Basic information

2024/0224(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Conservation of fish stocks: measures in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing Amending Regulation 2012/1026 2011/0434(COD) **Subject** 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.15 Fisheries agreements and cooperation	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
PECH Fisheries	BAJADA Thomas (S&D)	14/10/2024
	Shadow rapporteur SMIT Sander (EPP) DIEPEVEEN Ton (PfE) RUISSEN Bert-Jan (ECR) WIESNER Emma (Renew) LÖVIN Isabella (Greens/EFA) FLANAGAN Luke Ming (The Left)	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	ŠEFČOVIČ Maroš

European Economic and Social Committee

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/09/2024	Legislative proposal published	COM(2024)0407	Summary
07/10/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		

09/04/2025	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
09/04/2025	Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations with report adopted in committee		
15/04/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A10-0070/2025	Summary
05/05/2025	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations announced in plenary (Rule 72)		
07/05/2025	Committee decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations confirmed by plenary (Rule 72)		
24/06/2025	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE774.470 GEDA/A/(2025)002761	
09/07/2025	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T10-0150/2025	Summary
09/07/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
22/09/2025	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
08/10/2025	Final act signed		
14/10/2025	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2024/0224(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation 2012/1026 2011/0434(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 043-p2 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207
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/10/00954

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE766.600	27/01/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE770.158	07/03/2025	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0070/2025	15/04/2025	Summary
Text agreed during interinstitutional negotiations		PE774.470	11/06/2025	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0150/2025	09/07/2025	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2025)002761	11/06/2025	
Draft final act	00019/2025/LEX	29/09/2025	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2024)0407	13/09/2024	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2025)08	14/08/2025	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES4192/2024	22/01/2025	

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
EP Research Service	Briefing	03/04/2025
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	**Role**	**Committee**	**Date**	**Interest representatives**
FLANAGAN Luke Ming	Shadow rapporteur	PECH	04/06/2025	Seafood Alliance Ireland Reps
FLANAGAN Luke Ming	Shadow rapporteur	PECH	04/03/2025	DG MARE

Final act
Regulation 2025/2077 OJ OJ L 14.10.2025

Conservation of fish stocks: measures in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing

2024/0224(COD) - 13/09/2024 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to introduce a targeted amendment to Regulation (EU) No 1026/2012 on certain measures for the purpose of the conservation of fish stocks in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing.

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: as provided in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (UNCLOS) and in the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks of 4 August 1995 (UNFSA), the management of certain shared, straddling and highly migratory fish stocks requires the cooperation of all the countries in whose waters the stock occurs and the countries whose fleets exploit that stock.

Regulation (EU) 1026/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain measures for the purpose of the conservation of fish stocks in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing lays down a framework for the EU to adopt certain measures regarding the fisheries-related activities and policies of third countries which allow non-sustainable fishing in order to ensure the long-term conservation of stocks of common interest to the Union and those third countries. Such measures can include identifying a country as a country allowing non-sustainable fishing and imposing quantitative restrictions on importations of fish from the stock of common interest that have been caught under the control of that country and on importations of fishery products made of or containing such fish.

CONTENT: this proposal is a targeted amendment to Regulation (EU) 1026/2012 and is mostly aimed at clarifying certain elements of the conditions to **trigger the identification of a country as allowing unsustainable fishing**, for increased legal certainty. The amendment is also intended to clarify and reinforce the **process for cooperation** before and after the EU takes measures, with the ultimate goal to obtain the cessation of non-sustainable fishing practices as soon as possible.

More specifically, the proposed regulation:

- introduces a definition of ‘failure to cooperate’ to better define, for the purposes of Regulation (EU) No 1026/2012, the scope and meaning of the requirement to cooperate pursuant to UNCLOS and UNFSA.

- clarifies that a country may be considered to allow non-sustainable fishing if it does not implement the necessary measures, and that such measures include control measures;

- reinforces the procedures prior and subsequent to the adoption of measures in respect to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing.

Conservation of fish stocks: measures in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing

2024/0224(COD) - 15/04/2025 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Fisheries adopted the report by Thomas BAJADA (S&D, MT) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1026/2012 concerning certain measures for the conservation of fish stocks with regard to countries authorising unsustainable fishing.

As a reminder, the proposal constitutes a targeted amendment to Regulation (EU) No 1026/2012 and aims primarily to clarify, with the aim of increasing legal certainty, certain elements of the conditions for identifying a country as a country that authorises unsustainable fishing.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading by amending the Commission's proposal as follows:

Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)

Members believe it is essential to strengthen the role of monitoring bodies within RFMOs. The proposed amendments aim to make RFMOs a genuine compliance tool in the EU's international fisheries governance strategy, harnessing their full potential to combat unsustainable fishing practices.

Failure to cooperate

Members clarified the concept of ‘failure to cooperate’: the failure of a third country to engage in good faith and have meaningful consultations with all the relevant coastal States and/or fishing parties, including within RFMOs, with a view to reaching an agreement on the adoption of necessary fishery management measures.

