

Common Fisheries Policy: Community framework for the collection and management of fisheries data

2007/0127(CNS) - 29/06/2007 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to extend Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 exceptionally until the end of 2008.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

CONTENT: Council Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 establishes a Community framework for the collection and management of data needed for the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The systematic collection of reliable data on fisheries is a cornerstone of fish stock assessment and scientific advice. It is of critical importance for the implementation of the CFP.

Given the importance of fisheries data collection the Commission has decided to review the current legal framework with a view to meeting new fisheries management demands and approaches. For example, the review will consider whether there should be a move towards fleet and area management as opposed to fish stock management, as is currently the case. Once completed the new review will ultimately repeal the 2000 Regulation. It is hoped that the review will enter into force in 2008.

Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 specifies that the scientific programmes to be established by the Commission and the Member States are to be drawn up for a six-year period with the first Community and Member State programmes covering the years 2002-2006. This timeframe is out of sink with the approved Community's Financial Perspective, which covers the years 2007-2013 as well as the entry into force of the review, expected in 2008. The second six years period shall cover the years 2007-2012.

The purpose of this proposal, therefore, is to extend the second programming period of Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 to cover the years 2007 and 2008 thereby allowing a smooth transition to the new legal framework due by end 2008.

The second Community programme will cover information needed for scientific evaluation and information improving scientific understanding. Each Member State is expected to draw up a national programme for the collection and management of data also covering the years 2007 and 2008.