025 in: (i) ICES divisions 8a and 8b (northern and central Bay of Biscay)[13]; (ii) ICES division 8c (Cantabrian Sea)[14]; and (iii) ICES division 9a (Atlantic Iberian waters)[15]. Undulate ray in the northern and central Bay of Biscay and in the Cantabrian Sea are managed through a single TAC. Undulate ray in Atlantic Iberian waters is managed by a separate TAC.

Regarding both TACs, it is proposed to set TACs exclusively for by-catches at the same level as for 2024. In addition, it is proposed to establish additional quantities for sentinel fisheries to allow fisheries-based data collection at the same level as for 2024. Those additional quantities aim at improving the fisheries-based scientific data available.

The two by-catch TACs and the additional quantities for sentinel fisheries are: (i) based on the scientific advice for undulate ray respectively in ICES divisions 8a and 8b and division 8c as well as in division 9a; (ii) take into account, for those TACs subject to a survivability exemption from the landing obligation[16], the discard rates and the species survival rates; and (iii) take into account the uncertainties linked to in particular the survival rates.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

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12 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 (OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 10, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2021/689(1)/oj).

13 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019615.v1

14 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019618.v1

15 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019621.v1

16 Survivability exemption pursuant to Article 10 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2623*.
* Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2623 of 22 August 2023 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying details of the landing obligation for certain fisheries in Western Waters for the period 2024-2027 (OJ L, 2023/2623, 22.11.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/2623/oj).

In Annex IA, Part B, Table 101, footnote 2 is replaced by the following:

‘‘

(2) Shall not apply to undulate ray (*Raja undulata*). This species shall not be targeted in the areas covered by this TAC. In cases where it is not subject to the landing obligation, by-catch of undulate ray in subareas 8 and 9 may only be landed whole or gutted. The catches shall remain under the quotas shown in the table below. These provisions are without prejudice to the prohibitions set out in Union law for the areas specified therein. By-catches of undulate ray shall be reported separately under the codes indicated in the tables below. Within the limits of the abovementioned quotas, no more than the quantities of undulate ray given below may be taken:

Species:	Undulate ray *Raja undulata*		Zone:	Union waters of 8 (RJU/8-C.)
Belgium	0		Precautionary TAC	
France	13	(1)		
Portugal	10			
Spain	10	(2)		
Union	33			
United Kingdom	0			
TAC	33			

(1) An additional 28,5 tonnes may be allocated to vessels participating in the sentinel fishery to allow fisheries-based data collection for this stock as designed by a national scientific institute. Catches from this additional allocation shall be reported separately (RJU/8-C.SEN). France shall communicate the name(s)of the vessel(s) to the Commission before allowing any catches. This shall be without prejudice to relative stability.

(2) An additional 21,5 tonnes may be allocated to vessels participating in the sentinel fishery to allow fisheries-based data collection for this stock as designed by a national scientific institute. Catches from this additional allocation shall be reported separately (RJU/8-C.SEN). Spain shall communicate the name(s)of the vessel(s) to the Commission before allowing any catches. This shall be without prejudice to relative stability.

Species:	Undulate ray *Raja undulata*		Zone:	Union waters of 9 (RJU/9-C.)
Belgium	0		Precautionary TAC	
France	20			
Portugal	15	(1)		
Spain	15			
Union	50			
United Kingdom	0			
TAC	50			

(1) An additional 50 tonnes may be allocated to vessels participating in the sentinel fishery to allow fisheries-based data collection for this stock as designed by a national scientific institute. Catches from this additional allocation shall be reported separately (RJU/9-C.SEN). Portugal shall communicate the name(s)of the vessel(s) to the Commission before allowing any catches. This shall be without prejudice to relative stability.

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4. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO EUROPEAN EEL IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 1 November 2024, ICES published its scientific advice for European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) throughout its natural range for 2025[17]. Considering that scientific advice, it is proposed to maintain the existing measures on European eel fisheries in EU marine and brackish waters of ICES subareas 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 (north-east Atlantic) for 2025.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recitals (16) and (17) are replaced by the following:

"

(16) In May 2022, ICES noted that despite Member States' efforts for the recovery of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), no overall progress had been made in achieving the 40 % silver eel biomass escapement objective across the entire Union, as required by Article 2(4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007[18], and that no clear patterns for mortality were observed. In November 2024, ICES advised once again that, when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be zero catches of European eel in all habitats and at all life stages, throughout its natural range, which includes the north-east Atlantic and the Mediterranean. This concerns both recreational and commercial catches and includes catches of glass eels for restocking and aquaculture.

