



Plenary sitting

A9-0198/2022

28.6.2022

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REPORT

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2019/833 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation
(COM(2022)0051 – C9-0046/2022 – 2022/0035(COD))

Committee on Fisheries

Rapporteur: Isabel Carvalhais

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ***■*** symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2019/833 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation

(COM(2022)0051 – C9-0046/2022 – 2022/0035(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2022)0051),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 43(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0046/2022),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Fisheries (A9-0198/2022),
1. Adopts its position at first reading, taking over the Commission proposal;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

(1) Content of the proposal

On 16 February 2022, the Commission submitted a proposal to amend Regulation (EU) 2019/833, which transposed into EU law the conservation and enforcement measures (CEM) adopted by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), to which the European Union (EU) has been a contracting party since 1979. The purpose of this proposal is to transpose into Union law the amendments to the conservation and enforcement measures adopted by NAFO at its annual meeting in 2021. It also includes NAFO editorial improvements and adapts the wording to the EU legal context.

NAFO is the regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO) responsible for managing fishery resources in the Northwest Atlantic. NAFO conservation and management measures apply exclusively to the NAFO high seas Regulatory Area. Under the terms of the NAFO Convention, its Commission, a constituent body of which all contracting parties are members, is responsible for the adoption of conservation and enforcement measures.

The latter also states that the conservation measures adopted by the Commission are binding and that the contracting parties are obliged to implement them. New measures are adopted by the NAFO Commission at its annual meetings in the form of decisions, of which the contracting parties are subsequently notified by the Executive Secretary. Article 3(5) of the Treaty on European Union stipulates that the EU shall strictly observe international law. This includes compliance with NAFO conservation and enforcement measures.

This proposal transposes the measures adopted by NAFO in 2021 that entered into force on 2 December of the same year and have remained applicable since then.

(2) Rapporteur's position

The rapporteur welcomes this proposed amendment to the regulation, updating EU law through transposition of the new NAFO conservation and enforcement measures.

She would point out that, although the number of EU vessels authorised to fish in the NAFO Regulatory Area is reduced, less than 50 vessels, catch volumes are nevertheless significant considering the size of the fleet. According to the NAFO website, vessels from five Member States were logging activities in that area in 2020, the total EU catch being 49 089 tonnes. Portugal and Spain account for 85% of the total EU catch, that is to say 47% (22 932 tonnes) and 38% (18 768 tonnes) respectively.

The rapporteur highlights that it is essential to ensure compliance with the best conservation measures for fisheries in these waters, given the particular sensitivity of certain target species, especially those with long life cycles. This proposal transposes to Union legal framework several decisions taken at the NAFO annual meeting of September 2021, in particular, concerning the calculation of “Others” quota, introducing flanking measures for Cod in

Division 3M in relation to inspection of landings, as well as Greenland halibut. Not less important is the transposition of revised provisions concerning additional procedures, serious infringements in relation to use of mesh sizes, grid or grate, and reinforced measures relating follow-up for infringements, as well as transmission of documents to NAFO and European Fisheries Control Agency

It is therefore necessary to guarantee implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy across the board by all Union fishing fleets, irrespective of their geographical operating area, and, above all, minimise the impact of resource exploitation on habitats, other resources and other species. The rapporteur would point out that fishing activities in the Convention Area involve the use of trawling gear, which can cause damage to the seabed and hence habitats. She accordingly urges the Commission to make its voice heard at NAFO meetings and, in particular, ensure that the conservation and management measures adopted by NAFO are in line with ambitious CFP targets.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Title	Amending Regulation (EU) 2019/833 laying down conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation	
References	COM(2022)0051 – C9-0046/2022 – 2022/0035(COD)	
Date submitted to Parliament	16.2.2022	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	PECH 17.2.2022	
Rapporteurs Date appointed	Isabel Carvalhais 7.4.2022	
Discussed in committee	28.4.2022	14.6.2022
Date adopted	20.6.2022	
Result of final vote	+: 22 -: 0 0: 3	
Members present for the final vote	Clara Aguilera, Pietro Bartolo, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Rosanna Conte, Rosa D’Amato, Jan Huitema, Predrag Fred Matić, Francisco José Millán Mon, Caroline Roose, Bert-Jan Ruissen, Peter van Dalen	
Substitutes present for the final vote	Colm Markey, Nuno Melo, Elżbieta Rafalska, Lucia Vuolo	
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Andrus Ansip, Stéphane Bijoux, Marco Campomenosi, Sara Cerdas, Christophe Grudler, Gilles Lebreton, Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques, Alessandra Moretti, Jutta Paulus, Axel Voss	
Date tabled	28.6.2022	

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

22	+
ECR	Elzbieta Rafalska, Bert-Jan Ruissen
PPE	Maria da Graça Carvalho, Peter van Dalen, Colm Markey, Nuno Melo, Francisco José Millán Mon, Axel Voss, Lucia Vuolo
RENEW	Andrus Ansip, Stéphane Bijoux, Christophe Grudler, Jan Huitema
S&D	Clara Aguilera, Pietro Bartolo, Sara Cerdas, Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques, Predrag Fred Matić, Alessandra Moretti
VERTS/ALE	Rosa D'Amato, Jutta Paulus, Caroline Roose

0	-

3	0
ID	Marco Campomenosi, Rosanna Conte, Gilles Lebreton

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention