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To:	The President of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Fisheries Policy, to the European Ocean Pact and of the Union's maritime and aquaculture policy as part of the National and Regional Partnership Fund set out in Regulation (EU) [...] [NRP Fund] for the period from 2028 to 2034 [ST 11757/25 + COR 1 + COR 2 REV 1 + COR 3 - COM(2025)559] - Opinion on the application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality

Delegations will find enclosed the reasoned opinion[1] of the Irish Parliament on the above proposal; followed by a courtesy English translation.

The Commission reply will be available at the following address: https://national-parliaments-opinions.ec.europa.eu/home

Personal data have been redacted.

[1] Translation(s) of the opinion may be available on the Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange website (IPEX) at the following address: https://secure.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/document/COM-2025-0559

An Comhchoiste um Iascach agus Gnóthaí Muirí

An Cion Polaitiúil maidir le COM (2025) 559

Samhain 2025

Joint Committee on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs

Political Contribution onCOM (2025) 559

November 2025

34/JCFMA/03

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Réamhrá

1. Measann Comhchoiste an Oireachtais um Iascach agus Gnóthaí Muirí (“an Coiste”) COM (2025) 559[1] a bheith ríthábhachtach d’Éirinn agus don Aontas Eorpach.
2. Tugann an Coiste dá aire gur cuid de phacáiste tograí a bhaineann go ginearálta le saincheist an chreata airgeadais ilbhliantúil don tréimhse 2028-2034 an togra atá i gceist, agus nach mór grinnscrúdú ar COM (2025) 559 a bhreithniú i gcomhthéacs an phacáiste níos leithne sin.
3. I ndáil leis an méid sin, is díol sásaimh don Choiste an grinnscrúdú a cuireadh i bhfeidhm maidir le COM (2025) 565[2], a bhfuil dlúthbhaint aige le COM (2025) 559, is grinnscrúdú a rinne an Comhchoiste um Airgeadas, Caiteachas Poiblí, Athchóiriúchán Seirbhíse Poiblí agus Digitiúchán, agus an Taoiseach.

Grinnscrúdú ag an gComhchoiste

4. Rinne an Coiste an togra a bhreithniú den chéad uair ag a chruinniú an 30 Meán Fómhair 2025. Ag an gcruinniú sin, chomhaontaigh an Coiste go scríobhfaí chuig an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara chun tuilleadh faisnéise a iarraidh maidir leis an togra.

Breith an Chomhchoiste

5. Chomhaontaigh an Coiste an 22 Deireadh Fómhair 2025 an cion polaitiúil a dhréachtú agus cóip den chéanna a chur ar aghaidh chuig Máirtín Ó hÉideáin, T.D., an tAire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, chuig Ursula von der Leyen, Uachtarán an Choimisiúin Eorpaigh, chuig Roberta Metsola, CPE, Uachtarán Pharlaimint na hEorpa, agus chuig Uachtarán Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh.
6. Chomhaontaigh an Coiste thairis sin, ar mhaithe le comhar idirpharlaiminteach i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an Aontas Eorpach, go gcuirfear cóip den chion polaitiúil seo ar aghaidh chuig an gCoiste cuí i bParlaimint Náisiúnta gach Ballstáit de chuid an AE agus chuig comhaltaí na hÉireann de Pharlaimint na hEorpa.

[1] Togra le haghaidh RIALACHÁN Ó PHARLAIMINT NA hEORPA AGUS ÓN gCOMHAIRLE lena mbunaítear na coinníollacha maidir le cur chun feidhme thacaíocht an Aontais Eorpaigh don Chomhbheartas Iascaigh, don Chomhaontú Eorpach um an Aigéan agus do bheartas muirí agus dobharshaothraithe an Aontais mar chuid den Chiste Comhpháirtíochta Náisiúnta agus Réigiúnaí a leagtar amach i Rialachán (AE) [Ciste CNR] don tréimhse 2028 go 2034

[2] Togra le haghaidh RIALACHÁN Ó PHARLAIMINT NA hEORPA AGUS ÓN gCOMHAIRLE lena mbunaítear an Ciste Eorpach um chomhtháthú eacnamaíoch, sóisialta agus críochach, talmhaíocht agus gnóthaí tuaithe, iascach agus gnóthaí muirí, agus rathúnas agus slándáil don tréimhse 2028-2034 agus lena leasaítear Rialachán (AE) 2023/955 agus Rialachán (AE, Euratom) 2024/2509

