Conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean, transitional measures

1996/0091(CNS) - 30/04/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: To remedy specific problems for Italian fishermen in the Adriatic Sea (particularly as regards hake and red mullet) brought about by the entry into force on 1 January 1995 of Regulation (EC) No. 1626/94 laying down certain technical conservation measures for Mediterranean fishery resources. SUBSTANCE: The Commission proposes to introduce temporary derogations from the rules provided under regulation (EC) No. 1626/94 causing these problems in the Adriatic. The aim of these measures is to permit the fishermen concerned to adjust their activities gradually to the rules in question, reducing catches of small-sized fish to a minimum by the gradual alteration of fishing practices. The transitional provisions are as follows: - Authorization is granted to take fish below the minimum size. The derogation is subject to: .a quantitative ceiling of 30% of the total catch in terms of individual fish numbers, .a time limit: adjustment is to be a two-stage operation resulting in the application of the general rule on 1 January 1999, .a restriction in terms of its scope meaning that it covers only catches of hake taken by trawl and red mullet taken by bottom trawls in the Adriatic Sea. - Provision is made for extending the derogation to other areas where similar difficulties might arise. - Community rules on marketing in the area concerned are amended accordingly.