Basic information

2003/2036(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Fisheries: reduction of discards of fish by the fishing fleets, action plan **Subject** 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	BUSK Niels (ELDR)	23/01/2003

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI 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	2500	2003-04-08

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/11/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2002)0656	Summary
13/03/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/04/2003	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
20/05/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
20/05/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0163/2003	
19/06/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0297/2003	Summary
19/06/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2036(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/5/19325

Fisheries: reduction of discards of fish by the fishing fleets, action plan

2003/2036(INI) - 26/11/2002 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to invite Member States, fisheries scientists and industry to join it in a collaborative effort to reduce discards. CONTENT : this communication deals with the problem of discarding of fish by the Community's fishing fleets in all areas of operation but with particular emphasis on Community waters of the north-east Atlantic, the Baltic and the Mediterranean. Its purpose is to provide a general overview of the magnitude of discarding; to analyse reasons for discarding; to indicate the biological and economic consequences of discarding; to indicate possibilities for reducing quantities discarded and future action by the Commission and Council. Discards can be defined as fish retained by a fishing gear which have been brought on board a fishing vessel and are thrown back into the sea. The Commission envisages that for all the major fisheries or methods of fishing where discards are known or perceived to be a problem actions needs to be developed, probably within forthcoming multi-annual management processes. These actions should be developed in close co-operation with the industry and relevant stakeholders and also within the proposed framework of Regional Advisory Committees. These plans could include: - development of a requirement for voluntary departure from fishing grounds when and/or where large quantities of discards are being generated; - development of conditions to increase the commercial value of fish of currently low value; - adoption of measures intended to reduce discarding incited by TAC/quota restrictions; - development of pilot projects to investigate innovative fishing practices which avoid or reduce discarding; - support for continuation of collection of data on quantities of fish discarded; - developed of improved technical measures including : - adoption of measures to ensure improved structure of fishing gears; - review of minimum landing sizes; - review of conditions defining species composition of catches to be taken with nets of specified mesh size; - review and or augmentation of closed or controlled areas and/or seasons including real-time closures; - consideration of the institution of a discard ban following the consultation process.

Fisheries: reduction of discards of fish by the fishing fleets, action plan

2003/2036(INI) - 19/06/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted its own-initiative report drafted by Niels BUSK (ELDR, DK) on the Commission Action Plan to reduce fish discards. (Please see the document dated 20/05/03.) Parliament pointed out that s the FAO has estimated the volume of fish discards within commercial fisheries at between 17.9 and 39.5 million tonnes worldwide, which far exceeds the EU's total fisheries production (catches and aquaculture) of 7.8 million tonnes. The optimal supply of fish depends on the fish being allowed to grow and spawn before they are caught, and some stocks have been reduced to a critical level partly as a result of catching and discarding juvenile fish at sea. Overall reductions in fishing effort on many fish stocks would help not only in stock recovery but also in the reduction of discards. Parliament asked the Commission to examine how the Regional Advisory Councils can be utilised to their greatest effect to reduce discards.