

Basic information	
2021/0242(COD)	Procedure completed
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	
Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna: conservation and management measures	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries	O'SULLIVAN Grace (Greens/EFA)	11/10/2021
			Shadow rapporteur MELO Nuno (EPP) AGUILERA Clara (S&D) BILBAO BARANDICA Izaskun (Renew) STANCANELLI Raffaele (ECR) HAZEKAMP Anja (The Left)
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
28/07/2021	Legislative proposal published	COM(2021)0424	Summary
13/09/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
25/04/2022	Vote in committee, 1st reading		

25/04/2022	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
27/04/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0134/2022	
02/05/2022	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 71)		
04/05/2022	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 71)		
30/11/2022	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	GEDA/A/(2022)006956 PE738.706	
02/02/2023	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0026/2023	Summary
02/02/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
21/02/2023	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
15/03/2023	Final act signed		
24/03/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/0242(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU 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/9/06972

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE719.636	16/02/2022	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE730.010	22/03/2022	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0134/2022	27/04/2022	
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE738.706	09/11/2022	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0026/2023	02/02/2023	Summary

Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2022)006956	09/11/2022		

Draft final act	00060/2022/LEX	15/03/2023	
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#### European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2021)0424 	28/07/2021	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2023)97	08/03/2023	

#### Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES4880/2021	20/10/2021	

#### Final act

Regulation 2023/0675  
OJ L 088 24.03.2023, p. 0001

## Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna: conservation and management measures

2021/0242(COD) - 28/07/2021 - Legislative proposal

**PURPOSE:** to implement into EU law the relevant control, conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

**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 CCSBT is the regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) responsible for managing Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii* – SBF) through its area of distribution. The CCSBT has a mandate to adopt conservation and enforcement measures for the fisheries under its purview, and these are binding on its contracting parties.

To promote cooperation in the conservation and management of Southern bluefin tuna, the CCSBT has created the Extended Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (Extended Commission), in which the EU can participate as a member. Decisions adopted by the Extended Commission become decisions of the CCSBT at the end of the annual meeting session to which they were reported, unless the CCSBT decides to the contrary, which to date has never occurred.

The purpose of this proposal is to implement into Union law CCSBT measures that are binding on members of the Extended Commission.

**CONTENT:** the proposed Regulation lays down provisions concerning management, conservation and control measures relating to by-catch of Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) under the Convention for the Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna. It implements the relevant resolutions of the CCSBT adopted until 2020, except for measures which already form part of Union law.

The proposed Regulation covers only the CCSBT provisions applicable to the EU, notably taking into consideration the specificity of the Union fleet (no targeted fishery, exclusively accidental by-catch in the past and none since 2012, no transhipments or landing) and the trade of Southern bluefin tuna. In practice, most obligations will be only triggered if the Union fleet accidentally by-catches Southern bluefin tuna, which has not occurred since 2012, and retains those fish on-board, something that has not been reported to date.

The proposal includes:

- the ban on targeting of the Southern bluefin tuna, with only by-catches being allowed. EU fishing vessels that could by-catch the species shall be registered in the CCSBT record of vessels;
- the implementation of the CCSBT catch documentation scheme (CDS). By-catches of Southern bluefin tuna shall be tagged with catch tagging forms, while import, export and re-export documents are mandatory for the trading of Southern bluefin tuna;
- validation and verification of catch monitoring documents and tagging forms by flag Member States, as well as implementation of the CCSBT provisions on reviews and investigations related to the CDS and the maintenance of CDS records;
- the fixing of a SBF tag containing information on each whole SBF at the time of harvesting where SBF by-caught by Union fishing vessels is intended for export or re-export;
- the obligation to tranship SBF in port. Flag Member States will have to designate ports for transhipment of SBF for vessels flying their flag and communicate with the designated port States in order to share the information necessary for effective monitoring;
- implements the duty to cooperate in providing fishing vessels' data for: the investigation of incidents; cooperation related to the inclusion of a Union fishing vessel on the CCSBT Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) vessels list; reported cases of non-compliance; port inspection infringements;
- implements duties relating to monthly catch reports, and to annual and compliance reporting.

The proposal provides for delegated powers to be granted to the Commission to cater for amendments to CCSBT measures and ensure that EU fishing vessels are on an equal footing with those of other contracting parties. Examples of such measures are: the CCSBT Record of Vessels Authorised to Fish for Southern Bluefin Tuna; aligning the CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs; and reporting deadlines.

## Conservation of the Southern Bluefin Tuna: conservation and management measures

2021/0242(COD) - 02/02/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 589 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down conservation and management measures for the conservation of Southern bluefin tuna.

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

The Regulation implements in Union law the **management, conservation and control measures** established under the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna which are binding on the Union. It implements the relevant resolutions of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) adopted until 2020, with the exception of those measures which are already part of Union law.

The proposed Regulation covers only the CCSBT provisions applicable to the EU, notably taking into consideration the specificity of the Union fleet (no targeted fishery, exclusively accidental by-catch in the past and none since 2012, no transhipments or landing) and the trade of Southern bluefin tuna.

In practice, most obligations will be only triggered if the Union fleet accidentally by-catches Southern bluefin tuna, which has not occurred since 2012, and retains those fish on-board, something that has not been reported to date.

Specifically, the Regulation includes:

- the ban on targeting of the Southern bluefin tuna, with only by-catches being allowed;
- the implementation of the CCSBT catch documentation scheme (CDS). By-catches of Southern bluefin tuna shall be tagged with catch tagging forms, while import, export and re-export documents are mandatory for the trading of Southern bluefin tuna;
- validation and verification of catch monitoring documents and tagging forms by flag Member States;
- the implementation of the CCSBT provisions on reviews and investigations related to the CDS and the maintenance of CDS records;
- the fixing of a SBF tag containing information on each whole SBF at the time of harvesting where SBF by-caught by Union fishing vessels is intended for export or re-export;
- the obligation to tranship SBF in port. Flag Member States will have to designate ports for transhipment of SBF for vessels flying their flag and communicate with the designated port States in order to share the information necessary for effective monitoring;
- implements the duty to cooperate in providing fishing vessels' data for: the investigation of incidents; cooperation related to the inclusion of a Union fishing vessel on the CCSBT Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) vessels list; reported cases of non-compliance; port inspection infringements;
- implements duties relating to monthly catch reports, and to annual and compliance reporting.

Personal data processed in the framework of this Regulation should be treated in accordance with the applicable provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

Personal data processed under this Regulation should not be stored for a period longer than 10 years, except if those personal data are necessary to enable the follow-up of an infringement, an inspection or judicial or administrative procedures. In such cases, the personal data may be stored for up to 20 years. If personal data are retained for a longer period, the data shall be anonymised.

The Regulation provides for delegated powers to the Commission to provide for amendments to the CCSBT measures and to ensure that EU fishing vessels are treated on an equal footing with those of other contracting parties.