Basic information

1998/2117(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Integration of fisheries and environmental issues, ministerial meeting, March 1997, Bergen **Subject** 3.15 Fisheries policy 3.70 Environmental policy 5.05 Economic growth	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	HARDSTAFF Veronica Mary (PSE)	02/09/1998

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	FLEMMING Marialiese (PPE)	22/09/1998

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Fisheries	2105	1998-05-08

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/05/1998	Debate in Council		
19/05/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0326	Summary
14/09/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/02/1999	Vote in committee		
16/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0063/1999	
10/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/2117(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/4/10166

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0063/1999 OJ C 153 01.06.1999, p. 0003	16/02/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0157/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0097-0104	10/03/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0326	19/05/1998	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0270	02/06/1999	

Integration of fisheries and environmental issues, ministerial meeting, March 1997, Bergen

1998/2117(COS) - 10/03/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament adopted its resolution on fisheries and the environment which was drafted by Ms; Veronic HARDSTAFF (PES, UK). It acknowledges the comprehensive and integrated approach reflected in the guiding principles and management objectives contained in the statement of conclusions of the Inter-Ministerial Meeting (IMM). It insists that the Council adopt the necessary measures to reduce the current fishing effort in the area and progressively reduce the present TACs which, although based on scientific criteria, remain for certain species at levels near or less than the biologically accepted minimum and which could, in the event of some unforeseen negative consequences provoke the collapse of the stock, especially with regard to mackerel, plaice, haddock, saithe and cod. It, therefore, urges the Council to apply the precautionary principle in determining the TACs, and calls on the Commission to expedite its efforts to develop a quality label for sustainable fish. It demands that the Council and the Commission adopt the necessary measures to reinforce the control of fisheries in order to avoid the current numerous illegal catches, the disregard of legal minimum sizes and the over-exploitation caused by unchecked landings. It insists that the Commission presents proposals and the Council takes decisions in ord to achieve the following objectives : - transparency, reliability and speed in the transmission of data by means of compatible systems which ensure the proper intercommunication between all the administrations between all the administrations of the Member States and the Community institutions; - adoption of a comparable system of sanctions whereby similar penalties are imposed for similar infringements regardless of where they take place; - reinforcement of the human and economic means of controlling fishing activities both at a Community and national level, which at present are manifestly insufficient to achieve the objectives which they pursue. It calls on the Council to adopt the necessary measures for achieving the objectives laid down in the Multi-annual Guidance Programmes (MAGP) with regard to each segment of the fleet in the Member States and establish, at the same time, effective sanctions for those states which systematically fail to implement their required objectives. It advocates, as a matter of principle, the setting of objectives, the improvement of fishery practice, recovery plans and special projects, such as the establishment of no-fishing zones or periods. It notes that the follow-up to the IMM by ad hoc measures to deal with urgent problems could be of great importance, for example: - further action to promote the recovery of cod stocks by reducing by-catches of undersized fish by encouraging the development of fishing gear which reduces the risk of unwanted by-catches. - technical measures to protect sizeable recruitments of North Sea cod or of other heavily fished species from the negative impact of mixed fisheries. - the provisional closure of areas in which high densities of juvenile cod and therefore high by-catch rates are to

beexpected, combined with a temporary reduction in the capacity of the fleets concerned. - immediate reduction of by-catches of small cetaceans, as laid down in the ASCOBANS Resolution. - the setting-up of a cetacean protection area around the island of Sylt, as this is a particularly important breeding ground, in conjunction with a ban on fishing methods representing a hazard to cetaceans and their young. - drastic restrictions on the destructive technique of beam trawling (for bootm fishing) in the North Sea, where it is causing great damage, linked to a reduction in the reduction in the capacity of these fleets or at least a freeze on trawler numbers.

Integration of fisheries and environmental issues, ministerial meeting, March 1997, Bergen

1998/2117(COS) - 19/05/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present a report on the implementation of the "Statement of Conclusions from the Intermediate Ministerial Meetings on the Integration of Fisheries and Environmental Issues 13th-14th March 1997 in Bergen". CONTENT: the report deals with the section of the Bergen Statement of Conclusions called "Actions". It is concerned with actions taken at Community level and does not contain information on action taken by individual Member States. More paricularly, it examines Community initiatives taken in response to the Bergen Meetings in the following areas: - rebuilding or maintenance of spawning stock biomass: in the framework of the yearly bilateral agreement between the EC and Norway, target fishing mortality rates and minimum spawning stock biomass levels have been fixed for herring, mackerel and plaice. In 1998, TACs were also established for the first time for many other species of fish, while Council Regulation 847/96/EC, which became fully applicable on the 1st January 1998, introduces additional conditions for year-to-year management of TACs and quotas; - reduction of fishing fleet capacity and/or deployed fishing effort: the main measures taken relate to the multi-annual guidance programmes (MAGPs) which aim to reduce fleet capacity between 1/1/1997 and 31/12/2001 to a level that will ensure the long-term balance between fishing effort and resources (-30% on stocks in risk of depletion and -20% on overfished stocks); - protection of juvenile fish, crustaceans and molluscs via measures relating to mesh sizes for the Channel, catch percentages to be retained on board and increased selectivity of gears; - protection of species and habitats via measures relating to MAGPs and the yearly TACs/quotas- regulation which will have a beneficial effect on the North Sea ecosystems. The Natura 2000 network will also allow Member States to propose protected sites; - protection of aquatic species from activities other than fisheries, notably by making provision for measures to combat sea pollution from industrial installations and taking steps to combat Eutrophication caused by nitrates from agricultural sources. - controlling fishing and enforcing legislation by means of international cooperation, satellite-monitoring and efficient landing controls; - make provision for experimental scientific, technological and economic impact studies, with a view to achieving sustainable fishing; - keeping regionally involved Member States, the industry, scientists and economists involved and informed by means of a regularly conducted regional consultation process; - achieving further integration of fisheries and environmental policies by means of employing a recognised scientific body to establish a work program for research activities on the biological impact of fisheries and evaluating the output of meetings organised by, inter alia, ICES, NAFO and NASCO on the subject of the precautionary approach.