Basic information

2020/0302(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Conservation of fishery resources: catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna, Thunnus thynnus **Subject** 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds 3.15.07 Fisheries inspectorate, surveillance of fishing vessels and areas	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	PECH Fisheries	MATO Gabriel (EPP)	09/12/2020
		Shadow rapporteur MATIĆ Predrag Fred (S&D) BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun (Renew) ROOSE Caroline (Greens /EFA) STANCANELLI Raffaele (ECR) TARDINO Annalisa (ID)	
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus	
European Economic and Social Committee			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/10/2020	Legislative proposal published	COM(2020)0670	Summary
11/11/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
25/05/2021	Vote in committee, 1st reading		

26/05/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0172/2021	Summary
14/02/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
15/02/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/02/2022	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0027/2022	Summary
16/02/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/02/2022	Matter referred back to the committee responsible for interinstitutional negotiations		
17/02/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
20/09/2023	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE753.443 GEDA/A/(2023)005451	
21/11/2023	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0399/2023	Summary
21/11/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
08/12/2023	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
13/12/2023	Final act signed		
20/12/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/0302(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
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/9/04509

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE692.613	29/04/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0172/2021	26/05/2021	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading /single reading		T9-0027/2022	16/02/2022	Summary
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE753.443	13/09/2023	

Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0399/2023	21/11/2023	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2023)005451	13/09/2023	
Draft final act	00056/2023/LEX	13/12/2023	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2020)0670	27/10/2020	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2024)109	23/02/2024	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES5637/2020	27/01/2021	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2023/2833
OJ L 000 20.12.2023, p. 0000

Delegated acts

Reference	Subject
2025/2912(DEA)	Examination of delegated act

Conservation of fishery resources: catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna, Thunnus thynnus

2020/0302(COD) - 26/05/2021 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Gabriel MATO (EPP, ES) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 640/2010.

The committee responsible recommended that Parliament adopt its position at first reading taking over the Commission proposal.

This proposal sets out the rules for a Union Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme in order to implement conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT, under its Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme, the purpose of which is to identify the origin of all Bluefin tuna.

Under the proposal, the recording and validation of catches and subsequent trade events of Bluefin tuna would be performed through an electronic Bluefin tuna catch document system (eBCD) which has been functioning since 2017 and which Member States and operators already use. The proposal stipulates that the electronic system can be replaced, exceptionally, by paper documents (the BCD, Bluefin Tuna Catch Document), equivalent to the electronic system requirements.

In addition, the proposal:

- establishes general provisions on the use of Bluefin catch and re-export documents and sets rules for the recording and validation of catch and subsequent trade events of Bluefin tuna. Specific rules are set for tagged fish;

- contains provisions for verification before validation, transmission of data of eBCD users and annual reporting to ICCAT;

- proposes extensive use of delegated acts to modify the basic act in future.

Conservation of fishery resources: catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna, Thunnus thynnus

2020/0302(COD) - 16/02/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 667 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions, **amendments** to the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 640/2010.

The matter was referred back to the committee responsible for interinstitutional negotiations.

This proposal lays down the rules of the Union bluefin tuna catch documentation programme to implement the conservation and management measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas relating to bluefin tuna catch documentation programme and the mandatory use of the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation system with a view to identifying the origin of all bluefin tuna.

Under the proposal, the recording and validation of catches and subsequent commercial operations concerning bluefin tuna would be carried out by means of an electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation system (eBCD), which has been operational since 2017 and is already used by Member States and operators. In exceptional cases, the electronic system could be replaced by paper documents (the BCD, or bluefin tuna catch document), equivalent to the requirements of the electronic system.

In addition, the proposal:

- lays down general provisions on the use of bluefin catch and re-export certificates and sets rules for the recording and validation of catch and subsequent trade events of bluefin tuna. Particular rules are set for tagged fish;

- introduces additional provisions on verification before validation, transmission of data from eBCD users, the use of paper eBCD in exceptional cases and annual reporting to ICCAT;

- proposes to make greater use of delegated acts in the future to amendment the basic act.

