

Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	2007/0058(CNS) Procedure completed
Multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Amending Regulation (EC) No 520/2007 2006/0030(CNS) Repealed by 2009/0029(CNS)	
Subject 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.05 Fish catches, import tariff quotas	
Geographical area Mediterranean Sea area Atlantic Ocean area	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		25/04/2007
		PPE-DE BRAGHETTO Iles	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2841	17/12/2007
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2834	26/11/2007
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2806	11/06/2007
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2797	07/05/2007
European Commission	Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Commissioner BORG Joe	

Key events			
03/04/2007	Legislative proposal published	COM(2007)0169	Summary
26/04/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/05/2007	Debate in Council	2797	Summary
22/10/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
24/10/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0408/2007	

14/11/2007	Debate in Parliament		
15/11/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/11/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0532/2007	Summary
17/12/2007	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
17/12/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/12/2007	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2007/0058(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amending Regulation (EC) No 520/2007 2006/0030(CNS) Repealed by 2009/0029(CNS)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/6/48415

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2007)0169	03/04/2007	EC	Summary
Committee draft report	PE392.293	31/08/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	PE394.191	04/10/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0408/2007	24/10/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T6-0532/2007	15/11/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2007)6527	18/12/2007	EC	

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

[Regulation 2007/1559](#)
[OJ L 340 22.12.2007, p. 0008](#) Summary

Multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

PURPOSE: to adopt a Community recovery plan for bluefin tuna.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

CONTENT: as a member of the ICCAT ?International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas? the Community is obliged to implement ICCAT recommendations into Community law. In 2006, the ICCAT adopted a 15 year recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. This plan provides for a reduction of the TAC level until 2010; restrictions on fishing within certain areas and time periods; a new minimum size; measures concerning sport and recreational fishing activities; and control measures such as the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection. As a provisional measure, the Community adopted a Regulation to apply the recovery plan for the year 2007 only.

The purpose of this proposal is to implement the fifteen year ICCAT recovery plan on a permanent basis for the entire duration of the plan. The proposal is in keeping with the general pattern of the sustainable exploitation of tuna stocks in compliance with the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy and contributes to sustainable development.

In summary, the proposed Regulation:

- lays down the general rules for Community application of the ?Multiannual recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna? as recommended by the ICCAT. The plan covers the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean;
- has as its objective to achieve a biomass corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (Bmsy) with greater than 50% probability;
- sets TACs per year according to the following scheme: in 2008 ? 28.500 tonnes; in 2009 ? 27.500 tonnes; and in 2010 ? 25.500 tonnes;
- allows the Member States to allocate their bluefin tuna quota to fishing vessels flying their flag;
- sets out detailed arrangements concerning: closed fishing season; the use of planes; minimum sizes; sampling plans for bluefin tuna; by-catches; recreational fishing; sport fishing; the registering of vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna; the registering of tuna traps authorised to fish for bluefin tuna; designated ports for landing; recording requirements; joint fishing operations; catch reports; landings; transhipments; caging operations; trap activities; port or farm inspections; cross checking; observer programmes and the ICCAT scheme of joint international inspection.

The proposal has no implications on the Community budget.

Multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to find a solution to the outstanding issues regarding the proposal for a Regulation establishing a recovery plan for bluefin tuna as recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), with a view to voting on the proposal in June 2007.

Multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report - at 1st reading under the consultation procedure - by Iles BRAGHETTO (EPP-ED, IT) on the proposal for a Council regulation establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

The report makes the following amendments:

- it states that if the situation regarding the survival of fish stocks is really so critical, the derogations regarding both minimum size and ? to a lesser extent ? closed seasons are unacceptable. Derogations would not be justified from a biological point of view on account of the fact that the Mediterranean and the Atlantic are populated by a single tuna stock. Derogations would also make controls less effective;
- at least one month before the list of vessels and traps is sent to the Commission, the Member States shall submit electronically to the Commission a fisheries plan indicating the number of vessels and traps for which fishing licences are to be requested, accompanied by information concerning the expected fishing effort. Each Member State shall ensure that the number of vessels and traps included in the fisheries plan is proportionate to the bluefin-tuna quota allocated to it;
- each Member State may allocate its bluefin tuna quota to fishing vessels flying its flag and traps registered by it which are authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna and which are included in the fisheries plan;
- each Member State shall take the necessary action in order to ensure that its fattening and farming capacity is consistent with the bluefin-tuna TACs in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.
- financial compensation from the European Fisheries Fund shall be paid to fishermen (both to crews and to shipowners) during the closed season;
- the number of vessels on the list shall reflect the terms and conditions and the calculation of the fishing effort referred to in the fisheries plan;
- the number of traps on the list shall reflect the terms and conditions and the calculation of the fishing effort referred to in the fisheries plan;
- the Commission shall immediately ensure that bluefin tuna fishery operations are shut down in those Member States which do not meet the deadline for supplying information;
- on the basis of the catch data provided by the traps and as an important source of information for monitoring bluefin tuna, the Commission in conjunction with the ICCAT secretariat shall draw up a plan to reactivate traps in the Atlantic and to recover traps which are no longer active in the Mediterranean;
- the Member States shall cooperate amongst themselves in order to harmonise their laws on implementation measures in respect of vessels flying their flag which are found to be in contravention of the requirements stemming from this Regulation.

Multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Iles BRAGHETTO (EPP-ED, IT) and made some amendments to the proposal for a Council regulation establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. It conformed to the opinion of its Fisheries Committee and opposed the minimum size derogations for bluefin tuna. The resolution was adopted by 480 votes for, 41 votes against and 17 abstentions.

The main amendments were as follows:

- a new article states that at least one month before the list of vessels and is sent to the Commission, the Member States shall submit electronically to the Commission a fisheries plan indicating the number of vessels and traps for which fishing licences are to be requested, accompanied by information concerning the expected fishing effort. Each Member State shall ensure that the number of vessels and traps included in the fisheries plan is proportionate to the bluefin-tuna quota allocated to it;
- each Member State shall take the necessary action to ensure that its fattening and farming capacity is consistent with the bluefin-tuna TACs in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean;
- financial compensation from the European Fisheries Fund shall be paid to fishermen (both to crews and to shipowners) during the closed season, in accordance with the aims of the recovery plans referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002;
- Parliament deleted the derogation for a minimum size for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) of 8 kg to be applied to certain prescribed bluefin tuna;
- the number of vessels on the list shall reflect the terms and conditions and the calculation of the fishing effort referred to in the fisheries plan provided for in the text;
- the number of traps on the list shall reflect the terms and conditions and the calculation of the fishing effort referred to in the fisheries plan provided for in the text;
- the Commission shall ensure that bluefin tuna fishery operations are immediately shut down in those Member States which do not meet the deadline for supplying information referred to;
- on the basis of the catch data provided by the traps and as an important source of information for monitoring bluefin tuna, the Commission in conjunction with the ICCAT secretariat shall draw up a plan to reactivate traps in the Atlantic and to recover traps which are no longer active in the Mediterranean;
- Member States shall cooperate amongst themselves in order to harmonise their laws on implementation measures in respect of vessels flying their flag which are found to be in contravention of the requirements deriving from this Regulation.

Multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

PURPOSE: to implement, at Community level, the recovery plan for bluefin tuna adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for the duration of this recovery plan.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Regulation (EC) No 1559/2007 establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and amending Regulation (EC) No 520/2007.

CONTENT: the Council unanimously adopted a Regulation establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna (*thunnus thynnus*) for a period of 15 years. This Regulation lays down the general rules for the application by the Community of a multi-annual recovery plan for bluefin tuna recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). This Regulation shall apply to bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The objective of that recovery plan shall be to achieve a biomass corresponding to the maximum sustainable yield (Bmsy) with greater than 50 % probability.

The main measures introduced by the plan are as follows:

- the establishment of controls based on an annual fishing plan to be submitted by each Member State concerned, identifying, inter alia, vessels over 24m fishing bluefin tuna and specifying their individual quotas. Member States whose national quota does not exceed 5% of the Community TAC may, alternatively, submit a specific method for achieving the same controls;
- technical measures (seasonal restrictions on fishing by large-scale pelagic longline vessels over 24m, purse seine fishing and fishing by bait boats and pelagic trawlers);
- a ban on the use of aircraft or helicopters for searching for bluefin tuna;
- the minimum size or weight is 30kg or 115cm (with derogations possible up to 8 kg or 75 cm for bluefin tuna caught in the Atlantic Ocean by bait boats, trolling boats and pelagic trawlers, under certain conditions, and for bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes);
- recreational fishing is limited to a catch of one individual bluefin tuna in each sea trip;
- the marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational or sport fishing is prohibited except for charitable purposes;
- the designation of ports for the landing of bluefin tuna;
- a ban on transshipment, except for large-scale tuna longline fishing vessels;
- registration of and the issuing of fishing permits or licences to fishing vessels, depending on their national flag, and for tuna traps.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 25/12/2007.

APPLICATION: from 01/01/2008.