



Brussels, 28 November 2025  
(OR. en)

15905/25

LIMITE

PECHE 417

---

---

**Interinstitutional File:  
2025/0285 (NLE)**

---

---

**NOTE**

---

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| From:           | General Secretariat of the Council   |
| To:             | Delegations  |
| No. prev. doc.: | 13077/25; 15685/25   |
| Subject:        | Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for 2026<br>- Consolidated version |

---

Delegations will find attached a consolidated version of the above-mentioned Proposal.

Delegations are kindly asked to verify this consolidated version which includes the information provided in the form of a non-paper.

From this moment onwards, further comments should refer to this consolidated version.

N.B. For technical reasons, this document contains no track changes.

Proposal for a

**COUNCIL REGULATION**

**fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas for 2026**

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 those fishing opportunities, as appropriate. Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 provides that fishing opportunities are to be allocated to Member States in such a way as to ensure the relative stability of fishing activities of each Member State for each fish stock or fishery. Article 16(4) of that Regulation provides that fishing opportunities are to be fixed in accordance with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy set out in Article 2(2) of that Regulation.
- (2) Therefore, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the fishing opportunities should be set on the basis of available scientific advice, taking into account biological and socioeconomic aspects whilst ensuring fair treatment between fishing sectors, as well as the opinions expressed during consultations with stakeholders.
- (3) At its 47th annual meeting in 2024, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) adopted Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/1 which establishes long-term management measures for European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) as foreseen by Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/16 on a long-term management plan for European eel (GFCM geographical subareas (“GFCM GSAs”) 1 to 27). Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/1 maintains, for 2026, the six-month closure period for commercial fisheries and a ban on recreational fisheries. Furthermore, that Recommendation limits the commercial fishing activities for glass eels to a period of two months and allows such fishing only under certain conditions. Those measures are to apply to all marine waters of the Mediterranean Sea and to freshwaters, as well as to brackish waters, including estuaries, coastal lagoons and transitional waters, in accordance with that Recommendation. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

- (4) At its 47th annual meeting in 2024, the GFCM also adopted Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/2 which establishes long-term measures for the sustainable exploitation of red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) as foreseen by Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/4 on a management plan for the sustainable exploitation of red coral in the Mediterranean Sea (GFCM GSAs 1 to 27). Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/2 maintains for 2026 the freezing of fishing effort expressed as a maximum number of fishing authorisations and harvest limits for red coral. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (5) At its 46th annual meeting in 2023, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/14 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the Mediterranean Sea (geographical subareas 1 to 27). That Recommendation introduced, consistent with the precautionary approach and for a transitional period of 2024 to 2026, a fleet capacity ceiling, a freeze of fish aggregating devices (FADs) capacity per vessel, a catch limit and a temporal closure. For recreational fisheries, Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/14 further provides that a daily bag limit is to be observed as well as a prohibition period for recreational fisheries. Those measures were implemented in Union law since 2024 by means of Council Regulation (EU) 2024/259 and Council Regulation (EU) 2025/219. Those measures should continue to be implemented in Union law for 2026. Those measures are without prejudice to the management measures that may be proposed by the Scientific Advisory Committee within GFCM for the long-term management plan for the period 2027–2031.
- (6) Regulation (EU) 2019/1022<sup>4</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council established a multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea (GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11). That plan sets out targets and measures for the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of stocks covered by it. This includes measures to reach and maintain the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for target stocks, ensuring that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains populations of harvested species above levels which can produce the MSY.
- (7) In accordance with Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022, fishing opportunities for stocks listed in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 should be set within the range of fishing mortality values resulting in MSY (ranges of  $F_{MSY}$ ), or at a lower level, and in accordance with the safeguards provided for in that Regulation. The ranges of  $F_{MSY}$  are set out in the relevant STECF advice. Where no adequate scientific information is available, fishing opportunities for stocks referred to in Article 1(2) and Article 1(3) of that Regulation should be fixed in accordance with the precautionary approach to fisheries management, in accordance with Article 4(6) of that Regulation.
- (8) Moreover, fishing opportunities are to be expressed, on the one hand, as a maximum allowable fishing effort for trawlers and longliners, set in accordance with the fishing effort regime laid down in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022, and, on the other hand, as maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) and giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha*

---

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for the fisheries exploiting demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean Sea and amending Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, OJ L 172, 26.6.2019, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/1022/oj>.