The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in relation to the amendment of the Regulation on the mandatory use of eBCD and BCD, rules on grouped BCD, validations of BCD and eBCD, derogation for tagging information in relation to minimum size, recording and validation of catch and subsequent trades in the eBCD system, information concerning validation and points of contact, information concerning BCD documents or printed eBCD, reporting dates.

Parliament proposed to introduce in the proposed regulation a **new annex** listing the annexes to the ICCAT recommendations to which the present regulation now refers.

The Commission should adopt, no later than six months after the date of entry into force of the proposed Regulation, a delegated act supplementing the Regulation with the provisions of the Annexes to the ICCAT recommendations listed in the Annex to this Regulation. The Commission may adopt delegated acts to amend this delegated act at a later stage.

Conservation of fishery resources: catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna, Thunnus thynnus

2020/0302(COD) - 27/10/2020 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to establish a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna.

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

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

BACKGROUND: the objective of the Common Fisheries Policy is to ensure an exploitation of living biological resources that is sustainable economically, environmentally and socially.

The Union has been a contracting party to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) since 14 November 1997. ICCAT has the authority to adopt recommendations on the conservation and management of the fisheries under its competence, which are binding on the contracting parties.

As part of the measures to regulate bluefin tuna stocks and to improve the quality and reliability of statistical data, and in order to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal fishing, ICCAT adopted a recommendation introducing the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme (BCD) and a recommendation developing the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme by introducing a mandatory electronic document system (eBCD).

The purpose of this proposal is to transpose and implement existing ICCAT measures, which are binding upon the contracting parties.

CONTENT: this proposal establishes a Union bluefin tuna catch documentation programme to implement the conservation and management measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas relating to bluefin tuna catch documentation programme and the mandatory use of the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation system with a view to identifying the origin of all bluefin tuna.

Specifically, the proposal:

- lays down general provisions on the use of bluefin catch and re-export certificates and sets rules for the recording and validation of catch and subsequent trade events of bluefin tuna. Particular rules are set for tagged fish;

- introduces additional provisions on verification before validation, transmission of data from eBCD users, the use of paper eBCD in exceptional cases and annual reporting to ICCAT;

- sets out a detailed list of cases where delegated powers are requested to address frequent changes to the recommendations adopted by ICCAT.

Conservation of fishery resources: catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna, Thunnus thynnus

2020/0302(COD) - 21/11/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 600 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 640/2010.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure.

This Regulation establishes a Union bluefin tuna catch documentation programme, in order to implement the bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and the mandatory use of the electronic BCD (eBCD) system, with a view to identifying the origin of all bluefin tuna caught, in order to support the implementation of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The Regulation does not apply to domestic trade, export, import and re-export of fish parts other than the meat, such as heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails.

Under this Regulation, the eBCD system should be used for any catch, landing, transfer, including intra- and inter-farm transfers, transhipment, caging, harvest, domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna.

A BCD should be completed in one of the official languages of ICCAT (English, French or Spanish), for each bluefin tuna caught by a fishing vessel or trap, transferred, landed or transhipped at ports by a fishing vessel or trap, or caged or harvested by farms.

The Regulation also provides that Member States should:

- ensure that each lot of bluefin tuna which is re-exported from its territory is accompanied by a validated bluefin tuna re-export certificate (BFTRC);

- ensure that their competent authorities identify each lot of bluefin tuna landed in, domestically traded in, imported into, or exported or re-exported from, their territory, and request and examine the validated BCD(s) and related documentation of each lot of bluefin tuna;

- ensure that their users are registered in the eBCD system.

When personal data are processed in the context of the application of this Regulation, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 are applicable, and it should be ensured that the obligations relating to the protection of personal data are respected at all times and at all levels.

The amending Regulation includes:

- Annex I on data to be included in the bluefin tuna catch document (BCD);

- Annex II on the ICCAT bluefin tuna catch document;

- Annex III on instructions for the issuing, numbering, completion and validation of the bluefin tuna catch document (BCD).