Examples of failure to cooperate include, but are not limited to:

- undue delays in replying to requests or engaging in consultations;

- unreasonable requests for information or actions to be taken, including unreasonable deadlines to reply or act;

- consistently maintaining their own positions over an extended period, regardless of the flexibilities and concessions offered by other parties during the consultations;

- adopting unreasonable and unjustified unilateral measures or quotas which are not in line with the measures or quotas agreed bilaterally or multilaterally;

- implementing discriminatory measures that impact the fleets of third countries, while granting a partial or full exemption from those measures for their own fleet, leading to stocks being in an unsustainable state;

- lack of transparency in the consultations with all the relevant coastal States or fishing parties, including within RFMOs.

Countries allowing unsustainable fishing

A country may be identified as a country allowing non-sustainable fishing where:

- it fails to adopt, implement, comply with or enforce relevant fishery management measures, or those agreed bilaterally or multilaterally, including control measures ensuring the effective conservation and management of stocks of common interest or associated species, including measures adopted in the framework of an RFMO;

- it systematically fails to comply with bilateral or multilateral agreements, by failing to take effective or timely action against its nationals or flagged vessels, which were deemed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing or acted contrary to the fishery management measures established by such agreements, leading to stocks being in an unsustainable state.

Procedures prior to the adoption of measures in respect to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing

The Commission should respond within **90** days of receiving a request, from a Member State or the European Parliament, to identify a country as a country allowing non-sustainable fishing and outline what action it intends to take, if any.

When the stock of common interest falls under the scope of an RFMO and the non-compliance by a third country results in that country being identified as a country allowing non-sustainable fishing, the Commission should raise the matter of a third country allowing non-compliance within the relevant body, to seek timely rectification of the non-compliance.

The Commission should give to the country concerned a maximum of 90 days to reply to the notification and a further maximum of 90 days from the date of that reply to remedy the situation.

Best available scientific advice

Members introduced a clear definition of 'best available scientific advice', meaning publicly available scientific advice that is supported by the most up-to-date scientific data and methods and that has either been issued or reviewed by an independent scientific body that is recognised at Union or international level.

Conservation of fish stocks: measures in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing

2024/0224(COD) - 09/07/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 681 votes to 4, with 4 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1026/2012 on certain measures for the purpose of the conservation of fish stocks in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing.

As a reminder, the proposal is a targeted amendment to Regulation (EU) No 1026/2012 and aims primarily to clarify certain elements of the conditions to trigger the identification of a country as allowing unsustainable fishing, for increased legal certainty.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading by amending the Commission's proposal as follows:

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)

The amended text clarifies that it should be possible for a country to be considered as allowing non-sustainable fishing if it does not implement or enforce the necessary fishery management measures, and that such measures include control measures, including within the framework of RFMOs.

It is also appropriate to reinforce the procedures prior and subsequent to the adoption of measures in respect of countries allowing non-sustainable fishing, including within the framework of RFMOs.

Failure to cooperate

Members stated that ‘failure to cooperate’ means the failure by countries to engage in good faith and have meaningful consultations, including within the framework of RFMOs, in which substantial effort is made with a view to reaching an agreement on the adoption of necessary fishery management measures. Examples of failure to cooperate include, but are not limited to:

- refusing to consult or to involve in consultations all the relevant coastal States and fishing States;

- unjustified unilateral breaking-off of consultations;

- undue delays, including in replying to requests or engaging in consultations;

- withholding information relevant for consultations;

- making unreasonable information requests;

- disregarding agreed procedures;

- systematically refusing to take into consideration counter-proposals or other parties' interests;

- systematically insisting upon own positions for an extended period, irrespective of flexibility offered by other parties in the consultations;

- refusing to take into account the best available scientific advice or historic fishing activities regarding the relevant stock or stocks.

Countries allowing non-sustainable fishing

A country could be considered a country allowing non-sustainable fishing when:

- it fails to adopt, implement or enforce necessary fishery management measures, including control measures, ensuring the effective conservation and management of stocks of common interest, including within the framework of an RFMO or where agreed bilaterally or multilaterally; or

- it adopts fishery management measures, such as quotas or discriminatory measures, without due regard to the rights, interests and duties of other countries and the Union, and those fishery management measures, when considered in conjunction with measures taken by other countries and the Union, lead to fishing activities which could result in the stock being in an unsustainable state.

Procedures prior to the adoption of measures concerning countries authorising unsustainable fishing

Where the Commission considers it necessary to adopt measures concerning countries authorising unsustainable fishing, it shall **notify** the country concerned of its intention to identify it as a country allowing non-sustainable fishing. In such a case, **the European Parliament and the Council shall be immediately informed** and regularly updated on developments and the actions taken.

Where the stock of common interest falls under the scope of an RFMO, the Commission shall raise the matter of a country allowing non-sustainable fishing with the compliance body of that RFMO prior to the notification with a view to remedying the situation.

Measures with respect to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing shall cease to apply when the country allowing non-sustainable fishing adopts appropriate corrective measures necessary for the conservation and management of the stock of common interest.

Best available scientific advice

Members introduced a clear definition of 'best available scientific advice', meaning publicly available scientific advice that is supported by the most recent scientific data and methods and has been issued or reviewed by an independent scientific body recognised at EU or international level.