

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn 2011/0206(COD)
Fish stock conservation: multiannual plan for the Baltic salmon stock	
Subject 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds	
Geographical area Baltic Sea area	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Fisheries		
	Former committee responsible		
	 Fisheries		
	Former committee for opinion		
	 Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	DAMANAKI Maria	
European Economic and Social Committee			

Key events			
12/08/2011	Legislative proposal published	COM(2011)0470	Summary
13/09/2011	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
11/07/2012	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
17/07/2012	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A7-0239/2012	Summary
21/11/2012	Debate in Parliament		
22/11/2012	Results of vote in Parliament		
22/11/2012	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T7-0446/2012	Summary
29/09/2020	Proposal withdrawn by Commission		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2011/0206(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	PECH/7/06684

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2011)0470	12/08/2011	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)0986	12/08/2011	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)0987	12/08/2011	EC	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0150/2012	18/01/2012	ESC	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE480.861	03/05/2012	EP	
Committee draft report		PE487.805	08/05/2012	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE491.237	12/06/2012	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0239/2012	17/07/2012	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0446/2012	22/11/2012	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2013)73	23/01/2013	EC	

Additional information	
National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Fish stock conservation: multiannual plan for the Baltic salmon stock

PURPOSE: to establish a multiannual plan for the Baltic salmon stock and the fisheries exploiting that stock.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

BACKGROUND: the Salmon Action Plan, adopted through the International Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission in 1997, expired in 2010. Contracting parties to the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) have urged the EU to develop a long term plan for the management of Baltic salmon.

Recent scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee on Fisheries (STECF) state that some Baltic salmon river stocks are outside safe biological limits and that a multiannual plan should be developed at European level.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: the Commission considers that the proposed measures will achieve the following objectives:

- rebuilding all wild Baltic salmon rivers' stocks to safe biological limits and favourable conservation statuses by limiting the fishing pressure on weak salmon river stocks;

- re-establishing self-sustaining salmon populations in rivers with extirpated or very weak populations which would lead to higher overall wild salmon production;
- safeguarding the genetic diversity of wild salmon as stocking of reared salmon with potential negative genetic effect will be substantially decreased;
- predictability of fishing opportunities as a result of clear harvest control rules;
- increased production of wild salmon and recovery of all wild rivers stocks which will in the long term give increased fishing opportunities;
- benefits for the tourism sector with the potential to grow due to increased fishing opportunities of wild salmon both at sea and in rivers.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 43 (2) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: the objective of the proposal is to establish a multiannual plan for the management of the fisheries on the salmon stocks in the Baltic Sea to ensure that the conservation status of the entire Baltic stock, i.e. including all salmon rivers' stocks, is favourable and provide for sustainable exploitation.

The specific objectives of the initiative shall be to ensure that: (a) the Baltic salmon stock is exploited in a sustainable way according to the principle of maximum sustainable yield; (b) the genetic integrity and diversity of the Baltic salmon stock is safeguarded.

The main elements of the plan are:

- objectives, and targets (reach 75% of potential smolt production in each wild salmon river within ten years after the entry into force of this regulation);
- TAC based on constant fishing mortality rate of 0.1. The TAC will only cover marine fisheries but will include masters of non-fishing vessels offering services for recreational fisheries;
- obligation for Member States to define and implement technical conservation measures such as closed areas and seasons to protect migrating spawners in their coastal waters not later than 24 months from the entry into force of the plan;
- a phasing out of release of salmon in rivers with man made obstacles and without potential for re-establishment of self sustaining wild salmon populations in order to protect the genetic diversity of the wild stocks;
- financial assistance from the EFF for direct restocking of rivers with potential for self-sustaining wild salmon populations as a conservation measure for the wild salmon stock.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: this proposal has no budgetary implication for the Union budget.

DELEGATED ACTS: the proposal contains provisions empowering the Commission to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Fish stock conservation: multiannual plan for the Baltic salmon stock

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Marek Józef GRÓBARCZYK (ECR, PL) on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a multiannual plan for the Baltic salmon stock and the fisheries exploiting that stock.

The committee recommends that the European Parliament's position, adopted at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure, should be to amend the Commission proposal as follows:

Scope of the regulation: the report proposes that the scope of the regulation should be expanded to include all forms of recreational fishing.

Target levels for stocks of wild river salmon: the Members consider that the level of smolt production should be set at 80% of the potential smolt production capacity for the different wild salmon rivers, in accordance with the recommendation of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helcom).

