

# Fish stock conservation: control measures for highly migratory species

2000/0253(CNS) - 06/10/2000 - Legislative proposal

**PURPOSE** : to lay down control measures applicable to fishing for certain stocks of highly migratory fish.  
**CONTENT** : the Community has an involvement with certain regional fishery organisations that provide a framework for cooperation on conservation and management of stocks of highly migratory fish. These fish are listed in Annex I to this Regulation. The main species fished are tuna and certain associated species such as swordfish. The regional organisations in question are: - the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the Community being a member since 14 November 1997; - the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Community being a member since 18 September 1995; - the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), to which the Community has initiated an accession procedure. recent trend in international law have meant rapid expansion of the activities of regional fishery organisation. Formerly these were limited essentially to information exchange but the organisations are now adopting recommendations in numerous areas, notably on control and surveillance measures covering by satellite, transshipments and landings, and checks on non-contracting parties' and stateless vessels. These recommendations become compulsory for contracting parties that have not objected to them. As a contracting party to the ICCAT and IOTC it falls to the Community to apply the recommendations adopted to which it has not raised objections. Implementing provisions should also be laid down for the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Programme adopted in the IATTC framework. The Community wishes to ratify this Agreement and has decided to apply it provisionally before its formal accession. Some of the recommendations adopted by these organisations have already been transposed by Council Regulation 1351/1999/EC of 21 June 1999 laying down certain control measures to ensure compliance with the measures adopted by ICCAT and by Council Regulation 2742/1999/EC of 17 December 1999 fixing for 2000 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where limitations in catch are required and amending Regulation 66/98/EC . For clarity and readability a single Council Regulation should group the control measures covering stocks of highly migratory fish. The attached proposal transposes and groups together all the control measures applicable to certain stocks of highly migratory fish. The provisions from Regulations already adopted have been taken over without substantial change. Articles drawn up for new transposition of recommendations are underlined.