(17) Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194[19] extended to six months the closure period for any commercial eel fishing activity in Union marine and brackish waters of the north-east Atlantic. It also prohibited all recreational eel fisheries in those waters. It was considered that a six-month closure period would better protect the stock than the Union and national measures implemented until 2022. It was also considered that the extended closure period would further the achievement of the escapement objective of at least 40 % of silver eels set out in Article 2(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007. Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257[20]

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17 [X]

18 Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel (OJ L 248, 22.9.2007, p. 17, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2007/1100/oj).

19 Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, as well as fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks (OJ L 28, 31.1.2023, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/194/oj).

20 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, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 (OJ L, 2024/257, 11.1.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/257/oj).

maintained those measures while clarifying the criteria for setting the closure period and the possible derogation for continued limited eel fisheries during the eel migration period. Given the continued critical state of the European eel, it is appropriate to maintain those measures in 2025.

”

In recital (18), the first sentence in square brackets and the square brackets are deleted.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Article 13, the square brackets are deleted.

5. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO NAFO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At its 46th annual meeting in 2024, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) adopted fishing opportunities for certain stocks in the NAFO Convention area for 2025. It also maintained for 2025 measures that are functionally linked to the fishing opportunities of shortfin squid (*Illex illecebrosus*) in NAFO subareas 3 and 4 and yellowtail flounder (*Limanda ferruginea*) in NAFO divisions 3LNO, aiming at minimising the levels of by-catches of non-target species and without which the fishing opportunities for those stocks would have to be reduced to protect the non-target species. It is therefore proposed to implement those measures in EU law.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (36) is replaced by the following:

“

(36) At its 46th annual meeting in 2024, the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO) adopted fishing opportunities for certain stocks in the NAFO Convention area for 2025. It also maintained for 2025 measures that are functionally linked to the fishing opportunities of shortfin squid (*Illex illecebrosus*) in NAFO subareas 3 and 4 and yellowtail flounder (*Limanda ferruginea*) in NAFO divisions 3LNO, aiming at minimising the levels of by-catches of non-target species and without which the fishing opportunities for those stocks would have to be reduced to protect the non-target species. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

”

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Chapter III, the following section is inserted after Section 1:

“

SECTION 1A
NAFO REGULATORY AREA

Article 23a
Recovery measures for cod in NAFO divisions 2J3KL

Fishing vessels fishing for cod in the part of NAFO divisions 2J3KL covered by the NAFO Regulatory Area shall use gear with the following minimum mesh sizes:

(a) when using a sorting grid, as defined in Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council[21], 130 mm; or

(b) 150 mm.

”

In Article 60, the following point is inserted after point (d):

“

(da) Article 23a shall apply from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 or until the date on which a Commission Delegated Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/833 concerning recovery measures for cod in NAFO divisions 2J3KL becomes applicable, whichever is earlier.

”

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

Annex IC is replaced by the following:

“

Table 1

Species:	Cod *Gadus morhua*		Zone:	NAFO 2J3KL (COD/N2J3KL)
Bulgaria	0	(1)(2)	Analytical TAC	
Estonia	0	(1)(2)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Germany	0	(1)(2)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Latvia	0	(1)(2)		
Lithuania	0	(1)(2)		
Poland	0	(1)(2)		
Spain	0	(1)(2)		
France	0	(1)(2)		
Portugal	0	(1)(2)		
Romania	0	(1)(2)		
Union	0	(1)(2)		
TAC	0	(1)(2)		

(1) This quota shall apply from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

(2) No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota between 00:00 UTC 15 April 2025 and 23:59 UTC 30 June 2026. During this period, this species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 1 250 kg or 5 %, whichever is greater.

Table 2

[21] Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2115/2005 and (EC) No 1386/2007 (OJ L 141, 28.5.2019, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/833/oj).

Species:	Cod *Gadus morhua*		Zone:	NAFO 3NO (COD/N3NO.)
Union	0	(1)	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	0	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
(1)	No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota. This species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 1 000 kg or 4%, whichever is greater.			

Table 3

Species:	Cod *Gadus morhua*		Zone:	NAFO 3M (COD/N3M.)
Estonia	140,0	(1)	Analytical TAC 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	
Germany	587,0	(1)		
Latvia	140,0	(1)		
Lithuania	140,0	(1)		
Poland	478,0	(1)		
Spain	1 805,0	(1)		
France	252,0	(1)		
Portugal	2 475,8	(1)		
Union	6 017,8	(1)		
TAC	12 613	(1)		
(1)	No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota between 00:00 UTC on 1 January and 24:00 UTC on 31 March. During this period, this species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is greater.			

