



A new Technical Measures Regulation-


Preliminary News & Views from the Pelagic AC

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Pelagic fish


- Distributed in the mid-water column
- Form schools often weighing hundreds of tonnes
- Migrate between different EEZs and the High Seas
- Mackerel, herring, blue whiting, horse mackerel etc.



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Pelagic fisheries


- Fish is pumped directly from the net into RSW tanks
- Sorting and grading takes place at the factory once the fish has been landed
- Exception: freezer-trawlers and small artisanal fleets



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Separate annex for pelagic stocks



- Management in one area strongly impacts overall stock status
- Management measures must be applied equally across all regions
- Sandeel anomaly

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General comments

The PELAC welcomes:

- Simplification of rules
- One single, easy to understand regulation
- Overall objectives regarding stock sustainability and seabed habitats
- Detailed rules in the annexes

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General comments

However:

- Too much detail in the framework part, changes would require co-decision
- Must stand the test of time
- Secure sustainability without jeopardizing efficiency and technical developments

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Definition of terms

- Some definitions should be moved to regional annexes, as fisheries vary depending on region
- Example: Article 6.1.4:
“directed fishing means fishing for a defined species or combination of species where the total catch of that/those species makes up more than 50% of the economic value of the catch;”
- Controversial definition, differs depending on the fishery
- Changing through co-decision does not make sense

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Gross Tonnage (GT) Limitation

“Fishing at sea is probably the most dangerous occupation in the world”

- FAO website

- Increasing GT to enhance safety and comfort of the crew is no longer permitted, even though it is not related to fishing capacity
- Re-instate and extend the safety tonnage provisions of Article 11.5 of Council Regulation (EC) 2371/2002



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Stakeholder consultation

- Advisory Councils are the single most important fishery stakeholder bodies in the EU
- They combine practical experience from the industry, environmental knowledge from eNGOs and social awareness through workers federations
- Offer the ACs a seat at the table to ensure a new Technical Measures Regulation that is environmentally, economically and socially sustainable

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Thanks for your attention

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