*foliacea*) in deep waters, all set in accordance with scientific advice and Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

- (9a) STECF<sup>1</sup> advised that, in order to achieve the MSY targets in 2026 for all the Western Mediterranean fish stocks, further significant reductions of fishing mortality are necessary for trawlers. In addition, STECF indicated<sup>2</sup> differences in the status of the most vulnerable stock in each stock group and considered that the fishing mortality needs to be reduced differently between effort management units (EMU), namely EMU 1 (GSAs 1-2-5-6-7) and EMU 2 (8-9-10-11). STECF advised that, for the most vulnerable stocks (Norway lobster in GSA 6 and Norway lobster in GSA 11), the fishing mortality reductions should be respectively 65% in GSA 6 and 64% in GSA 11 to achieve Fmsy in 2026. Based on such advice, for 2026, the maximum allowable fishing effort of trawlers for each fishing effort group should therefore be reduced by 65% in EMU 1 and by 64% in EMU 2 compared to the maximum allowable fishing effort established for 2025 by Council Regulation (EU) 2025/219.
- (9b) Considering that the most vulnerable stock in each EMU is not present in all GSAs, it is therefore appropriate to compensate, in the respective GSAs, fishing vessels not fishing the most vulnerable stock. Consequently, it is appropriate to ensure a level-playing field between GSAs taking into account which stock is the most vulnerable stock in GSAs other than GSA 6 and GSA 11, the contribution of each GSA to the fishing mortality of the said stock at the level of the EMU and the requirement that all stocks need to be at Fmsy.
- (10) In order to promote the use of selectivity of fishing gear and to establish efficient closure areas to protect juveniles and spawners, Council Regulation (EU) 2022/1105 established a compensation mechanism in relation to the effort regime for trawlers. As STECF continues to recommend for 2026 the further improvement of selectivity of fishing gear and of efficiency of closure areas to protect juvenile fish and spawners, and as those measures have a demonstrated impact on the fishing mortality, Member States should be able to allocate additional fishing days to a fishing vessel if it complies with at least one of such measures set at national level. The Member State concerned shall not allocate additional fishing days that would result in exceeding the level of fishing effort set for the relevant fishing effort group by Regulation (EU) 2024/259.
- (10a) In 2025, STECF advised that longliners have an impact on European hake spawners, in particular in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11. In GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7, it is therefore appropriate to maintain, for 2026, the maximum allowable fishing effort for longliners at the levels set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219, on the basis of Article 7(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022. In GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11, it is appropriate to reduce, for 2026, the maximum allowable fishing effort for longliners by 25 % in comparison with the maximum allowable fishing effort set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219, on the basis of Article 7(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022.
- (10b) In 2025, STECF advised that the fishing mortality of blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 remains far from sustainable levels and that further management measures are thus required in addition to fishing effort reduction. To build on the measures adopted in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and in accordance with Article 16(4) of the Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, it is therefore appropriate to complement the fishing effort regime with maximum

---

<sup>1</sup> STECF 25-09 pages 14-23.

<sup>2</sup> STECF 25-09 pages 14-23.

catch limits and to set the maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 at the same level compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219.

- (10c) In 2025, STECF advised that further management measures for blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 are required in addition to fishing effort reduction. It is therefore appropriate to complement the fishing effort regime with maximum catch limits, to build on the measures adopted in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and in accordance with Article 16(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013. The maximum catch limits for blue and red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 should be maintained at the same level compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219.
- (10d) In 2025, STECF advised that further management measures for giant red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 are required in addition to fishing effort reduction. It is therefore appropriate to complement the fishing effort regime with maximum catch limits, to build on the measures adopted in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and to set the maximum catch limits for giant red shrimp in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 at the same level compared to the fishing opportunities set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219.
- (11) In accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022, where scientific advice shows that the spawning stock biomass of any of the stocks referred to in Article 1(2) of that Regulation is below the precautionary biomass reference point ( $B_{PA}$ ), or is below the limit biomass reference point ( $B_{LIM}$ ), remedial measures are to be taken to ensure the rapid return of the stocks to levels above those capable of producing MSY. In 2025, STECF concluded that seven of the concerned stocks have a spawning stock biomass outside safe biological limits (Norway lobster in GSA 6, 9 and 11; hake in 1-5-6-7 and hake in 8-9-10-11; blue and red shrimp in GSAs 6 and 7 and striped red mullet in GSA 5). Therefore, remedial measures should be implemented, namely catch limits for European hake for fishing vessels using gillnets and trammel nets, prohibition to use the otter-twin trawls and introduction of minimum conservation reference size for Norway lobster.
- (12) At its 44th annual meeting in 2021, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/20 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM GSAs 17 and 18), which introduced from 2022 to 2029 a maximum level of catches and a related fleet capacity ceiling for purse seiners and pelagic trawlers targeting small pelagics. Those measures that relate to 2026 should be implemented in Union law.
- (13) At its 48<sup>th</sup> annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/5 on a long-term fishing regime and the establishment of catch limits in 2026 for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM GSAs 17 and 18), amending Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/20 and repealing Recommendations GFCM/42/2018/8, GFCM/40/2016/3, GFCM/39/2015/1, GFCM/38/2014/1, GFCM/37/2013/1 and GFCM/30/2006/1. That recommendation established for 2026 catch limits for anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) and sardines (*Sardina pilchardus*), in line with the harvest control rules. The allocation among Member States should be based on the historical catches of each Member State. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (14) At its 43rd annual meeting in 2019, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5 on a multiannual management plan for sustainable demersal fisheries in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM GSAs 17 and 18), which introduced a fishing effort regime and a fleet capacity ceiling

for certain demersal stocks, as well as an obligation to reach Fmsy for the key stocks in 2026. Therefore, those measures that relate to 2026 should be implemented in Union law.

