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Working Documents

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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-436/81) for a regulation concerning the distribution among the Member States of the total catch possibilities available to the Community in 1981 of stocks or groups of stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone

Rapporteur: Miss J.G. QUIN

By letter of 10 August 1981, the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation concerning the distribution among the Member States of the total catch possibilities available to the Community in 1981 of stocks or groups of stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone.

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 Miss Joyce Quin rapporteur.

The Committee considered this proposal at its meetings of 26/27 October 1981, 10/11 November 1981 and 16 November 1981.

At the meeting of 16 November 1981 the Committee adopted the motion for a resolution by ten votes with five abstentions.

Present: Mr Delatte, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Miss Quin, rapporteur; Mr Battersby, Mr Clinton, Mr Enright (deputizing for Mrs Castle), Mrs Ewing (Deputizing for Mr Davern), Mr Gautier, Mr Griffiths (deputizing for Mr Eyraud), Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mrs Martin (deputizing for Mr Caillavet), Mr Mertens (deputizing for Mr Tolman), Mr Papaefstratiou, Mr Wettig and Mr Woltjer

The explanatory statement will be presented orally.

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 the distribution among the Member States of the total catch possibilities available to the Community in 1981 of stocks or groups of stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(81) 435 final),¹
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-436/81),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc.1-763/81),
 - having regard to the report drawn up by Mr KIRK on the total allowable catches for 1981 (Doc.1-732/81),
 - whereas the Council of Ministers has reached a limited agreement on measures to improve the market organization for fish, on a number of agreements with certain third countries and on a limited aid to restructuring the fisheries fleet,
 - stressing the importance of essential decisions contained in Parliament's Resolution of 21.11.1980 on the report by Mr Kirk on total allowable catches for 1980 (Doc. 1-597/80),
1. Calls upon the Council to demonstrate that it has the political will to achieve an overall policy for the effective management of the Community's fishery resources;
 2. Considers that such an agreement can only be realized if based above all on effective measures to ensure adequate incomes to fishermen throughout the Community, while taking into account the interests of the processing industry;

Emphasizes that without such adequate measures to ensure reasonable incomes to fishermen, quotas will constitute little more than a political fiction of little significance in face of the economic realities faced by fishermen;
 3. Stresses, therefore, the importance of the Commission implementing effectively the measures adopted to improve the market organization, while ensuring that market policy is not disrupted by agreements with third countries granted market access to Community markets in exchange for fishing quotas;

¹ OJ No. C 224, 3.9.81, p.11

4. Emphasizes that the progress achieved by the recent agreement in the Council could be undermined if the Council failed to achieve agreement on arrangements for quotas and access, which have been the most politically divisive questions in past negotiations;
5. Believes that these political problems would be minimized if quotas were to result from overall management policies;
6. Considers, therefore, that there should be greater reliance on conservation measures, such as mesh size regulation and seasonal zone closure, rather than quota arrangements;
7. Points to the serious economic and political problems which were raised by the recent opening of quotas for herring west of Scotland and in the North Sea; refers in particular to the Commission's Statement that past catch figures do not allow a calculation formula to be developed for use as a reference base for a systematic and desirable system of distribution; and requests clarification of this statement, particularly as to its implication for future Commission proposals;
8. Considers that in future catch quotas should be allocated with greater reference to fishing methods, facilities for processing on board and outlets on-shore, so as to prevent disruption of the market in this sector. Requests the Commission to examine whether the release of quotas at intervals, taking account of market demand, might not be a way of preventing fish for human consumption from being processed into fish meal.
9. Calls for a review of the process by which total allowable catches are determined, and for the European Parliament to be involved fully in this process;
10. Calls for greater clarification from the Commission concerning its system for arriving at TACs and on the balance between scientific factors on the one hand and economic and social factors on the other; requests the Commission to clarify the criteria by which it decides that TAC proposals should differ from the recommendations of ICES;
11. Notes that the Commission has placed emphasis on a presentation of the quota distribution between Member States in terms of cod equivalents; Believes that this method of presentation may act to camouflage important changes in the allocation of individual species to Member States; Believes that such changes may not reflect realistically the traditional fishing patterns, consumption requirements and price relationships of the individual Member States;

Points, as an example, to the fact that the cod allocations to the United Kingdom in the North Sea have been reduced progressively from 48.8%, 46.6%, 45% to the present figure of 41.3%;

Believes, in view of the consumption requirement of the UK, that additional quantities of haddock, whiting and plaice in no way compensate for a reduction in cod allocations;

Points out that for other countries, such as Denmark, the readjustments in allocation of the quota for the major species, without reference to traditional catches, merely acts to shift the economic and social problems from one group of fishermen to another;

Points out furthermore that in fixing quotas account should be taken of recently established fleets fishing for previously underexploited species of fish such as horse mackerel and blue whiting;

2. Points out that no calculations have been made of the effect the Commission proposal would have on traditional fishing activities in the Member States; regards it as irresponsible to adopt a proposal whose implications have not been assessed by the Community institutions, and therefore calls on the Commission to calculate the effect of its proposals on traditional and historical fishing activities in the Community and to submit its assessment to the European Parliament;

3. Affirms once more the importance of introducing an effective licencing system;

4. Believes that the Commission's proposals for distribution of quotas will only be acceptable on condition that:

- (a) the operation of the market organization is seen in the next months to be implemented effectively;
- (b) realistic proposals are made for restructuring the Community's fishing fleet, accompanied by social proposals to help adapt the Community's fishing fleet to likely future requirements taking account of what has already been achieved in this area at national level in the various Member States; and
- (c) special arrangements are made for regions particularly dependent on fishing to ensure their priority access to local waters and to stocks of mainly local interest;

15. Points out that in the Commission's proposal there are a number of zones where very small quota allocations, in some cases 50 tonnes or less, are proposed; requests, therefore, the Commission to supply additional information on the feasibility of keeping within such small quotas and whether the problem of controlling amounts caught will be made more difficult;
16. Requests, in view of the European Parliament's past support for the consideration of a multi-species method of establishing TACs, that Community money for research into this method should be made available;
17. Believes that national aids are likely to continue in view of the present income difficulties; calls, therefore, upon the Commission to draw up a realistic framework for their regulation;
18. Believes that the European Parliament, in accordance with Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, must be permitted to give its opinion on a revision of the present proposals; and that therefore a proper dialogue between the European Parliament and the Council should be developed in order that no unnecessary delays result.

(A) NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC: TOTAL CATCHES

	<u>All fishery products</u>		<u>Marine fish</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	251,881	258,585	223,086	279,781
France	643,890	NA	394,860	NA
Netherlands	321,433	228,449	216,409	254,729
Belgium	47,125	45,614	44,386	42,734
United Kingdom	1,002,813	881,946	824,602	
Ireland	91,687	149,283	79,262	137,603
Denmark	1,725,972	1,719,448	1,653,529	NA

	<u>Fin fish</u>		<u>Flat fish</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	223,805	230,437	14,197	8,829
France	395,970	NA	22,639	NA
Netherlands	216,600	255,073	59,597	62,896
Belgium	44,386	42,734	14,481	14,237
United Kingdom	825,939	NA	48,061	42,041
Ireland	80,473	138,498	3,220	4,763
Denmark	1,656,565	NA	68,828	NA

	<u>Cod types</u>		<u>Demersal Percomorphs</u> ⁽¹⁾	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	104,677	111,066	45,551	48,372
France	220,839	NA	45,245	--
Netherlands	52,676	63,824	1,410	1,348
Belgium	23,790	20,021	2,834	2,965
United Kingdom	317,726	321,156	25,152	45,807
Ireland	19,571	28,025	332	841
Denmark	561,471	NA	51,004	

	<u>Pelagic Percomorphs</u> ⁽¹⁾		<u>Herrings, anchovies etc.</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	5,879	7,948	13,672	19,327
France	10,809	NA	18,845	NA
Netherlands	32,253	25,548	5,783	8,490
Belgium	12	8	7	2,569
United Kingdom	2,900	13,010	54,012	45,100
Ireland	0.1	2,892	29,347	46,267
Denmark	6,757		425,012	458,445

(1) Percomorphs = mackerels, wolffish, tunas, perch, sea basses and similar fish

NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

	<u>Cod</u>		<u>Ling</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	51,608	56,690	1,273	435
France	30,083	NA	10,751	NA
Netherlands	34,875	45,448	35	20
Belgium	15,125	11,239	590	577
United Kingdom	130,794	124,510	4,133	3,694
Ireland	6,545	7,780	135	190
Denmark	136,583	161,215	1,204	NA

	<u>Blue Ling</u>		<u>Haddock</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	3,367	13,513	4,518	3,748
France	6,871	NA	15,786	NA
Netherlands	-	-	979	1,573
Belgium	-	-	1,800	2,608
United Kingdom	280	0	83,151	96,838
Ireland	-	-	1,083	1,200
Denmark	-	-	12,429	19,322

	<u>Saithe</u>		<u>Pollock</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	34,349	23,906	143	60
France	63,835	NA	7,722	0
Netherlands	1,757	420	9	3
Belgium	1,004	1,014	226	333
United Kingdom	22,025	17,220	1,478	1,358
Ireland	1,878	2,515	-	-
Denmark	10,964	9,887	2,273	NA

	<u>Whiting</u>		<u>Eur Hake</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	1,339	1,366	30	65
France	46,833		22,522	
Netherlands	13,469	14,408	91	104
Belgium	4,241	3,394	165	299
United Kingdom	68,306	62,990	1,863	2,458
Ireland	9,319	13,676	305	657
Denmark	62,356	16,826	1,770	

NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

	<u>Turbot</u>		<u>Brill</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	158	156	27	21
France	625	NA	341	NA
Netherlands	4,098	3,260	932	757
Belgium	252	237	309	277
United Kingdom	1,089	770	340	271
Ireland	149	171	126	120
Denmark	1,539	NA	341	NA

