Basic information

2024/0098(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM): fishing in the GFCM Agreement area Amending Regulation 2023/2124 2021/0248(COD) **Subject** 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	ZOVKO Željana (EPP)	19/09/2024
	Shadow rapporteur BAJADA Thomas (S&D) CISINT Anna Maria (PfE) MILAZZO Giuseppe (ECR) YTTERELL Emma (Renew) LÖVIN Isabella (Greens /EFA) EVERDING Sebastian (The Left)	

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries		

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
30/04/2024	Legislative proposal published	COM(2024)0183	Summary
16/09/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
16/07/2025	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
16/07/2025	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
23/07/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A10-0150/2025	
08/09/2025	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
10/09/2025	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72)		
03/06/2026	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	GEDA/A/(2026)002898 PE788.776	
15/09/2026	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T10-0281/2026	Summary
15/09/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/10/2026	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
21/10/2026	Final act signed		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2024/0098(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation 2023/2124 2021/0248(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed, awaiting publication in Official Journal
Committee dossier	PECH/10/00379

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE765.292	25/02/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE771.930	16/04/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0150/2025	23/07/2025	
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE788.776	29/04/2026	

Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0281/2026	15/09/2026	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2026)002898	29/04/2026	
Draft final act	00026/2026/LEX	15/10/2026	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2024)0183	30/04/2024	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES2260/2024	10/07/2024	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

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

2024/0098(COD) - 30/04/2024 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to amend Regulation (EU) No 2023/2124 of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

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 Agreement for the establishment of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (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. Its main objectives are to promote: (i) the development, conservation, rational management, and best utilisation of living marine resources in the Mediterranean and Black Sea; and (ii) the sustainable development of aquaculture in the Mediterranean, Black Sea. The EU and 10 of its Member States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Spain, and Romania) are contracting parties to the GFCM Agreement.

The GFCM has the authority to adopt compulsory decisions (‘recommendations’) for fisheries conservation and management in its area of competence. Those recommendations are binding on the Union and should therefore be implemented into Union law unless their content is already covered thereby. The Union is to ensure that Union fishing activities outside Union waters are based on the same principles and standards as those applicable under Union law, while promoting fair competition between Union operators and third-country operators.

The first implementation of GFCM measures was done through Regulation (EU) 1343/2011, which was amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/2102 and Regulation (EU) 2019/982. Because Regulation (EU) 1343/2011 has been substantially amended several times and further amendments are to be made, it was recast in the interest of clarity, simplification and legal certainty in 2023, through Regulation (EU) 2023/2124.

For those reasons and since the permanent character of recommendations requires also a permanent legal instrument for their implementation into Union law, it is appropriate to implement those recommendations by means of a legislative act, ensuring legal clarity and predictability for Union operators in waters covered by the GFCM.

CONTENT: the purpose of this Commission proposal is therefore to implement into EU law the fisheries conservation and management measures adopted in 2021 and 2022 by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), to which the Union has been a contracting party since 1998.

The current proposal will insert further amendments into Regulation (EU) 2023/2124. These further amendments transpose additional GFCM measures.

More specifically, the proposal will address issues related to: (i) the sustainable conservation and management of fisheries; and (ii) the impact of fishing activities on certain marine species in the Mediterranean and Black Sea areas. In addition, this proposal contains technical measures for: (i) the sustainable exploitation of European eel and, red coral in the GFCM Agreement area; (ii), the mitigation of incidental captures of seabirds, sea turtles and cetaceans in the GFCM Agreement area; and (iii) the conservation of monk seals, sharks and rays in the GFCM Agreement area.

The proposal also:

- implements in Union law certain measures for fisheries for small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea;

- introduces new provisions on spart and piked dogfish in the Black Sea; and

- introduces two new chapters on transhipments and recreational fisheries in the GFCM area.

Lastly, this proposal provides for delegated powers granted to the Commission under Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), 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

2024/0098(COD) - 15/09/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 580 votes to 51, with 39 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 2023/2124 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 October 2023 on certain provisions for fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the Commission's proposal to transpose into European Union law the fisheries conservation and management measures adopted in 2021 and 2022 by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), to which the Union has been a contracting party since 1998.

The amended text emphasised that the GFCM recommendations must be **strictly transposed** in order to establish a level playing field for all operators, without burdening them beyond the legal obligations set by those recommendations.

The recommendations adopted by the GFCM should be **fully and in a timely manner implemented into Union law**, thereby enabling the Union to fulfil its international obligations as a reliable international partner, and to ensure their uniform and effective implementation within the Union, providing clarity and predictability for operators of Union fishing vessels.

The **recommendations** adopted by the GFCM concern, in particular:

- the establishment of a fisheries restricted area in the Jabuka/Pomo Pit in the Adriatic Sea;

- the establishment of a fisheries restricted area in the Gulf of Lion (geographical subarea 7) to protect spawning aggregations and deep-sea sensitive habitats

- the management measures for the sustainable exploitation of sprat and piked dogfish fisheries in the Black Sea;

- the mitigation of fisheries impacts for the conservation of sea turtles, cetaceans, and elasmobranchs in the Mediterranean Sea;

- a catch certificate scheme for turbot in the Black Sea;

- the establishment of a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

- a multi-annual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of small pelagic stocks in the Adriatic Sea;

- a management plan for the sustainable exploitation of red coral in the Mediterranean Sea;

- a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of blackspot seabream in the Alboran Sea;

- a multi-annual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of demersal stocks in the Strait of Sicily;

- a multiannual management plan for the sustainable exploitation of giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp stocks in the Strait of Sicily and the Ionian Sea;

- a multi-annual management plan for sustainable demersal trawl fisheries targeting giant red shrimp and blue and red shrimp in the Levant Sea;

- the establishment of a set of minimum rules for sustainable recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea;

- an international joint inspection and surveillance scheme covering the waters outside national jurisdiction in the Strait of Sicily, as well as international joint inspection and surveillance scheme covering the waters outside national jurisdiction in the Ionian Sea;

- a long-term management plan for the European eel in the Mediterranean Sea.

In order to ensure that lost **fish aggregating devices** (FADs) do not contribute further to marine plastic pollution, FADs should be exclusively constructed with biodegradable materials from 15 August 2027.

The Commission is empowered to adopt **delegated acts** in respect of the implementation into Union law of amendments, which have become binding on the Union, to existing GFCM measures which have already been implemented into Union law. These concern:

- the transmission to the GFCM Secretariat of the list of authorised vessels for the purpose of the GFCM Register;

- the derogations from conservation measures for red coral;

- the implementation of the permanent catch documentation scheme (CDS) for red coral and for turbot;

- port state measures;

- the table, map and geographic coordinates of the GFCM geographical subareas;

- port state inspection procedures for vessels and the transshipment declaration.