- (15) At its 48<sup>th</sup> annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/6 on the implementation of a fishing effort regime for key demersal stocks in the Adriatic Sea (GFCM GSAs 17 and 18) in 2026, stemming from Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5. That recommendation provides for a reduction of the fishing effort regime for otter-trawlers by 9.6 % and an increase of 3% of the 2025 effort levels for beam-trawlers. In order to implement those measures into Union law, 9.6% should therefore be deducted from the maximum allowable fishing effort for otter-trawlers set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219 and the maximum allowable fishing effort for beam-trawlers should be increased by 3% compared to 2025 levels. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (16) Taking into account the particularities of the Slovenian fleet and its marginal impact on the stocks of small pelagic and demersal stocks, and in accordance with paragraph 33 of Recommendation GFCM/44/2021/20 and paragraph 13 of Recommendation GFCM/43/2019/5, it is appropriate to preserve existing fishing patterns and to ensure access by the Slovenian fleet to a minimum quantity of small pelagic species and a minimum effort allocation for demersal stocks.
- (17) At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/4 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily (GFCM GSAs 12 to 16), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/12 and GFCM/42/2018/5. Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/4 introduced an effort regime for European hake and catch limits for deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*), as well as a fishing capacity freeze. Those measures that relate to 2026 should be implemented in Union law.
- (18) At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/2 on the extension of the transitional period of the multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily (GFCM GSAs 12 to 16), amending Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/4. That Recommendation provides for the extension by one year of the transitional period of the management plan and maintains for 2026 the fishing opportunities set in 2025. In order to implement those measures into Union law, maximum level of catches set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219 should therefore be maintained for 2026. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (19) At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/5 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp stocks in the Strait of Sicily (GFCM GSAs 12 to 16), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/7 and GFCM/43/2019/6. Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/5 introduced a catch limit and a fishing capacity freeze. Those measures that relate to 2026 should be implemented in Union law.
- (20) At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/9 on the extension of the transitional period of the multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp stocks (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Strait of Sicily (GFCM GSAs 12 to 16), amending Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/5. That Recommendation provides for the extension by one year of the transitional period of the management plan and a 3% reduction of the fishing opportunities in 2026. In order to implement those measures into Union law, 3% should

therefore be deducted from the maximum level of catches set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

- (21) At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/6 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp stocks in the Ionian Sea (GFCM GSAs 19 to 21), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/8 and GFCM/42/2018/4. Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/6 introduced a catch limit and a fishing capacity freeze. Those measures that relate to 2026 should be implemented in Union law.
- (22) At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/3 on the extension of the transitional period of the multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Ionian Sea (GFCM GSAs 19 to 21), amending Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/6. That Recommendation provides for the extension by one year of the transitional period of the management plan and a 3% reduction of the fishing opportunities in 2026. In order to implement those measures into Union law, a 3% should therefore be deducted from the maximum level of catches set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (23) At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/7 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp stocks in the Levant Sea (GFCM GSAs 24 to 27), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/6 and GFCM/42/2018/3. Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/7 introduced a catch limit and a fishing capacity freeze. Those measures that relate to 2026 should be implemented in Union law.
- (23a) At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/4 on the extension of the transitional period of the multiannual management plan for sustainable demersal trawl fisheries targeting giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Levant Sea (GFCM GSAs 24 to 27), amending Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/7. That Recommendation provides for the extension by one year of the transitional period of the management plan and a 3% reduction of the fishing opportunities in 2026. In order to implement those measures into Union law, 3% should therefore be deducted from the maximum level of catches set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (24) At its 45th annual meeting in 2022, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/3 on a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in the Alboran Sea (GFCM GSAs 1 to 3), repealing Recommendations GFCM/44/2021/4, GFCM/43/2019/2 and GFCM/41/2017/2. That Recommendation introduced a maximum number of longliners and handliners authorised for fishing in Alboran Sea. That measure should be implemented in Union law.
- (24a) At its 48th annual session in 2025, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/48/2025/7 on a long-term fishing regime for blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in the Alboran Sea (GFCM GSAs 1 to 3), stemming from Recommendation GFCM/45/2022/3 and repealing Recommendations GFCM/47/2024/3 and GFCM/46/2023/15. That recommendation introduced a reduction of 56% of the catch limits for that stock for 2026. In order to implement those measures into Union law, 56% should therefore be deducted from the maximum level

of catches set for 2025 by Regulation (EU) 2025/219. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

