


# Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1995/2323(COS)
Implementation of technical measures in the common fisheries policy	Procedure completed
Subject	
3.15 Fisheries policy	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries	UPE <a href="#">GALLAGHER Pat the Cope</a>	21/03/1996
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
15/12/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0669	Summary
19/01/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/09/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
09/09/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0270/1996</a>	
25/10/1996	Debate in Parliament		
25/10/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0567/1996	Summary
25/10/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/11/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2323(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/4/07407

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1995)0669	15/12/1995	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0270/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 320 28.10.1996, p. 0003</a>	09/09/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0567/1996 <a href="#">OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0421-0453</a>	25/10/1996	EP	Summary

## Implementation of technical measures in the common fisheries policy

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OBJECTIVE: to provide a summary of the results of all current technical measures in the common fisheries policy, together with an indication of related problems and probable future action. CONTENT: the Commission notes that the implementation of technical measures, the main purpose of which is to allow the number of juveniles caught to be reduced to a minimum, has not resulted in the level of protection for juveniles and by-catches hoped for. However, it notes that there has been a change in attitude on the part of fishermen's representatives, at least in certain Member States (such as the United Kingdom) where there is now a demand for stricter technical measures. This constructive approach will help to inform proposals made by the Commission. Shortcomings in the texts partly explain current failures, but the Commission notes that they have only played a minor role in comparison with the two main causes: overcapacities resulting in highly intensive fishing and inadequate control. An examination of provisions adopted outside the Community has demonstrated that there is no panacea which the Common Fisheries Policy has overlooked. Continuity is therefore needed. Current measures need to be improved and the Commission will address this by making suitable proposals, although these proposals will merely reflect prevailing scientific opinion, i.e. that mesh sizes need to be increased. They will therefore need to take account of proposals by the industry and be innovative. However, technical measures will only be effective if they are integrated into an overall policy. Exploitation rates need to be reduced by directly reducing both capacities and fishing efforts. Control systems need to be much more efficient. 1996, during which the Council will decide on how its previous commitments on technical measures have been followed up, will be a crucial year.?

## Implementation of technical measures in the common fisheries policy

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The Committee on Fisheries unanimously adopted the report by Mr GALLAGHER. The rapporteur shared the Commission's view that current measures for controlling fish stocks were inadequate and called for improved consultation with industry. Noting that the Commission communication contained, on balance, a positive analysis of the problem, he called for improved consultation with industry in order to restore fishermen's confidence in the work of scientists. Mr GALLAGHER called for: - an increase in minimum mesh size; - geographical simplification of the rules and the use of clear language in the text of the regulations; - the introduction of square mesh panels which allow juveniles to escape; - detailed specifications of net type and design to discourage any attempts at fraud. Detailed Commission proposals to be published at a later date and examined in a separate report by the Committee on Fisheries (rapporteur: Mrs Maria IZQUIERDO (PSE, E)) would incorporate most of Mr GALLAGHER's suggestions and put forward a compromise solution on minimum mesh sizes.?

## Implementation of technical measures in the common fisheries policy

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Parliament adopted the report by Mr Pat the Cope GALLAGHER (UPE, IRL) on the implementation of technical measures in the Common Fisheries Policy. It shared the Commission's view that the current measures for controlling fish stocks are inadequate and called for: - an increase in minimum mesh size; - geographical simplification of the rules and the use of clear language in the text of the regulations; - the introduction of square mesh panels which allow juveniles to escape; - detailed specifications of net type and design to discourage any attempts at fraud. ?