Table 4

Species:	Witch flounder *Glyptocephalus cynoglossus*		Zone:	NAFO 3L (WIT/N3L.)
Union	0	(1)	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	0	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
(1)	No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota. This species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is greater.			

Table 5

Species:	Witch flounder *Glyptocephalus cynoglossus*	Zone:	NAFO 3NO (WIT/N3NO.)
Estonia	61,6	Analytical TAC 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	
Latvia	61,6		
Lithuania	61,6		
Union	185		
TAC	1 395		

Table 6

Species:	American plaice *Hippoglossoides platessoides*		Zone:	NAFO 3M (PLA/N3M.)
Union	0	(1)	Analytical TAC	

			Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
TAC	0	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply

(1) No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota. This species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is greater.

Table 7

Species:	American plaice *Hippoglossoides platessoides*		Zone:	NAFO 3LNO (PLA/N3LNO.)
Union	0	(1)	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	0	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

(1) No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota. This species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is greater.

Table 8

Species:	Shortfin squid *Illex illecebrosus*		Zone:	NAFO subareas 3 and 4 (SQI/N34.)
Estonia	128	(1)(2)	Analytical TAC 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	
Latvia	128	(1)(2)		
Lithuania	128	(1)(2)		
Poland	227	(1)(2)		
Others	29 467	(1)(2)(3)		
Union	30 078	(1)(4)		
TAC	34 000			

(1) No vessel may fish for squid between 00:00 UTC on 1 January to 24:00 UTC on 30 June.

(2) Between 1 July to 31 December, during a maximum 2-week exemption period, up to a total of three hauls in which any other species for which this Regulation establishes fishing opportunities in the NAFO Convention area and other than squid comprises the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in the haul shall not be considered a directed fishery, provided that the fishing vessel carries on board a control observer, uses a mesh size no smaller than 60mm, and complies with the NAFO notification and reporting requirements to make use of that 2-week exemption period. After each such haul, the fishing vessel shall immediately move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous haul throughout the subsequent haul.

(3) This quantity is available to Canada and the Member States except Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Catches to be counted against this shared quota shall be reported separately (SQI/N34_AMS).

(4) Corresponds to the sum of the quotas of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland and the unspecified share available to Canada and the Member States except Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

Table 9

Species:	Yellowtail flounder *Limanda ferruginea*		Zone:	NAFO 3LNO (YEL/N3LNO.)
Union	0	(1)	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	15 810		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

(1) No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota. This species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 2 500 kg or 10 %, whichever is greater. However, if the Union is assigned an 'Others' quota, once the 'Others' quota is exhausted, the by-catch limits shall be as follows: a maximum of 1 250 kg or 5 %, whichever is greater.

However, if following quota transfers or exchanges or charter, directed fisheries are conducted, the following shall apply:

(a) a by-catch of 15% of American plaice is permitted. However, if a fishing vessel is carrying an observer:

(i) this maxima shall be 2 900 kg or 15 % of American plaice, whichever the greater; and

(ii) a vessel may exceed the maxima referred to in point (i) for by-catches of American plaice retained on board during the first 9 fishing days in the NAFO Regulatory Area, provided that American plaice by-catch represents 15 % or less by the end of that period or when the vessel leaves the NAFO Regulatory Area, whichever occurs first;

(b) the first two times that catches of American plaice comprise the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a haul, such catches shall be considered as incidental catch, but the vessel shall immediately move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous haul throughout the subsequent haul.

Table 10			
Species:	Capelin *Mallotus villosus*	Zone:	NAFO 3NO (CAP/N3NO.)
Union	0 (1)	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	0 (1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	

(1) No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota. This species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is greater.

Table 11			
Species:	Northern prawn *Pandalus borealis*	Zone:	NAFO 3LNO(1)(2) (PRA/N3LNOX)
Estonia	0 (3)	Analytical TAC 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	
Latvia	0 (3)		
Lithuania	0 (3)		
Poland	0 (3)		
Spain	0 (3)		
Portugal	0 (3)		
Union	0 (3)		
TAC	0 (3)		

(1) Not including the box bounded by the following coordinates:

Point No	Latitude	Longitude
1	47°20'00"N	46°40'00"W
2	47°20'00"N	46°30'00"W
3	46°00'00"N	46°30'00"W
4	46°00'00"N	46°40'00"W

(2) Fishing is prohibited at a depth less than 200 metres in the area west of a line bound by the following coordinates:

Point No	Latitude	Longitude
1	46°00'00"N	47°49'00"W
2	46°25'00"N	47°27'00"W
3	46°42'00"N	47°25'00"W
4	46°48'00"N	47°25'50"W
5	47°16'50"N	47°43'50"W

(3) No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota. This species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is greater.

