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From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	30 October 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	C(2026) 7669 annex
Subject:	ANNEX to the COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../... amending Regulation (EU) 2022/2056 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the specifications for seabirds mitigation measures

Delegations will find attached document C(2026) 7669 annex.

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ANNEX

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

amending Regulation (EU) 2022/2056 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the specifications for seabirds mitigation measures

ANNEX

In Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2022/2056, "Specifications" section is replaced by the following:

"Specifications

1. Tori lines (South of 25° South)

1.(a) For vessels >=35 m total length

Minimum standards

(i) Deploy at least one tori line. If two tori lines are deployed, both tori lines shall be deployed simultaneously, one on each side of the line being set. During the line setting, baited hooks shall be cast into the water - close to the tori line coverage area, and it shall be avoiding the surface areas of propeller turbulence.

(ii) A tori line using long and short streamers shall be used as follows:

(a) Long streamers shall be placed at intervals of no more than 5 m and shall be attached to avoid entanglement with the main line. Long streamers of sufficient length to reach the sea surface in calm conditions shall be used.

(b) Short streamers shall have a minimum length of 1m and shall be placed no more than 1m apart.

(c) Streamers shall be attached along the tori line for at least the first 100m from behind the stern to the point where the mainline enters the water.

(iii) Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a desired aerial extent greater than or equal to 100m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall have a minimum length of 200m. If a towing object is attached to the end of the tori line, the tori line shall have a minimum length of 120m.

(iv) The tori line shall be attached to a tori pole >7m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical.

(v) If vessels use only one tori line, the tori line shall be deployed windward of sinking baits.

Technical guidelines

(i) **One or two tori lines**

Where practical, vessels are encouraged to use two tori lines at times of high bird abundance or activity.

(ii) **Mainline material**

(a) It is effective to use different materials for the aerial section and for the underwater section of the tori line.

(b) For the aerial section, a lightweight material to which it is easy to insert a streamer is desirable.

(c) For the underwater section, a material that floats in water is preferrable to reduce entanglement with fishing gear, and a rope with a rough texture to provide underwater drag is preferrable too.

(d) Entanglement between fishing gear and tori-lines poses serious safety risks, including pole breakage. To avoid such incidents, it is advisable to incorporate a mechanism that allows the main line to be disconnected when excessive tension is applied. Examples of such safety measures include connecting lower durability rope sections along the line to create break points or using hardware that disconnects under high tension loads.

(iii) **Towing object**

The towing object attached to the end of the tori line should generate sufficient drag to achieve required aerial extent greater than or equal to 100m.

(iv) **Streamer color**

Streamers should be brightly colored.

(v) **Streamer attachment method**

Light weight swivels, plastic joints or pulleys, or long streamers made of relatively rigid materials, can be used to prevent entanglement.

(vi) **Pole height**

Note that raising the tori-line attachment position may require extending the total line length or adding an additional towing device to ensure sufficient aerial extent.

(vii) **Operational practice**

A spare tori-line and streamers should be carried onboard to repair or replace damaged tori lines. Tori lines and streamers should be examined regularly and maintained as necessary. When using a bait-casting machine, the landing position should be adjusted in advance.

1(b). For vessels <35 m total length

(i) A single tori line using either long and short streamers, or short streamers only shall be used.

(ii) Streamers shall be: brightly coloured long and/or short (but longer than 1m in length); streamers must be used and placed at intervals as follows:

(a) Long streamers placed at intervals of no more than 5m for the first 75 m of tori line.

(b) Short streamers placed at intervals of no more than 1m.

(iii) Long streamers should be attached to the line in a way that prevent streamers from wrapping around the line. All long streamers shall reach the sea-surface in calm conditions. Streamers may be modified over the first 15 m to avoid tangling.

(iv) Vessels shall deploy the tori line to achieve a minimum aerial extent of 75 m. To achieve this aerial extent the tori line shall be attached to a tori pole >6m above the sea surface located as close to the stern as practical. Sufficient drag must be created to maximise aerial extent and maintain the

line directly behind the vessel during crosswinds. To avoid tangling, this is best achieved using a long in-water section of rope or monofilament.

(vi) If two tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2. Tori lines (North of 23° North)

2(a). Long streamer

(i) Minimum length: 100 m.

(ii) Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of the point where the hookline enters the water.

(iii) Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.

(iv) Streamers must be less than 5m apart, be using swivels and long enough so that they are as close to the water as possible.

(v) If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2(b). Short streamer (for vessels >=24 m total length)

(i) Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.

(ii) Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.

(iii) Streamers must be less than 1m apart and be 30 cm minimum length.

(iv) If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the main line.

2(c). Short streamer (for vessels <24 m total length)

This design shall be reviewed no later than 3 years from the implementation date based on scientific data.

(i) Must be attached to the vessel such that it is suspended from a point a minimum of 5m above the water at the stern on the windward side of a point where the hookline enters the water.

(ii) Must be attached so that the aerial extent is maintained over the sinking baited hooks.

(iii) If streamers are used, it is encouraged to use the streamers designed to be less than 1m apart and be 30cm minimum length.

(iv) If two (i.e. paired) tori lines are used, the two lines must be deployed on opposing sides of the mainline.

3. Side setting with bird curtain and weighted branch lines

(a) Mainline deployed from port or starboard side as far from stern as practicable (at least 1m), and if mainline shooter is used, must be mounted at least 1m forward of the stern.

(b) When seabirds are present the gear must ensure that the mainline is deployed slack so that baited hooks remain submerged.

(c) Bird curtain must be employed:

(i) pole aft of line shooter at least 3m long;

(ii) minimum of three main streamers attached to upper 2m of pole;

(iii) main streamer diameter minimum 20mm;

(iv) branch streamers attached to end of each main streamer long enough to drag on water (no wind) – minimum diameter 10mm.

4. Night setting

(a) No setting between nautical dawn and before nautical dusk.

(b) Nautical dusk and nautical dawn are defined as set out in the Nautical Almanac tables for relevant latitude, local time and date.

(c) Deck lighting to be kept to a minimum. Minimum deck lighting should not breach minimum standards for safety and navigation.

5. Weighted branch lines

Following minimum weight specifications are required:

(a) one weight greater than or equal to 40g within 50cm of the hook; or

(b) greater than or equal to a total of 45g attached to within 1 m of the hook; or

(c) greater than or equal to a total of 60 g attached to within 3.5 m of the hook; or

(d) greater than or equal to a total of 98 g weight attached to within 4 m of the hook.

6. Hook-shielding devices

Hook-shielding devices encase the point and barb of baited hooks to prevent seabird attacks during line setting. The following devices have been approved for use in WCPFC fisheries:

Hookpods, which comply with the following performance characteristics:

(a) the device encases the point and barb of the hook until it reaches a depth of at least 10 metres or has been immersed for at least 10 minutes;

(b) the device meets current minimum standards for branch line weighting as specified in this Annex; and

(c) the device is designed to be retained on the fishing gear rather than being lost.

7. Management of offal discharge

(a) Either no offal discharge during setting or hauling;

(b)or strategic offal discharge from the opposite side of the boat to setting/hauling to actively encourage birds away from baited hooks.

8. Blue-dyed bait

(a) If using blue-dyed bait it must be fully thawed when dyed.

(b) The Commission Secretariat shall distribute a standardized colour placard.

(c) All bait must be dyed to the shade shown in the placard.

9. Deep setting line shooter

(a) Line shooters must be deployed such that the hooks are set substantially deeper than they would be without the use of the line shooter, and such that the majority of hooks reach depths of at least 100 m.