Fishing activities in the Antarctic: conservation and control measures

1997/0135(CNS) - 15/05/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to integrate the new conservation and control measures applicable to fishing activities in the Antarctic following the meeting and the decisions taken on 5 November 1996 by the Commission for the Conservation of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) of which the Community has been a member since 1982. SUBSTANCE: the Community has been a member of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources since 21 May 1982. Since then the Commission set up by the Convention (CCAMLR) has adopted a series of measures to conserve the fishery resources of the Antarctic which the Community implements through Regulation 2113/96/EC for those which are relevant to it. At the October-November 1996 meeting this Commission adopted a certain number of measures which must now be incorporated into Community law. They basically involve the fixings of TACs for the species of Euphausia superba, Dissostichus eleginoides, Champosochephalus Gunnari, Electrona carlsbergi, Lepidonotothen squamifrons and for crab. They cover inter alia the prohibition on directed fisheries for certain stocks, the catch reporting systems and other technical measures. Given that these measures have been compulsory for members of the CCAMLR since 2 May 1997 the Community has been called on to apply these measures immediately. The Commission also suggests that in the interest of clarity and legal accuracy of the regulation it would be appropriate not to modify Regulation 2113/96 /EC but to repeal it and propose a consolidated version of the text combining all the conservation measures in force. Most of the changes are concerned to take into account the TACs and fishing seasons established during the 1996 CCAMLR annual meeting and a few editorial changes. There are also a few procedural changes following notification, for the first time, that two Community fishing vessels intend to pursue fishing activities in the Antarctic area. It should be noted that the five new conservation measures adopted by CCAMLR on the initiation of new fisheries by Australia, South Africa and New Zealand have not been included in this proposal as they will not be exploited by Community fishermen. Regulation 2113 /96/EC is therefore to be repealed and a new regulation adopted.