

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(81) 155 final

Brussels, 27th March 1981

## AMENDMENT TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC)

concerning, for certain fish stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone, the fixing of the total allowable catches for 1981 and the shares available to the Community

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(presented by the Commission to the Council pursuant to the second paragraph of article 149 of the EEC treaty)

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this proposed modification to the Commission's proposal (1) for total allowable catches (TACs) in 1981 is, in the first place, to take account of changes in the allocations to interested third countries following the recent negotiations with Sweden and, secondly, to allow certain TACs to be adjusted upwards as a result of the progressive refinement of the Commission's recommended policy for the management of fishery resources.

The Commission has reached a provisional agreement with Sweden about reciprocal fishing in 1981; the allocations provided for in the agreement differ in the case of certain stocks from those anticipated by the Commission in its original proposal (1); this requires that some of the Commission's earlier figures for TACs and for shares available to the Community are altered.

The Commission's recommended policy for the management of fish stocks is meant to obtain higher catch per unit effort, lower year-to-year variability in TACs and higher TACs on average. There is also the need to manage the fish stocks in order that they are not so severely depleted that they are unable to replace themselves. Demersal stocks are much less susceptible to rapid depletion of the spawning stocks than pelagic stocks.

Bearing in mind the need to reduce fishing effort in order to obtain the long-term economic benefits which will result and taking account of the discussions within the Council on the need to maintain fishing possibilities within Community waters, the Commission has re-examined the TACs recommended by ICES to determine whether the Commission's recommended policy could be more flexibly implemented without risk to the fish stocks. A more flexible approach would allow the Commission to maintain the policy of reduction in fishing effort in the long term while taking account both of the need of the fishing industry to adjust and the prevailing market situation.

The Commission noted that the TACs recommended by ICES for the following stocks, cod VI, whiting VI, whiting VIIa, plaice VIIa and plaice VII f,g, were based on reducing the fishing rate by 20% from its 1979 level.

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(1) COM(81) 78 final of 5 March 1981.

However, there was no reduction in the fishing rate between 1979 and 1980, so that this reduction represents a 20% reduction in one year. As this is an abrupt step the Commission proposes to increase the TACs for 1981 so that the fishing rate in 1981 represents a 10% reduction from 1979.

For the cod stock in VIIa, the TAC recommended by ICES is based on a 40% reduction in the fishing rate and assumes that the 1979 year-class is of average size, whereas it is very much larger than average. The Commission considers that advantage can be taken of this big year-class to rebuild the stock by reducing the fishing rate by 20% from its 1979-1980 level while at the same time allowing a much higher TAC than that recommended by ICES.

For the other autonomous stocks for which advice is based on analytical assessments, that advice is in accord with the Commission's recommended management policy.

Amendment to the  
Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC)

concerning, for certain fish stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone, the fixing of the total allowable catches for 1981 and the shares available to the Community.



Pages 1, 2 and 3 of the Annex to the Commission's proposal (1) for a Council Regulation (EEC) concerning, for certain fish stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone, the fixing of the total allowable catches for 1981 and the shares available to the Community shall be amended by the replacement of the figures and footnotes set out in the Annex hereto for the species concerned.

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(1) COM(81) 78 final of 5 March 1981

ANNEX

TACs by stock and by sector envisaged for 1981 - Proportions available to the Community.

Species	ICES Division or NAFO Zone	TAC 1981 (in tonnes)	Proportions available to the Community for 1981 (in tonnes)
Cod	IIIa South - Kattegat	16.400	9.900
Cod	III b,c,d	120.000(xx)	86.500(xxx)
Cod	VI	10.800 (1)	10.800
Cod	VII a	8.000	8.000
Haddock	IV	120.000	106.700
Whiting	VI	16.400	16.400
Whiting	VIIa	9.000	9.000
Plaice	IV	105.000	104.000
Plaice	VIIa	2.750	2.750
Plaice	VII f,g	650	650
Sprat	IV	400.000 (+)	314.000
Blue Whiting	IV,VI,VII,XIV; Community zone only	580.000(+)(x)	460.000
Greenland halibut	V, XIV	15.000	14.250
Herring	IIIa South - Kattegat	35.600(x)	17.800 (x)
Herring	IVa,c(Blackwater stock excl)VIIId,e	41.000(xx)	40.000
Salmon	III b,c,d	700(xx)	700

(+) Precautionary TAC - (x) Provisional  
 (xx) Community zone only.  
 (xxx) plus 32.500 tonnes not yet allocated.  
 (1) 10.300 tonnes in area VIa, 500 tonnes in area VIb.