Basic information

2019/0225(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
Amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Protocol **Subject** 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds 3.15.15 Fisheries agreements and cooperation	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	CONTE Rosanna (ID)	18/11/2019
	Shadow rapporteur MONTEIRO DE AGUIAR Cláudia (EPP) CARVALHAIS Isabel (S&D) KARLESKIND Pierre (Renew) ROOSE Caroline (Greens/EFA) STANCANELLI Raffaele (ECR) HAZEKAMP Anja (GUE/NGL)	

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

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	VELLA Karmenu

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/10/2019	Preparatory document	COM(2019)0472	
12/11/2019	Legislative proposal published	13447/2019	Summary
28/11/2019	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/04/2020	Vote in committee		
27/04/2020	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0089/2020	
13/05/2020	Decision by Parliament	T9-0063/2020	Summary
13/05/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/05/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/05/2020	Results of vote in Parliament		
29/05/2020	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
12/06/2020	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2019/0225(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/01620

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE644.777	30/01/2020	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0089/2020	27/04/2020	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0063/2020	13/05/2020	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	13446/2019	12/11/2019	
Legislative proposal	13447/2019	12/11/2019	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2019)0470	14/10/2019	
Preparatory document	COM(2019)0472	14/10/2019	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2020/0765
OJ L 187 12.06.2020, p. 0001

Amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Protocol

2019/0225(NLE) - 12/11/2019 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT Convention) aims, by establishing the ICCAT, to promote cooperation in maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like fish in the Atlantic Ocean at levels that permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes. The Convention entered into force on 21 March 1969. The Union is a party to the Convention, having approved it pursuant to the Council Decision of 9 June 1986.

From 2013 to 2018, discussions took place within the ICCAT Commission on the changes that are needed to the Convention. As a result, a Protocol has been drafted to amend to the Convention. The Protocol amending ICCAT, once signed (and provisionally applied from the date of its entry into force for other Contracting Parties, pending its entry into force for the Union), must now be approved.

CONTENT: the draft Council Decision seeks approval, on behalf of the Union, of the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

The Protocol is consistent with Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy, which provides that the Union shall:

- ensure that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term and are managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits, and of contributing to the availability of food supplies;

- apply the precautionary approach to fisheries management, and is to aim to ensure that exploitation of living marine biological resources restores and maintains population of harvested species above levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield;

- adopt management and conservation measures based on best available scientific advice, to support the development of scientific knowledge and advice, to gradually eliminate discards and to promote fishing methods that contribute to more selective fishing and the avoidance and reduction, as far as possible, of unwanted catches, to fishing with low impact on the marine ecosystem and fishery resources;

- apply those objectives and principles in the conduct of its external fisheries relations.

In accordance with the Joint Communication by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission 'International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of oceans'6 and the Council conclusions on that Joint Communication, promoting measures to support and enhance the effectiveness of RFMOs and, where relevant, improve their governance is a central feature of the Union's action in these fora.

The Protocol meets these objectives.

Amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Protocol

2019/0225(NLE) - 14/10/2019

PURPOSE: to conclude the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT Convention) aims, by establishing the ICCAT, to promote cooperation in maintaining the populations of tuna and tuna-like fish in the Atlantic Ocean at levels that permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes. The Convention entered into force on 21 March 1969.

The Union is a party to the Convention, having approved it pursuant to the Council Decision of 9 June 1986.

The European Union, represented by the European Commission, supports and actively contributes to the work of the ICCAT, in line with Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy.

In order to increase its effectiveness, the ICCAT Committee agreed on the need to amend the Convention to ensure the sustainable exploitation, management and conservation of marine biological resources and the marine environment managed by the ICCAT, as well as of species caught in the context of fishing activities targeting ICCAT species.

On 13 May 2013, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the European Union, amendments to the Convention. From 2013 to 2018, discussions have taken place within the ICCAT Commission on the changes that are needed to the Convention. As a result, a Protocol has been drafted to amend to the Convention.

The Protocol fully meets the objectives set out in the Joint Communication by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission 'International ocean governance: an agenda for the future of oceans' and the Council conclusions on that Joint Communication, promoting measures to support and enhance the effectiveness of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and, where relevant, improve their governance is a central feature of the Union's action in these fora.

CONTENT: the present proposal is for a Council Decision to authorise the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

The main amendments, once in force, shall:

- broaden the scope of the Convention as regards shark conservation and management;

- clarify voting rules and quorum in the ICCAT Commission, in particular majority requirements in situations where consensus cannot be achieved;

- define the principles according to which the ICCAT Commission and its Members shall act in conducting work under the ICCAT Convention;

- shorten the entry into effect period for recommendations adopted by the ICCAT Commission from six to four months after notification to ICCAT Members;

- clarify the use of the objection procedure for recommendations adopted by the ICCAT Commission;

- enable the enhanced participation of Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties and fishing entities in the work of the ICCAT Commission;

- introduce an ICCAT dispute settlement mechanism which is voluntary, but the outcome of which will be final and binding on the parties that have recourse to it.

The Protocol shall be adopted by the Contracting Parties at the 28th Regular meeting of the ICCAT Commission from 18 to 25 November 2019.

The Protocol forms part of a wider package that also includes:

- a Resolution by ICCAT clarifying Convention amendments on non-party participation in particular that Chinese Taipei is the fishing entity that is intended to be covered by the Annex 2 on Fishing Entities, which is added to the Convention of the Protocol;

- a Recommendation by ICCAT on fishes considered to be tuna and tuna-like species or oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory elasmobranchs.

Amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Protocol

2019/0225(NLE) - 13/05/2020 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 667 votes to 2, with 13 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Following the recommendation of the Committee on Fisheries, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Protocol.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is the body set up by the ICCAT Convention for the conservation and management of species under its competence.

After nearly seven years of negotiations, the ICCAT parties have approved the package of amendments to the ICCAT Convention and thus modernised the text. These amendments bring the convention into line with those of other regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) around the world. In particular, the amendments will significantly improve ICCAT's ability to manage shark fisheries and modernise ICCAT's working methods and decision-making procedures to strengthen the organisation and ensure that it is more effective and ready to meet current and future challenges.