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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION fixing for 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters - Commission services non-paper

Delegations will find attached the above-mentioned document, as received from the European Commission services

COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

10 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. CORRECTIONS REGARDING FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Commission proposal, as updated through Commission services non-papers on 23 November, and 6 and 9 December 2024, the following should be corrected:

- Notifications about measures relating to European eel should be made during the entire calendar year 2025 and the period of application of Article 13. Therefore, Article 60 should be amended accordingly.

- Inter-annual flexibility of quotas should apply to Norway lobster in Iberian waters (NEP/9/3411) (Annex IA, Part A, Table 12). The TAC table should be updated accordingly. That error should be corrected.

- The TAC table for sandeel (Annex IA, Part B, Table 1) erroneously includes EU and UK quotas. That error should be corrected.
- The TAC table for LEZ/8ABDE (Annex IA, Part B, Table 33) includes erroneous quotas. That error should be corrected.
- The TAC table for ANF/8ABDE (Annex IA, Part B, Table 38) includes erroneous quotas. That error should be corrected.
- The TAC table for HKE/03A (Annex IA, Part B, Table 52) erroneously includes values marked ‘pm’. That error should be corrected.
- The TAC table for RJE/07E (Annex IA, Part B, in Table 98) includes erroneous UK, EU and Member States quotas. That error should be corrected.
- The TAC table for JAX/08C (Annex IA, Part B, Table 121) includes erroneous quotas. That error should be corrected.
- Inter-annual flexibility of quotas should not apply to the Celtic Sea component (WHG/*7XAD) of the Celtic Sea whiting TAC (WHG/7X7A-C) (Annex IA, Part B, Table 50). The TAC table should be updated accordingly. That error should be corrected.
- Inter-annual flexibility of quotas should apply to SRX/2AC4-C and SRX/07D (Annex IA, Part B, Tables 96 and 99). The TAC tables should be updated accordingly. Those errors should be corrected.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Article 60 the following point is added:

“

(ba) Article 13(8) shall apply from 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2026;

”

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex IA, Part A, table 12 is replaced by the following:

“

Table 12				
Species:	Norway lobster *Nephrops norvegicus*		Zone:	9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (NEP/9/3411)
Spain	60	(1)	Precautionary TAC	
Portugal	179	(1)		
Union	239	(1)(2)		
TAC	239	(1)(2)		
(1)	Shall not be taken in functional units 26 and 27 of division 9a.			
(2)	Within the limit of this quota, no more than the following amount may be taken in functional unit 30 of division 9a (NEP/*9U30): 26			

”

In Annex IA, Part B, tables 1, 33, 38, 50, 52, 96, 98, 99 and 121 are replaced by the following:

“

Table 1				
Species:	Sandeel and associated by-catches *Ammodytes spp.*		Zone:	United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a; Union waters of 3a
Denmark	To be established	(1)	Analytical TAC	
Germany	To be established	(1)	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Sweden	To be established	(1)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	To be established			
United Kingdom	To be established			

TAC	To be established

(1) Up to 2% of the quota may consist of by-catches of whiting and mackerel (OT1/*2A3A4X). By-catches of whiting and mackerel counted against the quota pursuant to this provision and by-catches of species counted against the quota pursuant to Article 15(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall, together, not exceed 9% of the quota.

Special condition: within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in the following sandeel management areas, as defined in Annex III:

Zone: Union waters of sandeel management areas

	1r	2r	3r	4	5r	6	7r
	(SAN/234_1R)(1)	(SAN/234_2R)(1)	(SAN/234_3R)(2)	(SAN/234_4)	(SAN/234_5R)	(SAN/234_6)(1)	(SAN/234_7R)
Denmark	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
Germany	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
Sweden	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
Union	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
United Kingdom	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established
Total	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established	To be established

(1) Up to 10% of this quota can be banked and used in the following year only within this management area.

(2) This quota may only be fished in Union waters of sandeel management area 3r as monitoring TAC with an associated sampling protocol for the fishery.

Table 33

Species:	Megrims *Lepidorhombus spp.*	Zone:	8a, 8b, 8d and 8e (LEZ/8ABDE.)
Spain	1 042	Analytical TAC	
France	842	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies	
Union	1 884		
TAC	1 981		

Table 38

Species:	Anglerfishes *Lophiidae*	Zone:	8a, 8b, 8d and 8e (ANF/8ABDE.)
Spain	1 844	Analytical TAC	
France	10 261	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies	
Union	12 105		

TAC	12 741

Table 50

Species:	Whiting *Merlangius merlangus*		Zone:	7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h, 7j and 7k (WHG/7X7A-C)
Belgium	307		Analytical TAC	
France	18 902			
Ireland	8 759			
Netherlands	154			
Union	28 122	(3)(4)		
United Kingdom	3 648	(1)(2)		
TAC	32 374			

(1) Of which up to the following quantity may be fished in United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 7b, 7c, 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h, 7j and 7k (WHG/*7XAD). This amount is exclusively for bycatches, no directed fisheries for whiting are permitted.

