

Multi-annual plan for the stock of herring distributed to the west of Scotland and the fisheries exploiting that stock

2008/0091(CNS) - 18/12/2008 - Final act

PURPOSE: to establish a multi-annual plan for the fisheries exploiting the stock of herring (*Clupea harengus*) in the area west of Scotland.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Regulation (EC) No 1300/2008 establishing a multi-annual plan for the stock of herring distributed to the west of Scotland and the fisheries exploiting that stock.

CONTENT: the Council adopted a Regulation establishing a multi-annual management plan for the stock of herring to the west of Scotland.

The Regulation establishes a multi-annual plan for the fisheries exploiting the stock of herring in the area to the west of Scotland in international and Community waters of ICES zones Vb and VIb, and that part of ICES zone VIa which lies west of the meridian of longitude 7°W and north of the parallel of latitude 55°N, or east of the meridian of longitude 7°W and north of the parallel of latitude 56°N, excluding the Clyde.

It was agreed that the annual variation in the TAC would be limited to 20 % or 25 % depending on the state of the stock, the 2009 TAC being reduced by 20 % by comparison with the 2008 TAC.

The Regulation introduces measures based on the advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) on that stock of herring (*Clupea harengus*), in particular:

- maintaining the fishing mortality rate for appropriate age groups at: (a) 0.25 per year when the spawning stock is more than 75 000 tonnes; (b) 0.2 per year when the spawning stock is between 50 000 tonnes and 75 000 tonnes;
- the rates may be revised if the objectives of the plan are not achieved;
- when the spawning stock is below 50 000 tonnes, fishing is closed;
- vessels must hold a special fishing permit for the zone concerned;
- Member States will carry out administrative cross-checks by comparing the landing declarations, the fishing areas and catches recorded in the logbook, catch reports and VMS data. Such cross-checks shall be recorded and made available to the Commission on request.

Evaluation and review of the multi-annual plan: the Commission shall request, each year, advice from STECF and the Pelagic Regional Advisory Council on the achievement of the targets of the multi-annual plan. Where the advice indicates that the targets are not being met, the Council will decide by qualified majority on additional and/or alternative measures to ensure that the targets are met.

At least every 4 years from 18/12/2008, the Commission will review the geographical area of application, the biological reference levels and the performance and operation of the multi-annual plan. In the framework of this review, the Commission shall seek the advice of the STECF and of the Pelagic Regional Advisory Council. Where appropriate, the Council must decide by qualified majority on appropriate adaptations to the multi-annual plan, as regards the geographical area of application, the biological reference levels or the rules for setting TACs.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 23/12/2008.