



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 17.04.1996
COM(96) 162 final

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC)

laying down for 1996 certain conservation and management measures for fishery resources in the Convention Area as defined in the Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in the North-East Atlantic

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

During many years, the question of the regulation of oceanic-type redfish formed the subject matter of protracted discussions within the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). At an Extraordinary Meeting from 19 to 21 March 1996, NEAFC was now able to adopt a recommendation of conservation and management measures for that fish stock for 1996. That recommendation was adopted by a qualified majority of the Contracting Parties of NEAFC, including the Community.

The recommended measures consist in a total allowable catch (TAC) of 153,000 tonnes which covers oceanic-type redfish in its entire area of distribution and which is allocated among the Contracting Parties concerned. Within this TAC, a share of 23,000 tonnes has become available to the Community. Furthermore, Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) committed itself to transfer to the Community a further 4,000 tonnes. This results in a total 27,000 tonnes of oceanic-type redfish available to the Community in 1996.

As this recommendation has been adopted with the full support of the Community, the Commission now proposes its full implementing at Community level.

In order to enhance the impact of the measures recommended by NEAFC and to ensure that Community fishing vessels can carry out their operations in economically appropriate conditions, it is also proposed to share out the Community share of oceanic-type redfish between the Member States concerned in application of the traditional "relative stability" criteria with an appropriate reference period of five years which reflects duly the twofold reality of the past catch records and the current fishing patterns.

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laying down for 1996 certain conservation and management measures for fishery resources in the Convention Area as defined in the Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in the North-East Atlantic

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3760/92 of 20 December 1992 establishing a Community system for fisheries and aquaculture ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 8 (4) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas the Community has signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which contains principles and rules relating to the conservation and management of the living resources within the exclusive economic zones of the coastal States and on the high seas;

Whereas the Convention on Multilateral Co-operation in the North-East Atlantic, hereafter referred to as the "NEAFC Convention", was approved by the Council in Decision 81/608/EEC of 13 July 1981 ⁽²⁾ and entered into force on 17 March 1982;

Whereas the NEAFC Convention establishes a suitable framework for multilateral co-operation in the rational conservation and the optimum utilization of the fishery resources of the Convention Area as defined therein;

Whereas the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission adopted on 21 March 1996 a recommendation limiting the catches of redfish in the Convention Area for 1996; whereas it is appropriate that this recommendation be implemented by the Community;

Whereas, in accordance with Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No. 3760/92, it falls to the Council to establish for each fishery or group of fisheries the total allowable catch (TAC) and the share available to the Community and to allocate the share available to the Community among the Member States;

⁽¹⁾ O.J. No. L 389, 31.12.1992, p. 1

⁽²⁾ O.J. No. L 227, 12.8.1981, p. 21

Whereas the fishing activities covered by this Regulation are subject to the control measures provided for in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2847/93 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy ⁽³⁾;

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Catches in 1996 of redfish by Community fishing vessels shall be limited to the quotas set out in the Annex.

All catches by Community fishing vessels of redfish prior to the adoption of this Regulation shall be counted against the quotas set out in the Annex.

Article 2

This regulation shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 1996

For the Council
The President

⁽³⁾ O.J. No. L 261, 20.10.1993, p. 1

ANNEX

Stock		Member State	1996 quota
Species	Geographical area		
Redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i> , oceanic-type) ⁽¹⁾	ICES XIV/XII/V ⁽²⁾	Austria	
		Belgium	
		Denmark	
		Finland	
		Germany	21,422
		Greece	
		France	853
		Ireland	
		Italy	
		Luxembourg	
		the Netherlands	5
Portugal	2,846		
Spain	1,874		
Sweden			
the United Kingdom			
		EC total	27,000 ⁽³⁾

- (1) Fished with pelagic trawls, excluding discards but including the fish above as well as below the acoustic layer
- (2) Community fishing waters and areas beyond fisheries jurisdiction of the other coastal States
- (3) Includes a transfer of 4,000 tonnes from Denmark (on behalf of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

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