Tuairim an Chomhchoiste

7. Tar éis dó an togra a bhreithniú go mion, cuireann an Coiste na tuairimí seo a leanas in iúl: -

   a. Measann an Coiste go bhfuil an cheist i dtaobh mhaoiniú an Aontais chun tacú leis an earnáil iascaigh agus mhuirí le haghaidh an chreata airgeadais ilbhliantúil don tréimhse 2028-2034 ríthábhachtach chun cur ar chumas na hÉireann an Comhbheartas Iascaigh a chur chun feidhme go hiomlán agus chun tacú le hacmhainneacht na hÉireann maidir le bainistiú inbhuanaithe iascaigh, bearta caomhnaithe iascaigh, taighde eolaíoch, bailiú sonraí iascaigh, rialú agus forfheidhmiú iascaigh, cur chun feidhme an Rialacháin maidir le Comheagrú na Margaí le haghaidh iascaigh agus dobharshaothraithe, próiseáil bia mara, dobharshaothrú agus forbairt áitiúil faoi stiúir an phobail i limistéir chósta.

   b. Go stairiúil, níor tugadh ach maoiniú íseal ó CEMID d'earnáil bia mara na hÉireann i gcomparáid le tíortha muirí eile.

   c. Go dtí go mbeidh toradh ar chaibidlíocht CAI, cuireadh an Coiste ar an eolas go bhféadfadh bearna mhaoinithe idir €35.4 milliún agus €88.4 milliún a bheith ann i ndáil le hearnáil bia mara na hÉireann.

   d. Is ionann an maoiniú atá imfhálaithe chun CBI a chur chun feidhme in Éirinn faoi *Fiche* 12 de chuid an Choimisiúin agus 38% de mhaoiniú coibhéiseach CEMID don tréimhse mhaoinithe reatha.

   e. Leis an leithdháileadh íseal imfhálaithe €2 bhilliún le haghaidh iascaigh, dar leis an eagraíocht ionadaíoch *Europeche*, "fágtar todhchaí na hearnála faoi thoil tosaíochtaí náisiúnta, lena mbaineann an baol go dtabharfaí tacaíocht mhíchothrom ar fud an Aontais agus cruthaítear éagothroime iomaíochta a bhaineann an bonn den iomaíocht chóir agus den chomhtháthú laistigh den mhargadh aonair".

   f. Measann an Coiste go ndéantar leis an gcreat aonair CAI atá beartaithe earnáil an iascaigh a chur san iomaíocht ar an leibhéal náisiúnta le haghaidh maoinithe, an bonn a bhaint de chumas na hearnála aghaidh a thabhairt ar na dúshláin atá ann faoi láthair, agus neamhaird a thabhairt ar cholún socheacnamaíoch an Chomhbheartais Iascaigh.

g. Tugann an Coiste dá aire nach léir an bhfuil maoiniú ar fáil le haghaidh sonraí iascaigh a bhailiú nó le haghaidh rialú agus forfheidhmiú iascaigh ar leibhéal na mBallstát faoi shaoráid an Aontais Eorpaigh.

h. Níl idirdhealú soiléir déanta sa togra idir bearta chun tacú le cur chun feidhme CBI agus bearta chun tacú le bearta faoin gComhaontú um an Aigéan, agus tá an baol ann go gcuirfear an earnáil bia mara in iomaíocht dhíreach leis an ngeilleagar gorm ina iomláine agus le tionscail eile atá níos mó. Measann an Coiste nach léiríonn sé sin tosaíochtaí straitéiseacha na hÉireann, ná ról ríthábhachtach an iascaigh i slándáil bia na hEorpa.

i. Níl forálacha sa togra maidir le treoir agus formhaoirsiú ón gCoimisiún chun bearta chur chun feidhme CBI a mhaoiniú ar bhealach atá cosúil leis na cinn sin atá ar áireamh ann le haghaidh chur chun feidhme CBT.

j. Ba cheart cothromú a dhéanamh idir tosaíocht an mhaoinithe d'iascaigh ar mhionscála agus an gá atá le soithí móra a nuachóiriú agus a oiriúnú, go háirithe i gcomhthéacs an dícharbónaithe. Ba mhaith leis an gCoiste go mbeadh béim sa bheartas mar bhonn taca le hiomaíochas agus athléimneacht earnála inbhuanaithe fhadtéarmach, lena n-áirítear comhdhlúthú cabhlaigh.

