

Basic information**2021/0248(COD)**

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Regulation

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM): fishing in the GFCM Agreement area. Recast

Repealing Regulation 2011/1343 [2009/0129\(COD\)](#)

Subject

3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources
3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds

Geographical area

Mediterranean Sea area

Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	PECH Fisheries	ILČIČ Ladislav (ECR)	01/10/2021
		Shadow rapporteur CARVALHO Maria da Graça (EPP) CARVALHAIS Isabel (S&D) CHRISTENSEN Asger (Renew) KELLER Ska (Greens/EFA) GRANT Valentino (ID) PIMENTA LOPES João (The Left)	
	Committee for opinion on the recast technique	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs	AUBRY Manon (The Left)	01/07/2021
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/07/2021	Legislative proposal published	COM(2021)0434 	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		
28/04/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0136/2022	
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)		
24/05/2023	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE749.043 PE749.047	
12/07/2023	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0274/2023	Summary
12/07/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
18/09/2023	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
04/10/2023	Final act signed		
12/10/2023	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2021/0248(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Recast
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealing Regulation 2011/1343 2009/0129(COD)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 113 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/9/07074

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary

Specific opinion	JURI	PE730.117	30/03/2022	
Committee draft report		PE703.058	31/03/2022	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE730.032	04/04/2022	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0136/2022	28/04/2022	
Committee letter confirming interinstitutional agreement		PE749.047	03/05/2023	
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE749.043	16/05/2023	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0274/2023	12/07/2023	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	00024/2023/LEX	04/10/2023	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2021)0434 	30/07/2021	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2023)459	30/10/2023	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES2657/2021	22/09/2021	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

[Regulation 2023/2124](#)
[OJ L 000 12.10.2023, p. 0000](#)

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM): fishing in the GFCM Agreement area. Recast

PURPOSE: to transpose into EU law the fisheries conservation and management measures adopted in 2018 and 2019 by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

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 GFCM Agreement provides an appropriate framework for multilateral cooperation to promote the development, conservation, rational management and best utilisation of living marine resources in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea at levels which are considered sustainable and at low risk of collapse.

The EU and ten of its Member States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and Spain) are contracting parties to the GFCM agreement.

The recommendations adopted by the GFCM are binding on its contracting parties. As a contracting party to the GFCM Agreement, the EU is bound by these recommendations. The transposition of the relevant GFCM provisions is necessary to ensure that they are applied uniformly and effectively throughout the European Union.

Regulation (EU) No 1343/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council has been substantially amended several times. Since further amendments are to be made, that Regulation should be recast in the interests of clarity.

CONTENT: the recast proposal aims to **implement existing GFCM measures** that are binding on the contracting parties. It will thus ensure that EU law is in line with the international obligations adopted by the GFCM, to which the EU is a contracting party.

The proposal applies to commercial fishing and aquaculture, as well as recreational fishing, carried out by EU fishing vessels and nationals of Member States in the GFCM Agreement area.

The proposal deals with **fisheries management, conservation and control measures for certain species**. It includes chapters on European eel, giant red shrimp, blue and red shrimp, red coral, demersal fisheries, small pelagic fisheries, blackspot seabream, dolphin fish, turbot and piked dogfish.

The proposal also contains **common provisions** including:

- technical and conservation measures, aiming in particular to reduce the impact of fishing activities on certain marine species (including sharks and rays) and incidental catches, to establish fishing restricted areas and temporal closures, and to regulate what fishing gear may be used;
- control measures, including on the register of authorised vessels, port state measures and vessels presumed to have engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing
- measures on cooperation, information sharing and reporting;
- the establishment of regional research programmes on blue crab in the Mediterranean and rapana whelk in the Black Sea.

This proposal grants delegated powers to the Commission to ensure that the Union continues to fulfil its obligations under the GFCM Agreement.

General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM): fishing in the GFCM Agreement area. Recast

2021/0248(COD) - 12/07/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 645 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement Area (recast).

The Regulation lays down the detailed rules for the application by the Union of the conservation, management, exploitation, control, marketing and enforcement measures for fishery and aquaculture products adopted by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

The Regulation aims to implement existing GFCM measures that are binding on the contracting parties. It will thus ensure that EU law complies with the international obligations adopted by the GFCM, to which the EU is a contracting party.

The Regulation contains fisheries management, conservation and control measures applicable to certain species. It includes chapters on European eel, giant red shrimp, blue and red shrimp, red coral, demersal fisheries, small pelagic fisheries, blackspot seabream, dolphin fish, turbot and piked dogfish.

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the Commission's proposal as follows:

The amended text stressed that the Union must ensure that Union fishing activities outside Union waters are based on the same principles and standards as those applicable under Union law, while promoting a level playing field for Union operators vis-à-vis third country operators.

It is necessary to adopt provisions including the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), where designated by the Commission, as the body which receives control and inspection information, such as at-sea inspection reports, from the Member States.

Management measures and recommendations should be based on the best available scientific advice. The advice upon which management measures are based should itself be based on the scientific use of relevant data on fleet capacity and activity, on the biological status of exploited resources and on the social and economic situation of fisheries. Those data need to be collected and submitted in time to allow the subsidiary bodies of the GFCM to prepare their advice, which should take into consideration **biological, socio-economic and environmental aspects**.

Regarding **red coral**, it should be noted that the capture and retention on board, transshipment or landing of red coral should be prohibited for recreational fisheries purposes.

By way of derogation, the use of remotely operated underwater vehicles (ROVs) is permitted exclusively for scientific purposes within the GFCM research programme until the end of that programme.