Council of the European Union

Brussels, 4 December 2024
(OR. en)

16046/24

Interinstitutional File: 2024/0285(NLE)

PECHE 485
UK 176

NOTE

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

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

COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

4 DECEMBER 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 RED SEABREAM IN ATLANTIC IBERIAN WATERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Commission proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters ('the Commission proposal'), as updated through the second Commission services non-paper of 23 November 2024[1], it is proposed to set the total allowable catches (TAC) for red seabream in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) subarea 9 (Atlantic Iberian waters) for 2025 and for 2026 in line with the ICES advice for red seabream distributed in ICES division 9a[2], except for the Atlantic part of the Strait of Gibraltar (i.e. Galician and Portuguese coast). In addition, it is proposed to maintain the suspension of the fishery for red seabream in the Atlantic part of the Strait of Gibraltar, as adopted in October 2024, for 2025 and for 2026, in line with that ICES advice and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Scientific Advisory Committee on Fisheries (SAC) advice for red seabream distributed in GFCM geographical subareas 1 and 3 (western Mediterranean) and in the Atlantic part of the Strait of Gibraltar[3].

Taking into account that: (i) the geographical scope of that TAC is ICES subarea 9; and (ii) the ICES advice notes that catches of the western Mediterranean and Strait of Gibraltar stock occur in ICES division 9a south of 36°10' N, the Commission services non-paper of 23 November 2024 included a suspension of the fishery for red seabream in ICES subarea 9 between that latitude and the southern boundary of ICES division 9a (i.e. 36° N). However, according to the GFCM[4], catches of red seabream distributed in the western Mediterranean and the Atlantic part of the Strait of Gibraltar also occurred in 2023 south of the boundary between ICES subarea 9 and Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) division 34.1.1, i.e. south of 36° N. Therefore, it is proposed also to suspend the fishery for red seabream in the adjacent EU waters of CECAF division 34.1.1 in 2025 and 2026 in order to ensure the protection of that stock in its entire distribution area in the Atlantic part of the Strait of Gibraltar, pursuant to Articles 1(3) and 8 of Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council[5] ('Western Waters multiannual plan').

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

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

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1 https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/30040849-b9fb-452e-bfcd-4e1c62bd1fba_en?filename=2024-11-23-non-paper-Atlantic-FOs-2025-regulation_en.pdf

2 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.26728699.v2

3 https://www.fao.org/gfcm/statutory-meetings/detail/en/c/1712734/

4 https://gfcmsitestorage.blob.core.windows.net/website/5.Data/SAFs/DemersalSpecies/2023/SAF_SBR_1_3_RefY2023.pdf

5 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).

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Table 3				
Species:	Red seabream *Pagellus bogaraveo*		Zone:	Union and international waters of 9 (SBR/09-)
Year	**Each 2025 and 2026**		Analytical TAC	
Spain	33	(1)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Portugal	9	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	42	(1)		
TAC	43	(1)		

(1) Catches of red seabream shall not be taken in the area bounded by the following coordinates and the coast:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	36°10'00"N	11°00'00"W
2	36°10'00"N	5°53'17"W
3	36°00'00"N	5°36'00"W
4	36°00'00"N	11°00'00"W

In addition, catches of red seabream shall not be taken in Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1.

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2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO SEAFO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At its 2024 annual meeting, the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) adopted measures for stocks in the SEAFO Convention area, including the measures set out in the recital below. It is proposed to implement those measures in EU law.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (34) is replaced by the following:

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(34) At its 2024 annual meeting, the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) maintained for the period 2025-2026 the TACs in the SEAFO Convention area set for 2024. However, the TAC of Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) in SEAFO subarea D was increased by 13 tonnes for 2025 compared to 2024. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Chapter III, Section 8, the square brackets are deleted.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

Annex IE is replaced by the following:

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ANNEX IE

SEAFO CONVENTION AREA

The TACs set out in this Annex are not allocated to the Contracting Parties of SEAFO and hence the Union’s share is undetermined. Catches are monitored by the SEAFO Secretariat which will communicate to the SEAFO Contracting Parties when fishing is to be ceased due to a TAC exhaustion.

Table 1

Species:	Alfonsinos *Beryx* spp.			Zone:	SEAFO Convention area (ALF/SEAFO)
TAC		200	(1)	Precautionary TAC	

(1)	No more than 132 tonnes may be taken in subdivision B1 (ALF/*F47NA).

Table 2			
Species:	Deep-sea red crabs *Chaceon* spp.	Zone:	SEAFO subdivision B1(1) (GER/F47NAM)
TAC	162 (1)	Precautionary TAC	
(1)	For the purpose of this TAC, the area open to the fishery is defined as having: – its western boundary on the longitude 0°E, – its northern boundary on the latitude 20°S, – its southern boundary on the latitude 28°S, and – the eastern boundary outer limits of the Namibian exclusive economic zone.		

Table 3			
Species:	Deep-sea red crabs *Chaceon* spp.	Zone:	SEAFO Convention area, excluding subdivision B1 (GER/F47X)
TAC	200	Precautionary TAC	

Table 4			
Species:	Patagonian toothfish *Dissostichus eleginoides*	Zone:	SEAFO subarea D (TOP/F47D)
TAC	274	Precautionary TAC	

Table 5			
Species:	Patagonian toothfish *Dissostichus eleginoides*	Zone:	SEAFO Convention area, excluding subarea D (TOP/F47-D)
TAC	0	Precautionary TAC	

Table 6			
Species:	Orange roughy *Hoplostethus atlanticus*	Zone:	SEAFO subdivision B1(1) (ORY/F47NAM)
TAC	0 (2)	Precautionary TAC	
(1)	For the purpose of this Annex, the area open to the fishery is defined as having: – its western boundary on the longitude 0°E, – its northern boundary on the latitude 20°S, – its southern boundary on the latitude 28°S, and – the eastern boundary outer limits of the Namibian exclusive economic zone.		
(2)	Except for a by-catch allowance of four tonnes (ORY/*F47NA).		

Table 7			
Species:	Orange roughy	Zone:	SEAFO Convention area, excluding subdivision B1

	Hoplostethus atlanticus		(ORY/F47X)
TAC		50	Precautionary TAC

Table 8			
Species:	Pelagic armourheads *Pseudopentaceros* spp.	Zone:	SEAFO Convention area (EDW/SEAFO)
TAC		135	Precautionary TAC

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