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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

14 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 ANCHOVY IN THE BAY OF BISCAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 11 December 2024, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) published its scientific advice for anchovy (*Engraulis encrasicolus*) in ICES subarea 8 (Bay of Biscay) for 2025[1].

It is therefore proposed to set the total allowable catches (TAC) for that stock for 2025 in line with that advice, i.e. at the level of 30 663 tonnes (-7% compared to the TAC set for 2024).

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex IA, Part A, Table 1 is replaced by the following:

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Table 1			
Species:	Anchovy *Engraulis encrasicolus*	Zone:	8 (ANE/08.)
Spain	27 597	Analytical TAC	
France	3 066		
Union	30 663		
TAC	30 663		

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[1] https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019084.v1

2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO ANCHOVY IN THE GULF OF CADIZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 11 December 2024, ICES published its scientific advice for anchovy in the southern part of ICES division 9a (Gulf of Cadiz and southern coast of Portugal) for 2025[2].

In addition, as part of the political agreement reached by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 9 to 10 December 2024 on the fishing opportunities for 2025, the Council agreed to split the TAC for anchovy in ICES subareas 9 and 10 and EU waters of Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) division 34.1.1 into two TACs: (i) a TAC for the northern part of ICES subarea 9 and subarea 10; and (ii) a TAC for the southern part of ICES subarea 9 and EU waters of CECAF division 34.1.1. The Council also agreed on allocation keys for those two stocks, which will apply to any new fishing opportunities relating to those stocks established by the Council after 11 December 2024.

Therefore, it is proposed to establish: (i) a TAC for the northern part of ICES subarea 9 and subarea 10 for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, considering that that is the advice period for that stock and considering that Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257[3], as amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2024/2678[4], established the fishing opportunities for that stock for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025; and (ii) a TAC for the southern part of ICES subarea 9 and EU waters of CECAF division 34.1.1. for 2025. In addition, it is proposed: (i) to provisionally set the TAC for the northern part of ICES subarea 9 and subarea 10 at zero, pending the publication by ICES of its scientific advice; (ii) to set the TAC for the southern part of ICES subarea 9 and EU waters of CECAF division 34.1.1. in line with that advice, i.e. at the level of 7 266 tonnes; and (iii) to allocate the TAC for the southern part of ICES subarea 9 and EU waters of CECAF division 34.1.1 in line with the allocation key agreed by the Council during the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 9 to 10 December 2024.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex IA, Part A, Table 2 is replaced by the following:

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2 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27992360.v2

3 Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 of 10 January 2024 fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 (OJ L, 2024/257, 11.1.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/257/oj)

4 Council Regulation (EU) 2024/2678 of 10 October 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2024/257 fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities (OJ L, 2024/2678, 11.10.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2678/oj).

Table 2(1)			
Species:	Anchovy *Engraulis encrasicolus*	Zone:	9N[(1)] and 10 (ANE/9NX10)
Spain	0 [(2)]	Analytical TAC	
Portugal	0 [(2)]		
Union	0 [(2)]		
TAC	0 [(2)]		

[(1)] Part of subarea 9 north of the line connecting the following points:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	36°00'00"N	11°00'00"W
2	37°01'20"N	8°59'47"W

[(2)] This quota may be fished only from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

Table 2(2)			
Species:	Anchovy *Engraulis encrasicolus*	Zone:	9S[(1)] and Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (ANE/9SX3411)
Spain	7 048	Precautionary TAC	
Portugal	218		
Union	7 266		
TAC	7 266		

[(1)] Part of subarea 9 south of the line connecting the following points:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	36°00'00"N	11°00'00"W
2	37°01'20"N	8°59'47"W

”

3. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO ANCHOVY IN THE NORTHERN PART OF ATLANTIC IBERIAN WATERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 11 December 2024, ICES published updated scientific advice for anchovy in the northern part of ICES division 9a for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025[5]. ICES increased its catch advice for that stock and that period from 8 480 tonnes to 22 481 tonnes, i.e. by 14 001 tonnes.

In addition, Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257, as amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2024/2678, set a TAC for anchovy in ICES subareas 9 and 10 and EU waters of CECAF division 34.1.1 for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 in line with: (i) the initial advice for anchovy in the northern part of ICES division 9a and that period; and (ii) the advice for anchovy in the southern part of ICES division 9a for that period[6].

Moreover, as part of the political agreement reached by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 9 to 10 December 2024 on the fishing opportunities for 2025, the Council agreed to split the TAC for anchovy in ICES subareas 9 and 10 and EU waters of Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) division 34.1.1 into two TACs: (i) a TAC for the northern part of ICES subarea 9 and subarea 10; and (ii) a TAC for the southern part of ICES subarea 9 and EU waters of CECAF division 34.1.1. The Council also agreed on allocation keys for those two stocks, which will apply to any new fishing opportunities relating to those stocks established by the Council after 11 December 2024.

Therefore, it is proposed to amend Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 and: (i) to increase the TAC for anchovy in ICES subareas 9 and 10 and EU waters of CECAF division 34.1.1 for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 in line with the updated advice for anchovy in the northern part of ICES division 9a for that period, i.e. by 14 001 tonnes; and (ii) to allocate the increase in the TAC in line with the allocation key agreed by the Council during the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 9 to 10 December 2024.

Moreover, in the interest of legal certainty, it is proposed to clarify that, in the period from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025, Member States' quotas under the TAC for anchovy in ICES subareas 9 and 10 and EU waters of CECAF division 34.1.1 may only be fished in the northern part of subarea 9 and subarea 10, given that it is proposed to set a TAC for anchovy in the southern part of ICES subarea 9 and EU waters of CECF 34.1.1 for 2025.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Article 57a, the following point (4) is inserted:

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5 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.27992360.v2

6 https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019153.v2

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(4) In Annex IA, Part A, Table 2 is replaced by the following:

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Table 2					
Species:	Anchovy *Engraulis encrasicolus*			Zone:	9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (ANE/9/3411)
Spain		5 919	(1)(3)(4)	Analytical TAC	
Portugal		17 531	(1)(3)(4)		
Union		23 450	(1)(2)(3)(4)		
TAC		23 450	(1)(2)(3)(4)		

(1) This quota may only be fished from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

(2) Special condition: of which up to 969 tonnes may be taken in the area bounded by the following coordinates and the coast (ANE/*09AW):

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	36°00'00"N	5°36'00"W
2	36°00'00"N	11°00'00"W
3	37°01'20"N	8°59'47"W

(3) Special condition: of which the following quantities, in addition to the quantity referred to in footnote 2 and after full use of that quantity, may be taken in the area referred to in footnote 2 in the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024 (ANE/*09AW2).

Spain	1 926
Portugal	2 102
Union	4 028

(4) In the period from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025, this quota may only be fished in part of subarea 9 north of the line connecting the following points (ANE/*09AW3):

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	36°00'00"N	11°00'00"W
2	37°01'20"N	8°59'47"W

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