

# European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1981 - 1982

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11 November 1981

DOCUMENT 1-699/81

## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

**on the modified proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-698/81) for a Regulation establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources**

**Rapporteur: Mr James PROVAN**



By letter of 28 October 1981, the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the modified proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation (EEC) establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources.

The President of the European Parliament referred this ~~modified~~ ~~referred~~ proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible.

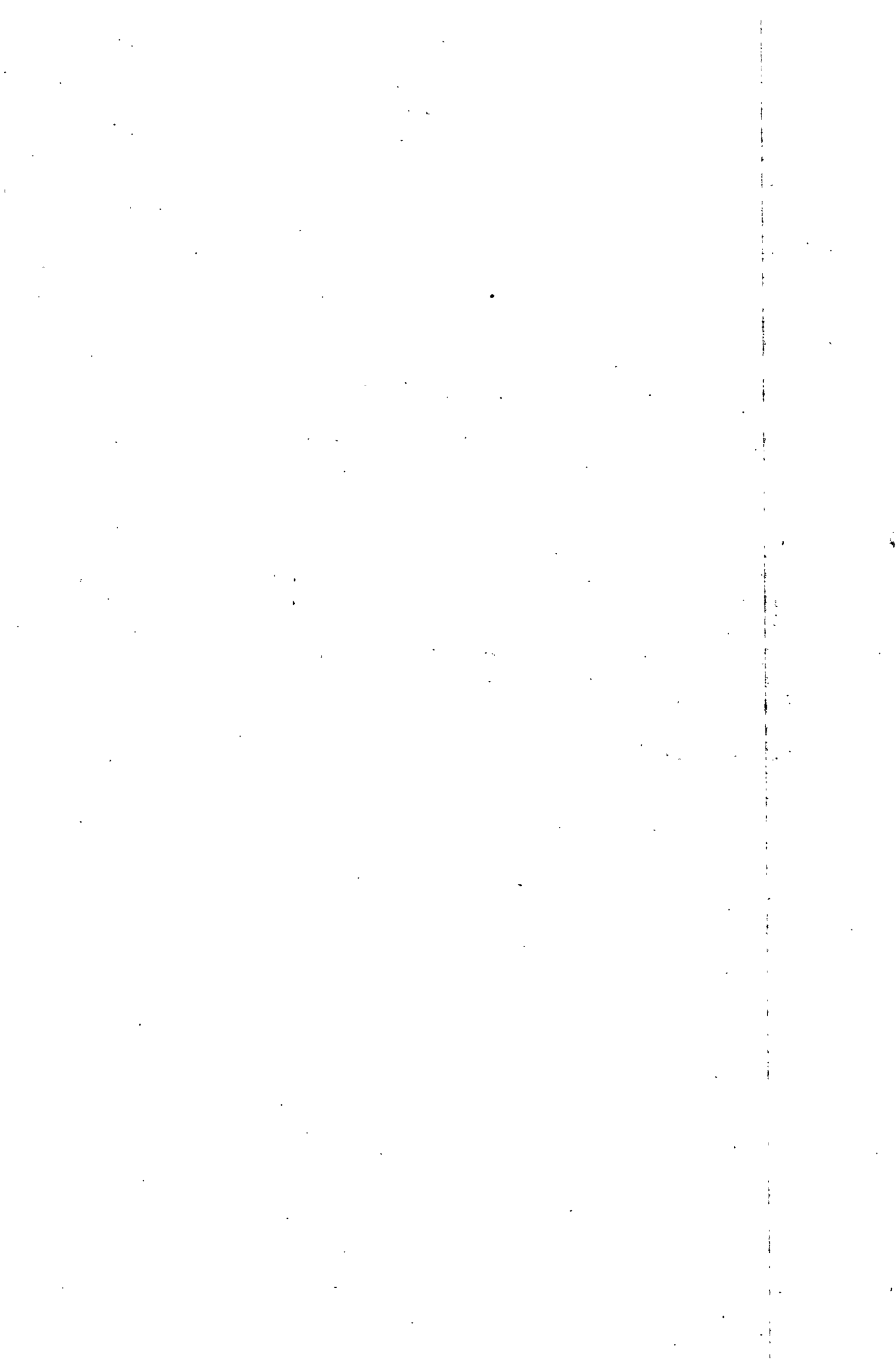
On 22 April 1981, the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Provan rapporteur.

The Committee considered this modified proposal at its meetings of 23/24 June 1981, 21/22 September 1981 and 26/27 October 1981.

At its meeting of 26/27 October 1981, the Committee adopted the motion for a resolution by 18 votes with 10 abstentions.

Present: Sir Henry Plumb, chairman; Mr Früh and Mr Delatte, vice-chairmen; Mr Provan, rapporteur; Mr Arfe (deputizing for Mr Gatto), Mr Battersby, Mr Blaney (deputizing for Mr Skovmand), Mrs Cassanmagnago Cerretti (deputizing for Mr Ligios), Mr Clinton, Mr Costanzo (deputizing for Mr Colleselli), Mr Curry, Mr Davern, Mr de Keersmaeker (deputizing for Mr Diana), Mr Fanton, Mr Key (deputizing for Mrs Castle), Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Hord, Mr McCartin (deputizing for Mr Bocklet), Mr Maher, Mr Marck (deputizing for Mr Tolman), Mr Martin (deputizing for Mr Pranchère), Mr Papæfstratiou, Mrs Pery (deputizing for Mr Thareau), Ms Quin, Mr Sutra, Mr Veronesi (deputizing for Miss Barbarella) and Mr Woltjer.

The explanatory statement will be presented orally.



