



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

Brussels, 20 December 2019

SI (2019) 783

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

**Subject: 3740th meeting of the Council of the European Union on Agriculture and Fisheries
Brussels, 16 and 17 December 2019**

Summary

Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers met during two days in Brussels for the last Ministerial meeting under FI Presidency. OUT OF SCOPE

As usual at this time of the year, Council discussed fishing opportunities for 2020 and managed to find an agreement, with the Commission 'support. OUT OF SCOPE

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removed as it falls
entirely out of scope
of the request

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FISHERIES

Fishing opportunities 2020

After lengthy negotiations, Council managed to find a unanimous agreement on the proposal setting out the fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Atlantic and North Sea, based on a Commission proposal in line with scientific advice and the CFP principles. This meeting was a particularly challenging one due to mainly two factors. First, the MSY (maximum sustainable yield) deadline of 2020 and second, the worrying situation of cod in the Celtic Sea.

The latter issue could notably be solved by setting a TAC level aiming at avoiding premature closure of the fishery in early 2020 and, at the same time, also avoiding potential discarding, which could undermine data collection and scientific assessment of the stock. In addition, further remedial measures have been introduced in order to improve selectivity by making the usage of gears that have lower levels of by-catches of cod mandatory in the areas where cod catches are significant, thus decreasing the fishing mortality of this stock in mixed fisheries.

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proposed the compromise set out below, which was endorsed unanimously by Ministers. The political agreement for the first time includes a comprehensive package of technical measures into the Regulation, to avoid unwanted bycatches and thus stimulate the regeneration of the cod stocks in the Celtic Sea. Increase of mesh sizes, extension of protection zones and the monitoring measures introduced will improve selectivity and sustainability of fishing activities in the Celtic Sea and the Kattegat. Given the collapse of cod in the Celtic Sea, a TAC of 800 t. was set for unavoidable bycatch (while the Commission had proposed 189 t. in line with scientific advice), paired with the above-mentioned strong selectivity measures. The Commission issued a statement acknowledging Council's efforts to protect cod in the Celtic Sea through increased selectivity measures, but regretted that the respective TAC had not been set at a more cautious level to allow for a more rapid recovery of the stock.

Political agreement on TACs:

Common name	TAC Unit	Proposal TAC change 2019 -2020	Compromise TAC change 2019 - 2020	Compromise TAC 2020 (tonnes)	Statements / additional information
Cod	7bc, 7e-k, 8, 9, 10	-88% (189 t)	-50%	805 t	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deletion of Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall not apply ▪ Commission Statement
Cod	Kattegat				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deletion of Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall not apply ▪ <u>Footnote (1) reads:</u> Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.
Cod	6a, Union and international waters of 5b East of 12°00'W	-41% (1023 t)	-26%	1279 t	
Common sole	7hjk	-44% (213 t)	-14%	329 t	
Sole	8, 9	-40% (643 t)	-20%	858 t	
Greenland halibut	1 and 2	+55% (1300 t)	100%	1800 t	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recital ▪ Statement
Hake	8c, 9, 10	-20% (7 406t)	-5%	8752 t	

Horse Mackerel	2a, 4a; 6, 7a-c, 7e-k, 8abde; Union and intern. waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% inter-area flexibility to 8c for ES, FR and PT
Horse Mackerel	9	-50% (46 659t)	+24%	116 871 t	
Lemon sole and witch	Union waters of 2a and 4	-29% (5 580 t)	-14%	6 785 t	
Ling	1, 2	RO (36 t)	225%	117 t	
Ling	3a	RO (170 t)	+5%	179 t	
Ling	2a, 4	RO (4035 t)	+5%	4 237 t	
Megrim	8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	12% (2089 t)	24%	2 322 t	
Northern prawn	2a and 4	-100% (0 t)	-23%	1200 t	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement
Plaice	8,9,10	-20% (316 t)	-10%	355 t	
Plaice	3a			16 655 t	
Pollack	7	-40% (7 298 t)	RO	12163 t	
Pollack	8	-10% (1 334 t)	RO	1 482 t	
Skates and Rays	7d	-11% (1 250 t)	+5%	1 474 t	
Skates and Rays	2a, 4	-4% (1 588 t)	+5%	1 737 t	
Sprat	3a				Footnote: “Transfers of this quota may be effected to Union waters of 2a and 4. However, such transfers shall be notified in advance to the Commission.”
Turbot and Brill	Union waters of 2a and 4	-27% (5 876 t)	-20%	6 498 t	

Whiting	8	-13% (2 203 t)	RO	2 540 t	
Whiting	3a			1 295 t	
Footnotes with CCTV and observers provisions will be deleted for the following stocks in Annex IA: cod in Kattegat, cod 6a and 5b, whiting 6a, 5b, 12 and 14, whiting 7a and plaice 7hjk.					
Reference to Article 15(9) are deleted for the following stocks in Annex IA: cod in Kattegat, cod 6a and 5b, whiting 6a, 5b, 12 and 14, whiting 7a and plaice 7hjk and the relevant Member States commit not to use such flexibility (Statement by Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom) and the following Recital: "Moreover given that the biomass of the stocks of COD/03AS; COD/5BE6A; WHG/56-14; WHG/07A and PLE/7HJK is below Blim and that only by-catch [and scientific] fisheries are permitted in 2020, Member States have undertaken not to apply Article 15(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 for these stocks in 2020 so that catches in 2020 will not exceed the TACs set."					

Reporting: , DG MARE

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removed as they fall entirely
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