

Procedure file

Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	2018/0239(NLE)	Procedure completed
Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean		
Subject 3.15.15 Fisheries agreements and cooperation		
Geographical area Arctic area		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries		07/09/2018
		ALDE NICOLAI Norica	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		PPE LOPE FONTAGNÉ Verónica	
		S&D SERRÃO SANTOS Ricardo	
		ECR FLACK John	
		GUE/NGL NÍ RIADA Liadh	
		Verts/ALE ENGSTRÖM Linnéa	
	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			
European Commission	Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	Commissioner VELLA Karmenu	

Key events			
12/06/2018	Preparatory document	COM(2018)0453	Summary
06/09/2018	Legislative proposal published	10784/2018	Summary
22/10/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		
10/01/2019	Vote in committee, 1st reading/single reading		
16/01/2019	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0016/2019	Summary
12/02/2019	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T8-0066/2019	Summary
11/03/2019	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

11/03/2019	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/03/2019	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2018/0239(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 218-p6a
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/8/13699

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure	COM(2018)0454	12/06/2018	EC	
Preparatory document	COM(2018)0453	12/06/2018	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal	10784/2018	06/09/2018	CSL	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	10788/2018	06/09/2018	CSL	
Document attached to the procedure	12491/2018	27/09/2018	CSL	
Committee draft report	PE629.402	24/10/2018	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0016/2019	16/01/2019	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T8-0066/2019	12/02/2019	EP	Summary

Final act

[Decision 2019/407](#)
[OJ L 073 15.03.2019, p. 0001](#) Summary

2018/0239(NLE) - 12/06/2018 Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, the Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: on 31 March 2016, the Council adopted negotiating directives which authorised the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union, an international agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean.

On the basis of the relevant negotiating directives, the Commission conducted negotiations with the delegations from Canada, China, Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland, Iceland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Russia and the United States of America with a view to concluding a binding Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean.

The Agreement seeks to prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the high seas portion of the central Arctic Ocean, an area that is roughly 2.8 million square kilometres in size. Commercial fishing has never been known to occur in this area, nor is it likely to occur in the near future. However, given the changing conditions of the Arctic Ocean, the governments in question developed this Agreement in accordance with the precautionary approach to fisheries management.

CONTENT: the present proposal calls on the Council to adopt the decision to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean. Becoming a Party to the Agreement will promote consistency in the Union's conservation approach across oceans and reinforce its commitment to the long term conservation and sustainable use of marine biological resources globally.

The Agreement will establish and operate a joint programme of scientific research and monitoring with the aim of improving the understanding of the ecosystem(s) of this area and, in particular, of determining whether fish stocks might exist in this area that could be harvested on a sustainable basis.

Once entered into force, the Agreement will close an important regulatory gap in the current International ocean governance framework.

2018/0239(NLE) - 06/09/2018 Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to approve the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the Council can adopt the act only if the European Parliament has approved it.

BACKGROUND: the Union has exclusive competence, under the Common Fisheries Policy, in adopting measures for the conservation of marine biological resources and entering into agreements with third countries and international organisations in this respect.

On 31 March 2016, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, an international agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean.

On the basis of the relevant negotiating directives, the Commission conducted negotiations with the delegations from Canada, China, Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland, Iceland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Russia and the United States of America with a view to concluding a binding agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fishing in the central Arctic Ocean. These negotiations were successfully concluded on 30 November 2017.

The agreement that was signed subject to its conclusion at a later date must now be approved.

CONTENT: the draft Council decision aims to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the central Arctic Ocean.

The aim of the Agreement is to prevent unregulated fishing in the high seas of the central Arctic Ocean through precautionary conservation and management measures as part of a long-term strategy to preserve the health of marine ecosystems and to ensure the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fish stocks.

The Agreement:

- will prevent unregulated commercial fishing in the high seas portion of the central Arctic Ocean, an area that is roughly 2.8 million square kilometres in size;
- will establish and operate a joint programme of scientific research and monitoring with the aim of improving the understanding of the ecosystems of this area and, in particular, of determining whether fish stocks might exist in this area that could be harvested on a sustainable basis;
- envisages the possibility that one or more additional regional fisheries management organisations or arrangements may be established for this area in the future.

Becoming a party to the Agreement will promote consistency in the Union's conservation approach across oceans and reinforce its commitment to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine biological resources globally, and is therefore in the Union's interest.

2018/0239(NLE) - 16/01/2019 Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Norica NICOLAI (ALDE, RO) on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament give its consent to conclusion of the agreement.

The aim of the agreement is to prevent unregulated fishing in the high seas of the central Arctic Ocean through precautionary conservation and management measures as part of a long-term strategy to preserve the health of marine ecosystems and to ensure the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fish stocks.

2018/0239(NLE) - 12/02/2019 Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 629 votes to 21, with 14 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.

Parliament gave its consent to conclusion of the agreement.

2018/0239(NLE) - 15/03/2019 Final act

PURPOSE: to approve the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement to prevent unregulated fishing on the high seas in the Central Arctic Ocean.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision (EU) 2019/407 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.

CONTENT: the Council adopted a Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement to prevent unregulated high seas fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean.

The Agreement was signed on 3 October 2018, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

Its aim is to prevent unregulated fishing in the high seas of the central Arctic Ocean through precautionary conservation and management measures as part of a long-term strategy to preserve the health of marine ecosystems and to ensure the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fish stocks.

Under the common fisheries policy, the Union has exclusive competence, under the Common Fisheries Policy, in adopting measures for the conservation of marine biological resources and entering into agreements with third countries and international organisations in this respect.

Becoming a party to the Agreement will promote consistency in the Union's conservation approach across oceans and reinforce its commitment to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine biological resources globally, and is therefore in the Union's interest.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 18.3.2019.