
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

5 May 1982

DOCUMENT 1-187/82

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the
European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-1078/81
- COM(82) 30 final) for a regulation laying down
technical measures for the conservation of
fishery resources

Rapporteur : Mr W. HELMS

PE 77.879/fin.

By letter of 26 February 1982 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 a proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation laying down technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources.

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

On 16 March 1982, the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr Wilhelm Helms rapporteur.

The committee considered the Commission proposal and the draft report at its meetings of 31 March/1 April 1982 and 27/28 April 1982.

At the latter meeting the committee decided by 31 votes with two abstentions to recommend that Parliament should approve the Commission's proposal subject to the following amendments.

The committee then adopted the motion for a resolution as a whole by 31 votes with 2 abstentions.

Present for the vote: Mr Delatte, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Colleselli, vice-chairman; Mr Helms, rapporteur; Mr Abens (deputizing for Mr Vernimmen), Mr Adamou, Mr Barbagli (deputizing for Mr Ligios), Mr Battersby, Mr Blaney, Mr Caillavet, Mrs Castle, Mr Clinton, Mr Dalsass, Mr Davern, Mr Diana, Mr Eyraud, Mr Gatto, Mr Gautier, Mr Goerens (deputizing for Mr Maher), Mr Jakobsen (deputizing for Mr Bocklet), Mr Kaloyannis, Mr Maffre-Baugé, Mr M. Martin (deputizing for Mr Pranchère), Mr Mouchel, Mr Newton Dunn (deputizing for Mr Kirk), Mr d'Ormesson, Mr Papaefstratiou (deputizing for Mr Tolman), Mrs Pauwelyn (deputizing for Mrs S. Martin), Mr Provan, Ms Quin, Mr Sutra, Mr Vitale, Mr Wettig 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

Point 8 of the proposed regulation

'Shrimp (Crangon spp.)⁽¹⁾

(1) As an interim measure, fishermen shall be permitted to use nets with a minimum mesh size of 16 mm until 30 June 1982.'

AMENDMENT NO. 2

A new point to be added to Article 14(3) of the proposed regulation

'14(3) The following new sub-paragraph shall be added after the first sub-paragraph of Article 14(3):

'Fishing in the above-mentioned regions by the above-mentioned vessels shall only be permitted if the limitation in horsepower cannot be altered without the assistance of a dockyard and is in the form of a permanent modification to the engine.'

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a regulation laying down technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(82) 30 final),
 - B. having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-1078/81),
 - C. having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture (Doc. 1-187/82),
 - D. having regard to the result of the vote on the proposal from the Commission,
1. Points out that the European Parliament has continually stressed the importance of technical measures to the Community's fisheries management policy;
 2. Approves the Commission's proposal, subject to the above amendments, and the following observations;
 3. Welcomes the increase in mesh sizes aimed at conserving stocks more effectively in certain catch areas; feels that, although the previous regulation has expired, the original timetable for increasing mesh sizes should be retained;
 4. Proposes that provision should be made for the same mesh sizes to be applied in catch area V b), which needs to be seen in the context of catch area IV a), b), c), (North Sea);
 5. Considers that the provisions governing the use of beam trawls in United Kingdom waters should be brought into line with those relating to the other coasts and catch areas in the Community;
 6. Feels, in the light of the work and experience of the fishing industry with the identification and delimitation of protected and growing areas, that if stocks increase and, over a long period, stocks of adult fish appear and become established in these areas, fishing for these specific species should be permitted;
 7. Notes that Article 19 has been modified so as to allow Member States to apply special arrangements locally to national fishermen only;

8. Considers that the Member States should not take advantage of the possibility afforded them under Article 19 in order to adopt fishing measures which discriminate against other Member States whereby they deny them access to their waters;
9. Urges the Commission to ensure that this new article is properly applied by the Member States so as to make sure that they do not adopt measures contrary to the Treaties;
10. Refers to its resolution of 21 November 1980¹ and 16 January 1981² and having itself delivered an opinion on all the main aspects of a common fisheries policy, calls upon the Council to lose no time in adopting a common fisheries policy, as the present situation is prejudicial both to the Community's fishermen and to the Community's public image in Europe;
11. Instructs its President to forward to the Commission and the Council the proposal from the Commission as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution as Parliament's opinion.

¹O.J. No. C 237, 15.12.1980, p.84, Doc. 1-560/80

²O.J. No. C 28, 9.2.1981, p.48, Doc. 1-814/80