

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

5 July 1978

DOCUMENT 227/78

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 217/78) for a regulation laying down certain conservation and management measures for common fishery resources off the West Greenland coast, applicable in 1978 to vessels flying the flag of Canada

Rapporteur : Mr W. HUGHES

12.5

By letter of 30 June 1978 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 laying down certain conservation and management measures for common fishery resources off the West Greenland coast applicable in 1978 to vessels flying the flag of Canada.

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

The Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Hughes rapporteur on 4 July 1978.

It considered this proposal at its meeting of 4 July 1978.

At the same meeting the committee unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution and explanatory statement.

Present : Mr Kofoed, chairman, Mr Liogier, vice-chairman, Mr Hughes, vice-chairman and rapporteur, Mr Andersen, Mr Brégégère, Mr Corrie, Mr Dewulf, Mrs Dunwoody, Mr Durand, Mr Früh, Mr Howell, Mr Klinker, Mrs Krouwel-Vlam, Mr Lemp, Mr L'Estrange, Mr McDonald (deputizing for Mr Pisoni) and Mr Scott-Hopkins.

C O N T E N T S

	Page
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	9

The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

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 laying down certain conservation and management measures for common fishery resources off the West Greenland coast applicable in 1978 to vessels flying the flag of Canada.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council [COM(78) 293 final],
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc.217/78),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc.227/78),
 - whereas it is necessary to secure agreements with Third Countries on mutual fishing rights even in the case that no agreement has been reached on an internal fisheries policy,
1. Approves the Commission's proposals subject to the following observations and reservations;
 2. Believes that it is not possible to consider measures to allocate quotas to Canadian vessels in Community waters, without at the same time examining measures to grant quotas to Community vessels in Canadian waters;
 3. Considers at the same time that there should be included explicit reference to a requirement for Canadian vessels to report:
 - their entry into the Community zone;
 - the amount of fish on board at the moment of entry into the Community zone;
 - catches according to quantities of each species caught, the date, location and the type of gear used;
 - transfer of fish to other vessels; and
 - the amount of fish on board when leaving the zone.

4. Welcomes the fact that Canadian vessels shall be required to keep a log-book and a license;

Believes that a license should also be required on vessels not directly taking fish, such as carrier or freezer vessels;

5. Believes that the European Parliament should be consulted on any major revision of the present proposal, including the annual fixing of quotas, and also upon the establishment of the number of licenses to be issued;
6. Points out that the enforcement of the present proposal will be dependent upon the existence of an effective surveillance fleet;

Therefore urges the Council to adopt with a minimum delay the proposal for the Community financing of surveillance and control vessels, as modified by the European Parliament;

7. Requests the Commission to incorporate the proposed amendments in its proposal to the Council, pursuant to Article 149, second paragraph, of the EEC Treaty.

Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities
to the Council for a Regulation laying down certain conservation
and management measures for the common fishery resources off the
West Greenland coast applicable in 1978 to vessels flying the
flag of Canada

Preamble, recitals and Article 1 unchanged

Article 2

Vessels fishing under the quotas established in accordance with Article 1 shall comply with the conservation and control measures and all other provisions governing fishing in the zones referred to in Article 1.

Vessels referred to in paragraph 1 shall keep a log-book in which the information specified in Annex IV is to be entered.

Vessels referred to in paragraph 1 shall transmit to the Commission, according to the rules set out in Annex II, the information specified in that Annex.

The registration letters and numbers of the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 must be clearly marked on the bow of the vessel on both sides.

Article 3

With effect from six weeks after the date of entry into force of this regulation, fishing shall be subject to the holding on board of a license issued by the Community and to the observance of the conditions set out in the license.

The Council shall, acting on a proposal from the Commission, establish the number of licenses to be issued after consultations with the Canadian Authorities so that they are commensurate with the quotas set out in Annex I.

Article 2

Vessels fishing under the quotas established in accordance with Article 1 shall comply with the conservation and control measures and all other provisions governing fishing in the zones referred to in Article 1, including the reporting procedures.

Unchanged.

Unchanged.

Unchanged.

Article 3

Unchanged.

The Council shall, acting on a proposal from the Commission, and according to the procedure laid down in Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, establish the number of licenses to be issued after consultations with the Canadian Authorities so that they are commensurate with the quotas set out in Annex I.

Articles 4, 5, 6 and 7 unchanged

¹ For full text, see COM(78) 293 final

B
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. During discussions between Community and Canadian Delegations, it has been agreed to manage jointly certain stocks in Davis Strait and Buffin Island occurring both within the Canadian and the Community fishery zones. It was agreed that joint arrangement should be established initially for the year 1978 and that the possibility for a longer term arrangement should be examined in the light of experience obtained during the first year.
2. The parties agreed to consult on total allowable catches in both zones, their allocation between the two parties and that no allocation would be granted to Third Countries without consultation.
3. The two parties also agreed on essential details of a licensing system and reporting procedures.
4. The total allowable catches and allocations for 1978 were fixed as follows:

	<u>TAC</u>	<u>CANADA</u>	<u>E E C</u>
Greenland halibut	25,000	500 ¹	24,500
Roundnose Grenadier	8,000	500 ¹	7,500
Deep water prawns	40,000	650 ² (1000)	Not yet fixed

¹ To be caught in both zones

² 650 max. in EEC zone

5. For prawns, Norway and the Faeroes were to be granted part of the total allowable catch remaining after the allocation to Canada.

Conclusions

6. The proposal for Canada to be allocated fish quotas in West Greenland waters can be approved, provided that the reporting and licensing systems are strengthened along the lines laid down in the motion for a resolution.
7. Evidently, Community boats will fish in Canadian waters, and will be required to fulfill similar obligations concerning quotas, licenses and reporting procedures. No proposal has been put forward, however, to cover such arrangements. The Commission should explain why.
8. The Community's catch allocation agreed upon with the Canadian Delegation is exceeded in the catch quotas laid down in the Commission's proposal for an internal regime. This discrepancy should be explained.
9. The discussions for an agreement with the Canadians took place in December 1977. It is, therefore, unacceptable that the European Parliament should be urgently consulted in July 1978 with the result that proper consideration cannot be given to the proposal.

