

# Common fisheries policy (CFP)

2011/0195(COD) - 26/02/2013

The Council adopted a **second general approach** on the proposal for a Regulation on the common fisheries policy (CFP) replacing the basic provisions of the CFP as part of the CFP reform package:

This political agreement on the CFP basic provisions is a completion of the first partial general approach agreed by the Council in June 2012. It specifies the Council position on **the implementation of the discards ban and the possibility of by-catch quotas**.

Its main aspects are as follows:

**Dates for implementing the discard ban** have been set:

- from 1 January 2014 for pelagic fish;
- from 1 January 2015 for species defining the fisheries in the Baltic (and until 2018 for other species);
- from 1 January 2016 for species defining the fisheries in the North Sea, the North Western waters and the South Western waters (and until 2019 for other species);
- from 1 January 2017 for species defining the fisheries in the Mediterranean, in the Black Sea and in all EU waters and non-EU waters (and until 2019 for other species).

**Management tools:** management tools have been introduced to help the fishing industry to adapt to the obligation to land all catches. The level proposed for **de minimis exemptions** through management plans should reach **7%** in the final phase with a degressive rate (9% the first two years; 8% the two following years). These exemptions apply under strict conditions, in particular that all such catches should be fully recorded.

**Use of catches for charitable purposes:** a possibility also has been introduced of using for charitable purposes catches of at least the minimum conservation size landed in the framework of the discard ban.

**Environmental obligations:** the discussions also addressed definitions and responsibilities for implementing environmental obligations that impact on fishing activities.

The European Parliament voted on its position at first reading for this proposal on 6 February 2013. On the basis of the general approach reached in the Council, the discussions between Parliament and the Council will begin shortly.