

## New EU fisheries control system

During the October II plenary session, the Parliament is expected to vote on an agreement with the Council to revise the EU fisheries control system. The new legislation represents a complete overhaul of the current system. Major changes concern the tracking of all fishing vessels, electronic reporting of all catches, monitoring of recreational fisheries, improved traceability of fisheries products, and harmonisation of sanctions. CCTV cameras will be used to monitor vessels at high risk of not complying with the obligation to land all catches.

### Background

The [EU fisheries control system](#) is an essential part of the common fisheries policy (CFP), as it aims to ensure compliance with CFP rules. The Control Regulation [1224/2009](#) forms the core of the system. It covers aspects such as fishing licences, vessel tracking, inspection rules, sanctions for non-compliance, data collection requirements, traceability of products, monitoring of vessel capacity (tonnage and power) and compliance with catch quotas and rules on fishing gear. Certain aspects of the system are covered by other regulations, such as the authorisation of EU vessels fishing outside EU waters and third-country vessels fishing in EU waters (Regulation [2017/2403](#)), and the instrument to prevent, deter and eliminate the import of illegal, unreported and unregulated catches into the EU (Regulation [1005/2008](#)).

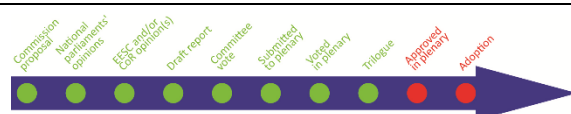
### European Commission proposal

On 30 May 2018, the European Commission proposed a revision of the fisheries control system in order to modernise and simplify the system and bring it into line with the 2013 CFP reform (e.g. by taking into account the landing obligation, which was phased in between 2015 and 2019). While it amends five regulations, the focus of the [proposal](#) is on the revision of the Control Regulation 1224/2009.

### European Parliament position

The Parliament and the Council adopted their positions in [March](#) and [June](#) 2021, respectively, after which interinstitutional negotiations started. An agreement was reached during the 12th political trilogue meeting on [30 May 2023](#). The [agreed text](#) supports the tracking of all fishing vessels (with an exemption until 2030 for certain small-scale coastal fishing vessels), the electronic reporting of all catches (with a simplified logbook for vessels under 12 metres in length), the monitoring of recreational fisheries (Member States will have to have an electronic system for recording such catches), and full digital traceability along the supply chain (for processed products only after five years, once the Commission has completed a study). The text also supports the harmonisation of sanctions across the EU, strongly advocated by the Parliament, to reduce the existing wide disparities between Member States. The use of on-board cameras to monitor the landing obligation (for vessels with a high risk of non-compliance) will only apply to vessels of 18 metres or more in length. The Parliament and Council also agreed on more flexible margins of tolerance for estimating the weight of catches on board, particularly for small pelagic and tuna species. Regarding the control of fishing capacity, certain large vessels would have to be equipped with devices for the continuous monitoring of engine power. The text was endorsed by the Parliament's Committee on Fisheries (PECH) on [27 June 2023](#) and will be put to the vote during the October II plenary session.

First-reading report: [2018/0193\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: PECH; Rapporteur: Clara Aguilera (S&D, Spain). For further information, see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).



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