Basic information

2006/0134(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
Conservation of fishery resources: stock of cod in the Baltic Sea, multi-annual plan Repealing Regulation (EC) No 779/97 1996/0244(CNS) Repealed by 2014/0285(COD) Amended by 2008/0216(CNS) Amended by 2013/0436(COD) Amended by 2016/0074(COD) **Subject** 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources **Geographical area** Baltic Sea area	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	CHMIELEWSKI Zdzisław Kazimierz (PPE-DE)	27/09/2006

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	FJELLNER Christofer (PPE-DE)	05/10/2006

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2818	2007-09-18
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2772	2006-12-05
Agriculture and Fisheries	2758	2006-10-24
Agriculture and Fisheries	2806	2007-06-11
Agriculture and Fisheries	2793	2007-04-16

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	BORG Joe

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
24/07/2006	Legislative proposal published	COM(2006)0411	Summary
07/09/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/04/2007	Debate in Council		Summary
03/05/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
07/05/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0163/2007	
06/06/2007	Debate in Parliament		
07/06/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0231/2007	Summary
07/06/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
18/09/2007	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
18/09/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/09/2007	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2006/0134(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealing Regulation (EC) No 779/97 1996/0244(CNS) Repealed by 2014/0285(COD) Amended by 2008/0216(CNS) Amended by 2013/0436(COD) Amended by 2016/0074(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 037
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/6/39479

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE380.765	01/03/2007	
Committee draft report		PE378.704	13/03/2007	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE388.371	16/04/2007	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0163/2007	07/05/2007	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0231/2007	07/06/2007	Summary

European Commission			
Document type	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Legislative proposal	COM(2006)0411	24/07/2006	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Regulation 2007/1098 OJ L 248 22.09.2007, p. 0001	Summary

Conservation of fishery resources: stock of cod in the Baltic Sea, multi-annual plan

2006/0134(CNS) - 18/09/2007 - Final act

PURPOSE: the establishment of a multiannual plan to rebuild Baltic cod stocks.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Regulation (EC) No 1098/2007 establishing a multiannual plan for the cod stocks in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 788/97.

BACKGROUND: recent scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) indicates that the cod stock in the Baltic Sea has declined to levels where it is suffering from reduced reproductive capacity and that the stock is being harvested unsustainable.

CONTENT: the purpose of this Regulation, therefore, is to establish a multiannual plan that seeks to ensure Baltic cod stocks can be exploited under sustainable economic, environmental and social conditions.

The main measures being introduced by the Regulation are as follows:

- exclusion of the Gulf of Riga from the plan on the grounds that the salinity of the water is too low for cod, under certain conditions, to be verified;
- greater flexibility for small-scale vessels between 8-12 m long to transfer 5 and 10 fishing days for Western and Eastern Baltic Sea respectively (5 days per month of summer ban in both cases);
- area restrictions on fishing, measured with the help of a satellite coordination system;
- EU Member States to issue a special fishing permit for cod for certain vessels, recorded on a list made available on official websites;
- keeping a logbook on board Community vessels of an overall length of 8 m or more;
- electronic recording and transmission of catch data;
- recording of leaving and entering ports of the Baltic Sea;
- landing in designated ports for vessels carrying more than 750 kg of cod live weight.

The Member States are expected to establish a list of designated ports to be made available on their respective official websites.

Upon adoption of the Regulation, the Commission issued two statements, one concerning recovery of fishing days for those countries which had reduced their fleets permanently, and the other on incentives for equipping vessels with electronic reporting systems and satellite-based vessel monitoring systems.

The annual "TAC and quotas regulation" for cod stocks in the Baltic Sea will be adopted taking into account this plan, on the basis of a Commission proposal.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 25 September 2007.

APPLY: 1 January 2008.

Conservation of fishery resources: stock of cod in the Baltic Sea, multi-annual plan

2006/0134(CNS) - 07/06/2007 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Zdzisław Kazimierz **CHMIELEWSKI** (ALDE,PL) amending the proposed regulation establishing a multi-annual plan for the cod stocks in the Baltic Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks. The main amendments were as follows:

- the 10% reduction in fishing days proposed by the Commission in Article 8(3) should be brought down to 8%;

- a new Article states that, by way of derogation from the rules on minimum landing size for cod laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005, the minimum landing size for cod in Subdivisions 22 to 32 shall be 40 cm;

- the permitted margin of tolerance in estimating quantities in kilograms of fish subject to a TAC (Total Allowable Catches) that are retained on board vessels should be 10% of the logbook figure instead of 8%, as proposed by the Commission. Parliament inserted a 10% margin for catches which are landed unsorted;

- Parliament felt that the provisions laid down in Article 17(2), applicable to a vessel which exits from Area A, B or Subdivision 28-32 (Area C) with more than 100kg of cod on board, were unnecessarily complicated and stated instead that the vessel's master should immediately notify the appropriate fisheries inspectorate of the size of the catch in the Area the vessel has left;

- the cod weight limit in respect of which notification is required should be increased from 100 kg, as proposed by the Commission, to 300 kg;

- the Commission should evaluate the impact of the management measures on the cod stocks concerned and on the fisheries exploiting those stocks in the second year of the application of the proposed regulation and each second successive year of its application, and not in the third year, as originally proposed;

- lastly, a new Article 27a states that the Commission shall draft a report on the socio-economic impact of the application of the Regulation on the fisheries sector, particularly on employment and the economic situation of fishermen, shipowners and firms engaged in cod fishing and processing. The Commission shall produce this report in the second year of application of this Regulation and in each subsequent year of its application, for submission to the European Parliament by 30 April of the relevant year.

Conservation of fishery resources: stock of cod in the Baltic Sea, multi-annual plan

2006/0134(CNS) - 24/07/2006 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to propose a multi-annual plan to rebuild Baltic cod stocks.

PROPOSED ACT : Council Regulation.

CONTENT : the Commission is proposing to establish a multi-annual plan for the long-term management of the fisheries on the cod stocks in the Baltic Sea to ensure that the exploitation of Baltic cod stocks is in conformity with the overall objective of the Common Fisheries Policy of providing sustainable economic, environmental and social conditions. This multi-annual plan for Baltic cod has been developed through extensive consultation with stakeholders and with the Member States concerned. This is one of a series of long-term plans developed by the Commission to help re-establish European fisheries on a basis which is at once biologically sound, economically profitable and socially sustainable.

More specifically, the Commission is proposing targets of fishing mortality rates of 0.6 for Western Baltic cod and 0.3 for Eastern Baltic cod. These are designed so as to be sufficiently low to allow the rebuilding of the stocks to sustainable levels while being sufficiently high to ensure high yields for fishermen. A revision clause is included so that minimum mortality rates can be amended in the light of new scientific advice.

Total Allowable Catches (TACs) would be set so as to reduce fishing mortality from current rates by 10% a year until the target rate for each stock is reached. It would, however, be possible to have greater reductions if the state of the stock concerned required it. At the same time, some degree of stability will be guaranteed for the industry by capping annual variations in TACs so that they can neither be reduced nor increased by more than 15% year-on-year. It should be noted that constant or declining fishing mortality on a stock that is growing rapidly can lead to rising TACs. Initial TACs for both stocks will be decided by Council next October, as part of the Baltic TACs and quotas regulation for 2007. The TACs and quotas for 2006 and effort management measures for 2006 were already set with this plan in mind.

An effort limitation scheme will also be set up with the aim of reducing fishing effort by 10% each year until the target fishing mortality rate has been achieved. The scheme will be based on the existing summer ban. This ban closes all fishing for cod with nets larger than 90mm and with bottom set lines for two months in the western Baltic (15 March to 14 May) and for three months in the eastern Baltic (15 June to 14 September). The number of

remaining days will then be reduced by 10% each year until such time as the fishing mortality targets for the stocks have been reached. This additional reduction can be implemented in a number of different ways. Additional control measures are included in the proposal, which will be crucial to ensuring its success.

A special derogation to the closed periods under this scheme is available for small-scale coastal fisheries, where boats of less than 12 metres in length will be authorised to retain on board and land up to 10% of cod by live weight caught by gillnets, entangling nets or trammel nets with mesh size of 110 mm or more. In addition, the fishing days allocated to Member States will be increased in proportion to any permanent reductions in fishing effort achieved, whether through permanent cessation of fishing activities or through the definitive withdrawal of vessels from the fishing area concerned.

Conservation of fishery resources: stock of cod in the Baltic Sea, multi-annual plan

2006/0134(CNS) - 05/12/2006

The Council reached, by qualified majority, political agreement on a Council Regulation fixing for 2007 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks in the Baltic Sea.

The Polish delegation indicated its intention to vote against.