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(2) Of which up to the following quantity may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 7d (WHG/*07D.).

3 106

(3) Of which up to the following quantities may be fished in United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 7b, 7c, 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h, 7j and 7k (WHG/*7XAD). Exclusively for bycatches. No directed fisheries for whiting are permitted under this 'of which'. Within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken as bycatches in area 7b, 7c, 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h, 7j and 7k:

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

Belgium	46
France	2 808
Ireland	1 301
Netherlands	23
Union	4 178

(4) Of which up to the following quantities may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 7d (WHG/*07D.). Within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in area 7d:

Belgium	262
France	16 093
Ireland	7 458
Netherlands	131
Union	23 944

Table 52

Species:	Hake *Merluccius merluccius*		Zone:	3a (HKE/03A.)
Denmark	1 609	(1)	Analytical TAC	
Sweden	137	(1)	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies	
Union	1 746			
TAC	1 746			

(1) Transfers of this quota may be effected to United Kingdom and Union waters of 2a and 4. However, such

transfers shall be notified in advance to the Commission and to the United Kingdom.

Table 96

Species:	Skates and rays *Rajiformes*		Zone:	Union and United Kingdom waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (SRX/2AC4-C)
Belgium	469	(1)(2)(3)(4)	Precautionary TAC	
Denmark	18	(1)(2)(3)		
Germany	23	(1)(2)(3)		
France	73	(1)(2)(3)(4)		
Netherlands	399	(1)(2)(3)(4)		
Union	982	(1)(3)		
United Kingdom	2 186	(1)(2)(3)(4)		
TAC	3 168	(3)		

(1) Catches of blonde ray (Raja brachyura) in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4 (RJH/04-C.), cuckoo ray (Leucoraja naevus) (RJN/2AC4-C), thornback ray (Raja clavata) (RJC/2AC4-C) and spotted ray (Raja montagui) (RJM/2AC4-C) shall be reported separately.

(2) By-catch quota. These species shall not comprise more than 25% by live weight of the catch retained on board per fishing trip. This condition applies only to vessels over 15 metres' length overall. This provision shall not apply for catches subject to the landing obligation as set out in Article 15(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, which was retained by the United Kingdom.

(3) Shall not apply to blonde ray (Raja brachyura) in United Kingdom waters of 2a and small-eyed ray (Raja microocellata) in United Kingdom and Union waters of 2a and 4. When accidentally caught, these species shall not be harmed. Specimens shall be promptly released. Fishers shall be encouraged to develop and use techniques and equipment to facilitate the rapid and safe release of the species.

(4) Special condition: of which up to 10% may be fished in 7d (SRX/*07D2.), without prejudice to the relevant prohibitions set out in Union and United Kingdom law for the areas specified therein. Catches of blonde ray (Raja brachyura) (RJH/*07D2.), cuckoo ray (Leucoraja naevus) (RJN/*07D2.), thornback ray (Raja clavata) (RJC/*07D2.) and spotted ray (Raja montagui) (RJM/*07D2.) shall be reported separately. This special condition shall not apply to small-eyed ray (Raja microocellata) and undulate ray (Raja undulata).

Table 98

Species:	Skates and rays *Rajiformes*		Zone:	United Kingdom and Union waters of 6a, 6b, 7a-c and 7e-k (SRX/67AKXD)
Belgium	792	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	Precautionary TAC	
Estonia	4	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)		
France	3 557	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)		
Germany	11	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)		
Ireland	1 145	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)		
Lithuania	18	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)		
Netherlands	3	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)		
Portugal	19	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)		
Spain	957	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)		
Union	6 506	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)		
United Kingdom	2 924	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)		
TAC	9 430	(3)(4)(5)		

(1) Catches of cuckoo ray (Leucoraja naevus) (RJN/67AKXD), thornback ray (Raja clavata) (RJC/67AKXD), blonde ray (Raja brachyura) (RJH/67AKXD), spotted ray (Raja montagui) (RJM/67AKXD), sandy ray (Leucoraja circularis) (RJI/67AKXD) and shagreen ray (Leucoraja fullonica) (RJF/67AKXD) shall be reported separately

(2) Special condition: of which up to 5% may be fished in 7d (SRX/*07D.), without prejudice to the prohibitions set out in Union and United Kingdom law for the areas specified therein. Catches of cuckoo ray (Leucoraja

naevus) (RJN/*07D.), thornback ray (Raja clavata) (RJC/*07D.), blonde ray (Raja brachyura) (RJH/*07D.), spotted ray (Raja montagui) (RJM/*07D.), sandy ray (Leucoraja circularis) (RJI/*07D.) and shagreen ray (Leucoraja fullonica) (RJF/*07D.) shall be reported separately. This special condition shall not apply to small-eyed ray (Raja microocellata) and undulate ray (Raja undulata).

