

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(77) 87 final

Brussels, 11 March 1977

Proposal for a

## COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

fixing catch quotas for certain zones and procedures  
relating to fishing activity in those zones

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(77) 87 final



Explanatory memorandum

1. In its resolution on certain aspects of the internal fisheries regime adopted on 3 November 1976, the Council, having regard to the economic implications of fishing in Ireland, declared its intention of applying the provisions of the common fisheries policy in such a way as to ensure the steady and gradual development of the Irish fishing industry on the basis of the Irish Government's Programme for the development of inshore fishing (1).

The recognition of the special position of Ireland among those Member States with fishing interests will require the application of special provisions as part of the regime for the conservation and management of resources (2) which needs to be set up as soon as possible.

2. In view of the urgent need to solve at Community level the problem of resource conservation, the Council adopted on 19 February 1977 (3) a number of interim conservation and management measures which constitute a first step towards the achievement of this aim.

Further measures will have to be added in order to protect marine resources in the fishing zones of the Member States and to safeguard future catch potential.

3. However, ad hoc provisions should be laid down without delay in order to prevent lack of protection jeopardizing the future of the Irish fishing industry.

Indeed, certain stocks in the waters around Ireland have been heavily fished and even overfished. Consequently appropriate measures should be implemented right away in order to re-establish these stocks and thus create reasonable fishing conditions in these waters to guarantee the steady and gradual development of the fishing industry in Ireland.

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(1) Doc. I/385/76 add. 1 Annex VII

(2) O.J. N° C 255 of 28 October 1976, p. 3.

(3) O.J. N° L 48 of 19 January 1977, p. 28.

The re-establishment of these stocks by means of limits on catches and provisions concerning the utilization of catch capacity will facilitate the creation of optimum fishing conditions which will also benefit fishermen from the Member States which have traditionally fished in these waters.

Any measures considered in this connection should cover all of ICES sub-zones VI and VII, in view of the interdependence of these zones both from the biological point of view and with regard to fishing practice.

4. The proposal for a regulation laying down interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources (1) provides for the TACs to be fixed at a level which will guarantee the future volume of stocks.

The following table shows that in comparison with 1975 a reduction of 41 % in catches was provided for in ICES zones VI and VII.

ICES zones VI and VII

|                    | Catches 1975<br>or quotas 1976<br>1.000 t | TACs 1977<br>1.000 t | Reduction<br>1977/75<br>(%) |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Demersal           | 245                                       | 183                  | 25                          |
| Pelagic            | 594                                       | 315                  | 47                          |
| All species<br>(1) | 839                                       | 498                  | 41                          |

(1) Excluding blue whiting and horse mackerel

As regards Ireland the allocation of quotas took into account the need to develop fisheries in that country on the basis of the development programme for the Fishing industry.

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In fact, taking into account catches of other kinds of fish also the quotas for Ireland should make it possible for the Irish fishing industry to catch in 1977 a volume of all species which will be about 30 % higher than catches in 1976.

5. As a result of the combined effect of a reduction in total authorized catches (TACs) and a distribution of catch quotas which takes account of the special situation of the Irish fishing industry, it should be possible for the aims set by the Council in its resolution of 3 November to be achieved.

It is for this reason that the Commission proposes the introduction of catch limitation measures for sub-zones VI and VIII and the introduction of a system of adequate controls.

The catch quotas for these zones will apply for the remainder of 1977.

They were established on the basis of quota proposals resulting from technical work carried out at the end of 1976, and have been adjusted to take account of the estimated volume of catches already achieved in 1977 and the need to provide for an additional reduction in the catches of Member States apart from Ireland in the zones concerned. The result is an average reduction of about 33 % in comparison with the quota proposals 1977 as part of the interim conservation and management measures. This percentage varies according to species, given the seasonal distribution of catches over the year.

As regards plaice and sole it should be remembered that a system of quotas agreed under the auspices of the NEAFC already applies. The Commission does not consider it appropriate to make changes to this system. In view of the uncertainty concerning the outcome of negotiations proceeding with certain non-member countries with which the Community intends to conclude reciprocal agreements, it is further proposed that at this stage no quotas should be fixed for the West Scotland herring stocks. The provisions laid down by the Council at its meeting on 10 October 1976 do not apply to these stocks. However, it is planned that the Member States should inform the Commission on a regular basis of their catches of these species also.

As regards the few species such as blue whiting and horse mackerel for which overall quotas were fixed, it seems possible not to fix quotas for the remainder of 1977 in view of the fact that there seems to be no risk of over-fishing of stocks during this short period.

6. In addition, the Commission is proposing to the Member States that they adjust the scale of their fishing activities in zones VI and VII to the size of the quotas allocated to them. This implies that, with the exception of Ireland whose catch potential has increased, the other Member States should limit their fishing in the zones concerned. This aim can be achieved by various methods. Thus the Member States can reduce the number of fishing vessels, reduce the number of fishing days per vessel, reduce the fishing season or else apply a combination of these methods.