- (25) Based on the scientific advice provided by the GFCM Working Group for the Black Sea, the current quota for sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) should be maintained to ensure the sustainability of sprat stocks in the Black Sea (GFCM GSA 29). It is therefore appropriate to continue setting an autonomous quota for this stock.
- (26) At its 47th annual meeting in 2024, the GFCM adopted Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/8 amending Recommendations GFCM/43/2019/3 and GFCM/41/2017/4 on a multiannual management plan for turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*) fisheries in the Black Sea (GFCM GSA 29). Recommendation GFCM/47/2024/8 introduced an updated regional total allowable catch (TAC) and a quota allocation scheme for turbot. In accordance with Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/4, the two-month closure period and the limitation of fishing days to 180 per year are functionally linked to the fishing opportunities. Those measures that relate to 2026 should be implemented in Union law, as, without those measures, the TAC would have to be set at another level.
- (26a) At its 48th annual meeting in 2025, the GFCM approved a carry-over of the unused Union quota for turbot in 2024. That measure should be implemented in Union law. The allocation of such fishing opportunities among Member States should be based on the respective contribution of each Member State to the unused quota, without modifying the allocation key established by Regulation (EU) 2024/259 concerning the annual allocation of TAC.
- (27) The use of fishing opportunities available to Union fishing vessels set out in this Regulation is subject to Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009<sup>6</sup>, and in particular to Articles 33 and 34 thereof concerning the recording of catches and fishing efforts and the notification of data on the exhaustion of fishing opportunities. It is therefore necessary to specify the codes to be used by Member States when sending data relating to landings of stocks subject to this Regulation to the Commission.
- (28) In order to avoid the interruption of fishing activities and to ensure the livelihood of Union fishers, this Regulation should apply from 1 January 2026. For reasons of urgency, this Regulation should enter into force on the day following that of its publication,

---

<sup>6</sup> 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>.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

## TITLE I

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### *Article 1*

##### **Scope**

1. This Regulation applies to Union fishing vessels operating in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and exploiting the following fish stocks:
  - (a) European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) and common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) in the Mediterranean Sea;
  - (b) blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*), deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*), giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*), European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) and red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*) in the western Mediterranean Sea;
  - (c) anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) and sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) in the Adriatic Sea;
  - (d) European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*), common sole (*Solea solea*), deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) and red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*) in the Adriatic Sea;
  - (e) European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) in the Strait of Sicily;
  - (f) giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Strait of Sicily, in the Ionian Sea and in the Levant Sea;
  - (g) blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in the Alboran Sea;
  - (h) sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) and turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*) in the Black Sea.
2. This Regulation also applies to other Union fishing activities, including recreational fisheries, where they are expressly referred to in the relevant provisions.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this Regulation, the definitions laid down in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 apply. In addition, the following definitions apply:

- (a) ‘international waters’ means waters falling outside the sovereignty or jurisdiction of any State;
- (b) ‘recreational fisheries’ means non-commercial fishing activities exploiting marine living aquatic resources for recreation, tourism or sport;
- (c) ‘total allowable catch’ (TAC) means:
- (i) in fisheries subject to the exemption of the landing obligation referred to in Article 15(4) to (7) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, the quantity of fish that can be landed from each stock each year;
  - (ii) in all other fisheries, the quantity of fish that can be caught from each stock over the period of a year
- (d) ‘quota’ means a proportion of the TAC allocated to the Union or a Member State;
- (e) ‘Union autonomous quota’ means a catch limit autonomously allocated to Union fishing vessels in the absence of an agreed TAC;
- (f) ‘analytical quota’ means a Union autonomous quota for which an analytical assessment is available;
- (g) ‘analytical assessment’ means a quantitative evaluation of trends in a given stock, based on data about the stock’s biology and exploitation, which scientific review has indicated to be of sufficient quality to provide scientific advice on options for future catches;
- (h) ‘fish aggregating device’ (FAD) means any anchored equipment floating on the sea surface with the objective of attracting fish.

### *Article 3*

#### **Fishing zones**

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following fishing zone definitions apply:

- (a) ‘GFCM geographical subareas’ mean the areas specified in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>7</sup>;
- (b) ‘Mediterranean Sea’ means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 1 to 27 specified in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;
- (c) ‘western Mediterranean Sea’ means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 specified in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;

---

<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/2124 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 October 2023 on certain provisions for fishing in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Agreement area (recast) (OJ L, 2023/2124, 12.10.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2124/oj>).

- (d) ‘Adriatic Sea’ means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 17 and 18 specified in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;
- (e) ‘Strait of Sicily’ means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 specified in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;
- (f) ‘Ionian Sea’ means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 19, 20 and 21 specified in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;
- (g) ‘Levant Sea’ means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 24, 25, 26 and 27 specified in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;
- (h) ‘Alboran Sea’ means the waters in GFCM geographical subareas 1, 2 and 3 specified in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124;
- (i) ‘Black Sea’ means the waters in GFCM geographical subarea 29 specified in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2124.

