Basic information

2021/0184(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments	Procedure completed
Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean: accession of the European Union **Subject** 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.15.06 Fisheries agreements with Pacific countries	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	PECH Fisheries	RUISSEN Bert-Jan (ECR)	30/11/2021
		Shadow rapporteur MATO Gabriel (EPP) CARVALHAIS Isabel (S&D) GADE Søren (Renew) ROOSE Caroline (Greens /EFA)	
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/07/2021	Preparatory document	COM(2021)0372	
18/11/2021	Legislative proposal published	12617/2021	
22/11/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/01/2022	Vote in committee		
26/01/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A9-0008/2022	Summary
15/02/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0020/2022	Summary
15/02/2022	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

28/02/2022	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/0184(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/9/06789

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE700.714	03/12/2021	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0008/2022	26/01/2022	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0020/2022	15/02/2022	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	12617/2021	18/11/2021	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2021)0372	08/07/2021	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2022/0314
OJ L 055 28.02.2022, p. 0012

Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean: accession of the European Union

2021/0184(NLE) - 26/01/2022 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Bert-Jan RUISSEN (ECR, NL) on the draft Council decision on the draft Council decision concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament **give its consent** to the draft Council decision.

The Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the North Pacific Ocean was signed on 24 February 2012 and entered into force on 19 July 2015. Its aim is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the Convention Area while protecting the North Pacific marine ecosystems in which those resources occur.

By acceding to the Convention, the Union intends to give the Member States and Union vessels concerned access to the fishery resources in the Convention area. Accession to the North Pacific Ocean Convention creates new opportunities for EU vessels. It would promote consistency in the EU's approach to conservation across the world’s oceans and reinforce its commitment to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources globally.

With a view to reaching its objectives, the Convention provides for the following actions to be taken:

- promoting the optimum utilization and ensuring the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources;

- adopting measures, based on the best scientific information available, to ensure that fisheries resources are maintained at or restored to levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield;

- adopting and implementing measures in accordance with the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries, and in accordance with the relevant rules of international law;

- assessing the impacts of fishing activities on species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks and adopting, where necessary, conservation and management measures for such species;

- protecting biodiversity in the marine environment;

- preventing or eliminating overfishing and excess fishing capacity;

- ensuring that complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities are collected and shared in a timely and appropriate manner;

- ensuring that any expansion of fishing effort, development of new or exploratory fisheries, or change in the gear used for existing fisheries, does not proceed without prior assessment of the impacts of those fishing activities on the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources;

- ensuring compliance with conservation and management measures and that sanctions applicable in respect of violations are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance, to discourage violations wherever they occur and to deprive offenders of the benefits accruing from their illegal activities;

- minimising pollution and waste originating from fishing vessels, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, and impacts on other species and marine ecosystems.

Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean: accession of the European Union

2021/0184(NLE) - 08/07/2021

PURPOSE: accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the North Pacific Ocean.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

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

The Union submitted requests to accede to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), the body established by the Convention to manage the fisheries in the area covered by the Convention, was unable to reach consensus on the Union's 2018 and 2019 requests at its fourth and fifth annual sessions in 2018 and 2019 respectively. No annual session took place in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so the NPFC did not consider the Union's 2020 request. At its sixth annual session from 23 to 25 February 2021, the NPFC accepted the Union's request.

On 22 June 2018, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate the European Union's accession to the Convention for the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean.

Through its accession to the Convention, the Union aims to satisfy the interest from the Member States and the Union vessels concerned to gain access to the fisheries resources in the Convention's Area of Application.

Accession to the Convention should promote consistency in the Union's conservation approach across the world's oceans and reinforce its commitment to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources globally.

The Union's accession to the Convention is fully consistent with the Council conclusions of 23 October 2020 regarding the Commission Communication on the 'EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030'.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes that the Council decides to approve, on behalf of the Union, the accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean.

Objectives

The objective of this Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fisheries resources in the Convention Area while protecting the marine ecosystems of the North Pacific Ocean in which these resources occur.

With a view to reaching the Convention's objectives, the measures taken aim at:

- promoting the optimum utilization and ensuring the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources;

- adopting measures, based on the best scientific information available, to ensure that fisheries resources are maintained at or restored to levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield;

- adopting and implementing measures in accordance with the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries, and in accordance with the relevant rules of international law;

- assessing the impacts of fishing activities on species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks and adopting, where necessary, conservation and management measures for such species;

- protecting biodiversity in the marine environment;

- preventing or eliminating overfishing and excess fishing capacity;

- ensuring that complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities are collected and shared in a timely and appropriate manner;

- ensuring that any expansion of fishing effort, development of new or exploratory fisheries, or change in the gear used for existing fisheries, does not proceed without prior assessment of the impacts of those fishing activities on the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources;

- ensuring compliance with conservation and management measures and that sanctions applicable in respect of violations are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance, to discourage violations wherever they occur and to deprive offenders of the benefits accruing from their illegal activities;

- minimising pollution and waste originating from fishing vessels, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, and impacts on other species and marine ecosystems.

Budgetary implications

The EU's accession to the Convention will require the payment of a yearly financial contribution to the NPFC from budget line 08.05.02 ('Compulsory contributions to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other International Organisations'), estimated at roughly EUR 60 000 annually. The Union's contribution could increase, depending on its future fishing in the Area of Application.

Voluntary contributions to the NPFC's budget under budget line 08.04.02 are also likely, particularly to promote scientific research. These contributions are estimated at about EUR 200 000 per year.

Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean: accession of the European Union

2021/0184(NLE) - 15/02/2022 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 675 votes to 4, with 16 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the draft Council decision concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean.

Parliament **gave its consent** to the draft Council decision.

The Convention was signed on 24 February 2012 and entered into force on 19 July 2015. At its sixth annual session, held from 23 to 25 February 2021, the North Pacific Fisheries Commission accepted the European Union's application for accession to the Convention. The EU had submitted several applications to join the Convention, in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The aim of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the North Pacific Ocean is to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the Convention Area while protecting the North Pacific marine ecosystems in which these resources occur.

By acceding to the Convention, the EU intends to provide access to fisheries resources in the Convention area for the Member States and Union vessels concerned. Accession to the North Pacific Ocean Convention creates new opportunities for Union vessels. It will promote consistency in the EU's approach to conservation across the oceans and strengthen its commitment to long-term conservation and sustainable use of the world's fisheries resources.