Conservation of fishery resources: cod stocks in the Baltic Sea, multi-annual plan; aligning the Regulation with the TFEU

2012/0077(COD) - 16/01/2013 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 661 votes to 7, with 20 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1098/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing a multi-annual plan for the cod stocks in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks.

Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the Commission's proposal as follows:

Objective and targets: Parliament considers that the management plan to ensure the sustainable exploitation of the cod stocks should indicate a maximum fishing mortality, not a minimum fishing mortality as proposed by the Commission. The plan shall maintain the fishing mortality rates at levels no lower than 0.25 on ages 3 to 6 years for the cod stock in Area A.

New target rate: throughout the text, Members propose replacing the word "minimum" with "target" to better define the fishing mortality values.

Procedure for determining the periods during which it is permitted to fish with certain types of gear: an amendment stipulates that, by way of derogation, fishing vessels with an overall length of less than 12 metres shall be permitted to fish with static gear in the area up to 10 nautical miles measured from the baselines. The immersion time of the said static gears shall not exceed 48 hours.

Evaluation of the plan: for the purpose of this evaluation, the Commission shall seek the advice of STECF and of the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council. Where necessary, the Commission shall make appropriate proposals, for adoption in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, for the amendment of the multi-annual plan.

Revision of minimum fishing mortality rates: where the Commission finds that the minimum fishing mortality rates are no longer appropriate to achieve the objectives of the management plan, the Commission shall, on the basis of advice from STECF and after consulting the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council and relevant stakeholders, make a proposal, for adoption in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, for the revision of the target fishing mortality rates.

Delegated acts: the Commission shall no longer be empowered to adopt implementing acts under the Regulation. It will have the power to adopt delegated acts with regard to setting periods when fishing with certain types of gear is allowed in respect of certain geographical areas. The power to adopt delegated acts shall be conferred on the Commission for a period of three years from the date of entry into force of this Regulation. The delegation of power shall be tacitly extended for periods of an identical duration, unless the European Parliament or the Council opposes such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.

The Commission should carry out appropriate consultations with the Baltic Sea Regional Advisory Council and relevant stakeholders during its preparatory work, including at expert level.