## TITLE II

# FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS

## CHAPTER I

### Mediterranean Sea

#### *Article 4* **European eel**

1. This Article applies to the GFCM geographical subareas 1 to 27, to brackish waters and to freshwaters. Brackish waters include estuaries, coastal lagoons and transitional waters.
2. It shall be prohibited to engage in commercial fishing activities for European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) of an overall length of more than 12 cm, either as a targeted species or as incidental by-catch, for a period of at least six months in 2026. To that effect, each Member State concerned shall determine one or more closure periods subject to the following:
  - (a) where appropriate, the closure period or periods may differ within one Member State from one fishing area to another in order to take account of the geographical and temporal migration pattern of European eel at its different life stages;

(b) the closure period or periods shall last either at least six consecutive months, or a total of six months in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 3;

(c) the closure period or periods shall be consistent with the conservation objectives set out in Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007<sup>8</sup>, with national management plans in place and with the temporal migration patterns of European eel at the respective life stage in the Member State concerned.

3. The closure period referred shall be from 1 January to 31 March 2026, and an additional closure period of three months shall be established by each Member State concerned to take place between 1 April and 30 November 2026.

4. Commercial fishing activities for European eel of an overall length of less than 12 cm shall be authorized annually for a period of two months, and those fishing activities shall be monitored by an agreed scientific institution which shall supervise data collection and analysis.

5. The maximum number of fishing authorizations and the maximum number of passive gears authorized to target European eel of an overall length of less than 12 cm for commercial purposes shall not exceed the respective levels set out in Annex I.

6. Recreational fisheries of European eel at all life stages shall be prohibited.

7. Each Member State concerned shall inform the Commission of:

(a) the closure period or closure periods that it has determined in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 by 1 March 2026;

(b) the national measures relating to the closure period or closure periods that it has determined in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3, within two weeks after their adoption;

(c) the period authorised to fish for European eel of an overall length of less than 12 cm in accordance with paragraph 4, by 1 March 2026.

---

<sup>8</sup> 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>.

*Article 5*  
**Red coral**

This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels harvesting red coral (*Corallium rubrum*) in the Mediterranean Sea.

For targeted fisheries, the maximum number of fishing authorisations and the maximum quantities of red coral stocks harvested by Union fishing vessels and Union harvesting activities shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex II.

*Article 6*  
**Common dolphinfish**

1. This Article applies to all commercial pelagic fishing activities by Union fishing vessels targeting common dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*) by using FADs in the Mediterranean Sea.

It also applies to recreational fisheries of common dolphinfish in the Mediterranean Sea.

2. The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and gross tonnage (GT), of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for common dolphinfish is set out in Annex III, point (a).

3. The maximum number of FADs per vessel authorised to fish for common dolphinfish is set out in Annex III, point (b).

4. The maximum level of catches of common dolphinfish shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex III, point (c).

5. Recreational fisheries of common dolphin shall be allowed from 15 August to 31 December under the following conditions:

- a) no more than five specimens may be caught and retained per fisher per day; or
- b) no more than 10 kg in total may be caught and retained per fisher per day.

## CHAPTER II

### Western Mediterranean Sea

#### *Article 7*

#### **Demersal stocks**

1. This Article applies to all fishing activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching demersal stocks referred to in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 in the western Mediterranean Sea.
2. The maximum allowable fishing effort for trawlers and longliners is set out in Annex IV, point 1. Member States shall manage the maximum allowable fishing effort in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022 and Articles 26 to 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.
3. The maximum catch limits for deep-water shrimps in the Alboran Sea, Balearic Islands, Northern Spain and Gulf of Lion are set out in Annex IV, point 2(a).
4. The maximum catch limits for deep-waters shrimps in Corsica Island, Ligurian Sea, Tyrrhenian Sea and Sardinia Island are set out in Annex IV, point 2(b).
5. The allocation of fishing opportunities among Member States as set out in Annex IV 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 or under Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013;
  - (d) quantities withheld in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 or 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.

#### *Article 8a*

#### **Compensation mechanism at GSA level**

1. For the fleet segment concerned, a Member State may grant in 2026 to eligible vessels flying its flag an additional allocation of fishing days calculated in accordance with paragraph 2, as follows:
  - (a) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 1 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026, a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 31%.
  - (b) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 5 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026, a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 61%.
  - (c) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 7 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026, a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 47%.
  - (d) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 8 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026, a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 63%.
  - (e) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 9 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026 a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 6%.
  - (f) If the vessel was fishing in 2025 exclusively in GSA 10 and continues fishing only in that GSA in 2026, a Member State may increase its allocation of fishing days by 49%.

2. The additional allocation of fishing days shall be calculated based on the maximum allowable fishing effort set in Regulation (EU) 2025/219 proportionally to the relevant number of eligible vessels concerned.

