Basic information

2013/0133(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean: fishing seasons Amending Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 2009/0029(CNS) **Subject** 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources **Geographical area** Atlantic Ocean area Mediterranean Sea area	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	ROMEVA I RUEDA Raül (Verts/ALE)	12/06/2013
	Shadow rapporteur FRAGA ESTÉVEZ Carmen (PPE) ARSENIS Kriton (S&D)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Foreign Affairs	3311	2014-05-08

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	DAMANAKI Maria

European Economic and Social Committee

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
02/05/2013	Legislative proposal published	COM(2013)0250	Summary
21/05/2013	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
11/02/2014	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
12/02/2014	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A7-0102/2014	Summary
16/04/2014	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T7-0440/2014	Summary
16/04/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
08/05/2014	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
15/05/2014	Final act signed		
15/05/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/05/2014	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2013/0133(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 2009/0029(CNS)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/7/12629

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE519.821	14/10/2013	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE521.829	16/01/2014	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0102/2014	12/02/2014	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0440/2014	16/04/2014	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

Draft final act	00061/2014/LEX	15/05/2014	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2013)0250	02/05/2013	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2014)471	09/07/2014	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES4349/2013	16/10/2013	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2014/0544
OJ L 163 29.05.2014, p. 0007 Summary

Multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean: fishing seasons

2013/0133(COD) - 02/05/2013 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to amend the provision concerning fishing seasons regarding bluefin tuna in Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009.

PROPOSED ACT : Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF PARLIAMENT : the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND : the EU is a Party to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas ("the Convention"), which established the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas ("ICCAT"). At its 16th Special Meeting in 2008, ICCAT adopted Recommendation 08-05 to establish a new recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, and Regulation (EC) No 302/20095 was adopted to implement those international conservation measures at Union level. This was later amended by Regulation (EU) No 500/2012.

At its 18th Special Meeting in 2012, ICCAT adopted Recommendation 12-03, which provides for:

- a modification of the fishing seasons;
- defining fishing seasons as open seasons, as opposed to closed seasons indicated in the previous ICCAT Recommendations;
- a modification of the actual dates when fishing is permitted by purse seiners, bait boats and trolling boats;

- explicitly allowing all other gears the possibility of fishing all year round to avoid any uncertainty for those gears which are not subject to any specific rules on fishing seasons.

Pending the entry into force of ICCAT Recommendation 12-03 and its comprehensive implementation, this proposal aims to modify the provisions on fishing seasons in Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 in order to ensure effective conservation of the bluefin tunastock.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT : no impact assessment was undertaken. Member States concerned by this fishery (Cyprus, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Portugal) were consulted on 11th December 2012 on the need to clarify the dates of the fishing season, and are agreed on the modifications to the dates of the fishing season.

LEGAL BASIS : Article 43 (2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

CONTENT : this proposal aims to amend Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 to reflect ICCAT Recommendation 12-03 regarding fishing seasons.

Fishing seasons: bluefin tuna fishing will be permitted **in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean:**

- by large-scale pelagic long line catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10◦W and North of 42◦N, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January;
- by purse seine fishing during the period from 26 May to 24 June;
- by bait boats and trolling boats during the period from 1 July to 31 October;
- by pelagic trawlers in the eastern Atlantic during the period from 16 June to 14 October ;
- as recreational and sport fishing from 16 June to 14 October.

Fishing for Bluefin tuna **by other gears** than those mentioned above will be permitted throughout the year.

Date of application: this amendment will apply with retroactive effect **from 1 January 2013.** This will allow Member States properly to define their fishing capacity and inspection plans which are linked to the fishing seasons and ensure legal certainty.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: this proposal has no impact on the EU budget.

Multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean: fishing seasons

2013/0133(COD) - 12/02/2014 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Raül ROMEVA i RUEDA (Greens/EFA, ES) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 concerning a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

The parliamentary committee recommended that the position adopted by the European Parliament at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission's proposal as follows:

Fishing seasons: Members introduced an amendment which reflects the amendment adopted at the 2013 meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). This recommendation stated that the Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities may specify **a different starting date for the fishing seasons** for their bait boats and trolling boats operating in the eastern Atlantic, while keeping the total duration of the open season for these fisheries.

Furthermore, whilst the Commission proposed that fishing for Bluefin tuna by other gears than those mentioned in paragraphs 1 to 5 shall be permitted throughout the year, Members wished to specify that fishing for Bluefin tuna by **traps, small longliners (< 24m) and handliners shall be permitted throughout the year**.

Use of stereoscopic cameras during caging operations: Members introduced a new article providing for the use of stereoscopic cameras during caging operations under certain conditions. In particular, the sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the amount of fish being caged. The width and height of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum of 10 meters.

The information communicated on the results of the stereoscopical programme shall indicate the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, which shall not exceed +/-5%.

Multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean: fishing seasons

2013/0133(COD) - 16/04/2014 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 556 votes to 6, with 13 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 concerning a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

Parliament adopted its position at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure. The amendments adopted in plenary are the result of an agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council. They amended the proposal as follows:

Fishing seasons: Parliament and the Council introduced an amendment which reflected the recommendation adopted at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in 2013. This recommendation allow modifications to the fishing seasons for baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic that do not affect the protection of the Bluefin tuna spawning grounds in the Mediterranean.

In this context, for the **years 2014 and 2015**, and since the protection of the spawning grounds is not affected, Member States may specify, in their annual national fishing plans, a **different starting date for baitboats** and trolling boats flying their flag and operating in the eastern Atlantic, provided that the total duration of the open season for those fisheries continues to comply with the Regulation.

Use of stereoscopic cameras during caging operations: the colegislators introduced a new article providing for the use of stereoscopic camera systems in the context of caging operations shall comply with the following conditions.

In particular: (i) the sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the amount of fish being caged; (ii) samples should be made up of fish measured at a distance of between 2 and 8 m from the camera; (iii) the dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at a maximum width of 10 m and a maximum height of 10 m.

The information as regards the results of the stereoscopical programme should indicate the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, which shall not exceed +/- 5.

Multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean: fishing seasons

2013/0133(COD) - 15/05/2014 - Final act

PURPOSE: to amend Council Regulation No (EC) n° 302/2009 concerning a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Regulation (EU) No 544/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 concerning a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

CONTENT: the Regulation aims to amend Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 concerning a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

At its annual meeting in 2012, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) adopted a recommendation further amending the multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna to better adapt the fishing seasons to the activity of the fleets. In 2013, ICCAT adopted a complement to this recommendation **in order to allow modifications to the fishing seasons for baitboats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic** that do not affect the protection of bluefin tuna spawning grounds in the Mediterranean. This complement also lays down rules for the **use of stereoscopic cameras** in the context of caging operations.

The purpose of the Regulation is to transpose into EU law the latest ICCAT recommendation modifying the recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean. The EU has been a party to ICCAT since 1997.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 01.06.2014.