The amended text stipulates that after twelve years (rather than ten years) from the entry into force of this regulation, the wild salmon smolt production shall be maintained at a level of at least 80% (rather than 75%) of the potential smolt production capacity in each wild salmon river.

Salmon caught at sea in recreational fisheries and from recreational coastal and river fisheries shall be counted against the national quota.

Minimum landing size for salmon and sea trout: by way of derogation from Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005, the minimum landing size for salmon should be 60 cm and the minimum landing size for sea trout should be 50 cm, in each of the ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) subdivisions.

Stocking: stocking of salmon may only be conducted in wild salmon rivers when this is required to prevent extermination of the local stock. Stocking shall be conducted in a way that safeguards the genetic diversity and variability of the different salmon river stocks.

Smolts for stocking shall be marked by clipping their adipose fins.

Origin of mature fish and smolt: an amendment states that mature fish and smolt shall originate from the same wild salmon river, if possible, or failing that, from the nearest possible wild salmon river basin.

Transitional period: releases of salmon other than those made in accordance with the rules may continue until ten years after the entry into force of this Regulation on the basis of careful evaluation.

The Members call for a river-by-river approach to be used for the gradual phasing out. Administered by Member States' local, regional and/or national agencies, this approach shall also involve local stakeholders and make use of their competence with regards to habitat restoration and other measures.

Legally binding national decisions on the use of economical recourses, currently used for restocking, shall be redirected to support fishermen potentially adversely affected by the negative effects of a phasing-out.

Controls on catches: the report proposes that all types of recreational fisheries, regardless of type, shall complete a catch declaration and report to the competent authority of the flag Member State by the last day of every month.

Such landing inspections shall cover a minimum of 20 % inspection of the total number of landings. The European Fisheries Control Agency shall carry out effective controls and shall encourage Member States to undertake more focused and targeted inspections in areas where illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is suspected or reported to take place.

Data collection: no later than three years after the entry into force of the Regulation, the Commission shall present to the European Parliament and the Council:

- the findings of scientific research conducted into the impact of predators, in particular seals and cormorants, on the Baltic salmon stock. On the basis of those research findings the Commission shall draw up a plan for managing populations of predators that have an impact on the Baltic salmon stock, which shall be brought into force no later than in 2016;
- the findings of the scientific research conducted in respect of the discards and by-catch of salmon in all relevant Baltic Sea fisheries.

Fish stock conservation: multiannual plan for the Baltic salmon stock

The European Parliament adopted by 599 votes to 23, with 14 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a multiannual plan for the Baltic salmon stock and the fisheries exploiting that stock.

Parliament's position, adopted at first reading, following the ordinary legislative procedure, amends the Commission proposal as follows:

Scope of the regulation: Parliament proposes that the scope of the regulation should be expanded to include all forms of recreational fishing.

Target levels for stocks of wild river salmon: Parliament considers that the level of smolt production should be set at 80% of the potential smolt production capacity for the different wild salmon rivers, in accordance with the recommendation of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helcom).

The amended text stipulates that after 12 years (rather than 10 years) from the entry into force of this regulation, the wild salmon smolt production shall be maintained at a level of at least 80% (rather than 75%) of the potential smolt production capacity in each wild salmon river.

Salmon caught at sea in recreational fisheries and from recreational coastal and river fisheries shall be counted against the national quota.

Minimum landing size for salmon and sea trout: by way of derogation from Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005, the minimum landing size for salmon should be 60 cm and the minimum landing size for sea trout should be 50 cm, in each of the ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) subdivisions.

Stocking: stocking of salmon may only be conducted in wild salmon rivers when this is required to prevent extermination of the local stock. Stocking shall be conducted in a way that safeguards the genetic diversity and variability of the different salmon river stocks.

Smolts for stocking shall be marked by clipping their adipose fins (finclipping).

Origin of mature fish and smolt: an amendment states that mature fish and smolt shall originate from the same wild salmon river, if possible, or failing that, from the nearest possible wild salmon river basin.

Transitional period: releases of salmon other than those made in accordance with the rules may continue until ten years after the entry into force of this Regulation on the basis of careful evaluation.

Parliament calls for a river-by-river approach to be used for the gradual phasing out. Administered by Member States' local, regional and/or national agencies, this approach shall also involve local stakeholders and make use of their competence with regards to habitat restoration and other measures.

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