#### *Article 8b*

#### **Compensation mechanism**

1. For the fleet segment concerned, a Member State may grant in 2026 to eligible vessels flying its flag an additional allocation of fishing days as provided for in paragraph 2 and calculated in accordance with paragraphs 7 and 8, provided that the vessel receiving the additional allocation fulfils one or more of the following conditions set at national level:
  - a. it uses a trawl net with a square mesh codend of at least 45 mm fishing in the continental shelf and upper slope;
  - b. it uses a trawl net with a square mesh codend of at least 50 mm fishing in deep-waters;
  - c. the vessel's activity is subject to a closure period prohibiting fishing activities for trawlers between depths 100 m to 500 m for at least six continuous weeks between May and September;
  - d. the vessel's activity is subject to a prohibition to conduct fishing activities for trawlers in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 for at least four continuous weeks between May and October;
  - e. the vessel's activity is subject to a closure period prohibiting fishing activity for trawlers in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 for at least four continuous weeks between May and October;
  - f. the vessel's fishing grounds fall within a 12-month prohibition to conduct fishing activities in an area covering at least 5 % of its fishing grounds between depths 100 m and 500 m;
  - g. the vessel's fishing grounds fall within a temporary closure area established in order to reduce by at least 20 % catches of spawners of European hake;

- h. the vessel's fishing grounds fall within a temporary closure area established in order to reduce by at least 25 % catches of juveniles of all demersal species or by at least 20 % catches of spawners of all demersal species;
- i. the vessel's fishing grounds are subject to a permanent closure for fishing activity with trawlers fishing for blue and red shrimp and giant red shrimp in deep-waters at a depth below 600 m;
- j. the vessel uses a trawl with flying, mid-waters doors, low-contact otter boards or other doors which reduce the contact of the doors and the gear with the seabed, to preserve the essential fish habitats of the demersal species;
- k. the vessel uses a highly selective gear, the technical specifications of which results in, according to a study by STECF, a reduction of at least 25 % of catches of juveniles of all demersal species or at least 20 % of spawners of all demersal species compared to 2020, such as a sorting grid with 20 mm spacing.
- l. the vessel's fishing grounds are subject to a minimum 10% permanent closure, between depths of 300-600m, for fishing activity with trawlers fishing for Norway lobster in GFCM GSAs 6, 9 and 11.

2. The allocation of additional fishing days referred to in paragraph 1 shall be calculated as follows:

- a. if a fishing vessel fulfils the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (a), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 9,3 % and in cases where the vessel is implementing that measure before 1 May 2026, the allocation of fishing days may be increased by 18,6 %; in cases where vessels representing in total more than 40 % of the fleet of the Member State concerned are implementing that measure before 1 May 2026, the Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 25 %; and in cases where that measure applies to all vessels of the Member State concerned before 1 May 2026, the Member State may increase the allocation of the fishing days by 30 %.

A Member State may increase by 33% the allocation of fishing days of a vessel that has already implemented this condition in 2025 and continues to implement it in 2026 without interruption; this percentage cannot be cumulated with the percentages in the preceding subparagraph.

If a fishing vessel is involved both in coastal and deep-water fishing activities, the number of additional fishing days allocated to a vessel should be calculated using a prorata when both 45 mm and 50 mm types of trawl nets are used by the same vessel during the year;

- b. if a fishing vessel fulfils the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (b), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 15,4 % and in cases where the vessel is implementing that measure before 1 May 2026, the allocation of fishing days may be increased by 30,8 %; where vessels representing in total more than 40 % of the fleet of the Member State concerned are implementing that measure before 1 May 2026, the Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 40 % and where that measure applies to all vessels of the Member State concerned before 1 May 2026, the Member State may increase the allocation of the fishing days by 50 %.

A Member State may increase by 55% the allocation of fishing days of a vessel that has already implemented this condition in 2025 and continues to implement it in 2026 without interruption; this percentage cannot be cumulated with the percentages in the preceding subparagraph.

If a fishing vessel is involved both in coastal and deep-water fishing activities, the number of additional fishing days allocated to a vessel should be calculated using a prorata when both 45 mm and 50 mm types of trawl nets are used by the same vessel during the year;

- c. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (c), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 10 %; a Member State may increase by 2% the allocation of fishing days of a fishing vessel that has already been subject to this condition in 2025 and continues to be subject to it in 2026.
- d. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (d), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 6.6 %;
- e. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (e), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 6.6 %.
- f. if the vessel's is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (f), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 4 %.
- g. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (g), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 13 %; a Member State may increase by 2% the allocation of fishing days of a fishing vessel that has already been subject this condition in 2025 and continues to be subject to it in 2026.
- h. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (h), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 3 %;
- i. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (i), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 6 %;
- j. if a vessel fulfils the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (j), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 3 %.
- k. if a vessel fulfils the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (k), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 3 %.
- l. if the vessel's activity is subject to the condition set out in paragraph 1, point (l), a Member State may increase the allocation of fishing days by 8 %.