The main features of the Presidency compromise endorsed by the Commission are:

• The TAC for cod in the Eastern Baltic (40 805 tonnes) will be reduced by 10% compared to its current level in 2006 (45 339 tonnes); the cod TAC in the Western Baltic will be 26 696 tonnes, i.e. a reduction of 6% compared to its current level in 2006 (28 400 tonnes). A comparative table on TACs is annexed. A 15% reduction in the cod TAC will be applied in 2007 if the proposal for a Regulation on a multi-annual plan for cod stocks in the Baltic Sea is not adopted before 30 June 2007.

• The sprat TAC will be 8% higher in 2007 than in 2006. For Atlantic salmon in the main fishing zone, the TAC for 2007 will be only cut by 5% instead of the 10% reduction initially proposed by the Commission.

• As regards provisions on fishing effort limitation, the compromise ensures that there is a further 10% reduction in days at sea as compared to 2006. This effort limitation would be divided into periods of closure over the year, the longest closure periods concerning the summer (East) and the spring (West). An additional fishing effort limitation outside these periods, left to the appreciation of the Member States, of 77 days in the Western Baltic and 67 days in subareas 25-27 will be applied. The total fishing day ban amounts to 117 days in the Western Baltic and 138 days in subareas 25-27. Vessels with an overall length of less than 12 metres fishing with specified type of gears can fish up to 12 nautical miles from shore provided that their by-catch of cod does not exceed 20 kg or 10% whichever is the higher.

• A joint Council/Commission statement addresses the issue of illegal and unreported cod fisheries which are considered to be a major problem in the Baltic Sea.

Conservation of fishery resources: stock of cod in the Baltic Sea, multi-annual plan

2006/0134(CNS) - 24/10/2006

Conservation of fishery resources: stock of cod in the Baltic Sea, multi-annual plan

2006/0134(CNS) - 16/04/2007

The Council held a policy debate on cod stocks in the Baltic Sea in order to provide the necessary guidelines for the work ahead, pending the opinion of the European Parliament which was not expected until early-June.

On the basis of a questionnaire Ministers concentrated in their debate on the general objectives of the multi-annual plan for cod recovery in the Baltic, on different options for effort-management and associated control provisions and on how to take sufficient account of the specific needs of small scale fisheries.

The Council noted general support for the objectives of the plan.

- As regards the type of effort-management and control provisions, several issues were mentioned, namely the outcome of the Baltic Regional Advisory Council (RAC) meeting1, the fight against illegal fishing, the need for revision of the biomass reference and cross reference to the electronic logbook Regulation.

- With regard to small-scale fisheries, the Council took note of the unanimous request for the system to be made flexible and simple, taking into account of safety at work, days at sea and summer closing in relation to the biology of Baltic cod as simple means of control and bearing in mind the principle of not to creating unnecessary burdens on fishermen or control authorities.

The Council gave a mandate to the Council's preparatory bodies to continue the examination of the proposal, with a view to its adoption in June, subject to and pending the opinion of the European Parliament.

Commissioner Borg welcomed the wide support for the proposal's objectives and indicated that the Commission would cooperate with the Presidency to achieve the adoption of the proposed Regulation in the proposed timeframe.

Conservation of fishery resources: stock of cod in the Baltic Sea, multi-annual plan

2006/0134(CNS) - 11/06/2007

The Council reached a political agreement on a regulation establishing a multi-annual plan for cod stocks in the Baltic Sea, on the basis of a Presidency compromise endorsed by the Commission. The Commission issued two statements, one concerning recovery of fishing days for those Member States which had permanently reduced their fleets, and the other on incentives for equipping vessels with Electronic Reporting Systems and satellite-based Vessel Monitoring Systems.

The main features of the compromise are:

- exclusion of the Gulf of Riga from the plan on the grounds that the salinity of the water is too low for cod, under certain conditions to be verified;
- greater flexibility for small scale vessels between 8-12 m long to transfer 5 and 10 fishing days for Western and Eastern Baltic Sea respectively (5 days per month of summer ban in both cases);
- area restrictions on fishing, measured with the help of a satellite coordination system;
- Member States to issue a special fishing permit for cod for certain vessels, recorded on a list made available on their official website;
- keeping of a logbook on board Community vessels of an overall length of 8 m or more;
- electronic recording and transmission of catch data;
- recording of leaving and entering ports of the Baltic Sea;
- landing in designated ports for vessels carrying more than 750 kg of cod live weight.

Member States to establish a list of designated ports and make it available on their respective official website.