k. Níl an amlíne ar lena linn is dócha go nglacfaí leis an togra ag teacht leis na hamlínte ar lena linn a d'fhéadfaí CBI a athchóiriú, rud a d'fhéadfadh bac a chur ar an maoiniú atá ar fáil.

l. Measann an Coiste rannpháirtíocht fheabhsaithe le hEagraíochtaí Táirgeoirí na hÉireann, ar thaobh an Rialtais náisiúnta agus ar thaobh Choimisiún an Aontais Eorpaigh araon, a bheith ríthábhachtach ina leith sin agus i leith tograí buiséadacha gaolmhara.

m. Tugann an Coiste dá aire freisin go bhfuil CAI á chaibidliú i gcomhthéacs na ndúshlán eiseach atá roimh earnáil iascaigh na hÉireann i gcomhthéacs na laghduithe a bhfuiltear ag súil leo ar ghabháil iomlán incheadaithe speiceas peiligeach, ró-iascaireacht mhífhreagrach a dhéanann stáit chósta nach bhfuil san Aontas Eorpach, agus tionchair leanúnacha Brexit. Measann an Coiste go bhfuil ról ríthábhachtach ag earnáil an iascaigh i gcultúr agus in oidhreacht phobail chósta na hÉireann atá i mbaol. Dá réir sin, measann an Coiste go bhfuil gá le rannpháirtíocht shuntasach sna tograí ón gCoimisiún sa réimse sin.

Moltaí an Chomhchoiste

8. Molann an Coiste go ndéanfaí an togra a leasú chun idirdhealú soiléir a dhéanamh idir bearta a thacaíonn le CBI i gcomparáid leis an gComhshocrú um an Aigéan, agus idir riachtanais thionscal na hiascaireachta agus an chuid eile den gheilleagar gorm. Molann an Coiste freisin go gcuirfí soiléireacht ar fáil maidir le maoiniú le haghaidh bailiú, rialú agus forfheidhmiú sonraí iascaigh, go dtabharfaí treoir agus bearta formhaoirsithe ón gCoimisiún maidir le CBI i gcomhréir leo siúd a bhaineann le CBT, agus go n-áireofaí riachtanais nuachóirithe na mbád níos mó i dteannta riachtanais an chabhlaigh ar mhionscála.

9. Molann an Coiste go ndéanfaí méadú mór ar an méid atá imfhálaithe chun CBI a chur chun feidhme, agus é a thabhairt ar a laghad i gcomhréir le leibhéil CEMID, agus chun go ndéanfar bearta práinneacha nua lena bhfreagrófar don damáiste díréireach a dhéantar do thionscal na hÉireann trí ró-iascaireacht a dhéanamh ar stáit chósta nach Ballstáit den Aontas Eorpach iad.

10. Ina theannta sin, molann an Coiste rannpháirtíocht fheabhsaithe le hEagraíochtaí Táirgeoirí na hÉireann agus le páirtithe leasmhara eile a dhéanann ionadaíocht ar phobail chósta agus oileáin.

[redacted]

[redacted]
Cathaoirleach
An Comhchoiste um Iascach agus Gnóthaí Muirí
04 Samhain 2025

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Introduction

1. The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs ("the Committee") considers COM (2025) 559[3] to be significantly important to Ireland and the EU.
2. The Committee notes that the proposal in question is part of a package of proposals broadly related to the issue of the multiannual financial framework for the period 2028 – 2034, and scrutiny of COM (2025) 559 must be considered in the context of this wider package.
3. In this regard the Committee welcomes the scrutiny applied to COM (2025) 565[4], which is closely related to COM (2025) 559, by the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure, Public Services Reform and Digitalisation, and Taoiseach.

Scrutiny by the Joint Committee

4. The Committee first considered the proposal at its meeting on 30th September 2025. At this meeting the Committee agreed to write to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to request further information on the proposal.

Decision of the Joint Committee

5. On 22nd October 2025, the Committee also agreed to draft a political contribution and to forward a copy to Martin Heydon T.D. Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, Roberta Metsola MEP, President of the European Parliament, and to the President of the Council of the European Union.
6. The Committee further agreed that, in the interests of interparliamentary cooperation on EU matters, a copy of this report be forwarded to the appropriate Committee in the National Parliament of each EU Member State and to Ireland's MEPs.

