









# Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	2021/0242(COD) Procedure completed
Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna: conservation and management measures	
Subject 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.07 Fisheries inspectorate, surveillance of fishing vessels and areas 3.15.15 Fisheries agreements and cooperation	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
		 <a href="#">O'SULLIVAN Grace</a> Shadow rapporteur  <a href="#">MELO Nuno</a>  <a href="#">AGUILERA Clara</a>  <a href="#">BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun</a>  <a href="#">STANCANELLI Raffaele</a>  <a href="#">HAZEKAMP Anja</a>	11/10/2021
Council of the European Union	Commission DG	Commissioner	
European Commission	<a href="#">Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</a>	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus	
European Economic and Social Committee			

Key events			
28/07/2021	Legislative proposal published	<a href="#">COM(2021)0424</a>	Summary
13/09/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
25/04/2022	Vote in committee, 1st reading		

25/04/2022	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
27/04/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	<a href="#">A9-0134/2022</a>	
02/05/2022	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		
04/05/2022	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		
30/11/2022	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	<a href="#">PE738.706 GEDA/A/(2022)006956</a>	
02/02/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
02/02/2023	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	<a href="#">T9-0026/2023</a>	Summary
21/02/2023	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
15/03/2023	Final act signed		
24/03/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

### Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/0242(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 159
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	<a href="#">European Economic and Social Committee</a>
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/06972

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	<a href="#">COM(2021)0424</a>	28/07/2021	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES4880/2021</a>	20/10/2021	ESC	
Committee draft report	<a href="#">PE719.636</a>	16/02/2022	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	<a href="#">PE730.010</a>	22/03/2022	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A9-0134/2022</a>	27/04/2022	EP	
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	<a href="#">GEDA/A/(2022)006956</a>	09/11/2022	CSL	
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations	<a href="#">PE738.706</a>	09/11/2022	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">T9-0026/2023</a>	02/02/2023	EP	Summary

Commission response to text adopted in plenary	<a href="#">SP(2023)97</a>	08/03/2023	EC
Draft final act	00060/2022/LEX	15/03/2023	CSL

## Final act

[Regulation 2023/675](#)  
[OJ L 088 24.03.2023, p. 0001](#)

## Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna: conservation and management measures

**PURPOSE:** to implement into EU law the relevant control, conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

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

**ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

**BACKGROUND:** the CCSBT is the regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) responsible for managing Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii* SBF) through its area of distribution. The CCSBT has a mandate to adopt conservation and enforcement measures for the fisheries under its purview, and these are binding on its contracting parties.

To promote cooperation in the conservation and management of Southern bluefin tuna, the CCSBT has created the Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (Extended Commission), in which the EU can participate as a member. Decisions adopted by the Extended Commission become decisions of the CCSBT at the end of the annual meeting session to which they were reported, unless the CCSBT decides to the contrary, which to date has never occurred.

The purpose of this proposal is to implement into Union law CCSBT measures that are binding on members of the Extended Commission.

**CONTENT:** the proposed Regulation lays down provisions concerning management, conservation and control measures relating to by-catch of Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) under the Convention for the Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna. It implements the relevant resolutions of the CCSBT adopted until 2020, except for measures which already form part of Union law.

The proposed Regulation covers only the CCSBT provisions applicable to the EU, notably taking into consideration the specificity of the Union fleet (no targeted fishery, exclusively accidental by-catch in the past and none since 2012, no transshipments or landing) and the trade of Southern bluefin tuna. In practice, most obligations will be only triggered if the Union fleet accidentally by-catches Southern bluefin tuna, which has not occurred since 2012, and retains those fish on-board, something that has not been reported to date.

The proposal includes:

- the ban on targeting of the Southern bluefin tuna, with only by-catches being allowed. EU fishing vessels that could by-catch the species shall be registered in the CCSBT record of vessels;
- the implementation of the CCSBT catch documentation scheme (CDS). By-catches of Southern bluefin tuna shall be tagged with catch tagging forms, while import, export and re-export documents are mandatory for the trading of Southern bluefin tuna;
- validation and verification of catch monitoring documents and tagging forms by flag Member States, as well as implementation of the CCSBT provisions on reviews and investigations related to the CDS and the maintenance of CDS records;
- the fixing of a SBF tag containing information on each whole SBF at the time of harvesting where SBF by-caught by Union fishing vessels is intended for export or re-export;
- the obligation to tranship SBF in port. Flag Member States will have to designate ports for transhipment of SBF for vessels flying their flag and communicate with the designated port States in order to share the information necessary for effective monitoring;
- implements the duty to cooperate in providing fishing vessels data for: the investigation of incidents; cooperation related to the inclusion of a Union fishing vessel on the CCSBT Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) vessels list; reported cases of non-compliance; port inspection infringements;
- implements duties relating to monthly catch reports, and to annual and compliance reporting.

The proposal provides for delegated powers to be granted to the Commission to cater for amendments to CCSBT measures and ensure that EU fishing vessels are on an equal footing with those of other contracting parties. Examples of such measures are: the CCSBT Record of Vessels Authorised to Fish for Southern Bluefin Tuna; aligning the CCSBTs Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs; and reporting deadlines.

## Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna: conservation and management measures

The European Parliament adopted by 589 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down conservation and management measures for the conservation of Southern bluefin tuna.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure.

The Regulation implements in Union law the management, conservation and control measures established under the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna which are binding on the Union. It implements the relevant resolutions of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) adopted until 2020, with the exception of those measures which are already part of Union law.

The proposed Regulation covers only the CCSBT provisions applicable to the EU, notably taking into consideration the specificity of the Union fleet (no targeted fishery, exclusively accidental by-catch in the past and none since 2012, no transshipments or landing) and the trade of Southern bluefin tuna.

In practice, most obligations will be only triggered if the Union fleet accidentally by-catches Southern bluefin tuna, which has not occurred since 2012, and retains those fish on-board, something that has not been reported to date.

Specifically, the Regulation includes:

- the ban on targeting of the Southern bluefin tuna, with only by-catches being allowed;
- the implementation of the CCSBT catch documentation scheme (CDS). By-catches of Southern bluefin tuna shall be tagged with catch tagging forms, while import, export and re-export documents are mandatory for the trading of Southern bluefin tuna;
- validation and verification of catch monitoring documents and tagging forms by flag Member States;
- the implementation of the CCSBT provisions on reviews and investigations related to the CDS and the maintenance of CDS records;
- the fixing of a SBF tag containing information on each whole SBF at the time of harvesting where SBF by-caught by Union fishing vessels is intended for export or re-export;
- the obligation to tranship SBF in port. Flag Member States will have to designate ports for transshipment of SBF for vessels flying their flag and communicate with the designated port States in order to share the information necessary for effective monitoring;
- implements the duty to cooperate in providing fishing vessels data for: the investigation of incidents; cooperation related to the inclusion of a Union fishing vessel on the CCSBT Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) vessels list; reported cases of non-compliance; port inspection infringements;
- implements duties relating to monthly catch reports, and to annual and compliance reporting.

Personal data processed in the framework of this Regulation should be treated in accordance with the applicable provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

Personal data processed under this Regulation should not be stored for a period longer than 10 years, except if those personal data are necessary to enable the follow-up of an infringement, an inspection or judicial or administrative procedures. In such cases, the personal data may be stored for up to 20 years. If personal data are retained for a longer period, the data shall be anonymised.

The Regulation provides for delegated powers to the Commission to provide for amendments to the CCSBT measures and to ensure that EU fishing vessels are treated on an equal footing with those of other contracting parties.