



| Basic information | |
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| 2003/0201(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation | Procedure completed |
| Protection of deepwater coral reefs from the effects of trawling in an area north west of Scotland Amending Regulation (EC) No 850/98 1996/0160(CNS) Subject 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity Geographical area United Kingdom | |

| Key players | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | | Rapporteur | Appointed |
| | <div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">PECH</div> Fisheries | | ATTWOOLL Elspeth (ELDR) | 02/10/2003 |
| | Committee for opinion | | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
| | <div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">ENVI</div> Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy | | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| Council of the European Union | Council configuration | | Meetings | Date |
| | Agriculture and Fisheries | | 2573 | 2004-03-22 |
| European Commission | Commission DG | | Commissioner | |
| | Maritime Affairs and Fisheries | | | |

| Key events | | | |
|------------|--|--|---------|
| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
| 27/08/2003 | Legislative proposal published | COM(2003)0519  | Summary |
| 22/09/2003 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |

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|------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 20/01/2004 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 20/01/2004 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | A5-0019/2004 | |
| 10/02/2004 | Decision by Parliament | T5-0070/2004 | Summary |
| 22/03/2004 | Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament | | |
| 22/03/2004 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 01/04/2004 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

| Technical information | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Procedure reference | 2003/0201(CNS) |
| Procedure type | CNS - Consultation procedure |
| Procedure subtype | Legislation |
| Legislative instrument | Regulation |
| Amendments and repeals | Amending Regulation (EC) No 850/98 1996/0160(CNS) |
| Legal basis | EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037 |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed |
| Committee dossier | PECH/5/20059 |

| Documentation gateway | | | | |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| European Parliament | | | | |
| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | | A5-0019/2004 | 20/01/2004 | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading | | T5-0070/2004 OJ C 097 22.04.2004, p. 0031-0079 E | 10/02/2004 | Summary |
| European Commission | | | | |
| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary | |
| Legislative proposal | COM(2003)0519  | 27/08/2003 | Summary | |

| Additional information | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------|
| Source | Document | Date |
| European Commission | EUR-Lex | |

| Final act |
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Protection of deepwater coral reefs from the effects of trawling in an area north west of Scotland

2003/0201(CNS) - 22/03/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to protect the deepwater coral reefs from the effects of trawling in an area north west of Scotland ("Darwin Mounds"). **LEGISLATIVE ACT** : Council Regulation 602/2004/EC amending Regulation 850/98/EC as regards the protection of deepwater coral reefs from the effects of trawling in an area north west of Scotland. **CONTENT** : the Council unanimously adopted this Regulation amending Regulation 850/98/EC as regards the protection of deep-water coral reefs from the effects of trawling in an area north west of Scotland. The proposal aimed at banning the use of bottom trawlers or similar towed nets in the defined area of the Darwin Mounds, to protect deep-water coral reefs from the effects of trawling. Council Regulation 850/98/EC establishes restrictions on the use of demersal towed gears. This Regulation is being amended as regards the area where vessels using bottom trawl or similar towed nets are prohibited. The initial area, located in the North-west of Scotland, and defined in the proposal has however been amended by the Council: it has been slightly reduced in the light of new scientific assessment on the north-west and north-east of the zone. **ENTRY INTO FORCE** : 23/08/2004.

Protection of deepwater coral reefs from the effects of trawling in an area north west of Scotland

2003/0201(CNS) - 10/02/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Eilspeth ATTWOOLL (ELDR, UK) making just a few amendments to the proposal. (Please see the summary of 20/01/04.)

Protection of deepwater coral reefs from the effects of trawling in an area north west of Scotland

2003/0201(CNS) - 27/08/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to protect deep-water coral reefs from the effects of trawling in an area north west of Scotland ("the Darwin mounds"). **CONTENT** : The process of integrating environmental protection requirements into the Common Fisheries Policy calls for the adoption of measures to minimise the impact of fishing activities on marine ecosystems (see Regulation 2371/2002/EC.) Recent scientific reports have shown that certain deep-water habitats are in need of protection against mechanical erosion by fishing gear. These include the habitats formed by deep-water coral (*Lophelia pertusa*) aggregations such as the ones recently discovered in the north west of Scotland, known as the "Darwin Mounds". These deep-water habitats are increasingly the subject of attention in international fora. For example, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic ("OSPAR Convention") has recently included deep-water coral reefs in a list of endangered habitats. Deep-water habitats are also being dealt with within the United Nations informal consultative process on oceans and the law of the sea as vulnerable habitats requiring special protection. While several coastal States around the world have already taken the required protection measures, the European Community has not yet done so, despite intense pressure from certain sectors of public opinion and non-governmental organisations. Deep-water coral reefs such as the ones found in the Darwin Mounds are included in Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC as natural habitats of Community interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation, with a view to their integration in the Nature 2000 network. The United Kingdom has formally expressed its intention to designate the Darwin Mounds as a special area of conservation, in fulfilment of its obligations under the Directive. It should be noted, however, that the adoption of this proposal is without prejudice to the need for the UK to continue the process leading to the inclusion of the Darwin Mounds in the list of Natura 2000 sites. Given the importance that damage from erosion by bottom trawls may have for the survival of these habitats, the Commission proposes prohibiting the use of bottom trawls and similar gears in the Darwin Mounds by way of an amendment to the existing technical measures regulation (Regulation 850/98/EC). Given that this damage may be non-reversible or very difficult to repair, the Commission is in the process of adopting a regulation issuing a similar prohibition by way of an emergency measure provided for in Article 7 of Regulation 2371/2002/EC. The fishing industry will not suffer major consequences, since it can continue to fish with bottom trawls outside the relatively small part of the fishing grounds affected by the Darwin Mounds, or within the protected area using towed gear not in contact with the bottom, such as pelagic trawls and longlines, purse seines and other fixed gear.