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Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area: conservation and management measures  Amending Regulation 2007/520 <a href="#">2006/0030(CNS)</a>	
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 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 <a href="#">Fisheries</a>	 <a href="#">CARVALHAIS Isabel</a>	20/05/2021
European Parliament		Shadow rapporteur	
		 <a href="#">CARVALHO Maria da Graça</a>	
		 <a href="#">WIESNER Emma</a>	
		 <a href="#">O'SULLIVAN Grace</a>	
		 <a href="#">ILČIĆ Ladislav</a>	
		 <a href="#">PIMENTA LOPES João</a>	
European Parliament	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 <a href="#">Environment, Public Health and Food Safety</a>	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	<a href="#">Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</a>	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus	
European Economic and Social Committee			

Key events			
23/04/2021	Legislative proposal published	<a href="#">COM(2021)0198</a>	Summary
26/04/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
25/01/2022	Vote in committee, 1st reading		

31/01/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	<a href="#">A9-0009/2022</a>	Summary
03/03/2022	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
07/03/2022	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		
09/03/2022	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		
11/07/2022	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	<a href="#">PE734.345</a> <a href="#">GEDA/A/(2022)004952</a>	

### Forecasts

15/09/2022	Debate in plenary scheduled
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### Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/0103(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amending Regulation 2007/520 <a href="#">2006/0030(CNS)</a>
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	Awaiting Parliament's position in 1st reading
Committee dossier	PECH/9/05881

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	<a href="#">COM(2021)0198</a>	23/04/2021	EC	Summary
Committee draft report	<a href="#">PE694.999</a>	20/09/2021	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee	<a href="#">PE702.895</a>	06/12/2021	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A9-0009/2022</a>	31/01/2022	EP	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	<a href="#">GEDA/A/(2022)004952</a>	29/06/2022	CSL	
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations	<a href="#">PE734.345</a>	29/06/2022	EP	

## Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area: conservation and management measures

PURPOSE: to transpose into European Union (EU) law the conservation and management measures adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

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 EU has been a contracting party to the WCPFC since 2004, when it ratified the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. The WCPFC is the regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) responsible for the management of fisheries resources in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. WCPFC's conservation and management measures apply to the entire WCPFC Convention Area.

The WCPFC is empowered to adopt conservation and management measures (CMMs) for the living resources of the sea under its jurisdiction, which are binding on the Contracting Parties.

CONTENT: the proposed Regulation aims to implement existing measures of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC), which are binding on the Contracting Parties. It establishes management and conservation measures for fisheries in the Convention area and in respect of fish species covered by the Convention.

The regulation would apply to EU vessels fishing in the WCPFC Convention area and to the rules on fishing authorisation.

The proposal:

- deals with conservation and management measures, including provisions for: purse seine vessels fishing for tropical tuna and longline vessels fishing for swordfish; closure of fisheries; prohibition of fishing on data buoys; provisions on fishing in the vicinity of fish aggregating devices, their deployment and design; and setting rules for transshipment in port;
- sets out measures designed to protect marine species in the WCPFC Convention Area, such as: oceanic white tip, silky and hammerhead sharks; mobulid rays, including provisions for data collection and reporting on these rays, as well as their release; and sea turtles, seabirds and cetaceans;
- sets rules on: requirements for vessels, their marking and identification; the vessels monitoring scheme, including the WCPFC regional vessels register scheme; bunkering duties; and the charter notification scheme;
- contains provisions on: the WCPFC regional observer scheme, including rules on the coverage of the observer programme; the rights and responsibilities of vessel operators and masters; the safety of observers; and the reporting duties and obligations of observers;
- regulates boarding and inspection procedures, the list of serious infringements, provisions for evidence, and enforcement and use of force;
- covers port State measures, and the procedure in the event of suspected illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities;
- provides for delegated powers to the Commission to provide for changes to WCPFC measures, which are likely to be frequent.

## Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area: conservation and management measures

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The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Isabel CARVALHAIS (S&D, PT) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down conservation and management measures applicable in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 520/2007.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission's proposal as follows:

### Scope and purpose

The amended text stipulated that the Regulation should apply to Union fishing vessels carrying out fishing in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Area. Its aim is to incorporate into European Union law the conservation and management measures (CMMs) adopted by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

The mission of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) is, inter alia, to organise the operational coordination of fisheries control and inspection activities by Member States for the implementation of international control and inspection programmes such as the ones implemented in WCPFC CMMs, and to assist Member States in reporting information on fishing activities and control and inspection activities to the Commission and third parties.

It is therefore appropriate for the EFCA to be the body that receives from Member States and transmits to the WCPFC Secretariat information relating to control and inspection, such as at sea inspection reports and notifications of the WCPFC.

### Sea turtles

Members stressed that Union fishing vessel should bring on board any captured hard-shell sea turtle (family Cheloniidae) that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible after capture and foster its recovery, including giving it resuscitation, before returning it to the water. Masters and operators of Union fishing vessels should ensure that crew is aware of and use proper mitigation and handling techniques.

### Marine pollution

The amended text stipulated that Union fishing vessels should be prohibited from discharging marine waste produced on board or any plastics, including plastic packaging, items containing plastic and polystyrene into the sea.

### Record of fishing vessels

Members, once again, stressed the need to include the EFCA in the information exchange scheme to and from the WCPFC secretariat, Member States, fishing vessels masters, fishing inspectors and Regional Observer Programme observers. In this regard, Member States should notify EFCA, with the Commission in copy, of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a

vessel is that not on the Record is or has been engaged in fishing for or transshipment of highly migratory fish stocks in the Convention Area. Submission of vessel record data to the Commission, with EFCA in copy, should be in an electronic transmission that meet the electronic formatting specification.

#### Regional Observer Programme (ROP)

ROP observers should remain attentive and shall collect information on any practices that could harm the environment. The observers should, inter alia, observe the ethnic traditions and customs of the flag State of the entire crew.

#### Infringements

Any intimidation of or physical attacks on the ROP observer should constitute a serious infringement. Moreover, any fishing activities of non-contracting party fishing vessels should also be reported by the Member States to EFCA, with the Commission in copy, and the flag State of the vessel in question.