Table 12			
Species:	Northern prawn *Pandalus borealis*	Zone:	NAFO 3M(1) (PRA/*N3M.)
TAC	Not relevant (2)	Analytical TAC	

(1) Vessels may also fish this stock in division 3L in the box bounded by the following coordinates:

Point No	Latitude	Longitude
1	47°20'00"N	46°40'00"W
2	47°20'00"N	46°30'00"W
3	46°00'00"N	46°30'00"W
4	46°00'00"N	46°40'00"W

Moreover, fishing for shrimp is prohibited from 1 June to 31 December in the area bounded by the following coordinates:

Point No	Latitude	Longitude
1	47°55'00"N	45°00'00"W
2	47°30'00"N	44°15'00"W
3	46°55'00"N	44°15'00"W
4	46°35'00"N	44°30'00"W
5	46°35'00"N	45°40'00"W
6	47°30'00"N	45°40'00"W
7	47°55'00"N	45°00'00"W

(2) Not relevant. Fishery managed by limitations in fishing effort (EFF/*N3M.). The Member States concerned shall issue fishing authorisations for their fishing vessels engaging in this fishery and shall notify those authorisations to the Commission prior to the beginning of the vessel's activity, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

Member State	Maximum number of fishing days
Denmark	0
Estonia	0
Spain	0
Latvia	0
Lithuania	0
Poland	0
Portugal	0

Table 13

Species:	Greenland halibut *Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*	Zone:	NAFO 3LMNO (GHL/N3LMNO)
Estonia	297	Analytical TAC	
Germany	303	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Latvia	42	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Lithuania	21		
Spain	4 064		
Portugal	1 699		
Union	6 426		
TAC	10 960		

Table 14

Species:	Skates *Rajidae*	Zone:	NAFO 3LNO (SKA/N3LNO.)
Estonia	283	Analytical TAC	
Lithuania	62	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Spain	3 403	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Portugal	660		
Union	4 408		

TAC	7 000

Table 15			
Species:	Redfishes *Sebastes spp.*	Zone:	NAFO 3LN (RED/N3LN.)
Estonia	296,6	Analytical TAC	
Germany	204,0	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Latvia	296,6	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Lithuania	296,6		
Union	1 094		
TAC	6 000		

Table 16				
Species:	Redfishes *Sebastes spp.*		Zone:	NAFO 3M (RED/N3M.)
Estonia	1 571	(1)	Analytical TAC	
Germany	513	(1)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Latvia	1 571	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Lithuania	1 571	(1)		
Spain	233	(1)		
Portugal	2 354	(1)		
Union	7 813	(1)		
TAC	17 503	(1)		

(1) This quota is subject to compliance with the TAC, which is established for this stock for all NAFO Contracting Parties. Within this TAC, no more than the following mid-term limit may be fished before 1 July:
8 752

Table 17			
Species:	Redfishes *Sebastes spp.*	Zone:	NAFO 3O (RED/N3O.)
Spain	1 771	Analytical TAC	
Portugal	5 229	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	7 000	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	20 000		

Table 18				
Species:	Redfishes *Sebastes spp.*		Zone:	NAFO subarea 2, divisions 1F and 3K (RED/N1F3K.)
Latvia	0	(1)	Analytical TAC	
Lithuania	0	(1)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	0	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	0	(1)		

(1) No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota. This species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 1 250 kg or 5%, whichever is greater.

Table 19			
Species:	White hake *Urophycis tenuis*		Zone: NAFO 3NO (HKW/N3NO.)
Spain	255		Analytical TAC
Portugal	333		Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Union	588	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
TAC	1 000		
(1)	Where, according to NAFO rules, a positive vote by the NAFO Contracting Parties confirms the TAC to be 2 000 tonnes, the corresponding Union and Member State quotas shall be as below:		
	Spain	509	
	Portugal	667	
	Union	1 176	

”

6. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO COD IN NAFO DIVISIONS 2J3KL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257[22] set the TAC and EU quota for cod (*Gadus morhua*) in NAFO divisions 2J, 3K and 3L ('2J3KL') for 2024 at zero, in line with the decision taken by NAFO at its 2023 annual meeting.

In June 2024, following the publication of updated scientific advice[23], Canada established for its fishing vessels a catch limit of 18 000 tonnes for cod in NAFO divisions 2J3KL for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. In accordance with its rules, NAFO is to establish for that stock and for that period a TAC and a catch limit for other NAFO Contracting Parties to be fished in the part of that area covered by the NAFO Regulatory Area. That catch limit for cod in NAFO divisions 2J3KL for other NAFO Contracting Parties is to be established at a level which results in the catch limit established by Canada corresponding to 95% of the TAC and the catch limit for other NAFO Contracting Parties corresponding to 5% of the TAC (i.e. 947 tonnes).

During its 2024 annual meeting, NAFO established a revised allocation key for that catch limit for other NAFO Contracting Parties for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, including an increased EU share of 3,88% of the TAC, based on catches of the concerned Contracting Parties in a reference period of 1973-1976. In addition, NAFO adopted a TAC and an EU quota for cod in the part of NAFO divisions 2J3KL covered by the NAFO Regulatory Area for the period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. Moreover, NAFO established recovery measures for cod in that area. However, those measures by NAFO only entered into force on 11 October 2024, without retroactive application.

It is therefore proposed to implement the TAC and EU quota and those functionally linked recovery measures in EU law as from 1 January 2025. Pending an agreement between Member States on a new allocation key for that EU quota to Member States, the Member States quotas are marked '*pro memoria*'.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

The following recitals are inserted after recital (45):

"

(45a) At its 46th annual meeting in 2024, NAFO decided to reopen the fishery for cod (*Gadus morhua*) in the part of NAFO divisions 2J, 3K and 3L ('2J3KL') covered by the NAFO Regulatory Area, following the adoption by Canada of a catch limit of 18 000 tonnes for its fishing vessels in NAFO divisions 2J, 3K and 3L for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. In particular, NAFO adopted a TAC and a Union quota for that stock for the period of 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 at the level of 735 tonnes, based on a revised allocation key in NAFO. In addition, NAFO established recovery measures for that stock for that period. The

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22 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, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 (OJ L, 2024/257, 11.1.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/257/oj).

23 https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2024/2024_049-eng.html

TAC, Union quota and recovery measures entered into force on 11 October 2024, without retroactive application. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

(45b) Regulation (EU) 2024/257 should therefore be amended accordingly.

”

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Title IV, the following article is inserted before Article 58.

“*Article 57a*
Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2024/257

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

(1) In Chapter III, the following section is inserted after Section 1:

“

SECTION 1A
NAFO REGULATORY AREA

Article 23a
Recovery measures for cod in NAFO divisions 2J3KL

Fishing vessels fishing for cod in the part of NAFO divisions 2J3KL covered by the NAFO Regulatory Area shall use gear with the following minimum mesh sizes:

(a) when using a sorting grid, as defined in Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council[24], 130 mm; or

(b) 150 mm.

”

(2) In Article 59, the following point is inserted after point (d):

[24] Regulation (EU) 2019/833 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation, amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2115/2005 and (EC) No 1386/2007 (OJ L 141, 28.5.2019, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/833/oj).

“

(da) Article 23a shall apply from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 or until the date on which a Commission Delegated Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/833 concerning recovery measures for cod in NAFO divisions 2J3KL becomes applicable, whichever is earlier.

”

(3) In Annex IC, Table 1 is replaced by the following:

“

Table 1					
Species:	Cod *Gadus morhua*			Zone:	NAFO 2J3KL (COD/N2J3KL)
Bulgaria		pm	(1)(2)	Analytical TAC	
Germany		pm	(1)(2)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Estonia		pm	(1)(2)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Spain		pm	(1)(2)		
France		pm	(1)(2)		
Latvia		pm	(1)(2)		
Lithuania		pm	(1)(2)		
Poland		pm	(1)(2)		
Portugal		pm	(1)(2)		
Romania		pm	(1)(2)		
Union		735	(1)(2)		
TAC		18 947			

(1)	This quota shall apply from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2025. It may only be fished from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025.
(2)	No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota between 00:00 UTC 15 April 2025 and 23:59 UTC 30 June 2025. During this period, this species shall only be taken as by-catch within the following limits: a maximum of 1 250 kg or 5 %, whichever is greater.

”

”

7. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO CCSBT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At its 2023 annual meeting, the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) adopted the TAC for Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) for a three-year period from 2024 to 2026. It is therefore proposed to implement that measure in EU law for 2025.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (33) is replaced by the following:

“

(33) At its 2023 annual meeting, the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) adopted the TAC for Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) for a three-year period from 2024 to 2026. That measure should be implemented in Union law for 2025.

”

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

Annex IF is replaced by the following:

“

ANNEX IF

SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA – AREAS OF DISTRIBUTION

Species:	Southern bluefin tuna *Thunnus maccoyii*		Zone:	All areas of distribution (SBF/F41-81)
Union	13	(1)	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	13		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
(1)	Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.			

”