Procedure file

Basic information

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	2020/0059(COD)
Specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector Amending Regulation 2013/1379 2011/0194(COD) Amending Regulation 2014/508 2011/0380(COD) Subject 3.15.02 Aquaculture 3.15.06 Fishing industry and statistics, fishery products 3.15.17 European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 4.20 Public health 4.20.01 Medicine, diseases 4.20.06 Health services, medical institutions Legislative priorities The EU?s response to the Covid-19 pandemic	Procedure completed

Key players

	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
European Parliament	PECH Fisheries		
Council of the European Union			
European Economic and Social Committee			

Key events

02/04/2020	Legislative proposal published	COM(2020)0142	Summary
14/04/2020	Decision by committee, without report		
16/04/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
17/04/2020	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0052/2020	Summary
22/04/2020	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
23/04/2020	Final act signed		
24/04/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		
20/05/2020	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/0059(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amending Regulation 2013/1379 2011/0194(COD) Amending Regulation 2014/508 2011/0380(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 175-p3; Rules of Procedure EP 163; Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 043-p2
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/02748

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2020)0142	02/04/2020	EC	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0052/2020	17/04/2020	EP	Summary
Draft final act		00009/2020/LEX	23/04/2020	CSL	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2020)159	13/05/2020	EC	

Final act

Regulation 2020/560
OJ L 130 24.04.2020, p. 0011

Specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector

PURPOSE: to adopt specific measures to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

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 on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the fishery and aquaculture sector has been particularly hard hit by the market disruption generated by a significant drop in demand following the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis can consequently have dramatic socio-economic consequences in certain communities where fishing and aquaculture play a key role. Small-scale coastal fisheries represent close to 75% of all active vessels and over 55% of direct employment; they constitute the main economic activity in many coastal areas.

On 13 March 2020, the Commission proposed a Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative directed at promoting investments by mobilising available cash reserves in the European Structural and Investments Funds, to fight the crisis immediately. However, the fact that fishing and aquaculture activities have been interrupted or significantly reduced makes it difficult to implement the current operational measures and programmes under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in a normal way. In the absence of effective measures to tackle the crisis, the EMFF is unlikely to be fully implemented by the end of the current programming period.

The Commission considers that it should be possible for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) established by Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 to support specific measures until 31 December 2020 to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector.

CONTENT: the proposal aims to amend Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 (EMFF Regulation) and Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 (CMO Regulation) in order to introduce specific measures under the EMFF to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Specific measures

The amendments to the EMFF are intended to allow a more flexible redistribution of financial resources within operational programmes in each Member State and a simplified procedure for amending operational programmes as regards the introduction of new measures.

The proposed specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector comprise:

- support to fishermen for the temporary cessation of fishing activities caused by the COVID-19 outbreak,

- support to aquaculture farmers for the temporary suspension or the reduction of production caused by the COVID-19 outbreak,

- support to producer organisations and associations of producer organisations for the storage of fishery and aquaculture products, in accordance with the Common Market Organisation (CMO).

It is proposed that these measures are retroactively eligible as of 1 February 2020 and available until 31 December 2020.

Budgetary implications

The proposed modification does not imply any changes in the Multiannual Financial Framework annual ceilings for commitments and payments as per Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 1311/2013. The annual breakdown of commitment appropriations for the EMFF remains unchanged.

The available payment appropriations in the 2020 budget for the EMFF can accommodate a shift between Union Priorities within operational programmes. The new measures will in fact to a large extent replace initially planned initiatives, which are now being stopped due to the general decline of economic activity.

By consequence, the proposed measures aim to ensure an effective implementation of the 2020 budget and the 2014-2020 allocation for the EMFF.

Specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector

The European Parliament legislative adopted a resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 and Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 as regards specific measures to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in the fishery and aquaculture sector.

The proposal aims at mitigating the social and economic impacts of the spread of COVID-19 in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. To this end, it amends the Regulation on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and the Regulation on the common organisation of the market (CMO).

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure by means of an urgent procedure. The specific measures proposed include:

- support for the temporary cessation of fishing activities, including for inland fishing and fishers on foot, and for certain economic losses for aquaculture producers and processing enterprises and in the outermost regions,
- provided that they are the consequence of the COVID-19 outbreak;
- the provision of working capital to aquaculture producers and processing enterprises and support to producer organisations and associations of producer organisations for the storage of fishery and aquaculture products;
- flexibility to use 10% of the budgetary funds allocated to fisheries control and scientific data collection for measures related to mitigating the effects of the spread of COVID-19;
- the addition of fishermen on foot to the number of people eligible for aid in the event of temporary cessation;
- for measures related to mitigating the COVID-19 outbreak, the proportional reduction of the 120-day activity requirement for owners of vessels registered for less than two years and for fishers who started working less than two years before applying for support;
- the addition of provisions in favour of the outermost regions to deal with the consequences of the crisis; the aim is to compensate fishermen for the economic losses resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak, in particular those resulting from the deterioration in the price of fish or increased storage costs.

Expenditure for operations supported under those measures shall be eligible as of 1 February 2020.

The proposal is part of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative+ (CRII+) package, which also includes specific measures aimed at 1) introducing more flexibility in the use of EU funds and 2) ensuring the continued operation of the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD).