

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

13 NOVEMBER 1981

DOCUMENT 1-732/81

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture
on the proposal from the Commission of the
European Communities to the Council
(Doc. 1-439/81) for a regulation
concerning, for certain fish stocks occurring
in the Community fishing zone, the fixing
of the total allowable catches for 1981
and the shares available to the Community

Rapporteur: Mr Kent KIRK

PE 74.998/final

By letter of 10 August 1981, the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation (EEC) concerning, for certain fish stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone, the fixing of the total allowable catches for 1981 and the shares available to the Community.

On 19 August 1981 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible.

On 21 September 1981 the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Kirk rapporteur.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 10 and 11 November 1981.

At the same meeting the motion for a resolution was adopted unanimously.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Kirk, rapporteur; Mr Abens (deputizing for Mr Vernimmen), Mr Battersby, Mr Bocklet, Mrs Castle, Mr Clinton, Mr Curry, Mr Diana, Mr Eyraud, Mr Gautier, Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Hord, Mr d'Ormesson, Mrs Pery (deputizing for Mr Sutra), Mr Provan, Miss Quin, Mr Tolman and Mr Wettig.

The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation concerning, for certain fish stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone, the fixing of the total allowable catches for 1981 and the shares available to the Community

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(81) 434 final)¹,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-439/81),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-732/81),
- having regard to the report by Sir Henry PLUMB on the fixing of total allowable catches for 1981 (Doc. 1-53/81),
- having regard to the report by Mr KIRK on the fixing of the total allowable catches for 1980 (Doc. 1-597/80),
- having regard to the amendment to the proposal for a Council regulation fixing the conditions governing fishing operations when taking the total allowable catches for 1981 (COM(81) 455 final),

1. Points out that this latest revision of the TACs for 1981 represents a considerable increase on the Commission's original proposal, which represented a one-sided biological approach;

Believes that the Commission should seek greater consultation with fishermen before drawing up TACs and should encourage greater exchange of ideas and information between fishermen and scientists;

2. Requests the Commission to obtain information from ICES for TACs on a three-year basis and to draw up proposals on that basis;
3. Requests that the Commission come forward in future years with more realistic proposals rather than negotiating gambits which undermine the confidence of the Community fishermen in the Community institutions;
4. Emphasizes once more that it is essential that a decision be taken in the immediate future to implement a common fisheries policy, so as to bring to an end the present uncertainty and insecurity undermining the future of the fishing industry, particularly with regard to investment decisions;
5. Believes that the present proposal may make a contribution to that agreement and to providing a basis for managing fishing operations in the coming year;

¹ OJ No. C 244 of 3.9.1981, p.2

6. Underlines, however, that no final agreement can be reached which is not based above all on seeking to ensure adequate incomes to fishermen throughout the Community, and that the Commission's proposals should be redirected to achieving this aim in the form of a balanced package of proposals;
7. Points out that despite the zero TAC for the ICES Division VII g-k, Ireland is to be permitted to carry out directed fishing for 1,000 tonnes of herring by local boats with the definition of the boats subject to the approval of the Commission;
8. Requests the Commission to pay equal attention to requests for other local inshore fishermen to be permitted to fish in local waters or for discrete stocks where such fisheries are of particular economic interest to the fishermen concerned;
9. Notes that the Commission has made considerable changes to its proposal (COM(81) 79 final) concerning the conditions governing fishing operations when taking the TACs for 1981 and that the European Parliament has not been consulted on the new proposal (COM(81) 455 final);

Rejects such attempts by the Council to avoid its Treaty obligation to consult the European Parliament on new measures.