

Multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

2015/0096(COD) - 15/12/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Gabriel MATO (EPP, ES) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean repealing Regulation (EC) No 302/2009.

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

Subject matter and scope: the amended text seeks to enhance the scope of the Regulation by giving support and particular attention to long-established **traditional and artisanal fishing gear** such as **traps ('almadrabas')** which have a low impact on marine ecosystems thanks to their low energy consumption and high degree of selectivity. In addition, Member States shall ensure safeguards as regards the socio-economic viability of its traps.

Fishing plans: in a new article, the committee proposed that the annual fishing plan submitted by each Member State shall provide for an **even breakdown of quotas** among the gear groups in order to help ensure compliance with individual quotas and by-catch allowances. Member States shall use transparent and objective criteria for the national allocation of the quotas, giving special consideration to the preservation and prosperity of small-scale, artisanal and traditional fishermen using traps and other selective fishing methods, and to the encouragement of such methods.

Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, by catch: the Common Fisheries Policy [basic Regulation](#) introduces a landing obligation, in which the concept of minimum size, linked to the discard obligation applied up to the last reform, has no longer sense. Therefore, the amended text replaces the concept of 'minimum size' with that of minimum conservation reference size'. To recall, the minimum conservation reference size for Bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic and in the Mediterranean shall be 30 kg or 115 cm fork length.

Recreational and sport fishery: the committee report stipulated that any Bluefin tuna landed shall be whole, gilled and gutted. Each Member State shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of Bluefintuna caught alive, especially juveniles, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing.

Fishing authorisations for vessels: the fishing authorisation for Bluefin tuna and shall require the vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.

The flag Member State shall withdraw the fishing authorisation for Bluefin tuna and **may** require the vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted

Landings: the amended text specified that the estimated quantities of Bluefin tuna retained on board may be notified at the agreed time of notification prior to arrival. If the fishing grounds are **less than four hours from the port**, the estimated quantities of Bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme: Member States shall also ensure that an ICCAT regional observer is present during all transfers from one farm to another. ICCAT regional observers shall also be tasked to observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Entry into force: the committee proposed to change the entry into force to the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union (as opposed to the third as proposed by the Commission).

Delegated acts: references to the exercise of the delegation for future amendments of the recovery plan have been deleted throughout the text. Members stressed that the transposition of the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations' (RFMO) Recommendations has to remain a joint European Parliament and Council competence under the ordinary procedure (co-decision).