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

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Article 4 of the modified proposal for a regulation: (Doc. 1-698/81)

Replace the second paragraph by the following text:

- '2. Proposals for the distribution of catches shall be presented by the Commission before 1 October each year and shall be adopted by the Council according to the procedure laid down in Article 43(2) of the Treaty.'

AMENDMENT NO. 2

Article 6 of the modified proposal for a regulation: (Doc. 1-698/81)

In the first paragraph, delete the words 'to 31 December 1992'.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

Article 7 of the modified proposal for a regulation: (Doc. 1-698/81)

Modify the second paragraph as follows:

- '2. On the basis of this report and bearing in mind the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, the Council, acting on a proposal by the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, shall decide whether supplementary measures are required to further the objectives of a Common Fisheries Policy.'

AMENDMENT NO. 4

Article 8 of the modified proposal for a regulation: (Doc. 1-698/81)

Modify the first paragraph as follows:

- '1. In the sensitive regions prescribed in Article 6(3) regional fishing plans shall be established with a view to regulating fishing activities on species representing a special interest therein in accordance with agreed arrangements of fishing effort.'

AMENDMENT NO. 5

Article 10 of the modified proposal for a regulation: (Doc. 1-698/81)

Modify Article 10 as follows:

- '10. A system for the supervision and control of the Community fisheries conservation and management measures shall be established, based in particular on:
- the introduction of a licencing system, covering vessels, equipment, skippers and owners;
  - an improved coordination of national inspection measures and exchange of information;
  - the gradual introduction of a Community monitoring and control procedure.

AMENDMENT NO. 6

Article 13 of the modified proposal for a regulation: (Doc. 1-698/91)

Modify paragraph 1 as follows:

1. Management committees for fisheries resources, hereinafter called the committees, shall be established for the following waters: one for the North Sea and the English Channel, one for the waters west of Scotland and the Irish Sea, one for the Bay of Biscay, one for the Mediterranean, one for the Baltic, the Kattegat and Skagerak, and one for the waters west and east of Greenland.

Modify paragraph 2 as follows:

2. The committee shall consist of representatives of the Member States with legitimate fishing interests in the waters concerned. Each committee shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission.

AMENDMENT NO. 7

Article 14 of the modified proposal for a regulation: (Doc. 1-698/81)

Modify paragraph 2 as follows:

2. The representative of the Commission shall submit a draft of the measures to be taken. The committee shall deliver its opinion on such measures within a time limit that may be set by the chairman according to the urgency of the questions under consideration. An opinion shall be adopted by simple majority.

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the modified proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation (EEC) establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources

### The European Parliament

- having regard to the modified proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(81) 80 final),
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-698/81),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-699/81),
  - having regard to the report of the European Parliament drawn up by Mr CLINTON on the Common Fisheries Policy (Doc. 1-560/80),
  - 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 and distribution of catches for 1980 (Doc. 1-597/80),
  - having regard to the report by Mr HELMS on technical conservation measures (Doc. 1-263/81),
  - having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the Council on regulation of fishing activities in a coastal zone (COM(81) 104 final),
  - having regard to the tensions and uncertainties in the fisheries sector which the lack of a Council decision has provoked in all Member States,
  - having regard to the importance of the fishing industry to the economies of a number of peripheral maritime regions of the Community,
  - having regard to the serious economic and social consequences of the continuing uncertainty for the fishermen, the processing and distribution sectors, and related industries,
1. Considers it essential to avoid reopening in the future further lengthy, complicated and politically divisive negotiations on a common fisheries policy and that therefore the fundamental principles of such a policy should be determined clearly from the outset;
  2. Points furthermore to the need for the fishing industry to make long term investment decisions and for the Community itself to establish the essential requirements of a structural policy for the fishing sector;

3. Proposes that the Commission should draw up a report of the degree to which a fisheries policy has met the requirements laid down by the Treaty and the economic and social needs of the sea and land based fisheries sectors;
4. Considers that once agreement has been reached on catch levels and their distribution, a technical and scientifically based review and adjustment will be required at regular intervals; but that a review of basic principles in 1983 will serve no purpose and can only lead to further political conflicts; considers, however, that a similar situation could arise as a result of negotiations with Spain and Portugal which might under certain circumstances necessitate a review;
5. Believes that the Community's fishing industry must be involved in the decision-making process of the common fisheries policy and the regular review thereof;
6. Recommends the establishment of management committees for the following waters: the North Sea and the English Channel, the waters west of Scotland and the Irish Sea, the Bay of Biscay, the Mediterranean, the waters west and east of Greenland, the Kattegat, Skagerak and the Baltic;
7. Does not believe that a simple continuation of derogations laid down in the Treaty on Accession provides an adequate and workable solution to the question of a 12-mile belt, the sensitive areas concerned and access thereto, which must be on a regional rather than a national approach; a 12-mile limit must also be restricted to boats of less than 80 feet; account must also be taken of the Hague Agreement of 1976;
8. Stresses the importance of safeguarding the economic situation of regions particularly dependent on the fishing and related industries;
9. Does not believe that the problems of economically disadvantaged regions particularly dependent on the fishing industry can be dealt with simply by the introduction of a licensing system into certain waters;
10. Believes that the Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources should pay much greater attention to the actual patterns of fishing on a historic basis in the Community rather than attempt to arrive at political compromises based on national demands which have hindered efforts to arrive at a true common policy;
11. Emphasizes once more the paramount importance of effective and practical control and surveillance measures which take into account the operational realities of fishing;
12. Calls on the Council to implement proposals for a Common Fisheries Policy, modified according to the amendments proposed by the European Parliament, without delay, and to take the necessary decisions on quotas, structural policy and market organization;
13. Requests the Commission to incorporate the above amendments in its proposal, pursuant to Article 149, second paragraph of the EEC Treaty.