

Technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources

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The Council had a first exchange of views on the Commission Proposal for a Council regulation laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fisheries resources. There was general agreement on the necessity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of current technical measures for the protection of juvenile fish and spawning stocks, noting that conservation measures are an integral part of the common fisheries policy framework. The importance of further detailed examination to arrive at acceptable solutions at the earliest possible date was agreed. It was agreed that the new measures must command the confidence of the fishing industries and that they must therefore be based on sound scientific advice, simple, readily understood and enforceable. The importance was noted of meaningful consultation with the fishing industry on the proposals in order to command confidence in the measures. The Council noted the priority which the Presidency attaches to this dossier and its intention to make substantive progress towards agreed solutions at the Fisheries Council in November 1996.