[3] Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the conditions for the implementation of the Union support to the Common Fisheries Policy, to the European Ocean Pact and of the Union's maritime and aquaculture policy as part of the National and Regional Partnership Fund set out in Regulation (EU) [NRP Fund] for the period from 2028 to 2034

[4] Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the period 2028-2034 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 and Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509

Opinion of the Joint Committee

7. Having considered the proposal in detail, the Committee makes the following observations: -

    a. The Committee considers that the question of EU funding in support of the fisheries and maritime sector for the multiannual financial framework for the period 2028 – 2034 to be of critical importance in enabling Ireland to fully implement the Common Fisheries Policy and to support Ireland's capacity in sustainable management of fisheries, fisheries conservation measures, scientific research, fisheries data collection, fisheries control and enforcement, implementation of the Common Market Organisation Regulation for fisheries and aquaculture, seafood processing, aquaculture, and community led local development in coastal areas.

    b. The Irish seafood sector has historically received low EMFAF funding in relation to other maritime countries.

    c. Pending the outcome of MFF negotiations, the Committee has been briefed that there may be a funding gap of between €35.4 million and €88.4 million in relation to Ireland's seafood sector.

    d. The funding ring-fenced for implementation of CFP in Ireland under Commission Fiche 12 equates to 38% of equivalent EMFAF funding for the current funding period.

    e. The low ring-fenced allocation of €2 billion for fisheries, according to representative organisation Europeche, "places the future of the sector at the mercy of national priorities, risking uneven support across the EU and creating an unlevel playing field that undermines fair competition and cohesion within the single market".

    f. The Committee considers that the proposed single MFF framework places the fisheries sector in competition at national level for funding, undermines the sector's ability to address current challenges, and disregards the socio-economic pillar of the Common Fisheries Policy.

    g. The Committee notes that it is unclear whether funding is available for fisheries data collection or fisheries control and enforcement at member state level under the EU facility.

h. The proposal lacks a clear distinction between measures to support CFP implementation and those to support measures under the Ocean Pact, and risks placing the seafood sector in direct competition with the whole of the blue economy and other bigger industries. The Committee considers this does not reflect Ireland's strategic priorities, nor the critical role of fisheries in European food security.

i. The proposal lacks provisions for Commission guidance and oversight for funding of CFP implementation measures in a similar manner to those included for CAP implementation.

j. Prioritisation of funding for small-scale fisheries should be balanced against the need to modernise and adapt larger vessels particularly in the context of decarbonisation. The Committee would like to see a policy emphasis underpinning long-term sustainable sectoral competitiveness and resilience, including fleet consolidation.

k. The likely timeline for adoption does not match timelines for potential CFP reform, which may inhibit funding available.

l. The Committee considers that enhanced engagement with Irish Producer Organisations, both on the part of national Government and the EU Commission is essential for this and the related budgetary proposals.

m. The Committee further notes that the MFF is being negotiated in the context of existential challenges facing the Irish fisheries sector in the context of anticipated reductions in total allowable catch of pelagic species, irresponsible overfishing by non-EU coastal states, and the ongoing impacts of Brexit. The Committee considers that the fisheries sector plays a vital role in the culture and heritage of at-risk Irish coastal communities. As such, the Committee considers that the Commission's proposals in this area merit significant engagement.

Recommendations of the Joint Committee

8. The Committee recommends that the proposal be amended to provide clear distinctions between measures that support the CFP versus the Ocean Pact, and between the needs of the fishing industry and the rest of the blue economy. The Committee also recommends that clarity be provided regarding funding for fisheries data collection, control, and enforcement, that Commission guidance and oversight measures for CFP be brought in line with those for CAP, and that the modernisation needs of larger boats be included alongside those of the small-scale fleet.
9. The Committee recommends a large increase to the amount ring-fenced for CFP implementation, bringing it at least in line with EMFAF levels, and for urgent new measures responding to the disproportionate damage done to Ireland's industry by the overfishing of non-EU coastal states.
10. The Committee further recommends for enhanced engagement with Irish Producer Organisations and other stakeholders representing coastal and island communities.

[redacted]

[redacted]
Cathaoirleach
Joint Committee on Fisheries and Maritime Affairs
4 November 2025