











Procedure file

Basic information		
NLE - Non-legislative enactments	2019/0225(NLE)	Procedure completed
Amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Protocol		
Subject		
3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources		
3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds		
3.15.15 Fisheries agreements and cooperation		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Fisheries	 CONTE Rosanna	18/11/2019
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia	
		 CARVALHAIS Isabel	
		 KARLESKIND Pierre	
		 ROOSE Caroline	
		 STANCANELLI Raffaele	
		 HAZEKAMP Anja	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 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			
14/10/2019	Preparatory document	COM(2019)0472	
11/11/2019	Legislative proposal published	13447/2019	Summary

28/11/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/04/2020	Vote in committee		
27/04/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0089/2020	
13/05/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/05/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0063/2020	Summary
29/05/2020	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
12/06/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2019/0225(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
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/9/01620

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure	COM(2019)0470	14/10/2019	EC	
Preparatory document	COM(2019)0472	14/10/2019	EC	
Legislative proposal	13447/2019	12/11/2019	CSL	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	13446/2019	12/11/2019	CSL	
Committee draft report	PE644.777	30/01/2020	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0089/2020	27/04/2020	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T9-0063/2020	13/05/2020	EP	Summary

Final act

[Decision 2020/765](#)
[OJ L 187 12.06.2020, p. 0001](#)

Amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Protocol

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

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: the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT Convention) aims, by establishing the ICCAT, to promote cooperation in maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like fish in the Atlantic Ocean at levels that permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes. The Convention entered into force on 21 March 1969. The Union is a party to the Convention, having approved it pursuant to the Council Decision of 9 June 1986.

From 2013 to 2018, discussions took place within the ICCAT Commission on the changes that are needed to the Convention. As a result, a Protocol has been drafted to amend to the Convention. The Protocol amending ICCAT, once signed (and provisionally applied from the date of its entry into force for other Contracting Parties, pending its entry into force for the Union), must now be approved.

CONTENT: the draft Council Decision seeks approval, on behalf of the Union, of the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

The Protocol is consistent with Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy, which provides that the Union shall:

- ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term and are managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits, and of contributing to the availability of food supplies;
- apply the precautionary approach to fisheries management, and is to aim to ensure that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains population of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield;
- adopt management and conservation measures based on best available scientific advice, to support the development of scientific knowledge and advice, to gradually eliminate discards and to promote fishing methods that contribute to more selective fishing and the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches, to fishing with low impact on the marine ecosystem and fishery resources;
- apply those objectives and principles in the conduct of its external fisheries relations.

In accordance with the [Joint Communication](#) by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission [International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of oceans](#)⁶ and the Council conclusions on that Joint Communication, promoting measures to support and enhance the effectiveness of RFMOs and, where relevant, improve their governance is a central feature of the Unions action in these fora.

The Protocol meets these objectives.

Amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Protocol

The European Parliament adopted by 667 votes to 2, with 13 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Following the recommendation of the Committee on Fisheries, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Protocol.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is the body set up by the ICCAT Convention for the conservation and management of species under its competence.

After nearly seven years of negotiations, the ICCAT parties have approved the package of amendments to the ICCAT Convention and thus modernised the text. These amendments bring the convention into line with those of other regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) around the world. In particular, the amendments will significantly improve ICCAT's ability to manage shark fisheries and modernise ICCAT's working methods and decision-making procedures to strengthen the organisation and ensure that it is more effective and ready to meet current and future challenges.