(3) Shall not apply to undulate ray (Raja undulata). Catches of this species in 7e shall be counted against the quantities provided for in that separate TAC (RJU/7DE.). When accidentally caught in 6a, 6b, 7a-c and 7f-k, this species shall not be harmed. Specimens shall be promptly released. Fishers shall be encouraged to develop and use techniques and equipment to facilitate the rapid and safe release of the species.
Shall not apply to small-eyed ray (Raja microocellata), except in 7e, 7f and 7g. When accidentally caught, this species shall not be harmed. Specimens shall be promptly released. Fishers shall be encouraged to develop and use techniques and equipment to facilitate the rapid and safe release of the species. Within the limits of the abovementioned quotas, no more than the quantities of small-eyed ray in 7f and 7g provided below may be taken.

(4)

Species:	Small-eyed ray *Raja microocellata*		Zone:	7f and 7g (RJE/7FG.)
Belgium	6	(1)		Analytical TAC
Estonia	0	(1)		
France	25	(1)		
Germany	0	(1)		
Ireland	8	(1)		
Lithuania	0	(1)		
Netherlands	0	(1)		
Portugal	0	(1)		
Spain	7	(1)		
Union	46	(1)		
United Kingdom	57	(1)		
TAC	103			

(1) Special condition: of which up to 5% may be fished in 7d and reported under the following code: (RJE/*07D.). This special condition is without prejudice to the prohibitions set out in Union and United Kingdom law for the areas specified therein.

(5)

Species:	Small-eyed ray *Raja microocellata*		Zone:	7e (RJE/07E.)
Belgium	1	(1)		Precautionary TAC
Estonia	0	(1)		
France	6	(1)		
Germany	0	(1)		
Ireland	2	(1)		
Lithuania	0	(1)		
Netherlands	0	(1)		
Portugal	0	(1)		
Spain	2	(1)		
Union	11	(1)		
United Kingdom	5	(1)		
TAC	16			

(1) Only vessels participating in sentinel fishery ‘monitoring programmes’ for small-eyed ray in 7e may land catch of this stock. Specimens caught by other vessels shall not be harmed and shall be promptly released. Each Party shall independently determine how to allocate its quota to the vessels participating in its monitoring programmes. Participating vessels will be required to collect and share data on: landings and discards, and preferably biological characteristic data of the catch (length, weight and sex).

Table 99			
Species:	Skates and rays	Zone:	7d

Rajiformes			(SRX/07D.)
Belgium	240	(1)(2)(3)(4)	Precautionary TAC
France	2 011	(1)(2)(3)(4)	
Netherlands	13	(1)(2)(3)(4)	
Union	2 264	(1)(2)(3)(4)	
United Kingdom	424	(1)(2)(3)(4)	
TAC	2 688	(4)	

(1)	Catches of cuckoo ray (Leucoraja naevus) (RJN/07D.), thornback ray (Raja clavata) (RJC/07D.), blonde ray (Raja brachyura) (RJH/07D.), spotted ray (Raja montagui) (RJM/07D.) and small-eyed ray (Raja microocellata) (RJE/07D.) shall be reported separately.
(2)	Special condition: of which up to 5% may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 6a, 6b, 7a-c and 7e-k (SRX/*67AKD). Catches of cuckoo ray (Leucoraja naevus) (RJN/*67AKD), thornback ray (Raja clavata) (RJC/*67AKD), blonde ray (Raja brachyura) (RJH/*67AKD) and spotted ray (Raja montagui) (RJM/*67AKD) shall be reported separately. This special condition shall not apply to small-eyed ray (Raja microocellata) and to undulate ray (Raja undulata).
(3)	Special condition: of which up to 10% may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 2a and 4 (SRX/*2AC4C). Catches of blonde ray (Raja brachyura) in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4 (RJH/*04-C.), cuckoo ray (Leucoraja naevus) (RJN/*2AC4C), thornback ray (Raja clavata) (RJC/*2AC4C) and spotted ray (Raja montagui) (RJM/*2AC4C) shall be reported separately. This special condition shall not apply to small-eyed ray (Raja microocellata).
(4)	Shall not apply to undulate ray (Raja undulata). Catches of this species shall be counted against the quantities provided for in that separate TAC (RJU/7DE.).

Table 121

Species:	Horse mackerel		Zone:	8c
	Trachurus spp.			(JAX/08C.)
Spain	8 751	(1)	Analytical TAC	
France	160			
Portugal	914	(1)		
Union	9 825			
TAC	10 324			

(1)	Special condition: up to 0% of this quota may be fished in 9 (JAX/*09.).

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2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN FAROESE WATERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the Commission has not successfully concluded consultations on exchanges of fishing opportunities and access arrangements with the Faroe Islands, it is proposed to replace the figures marked as 'pm' (*pro memoria*) with 'to be established' in the TAC tables for fishing opportunities for stocks in Faroese waters.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex IA, Tables 58, 103 and 104, and in Annex IB, Tables 5, 11, 12, 17, 26, 28 and 29, the figures marked as 'pm' for the Union and Member States quotas in Faroese waters should be replaced by 'to be established'.