It is intended that the Member States, according to their fishing practice, should opt for one or other of these methods and draw up a forward fishing plan for the period up to 30 June 1977. After consulting the other Member States concerned the Commission will reach a decision on this plan, taking into account in particular the number and type of vessels considered necessary to fish the quotas allocated.

7. For the remainder of 1977, provisions concerning the monitoring of volume of fishing, complementary to the quotas already allocated for 1977, should also be fixed before 1 July.

These provisions should be drawn up in the light of the conservation measures which the Council is to introduce in addition to those already adopted on 19 February last.

Council Regulation (EEC)

fixing catch quotas for certain zones  
and related rules governing fishing  
in those zones

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,  
and in particular Article 103 thereof,

Having regard to the Act of Accession, and in particular Article 102  
thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas in its resolution on certain aspects of the internal fisheries regime adopted on 3 November 1976, the Council, having regard to the economic implications of fishing in Ireland, declared its intention of applying the provisions of the common fisheries policy in such way as to ensure the steady and gradual development of the Irish fishing industry on the basis of the Irish Government's programme for the development of inshore fisheries;

Whereas a Community regime for the conservation and management of fishery resources has not yet been established; whereas on 18 February 1977 the Council adopted Regulation (EEC) N° 350/77 laying down certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, in view of the precarious situation of some stocks, it is important that other particularly urgent measures be taken in the immediate future for the interim period of 1977 to protect marine resources and

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1 OJ N° L 48, 19.2.1977, p. 28

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safeguard future catch potential in sub-zones VI and VII as defined by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), without prejudice to the adoption of similar measures for other maritime regions;

Whereas, in respect of these stocks, there should be among the Member States an equitable apportionment of the quantities that may be caught in those zones; whereas provision should be made for the Member States to be able to exchange all or part of the quantities allocated to them;

Whereas, further, steps should be taken to ensure that the fishing capacity of Member States takes account of the catch quota allocated to them; whereas, to this end, a forward fishing plan presented by the Member States concerned should be authorized by the Commission and the Member States should take the measures necessary to ensure its application;

Whereas conservation measures that include the allocation by species of a limited catch volume to each Member State will have no effect unless provisions are also laid down for adequate supervision of fishing;

Whereas, in the meantime, these measures should be adopted immediately on the basis of Article 103 of the Treaty, subject to their subsequent inclusion in the common agricultural policy,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The quota of certain species that may be caught by the fleet of each Member State in sub-zones VI and VII as defined by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea shall be as laid down in Annex I for the period ..... to 31 December 1977.

Article 2

Where two or more Member States make a joint request for an exchange of all or part of the quotas for a species or group of species referred to in Article 1, the Commission may alter the quotas in question in accordance with the request.

Article 3

1. Member States shall require a statement to be signed by all skippers of fishing vessels, listing the catches of species subject to quotas and the location of those catches. Member States shall take all the measures necessary to check the accuracy of such statements. They shall inform the Commission each month of the volume of catches by species landed on their territory, according to fishing ground and the flag of the vessel. The Commission shall treat information on individual catches as confidential.
  
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply also to catches of sole and plaice in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea sub-zones VI and VII, and to herring in sub-zone VI.

Article 4

1. Member States shall provide the Commission with a forward fishing plan for the period from ..... to 30 June in sub-zones VI and VII as defined by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, account being taken of the quotas allocated to them under Article 1. The plan may provide for :
  - regulation of the number of fishing vessels to be deployed,
  - regulation of the number of excursions per vessel,
  - regulation of fishing periods,
  - legislation to ensure proper implementation of the plan.
  
2. On the basis of the communication provided for in paragraph 1 and after consultation with the Member States concerned, the Commission shall authorize the fishing plan having regard in particular to the number of vessels and the fishing capacity required to achieve the quotas. It shall, if necessary, lay down the detailed rules for implementing the plan.
  
3. The Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt before 1 July 1977 the measures to be applied for the remainder of 1977, in the light of the conservation measures that it is required to take in pursuance of Council Regulation (EEC) N° 350/77 of 18 February 1977.

Article 5

Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure application of this Regulation, particularly as regards observance of the quotas and of the detailed rules governing fishing provided for in Article 4.

Article 6

This Regulation shall enter into force on

It shall apply until 31 December 1977.

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

ANNEX I

Catch quotas allocated to the various Member States from .....  
to 31 December 1977 in ICES sub-zones VI and VII, where  
these are in waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction  
of Member States.

| Species | Stock   |               | Member State        | '000 tonnes |
|---------|---|---------------|---------------------|-------------|
|         | Geographical region   | ICES sub-zone |                     |             |
| Cod     | West Scotland   | VI            | France              | 1,84        |
|         |   |               | Ireland             | 0,72        |
|         |   |               | United Kingdom      | 5,84        |
|         |   |               | Other Member States | 0,19        |
|         |   |               | (by-catches)        |             |
| Cod     | Irish Sea,<br>West Ireland<br>and Porcupine<br>Bank, South<br>Ireland, Bristol<br>Channel, English<br>Channel | VII           | Belgium             | 0,38        |
|         |   |               | France              | 6,08        |
|         |   |               | Ireland             | 3,28        |
|         |   |               | Netherlands         | 0,08        |
|         |   |               | United Kingdom      | 2,89        |
|         |   |               | Other Member States | 0,06        |
|         |   |               | (by-catches)        |             |

| Species | Stock  |               | Member State                     | '000 tonnes |
|---------|--|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
|         | Geographical region  | ICES sub-zone |                                  |             |
| Haddock | West Scotland  | VI            | France                           | 1,59        |
|         |  |               | Ireland                          | 0,64        |
|         |  |               | United Kingdom                   | 8,39        |
|         |  |               | Other Member States (by-catches) | 0,05        |
| Haddock | Irish Sea,<br>West Ireland and<br>Porcupine Bank,<br>South Ireland,<br>Bristol Channel,<br>English Channel | VII           | Belgium                          | 0,08        |
|         |  |               | France                           | 4,64        |
|         |  |               | Ireland                          | 0,40        |
|         |  |               | United-Kingdom                   | 0,15        |
|         |  |               | Other Member States (by-catches) | 0,02        |

| Species | Stock   |               | Member State                     | '000 tonnes |
|---------|---|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
|         | Geographical region   | ICES sub-zone |                                  |             |
| Whiting | West Scotland   | VI            | Germany                          | 0,07        |
|         |   |               | France                           | 1,94        |
|         |   |               | Ireland                          | 2,03        |
|         |   |               | Netherlands                      | 0,07        |
|         |   |               | United Kingdom                   | 10,05       |
|         |   |               | Other Member States (by-catches) | 0,07        |
| Whiting | Irish Sea, West Ireland and Porcupine Bank, South Ireland, Bristol Channel, English Channel | VII           | Belgium                          | 0,19        |
|         |   |               | France                           | 9,47        |
|         |   |               | Ireland                          | 3,56        |
|         |   |               | Netherlands                      | 0,66        |
|         |   |               | United Kingdom                   | 2,27        |
|         |   |               | Other Member States (by-catches) | 0,08        |

| Species  | Stock   |               | Member State                     | '000 tonnes |
|----------|---|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
|          | Geographical region   | ICES sub-zone |                                  |             |
| Coalfish | West Scotland   | VI            | Germany                          | 0,31        |
|          |   |               | France                           | 10,22       |
|          |   |               | Ireland                          | 0,20        |
|          |   |               | Netherlands                      | 0,44        |
|          |   |               | United-Kingdom                   | 4,84        |
|          |   |               | Other Member States (by-catches) | 0,08        |
| Coalfish | Irish Sea, West Ireland and Porcupine Bank, South Ireland, Bristol Channel, English Channel | VII           | France                           | 3,12        |
|          |   |               | Ireland                          | 1,00        |
|          |   |               | United-Kingdom                   | 0,52        |
|          |   |               | Other Member States (by-catches) | 0,02        |
|          |   |               |                                  |             |

| Species | Stock               |                      | Member State  | '000 tonnes                         |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
|         | Geographical region | ICES division        |   |                                     |
| Herring | West Celtic Sea     | VII j-k              | Ireland<br>Other Member States<br>(by-catches)                | (*)<br>0,09                         |
| Herring | Irish Sea           | VII a<br><br>(**)    | France<br>Ireland<br>Netherlands<br>United Kingdom            | 0,17<br>(*)<br>0,10<br>9,18         |
| Herring | West Ireland        | VII b,c<br><br>(***) | Germany<br>France<br>Ireland<br>Netherlands<br>United Kingdom | 0,90<br>0,45<br>(*)<br>9,00<br>0,90 |

(\*) The Irish quotas will be fixed as soon as the Commission has been notified of catches by Irish fisheries during the first quarter of 1977.

(\*\*) Minus the zone delimited

- to the north by latitude 52° 30' North,
- to the south by latitude 52° 00' North,
- to the west by the Irish coast,
- to the east by the coast of the United Kingdom.

(\*\*\*) Excluding Donegal Bay.

| Species  | Stock   |               | Member State                     | '000 tonnes |
|----------|---|---------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
|          | Geographical region   | ICES sub-zone |                                  |             |
| Mackerel | West Scotland   | VI and VII    | Germany                          | 0,86        |
|          |   |               | France                           | 14,19       |
|          |   |               | Ireland                          | 12,0        |
|          |   |               | Netherlands                      | 7,50        |
|          |   |               | United Kingdom                   | 40,07       |
|          |   |               | Other Member States (by-catches) | 0,34        |
| Hake     | Irish Sea, West Ireland and Porcupine Bank, South Ireland, Bristol Channel, English Channel | VI and VII    | Belgium                          | 0,38        |
|          |   |               | France                           | 11,78       |
|          |   |               | Ireland                          | 0,40        |
|          |   |               | United Kingdom                   | 10,34       |