	<u>Atlantic Halibut</u>		<u>Greenland Halibut</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	413	318	7,104	2,819
France	257	NA	104	NA
Netherlands	0	0	-	-
Belgium	36	42	-	-
United Kingdom	297	194	60	26
Ireland	-	-	-	-
Denmark	45	NA	-	-

	<u>Eur. Plaice</u>		<u>Dab</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	4,575	4,456	1,088	173
France	4,358	NA	2,544	NA
Netherlands	40,051	40,044	4,743	5,029
Belgium	8,227	8,059	538	604
United Kingdom	34,039	27,774	1,588	1,370
Ireland	1,710	1,916	239	194
Denmark	54,258	40,977	5,551	NA

	<u>Lemon Sole</u>		<u>Common Sole</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	42	49	207	348
France	1,905	NA	4,527	NA
Netherlands	400	303	8,105	12,695
Belgium	916	741	3,828	3,745
United Kingdom	5,376	6,090	2,253	2,044
Ireland	169	203	319	451
Denmark	1,592	NA	699	995

NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

	<u>Eur Flounder</u>		<u>Witch Flounder</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	567	466	7	23
France	124	NA	252	NA
Netherlands	1,260	806	-	-
Belgium	131	191	0	0
United Kingdom	496	422	1,355	1,306
Ireland	0	0	0	0
Denmark	4,256	NA	547	NA

	<u>Megrim</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	0.1	0.1
France	6,880	NA
Netherlands	8	2
Belgium	244	341
United Kingdom	1,155	1,763
Ireland	458	1,671
Denmark	0	0

NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

	<u>Roundnose Grenadier</u>		<u>Atl. Redfish</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	3,398	1,234	39,928	45,704
France			4,939	3,259
Netherlands			5	1
Belgium			1,385	1,381
United Kingdom	0	0.1	1,761	1,308
Ireland				
Denmark				

	<u>E. Atl. Gurnards</u>		<u>Atl. Wolffish</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	15	13	3,797	758
France	7,053		-	-
Netherlands	729	798	9	13
Belgium	427	402	85	112
United Kingdom	871	817	1,360	1,198
Ireland	1	10	0	0
Denmark	-	-	900	

	<u>Horse Mackerel</u>		<u>Capelin</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	5,866	7,939	-	-
France	7,482	9,019	-	-
Netherlands	32,172	25,488	-	-
Belgium	12	8	-	-
United Kingdom	2,841	12,953	-	-
Ireland	0	1,161	0	1,731
Denmark	5,589	6,005	0	11,807

NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

	<u>Herring</u>		<u>Pilchard</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	7,824	10,135	1,196	82
France	3,596		10,306	
Netherlands	3,223	2,799	1,456	1,327
Belgium	2	1,025	0	0
United Kingdom	12,316	11,428	9,866	9,427
Ireland	27,454	36,917	0	0
Denmark	63,921	63,820		

	<u>Sprat</u>		<u>Mackerel</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	4,652	9,110	17,855	21,147
France	981	3,515	37,527	
Netherlands	1,094	4,356	63,388	91,934
Belgium	1	1	13	5
United Kingdom	31,675	24,108	352,568	253,099
Ireland	1,893	9,350	25,120	52,971
Denmark	361,091	394,625	28,903	32,094

NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

	<u>Norway Pout</u>		<u>Pouting</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	0	0	-	-
France	-	-	15,783	NA
Netherlands	867	1,081	408	399
Belgium	0	0	639	557
United Kingdom	3,041	1,805	707	755
Ireland	0	0		
Denmark	252,129	401,007		

	<u>Pontassou</u>		<u>Sandeels</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	4,473	9,933	0	0
France	-	-	430	
Netherlands	185	368	-	-
Belgium	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom	4,437	10,702	13,392	33,546
Ireland	1	1,877	0	0
Denmark	81,679	67,397	507,487	574,128

(B) NORTH-WEST ATLANTIC: TOTAL CATCHES

	<u>All fisheries products</u>		<u>Total Fin fish</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	75,593		73,809	-
France	23,030	18,803	19,712	17,960
United Kingdom	868	848	858	807
Ireland	1,149	0	1,104	0
Denmark	1,394		0	0
	<u>Total Shell-fish</u>		<u>Atl. Halibut</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	1,784		924	
France	3,320	843	34	34
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0
Ireland	1,089	0	7	0
Denmark	1,394	-	0	
	<u>Greenland Halibut</u>		<u>American Plaice</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	12,895	-	5,503	-
France	4	4	59	128
United Kingdom	110	22	0.1	0.1
Ireland	-	-	-	-
Denmark	0	-	-	-
	<u>Cod</u>		<u>Saithe</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	3,237	-	7	-
France	19,068	16,297	92	194
United Kingdom	638	657	0	0
Ireland	144	0	3	0
Denmark	-	-	-	-
	<u>Redfish</u>		<u>Catfish</u>	
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>
Germany	7,839	8,669	14,933	-
France	172	201	32	1
United Kingdom	64	78	9	39
Ireland	918	0	19	0
Denmark	-	-	-	-