

# Fishing in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Agreement area: transposition of GFCM decisions

2018/0069(COD) - 23/11/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Linnéa ENGSTRÖM (Greens/EFA, SE) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1343/2011 on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area.

The proposal aims to amend Regulation (EU) No 1343/2011 in order to transpose in Union law a number of measures adopted by the GFCM at its annual sessions of 2015, 2016 and 2017. These measures concern the European hake and the deep-water rose shrimp in the Strait of Sicily the turbot in the Black Sea, the blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea and red coral in the Mediterranean Sea. The proposal also establishes a fishing restricted area in the Adriatic (Jabuka/PomoPit area).

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission's proposal. The proposed amendments are intended to:

- extend the scope of the amended Regulation to **recreational fishing activities** where the Regulation expressly so provides;
- clarify that unauthorised fishing vessels would only be allowed to transit through a restricted area if they follow a direct course at a constant speed of not less than 7 knots and with VMS and/or AIS active on board, and if they do not carry out fishing activities of any kind;
- require each Member State to establish a closure period of at least two months during the spawning season of turbot, from April to June every year;
- establish in the Mediterranean Sea a system of individual daily and/or annual catch limits for red coral in the Mediterranean;
- prohibit the landing or transshipment from fishing vessels any quantity of European hake and deep-water rose shrimp fished in the Strait of Sicily at any place other than landing ports designated by the Member States;
- specify that all vessels over 12 metres in length must be equipped with a satellite-based vessel monitoring system (VMS) or any other geo-localisation system allowing control authorities to track their activities in order to be granted a fishing authorisation;
- provide that national plans and all their elements must be communicated to fishing associations and made publicly accessible to all fishermen.