Basic information

1995/2123(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Biological impact of fisheries **Subject** 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	PECH Fisheries	LANGENHAGEN Brigitte (PPE)	18/07/1995
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	MCKENNA Patricia (V)	26/07/1995
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/05/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0040	Summary
10/07/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/01/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
22/01/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0006/1996	
16/02/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/03/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2123(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Committee dossier	PECH/4/06748

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0006/1996 OJ C 047 19.02.1996, p. 0004	22/01/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0083/1996 OJ C 065 04.03.1996, p. 0194-0199	16/02/1996	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1995)0040	05/05/1995	Summary

Biological impact of fisheries

1995/2123(COS) - 05/05/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

Following the Commission and Council declaration at the Council of EU fisheries ministers in December 1993, the Commission set up a working group of marine ecology experts and instructed it to find ways of improving the data used to manage fisheries activities, especially data on by-catches and discards and the description of the effects of various types of fishing gear on individual juveniles, non-commercial species, biota on the sea bed, marine birds and small cetaceans. The working group was also instructed to draw up a list of priority subjects. This communication summarizes the working group's scientific report and indicates the potential for future development. In the light of this report, the Commission feels that work in the immediate future needs to be geared towards a quantitative investigation of the following questions in order to decide on suitable methods for controlling and monitoring the biological impact of fisheries: - the effects of fisheries on cetaceans, seals, reptiles and birds; - the direct and indirect effects of industrial fisheries on birds and the first predatory fish in the food chain; - the direct and indirect effects of fisheries on benthic communities. According to the 23 recommendations by the working group, work in these areas will focus on collecting and standardizing data on the fate of the various species, the size of their population and mortality rates, test methods and evaluation tools and the integration of these elements in existing or new models. These work programmes need to be coordinated at international level and suitably financed and the Commission will therefore ask the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) for aid. As this work progresses, the Commission will submit proposals with a view to incorporating operational measures and objectives into Community fisheries legislation. Finally, the Commission will call on the Member States and third countries to contribute to the budget needed to finance the research and will examine the possibility of EU aid.

Biological impact of fisheries

1995/2123(COS) - 16/02/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Brigitte LANGENHAGEN (PPE, D), Parliament stressed the need for the widest possible consultation and coordination of research on the interaction of fisheries and the marine ecosystem, especially with the individual regional producer organizations. It called for action to be taken to restore the confidence of fishermen in the work of the scientists. It regretted that the report did not give sufficient emphasis to the measurement of discarding, and called on the Commission to ensure ways of accurately estimating the level of discards by area and by species, its biological impact upon the total biomass, and the changes in level of discards caused by annual changes in TACIS and quotas. The Commission was requested to bring forward financial proposals in the 1997 preliminary draft budget that would adequately address the needs of the sector, to be furnished with ongoing data of sufficient quality.