

Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	2003/0090(CNS) Procedure completed
Conservation of fishery resources: cod, stock recovery Repealed by 2008/0063(CNS)	
Subject 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		20/05/2003
		PSE STIHLER Catherine	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		08/05/2003
		V/ALE SCHÖRLING Inger	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2565	26/02/2004
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2555	18/12/2003
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2524	22/07/2003
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries		

Key events			
06/05/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0237	Summary
02/06/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/07/2003	Debate in Council	2524	
02/10/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
02/10/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0341/2003	
23/10/2003	Debate in Parliament		
23/10/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0452/2003	Summary
26/02/2004	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

26/02/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/03/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/0090(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Repealed by 2008/0063(CNS)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/5/19518

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2003)0237	06/05/2003	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0341/2003	02/10/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0452/2003 OJ C 082 01.04.2004, p. 0319-0496 E	23/10/2003	EP	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Regulation 2004/423 OJ L 070 09.03.2004, p. 0008-0011 Summary

Conservation of fishery resources: cod, stock recovery

PURPOSE : to establish measures for the recovery of cod stocks. **CONTENT** : this Commission initiative follows on from previously made proposals regarding the conservation of cod and hake set out by the Commission in December 2001 and 2002. It also follows on from a Council request for a more definitive recovery plan to replace interim measures applied by a 2002 quota system. The overall objective of the proposal is to ensure the safe recovery of cod to scientifically assessed stock sizes based on the precautionary principle. The aim being to see sustainable stock sizes reached within a time frame of 5 to 10 years. In order to achieve these objectives the proposed Regulation is organised into four Chapters. Chapter I sets out which cod stocks are covered by this proposal and, for each, what their lowest stock size should be in line with the precautionary principle. Cod in the Irish Sea and Eastern Channel will be included in this recovery plan. The Commission remains firmly of the view that the level of cod stock remains serious and thus in need of stringent measures. Chapter II sets out the absolute minimum stock sizes below which scientists indicate that the stocks are in significant danger of total collapse. Guidelines set the level of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) based on estimations of actual stock sizes. Data for the guidelines is based on scientific advice. Chapter III contains provisions restricting the time that the fishing vessels concerned may spend fishing - to correspond with the TAC's. These proposals are a more simplified version of previous proposals. Essentially the provisions of Chapter III aim to offer greater flexibility to both Member States and fishermen in the management and allocation of the fishing regime. Chapter IV provides for measures in relation to improved monitoring, inspection and control for the vessels covered under the management system. This Chapter remains largely unchanged from previous proposals although the rules concerning the use of VMS have been removed, as they will be addressed in a new Regulation. Lastly it should be noted that the TAC for other species and stock associated with cod may be effected by the provisions of this Regulation. This proposal replaces the provisions set out in the modified proposal for a Council Regulation establishing measures for the recovery of cod and hake stocks. A proposal for the recovery of hake stock will be made separately.?

Conservation of fishery resources: cod, stock recovery

The committee adopted the report by Catherine STIHLER (PES, UK) broadly approving the proposal under the consultation procedure, subject to a number of amendments stressing the need for greater flexibility and local participation. The committee wanted to allow Member States or Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to propose alterations both to the geographical scope of the plan and to the exact arrangements designed to lessen fishing pressure. It argued that the participation of fishermen must be encouraged if the plan was to be effectively implemented. The RACs, created as part of CFP reform, were designed to do precisely that and should therefore have a formal role. The committee also called for stricter enforcement to help ensure the viability of the plan. It wanted all participating vessels to install on board by 1 January 2005 the necessary devices enabling them to be monitored by satellite. It also asked the Commission to draw up a report on the effects of industrial fishing on cod stocks, which remains a controversial issue. MEPs urged vigilance over the socio-economic effects of the plan and therefore called for Member States to report on these a year after it comes into effect. The Commission should report to Parliament and the Council on the socio-economic impact of the regulation within three years of its entry into force and should put forward proposals where necessary, including proposals for compensation to mitigate the industry's losses.?

Conservation of fishery resources: cod, stock recovery

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Catherine STIHLER (PES, UK). (Please refer to the previous text). In addition, a few other amendments were adopted by the Parliament such as : - the stipulation that Member States should be allowed to take further, non-discriminatory measures for the conservation and protection of marine fish stocks, provided they are consistent with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy. Such measures should have no impact on the allocation of quotas in accordance with the relative stability system once stocks have recovered and the Member State takes the view that fishing activities should resume; - the clarification that a day absent from port shall be a continuous or discontinuous period of 24 hours from the time of entry into a geographical area defined in Article 2. The number of days absent from port shall be calculated by dividing the number of hours absent from port by 24.?

Conservation of fishery resources: cod, stock recovery

PURPOSE : to establish measures for the recovery of cod stocks. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Regulation 423/2004/EC. CONTENT : The Council adopted a Regulation establishing measures seeking to ensure the recovery of cod stocks from the Kattegat, the North Sea, including the Skagerrak and the eastern Channel, to the west of Scotland and in the Irish Sea. The Regulation is based on a political agreement reached during the Council's meeting between 17 and 19 December. (Please refer to the previous document.) The Regulation states that the Total Allowable Catch (TACs) shall not exceed a level of catches which a scientific evaluation, carried out by the STECF, has indicated will result in an increase of 30 % in the quantities of mature fish in the sea at the end of the year of their application, compared to the quantities estimated to have been in the sea at the start of that year. The TACs will be complemented by a system of fishing effort limitation based on the geographical areas and groupings of fishing gear, and the associated conditions for the use of these fishing opportunities specified in Council Regulation 2287/2003/EC. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 16/03/04.?