3. Member States shall submit to the Commission the draft national legislation relating to the selected conditions for the compensation mechanism at least one month before its adoption.
4. Member States shall submit the following information to the Commission:
  - (b) the list of fishing vessels flying their flag that fulfil any of the conditions referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2; and
  - (b) the related number of additional fishing days.
5. The notification of the additional allocation of fishing days shall be submitted to the Commission no later than 30 June 2026. If the Member State concerned submits to the Commission its notification of additional allocation of fishing days after 30 June 2026, the percentages specified in paragraph 2 shall be halved.

6. Member States shall separately notify every month to the Commission the effort deployed to be counted against the additional allocation referred to in paragraph 2, using the specific reporting codes designated for that purpose.
7. Member States shall calculate the additional allocation of fishing days on the basis of the baseline corresponding to the maximum allowable fishing effort set in Regulation (EU) 2024/259, proportionally to the relevant number of eligible fishing vessels fulfilling the conditions laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2.
8. Member States shall not allocate additional fishing days that would result in exceeding the maximum allowable fishing effort set for the relevant fishing effort group in Regulation (EU) 2024/259.
9. The Member State concerned shall not deploy the effort exerted for the additional allocation referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 before exhausting the maximum allowable fishing effort set for the relevant fishing effort group in this Regulation.
10. Member States shall enhance the monitoring, control and surveillance of fishing vessels referred to in this Article in order to ensure compliance with the eligibility conditions laid down in paragraphs 1 and corresponding national measures.

#### *Article 9a*

##### **Remedial measures for European hake in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 and Norway lobster in GFCM GSA 6**

1. This Article applies to fishing activities by Union vessels catching European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7 and Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in GFCM GSA 6.
2. The maximum catch limit of European hake for Union fishing vessels using gillnets and trammel nets (GNS, GTR, GND) in Union waters of the Western Mediterranean Sea is set out in Annex IV.
3. It is prohibited to use the otter-twin gear for trawlers fishing in GFCM GSAs 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7.
4. Member States shall adopt a minimum conservation reference size for Norway lobster of at least 25 mm carapace length (CL).
5. This Article shall not apply to fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

#### *Article 9b*

##### **Remedial measures for European hake in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 and Norway lobster in GFCM GSA 9 and 11**

1. This Article applies to fishing activities by Union vessels catching European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11 and Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in GFCM GSAs 9 and 11.
2. The maximum catch limit of European hake for Union fishing vessels using gillnets and trammel nets (GNS, GTR, GND) in Union waters of the Western Mediterranean Sea is set out in Annex IV.
3. It is prohibited to use the otter-twin gear for trawlers fishing in GFCM GSAs 8, 9, 10 and 11.

4. Member States shall adopt a minimum conservation reference size for Norway lobster of at least 25 mm carapace length (CL).

5. This Article shall not apply to fishing operations conducted for the exclusive purpose of scientific investigations, provided that those investigations are carried out in compliance with Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241.

#### *Article 10*

#### **Data recording and transmission**

1. Member States shall record and transmit the fishing effort data to the Commission in accordance with Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 and Articles 146c, 146d and 146e of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011<sup>10</sup>.

2. When Member States submit to the Commission data relating to fishing effort pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, they shall use the fishing effort group codes set out in Annex IV.

### **CHAPTER III**

#### **Adriatic Sea**

#### *Article 11*

#### **Small pelagic stocks**

1. This Article applies to all fishing activities by Union fishing vessels catching sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) and anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) in the Adriatic Sea.

2. The maximum level of catches of sardine and anchovy shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex V, point 1(a).

3. The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in kW, GT and number, of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish small pelagic stocks is set out in Annex V, point 1(b).

---

<sup>10</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 of 8 April 2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy (OJ L 112 30.4.2011, p. 1), ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2011/404/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2011/404/oj).

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 12*  
**Demersal stocks**

1. This Article applies to all fishing activities by Union fishing vessels catching European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*), common sole (*Solea solea*), deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) and red mullet (*Mullus barbatus*) in the Adriatic Sea.
2. The maximum allowable fishing effort for those demersal stocks and the maximum fleet capacity within the scope of this Article is set out in Annex V, points 2(a) and 2(b) respectively.
3. Member States shall manage the maximum allowable effort in accordance with Articles 26 to 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

*Article 13*  
**Data transmission**

When, for the fisheries governed by Articles 11 and 12, Member States submit to the Commission data relating to landings and fishing effort pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, they shall use the stock codes and fishing effort group codes set out in Annex V.

## CHAPTER IV

### Strait of Sicily

*Article 14*  
**European hake and deep-water rose shrimp**

1. This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching European hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) and deep-water rose shrimp (*Parapenaeus longirostris*) in the Strait of Sicily.
2. The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish for demersal stocks within the scope of this Article is set out in Annex VI, point 1(a).

3. The maximum allowable fishing effort for European hake (in number of fishing days), for bottom otter-trawl vessels (OTB) targeting European hake is set out in Annex VI, point 1(b).
4. The maximum level of catches of deep-water rose shrimp shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex VI, point 1(c).
5. Member States shall manage the maximum allowable fishing effort in accordance with Articles 26 to 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

*Article 15*  
**Deep-water shrimps**

1. This Article applies to all fishing activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Strait of Sicily.
2. The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish the demersal stocks within the scope of this Article is set out in Annex VI, point 2(a).
3. The maximum level of catches of deep-water shrimps shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex VI, points 2(b) and (c).

*Article 16*  
**Data transmission**

When Member States submit to the Commission data relating to landings of quantities of stocks caught pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, they shall use the stock codes set out in Annex VI.

## CHAPTER V

### Ionian Sea and Levant Sea

#### *Article 17*

#### **Deep-water shrimps**

1. This Article applies to all fishing activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching giant red shrimp (*Aristaeomorpha foliacea*) and blue and red shrimp (*Aristeus antennatus*) in the Ionian Sea and in the Levant Sea.
2. The maximum fleet capacity, expressed in number of vessels, kW and GT, of bottom trawl vessels authorised to fish for deep water shrimp stock referred to in this Article is set out in Annex VII, points 1(a) and 2(a).
3. The maximum level of catches of deep-water shrimps referred to in this Article shall not exceed the respective levels set out in Annex VII, points 1(b), 1(c), 2(b) and 2(c).

## CHAPTER VI

### Alboran Sea

#### *Article 18*

#### **Blackspot seabream**

1. This Article applies to commercial and recreational fishing activities by Union fishing vessels catching blackspot seabream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) with longlines and handlines in the Alboran Sea.
2. The maximum level of catches shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex VIII.
3. The maximum number of longliners and handliners authorised to fish for blackspot seabream is set out in Annex VIII.
4. Member States shall establish a temporal closure with a view to protecting the key stock during spawning for periods of no less than 60 continuous days. Such closure shall last for at least two months, shall take place during the period from January to March 2026 and shall cover the key areas of distribution of blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea.
5. Recreational fisheries for blackspot seabream shall be prohibited.

## CHAPTER VII

### Black Sea

#### *Article 19*

##### **Sprat**

1. This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) in the Black Sea.
2. The Union autonomous quota for sprat shall not exceed the levels set out in Annex IX.
3. 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 20*

##### **Turbot**

1. This Article applies to all activities by Union fishing vessels and other Union fishing activities catching turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*) in the Black Sea.
2. The TAC for turbot applicable in Union waters in the Black Sea, the allocation of such TAC among Member States and the conditions functionally linked thereto, where appropriate, are set out in Annex IX.
3. 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 21*

##### **Management of fishing effort for turbot**

Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for turbot within the scope of Article 20, irrespective of the vessels' length overall, shall not exceed 180 fishing days per year.

*Article 22*  
**Closure period for turbot**

It shall be prohibited for Union fishing vessels to carry out any fishing activity, including transshipment, retaining on board, landing and first sale of turbot in Union waters in the Black Sea from 15 April to 15 June 2026.

*Article 23*  
**Special provisions on allocations of fishing opportunities in the Black Sea**

The allocation of fishing opportunities among Member States as set out in Annex IX 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) deductions made pursuant to Articles 105 and 107 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009.

*Article 24*  
**Data transmission**

When Member States submit to the Commission data relating to landings of quantities of stocks of sprat and turbot caught in Union waters in the Black Sea pursuant to Articles 33 and 34 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, they shall use the stock codes set out in Annex IX of this Regulation.

## TITLE III

### FINAL PROVISIONS

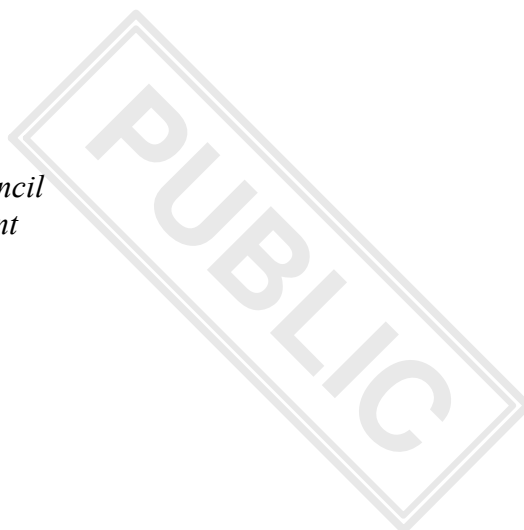
*Article 25*  
**Entry into force and application**

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 2026 to 31 December 2026.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council*  
*The President*



PUBLIC