



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 11.03.1998
COM(1998) 144 final

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC)

**amending Regulation (EC) No.45/98
fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable
catches for 1998 and certain conditions under which they may be fished**

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The objective of the present proposal is to fix fishing possibilities for certain stocks of fish and to allocate these equitably to Member States. The fixing and the sharing of possibilities for fishing falls exclusively within the competence of the Community and arises from obligations set out in Article 8(4) of Regulation (EEC) No 3760/92 of the Council of 20 December 1992¹, establishing a Community regime for fishing and aquaculture.

According to scientific evidence, a number of fish stocks in the North Sea, which at present constitute an important by-catch in traditional fisheries, could be in the near future subject to an increased exploitation which may put them in biological risk. It would be therefore desirable to set limits to their catch in order that, without being necessarily restrictive in the short term, they would prevent an uncontrolled expansion of exploitation rates.

The allocation of these catch limits must, in accordance with the second sub-paragraph of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EEC) No 3760/92, ensure relative stability of fishing activities. This can be approached by setting Member States' fish quotas for 1998 as the highest catch observed during the last five-year period.

The Commission had already presented a similar proposal to the Council in 1997² in the framework of the general decisions on TACs for 1998. However, the Council postponed its decision in order to allow a revision of catch statistics. Accordingly, the present proposal replaces the former by updating the relevant catch statistics on the basis of Member States' catch declarations.

This proposal intends to address these matters by modifying Council Regulation (EC) N° 45/98³.

¹ O.J. No L389, 31.12.1992, p.1

² COM(97)669 final

³ O.J. No L12, 19.1.1998, p. 1

**Proposal for a
Council Regulation (EC) No /98 of 1998
amending Regulation (EC) No.45/98
fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable
catches for 1998 and certain conditions under which they may be fished**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3760/92¹ of 20 December 1992 establishing a Community system for fisheries and aquaculture as amended by the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden, and in particular Article 8 (4) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Regulation (EC) No. 45/98² fixes, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the TACs for 1998 and certain conditions under which they may be fished;

Whereas it is desirable to set new TACs for 1998 in order to limit the catches of a number of additional fish stocks or group of fish stocks in the North Sea; whereas these TACs should be allocated among Member States in accordance with the second sub-paragraph of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EEC) No 3760/92;

Whereas Council Regulation (EC) No. 45/98 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

¹ O.J. No L389, 31.12.1992, p.1

² O.J. No L12, 19.1.1998, p.1

Article 1

The tables in annexes I and II to this Regulation shall be inserted, respectively, in Annexes I and III to Regulation (EC) No 45/98.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,
The President

Species: Megrims <i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>		Zone: IIa(1), North Sea (1)
België / Belgique	10	(1) Community waters
Danmark	10	
Deutschland	10	
Ellada		
España		
France	50	
Ireland		
Italia		
Luxembourg		
Nederland	40	
Osterreich		
Portugal		
Suomi/Finland		
Sverige		
United Kingdom	2880	
EC	3000	
TAC	3000	
Species: Anglerfish <i>Lophiidae</i>		
België / Belgique	770	(1) Community waters
Danmark	1710	
Deutschland	830	
Ellada		
España		
France	150	
Ireland		
Italia		
Luxembourg		
Nederland	580	
Osterreich		
Portugal		
Suomi/Finland		
Sverige	10	
United Kingdom	17950	
EC	22000	
TAC	22000	

Species:	Turbot (2) <i>Psetta maxima</i>	Zone: Ila(1), North Sea
België / Belgique	660	(1) Community waters
Danmark	1410	(2) Including brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)
Deutschland	360	
Ellada		
España		
France	170	
Ireland		
Italia		
Luxembourg		
Nederland	5000	
Osterreich		
Portugal		
Suomi/Finland		
Sverige	10	
United Kingdom	1390	
EC	9000	
TAC	9000	
Species:	Skates and rays <i>Rajidae</i>	Zone: Ila(1), North Sea
België / Belgique	1010	(1) Community waters
Danmark	30	
Deutschland	40	
Ellada		
España		
France	150	
Ireland		
Italia		
Luxembourg		
Nederland	860	
Osterreich		
Portugal		
Suomi/Finland		
Sverige		
United Kingdom	3910	
EC	6000	
TAC	6000	

Species:	Dab (2) <i>Limanda limanda</i>	Zone: Ila (1), North Sea (1)
België / Belgique	760	(1) Community waters
Danmark	2860	(2) including flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)
Deutschland	4300	
Ellada		
España		
France	290	
Ireland		
Italia		
Luxembourg		
Nederland	17380	
Osterreich		
Portugal		
Suomi/Finland		
Sverige	0	
United Kingdom	2410	
EC	28000	
TAC	28000	
Species:	Lemon sole (2) <i>Microstomus kitt</i>	Zone: Ila (1), North Sea (1)
België / Belgique	600	(1) Community waters
Danmark	1640	(2) including witch (<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>)
Deutschland	210	
Ellada		
España		
France	450	
Ireland		
Italia		
Luxembourg		
Nederland	1370	
Osterreich		
Portugal		
Suomi/Finland		
Sverige	20	
United Kingdom	6710	
EC	11000	
TAC	11000	

Stocks		Area	Type of TAC A=analytical P= precautionary	Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applicable (1/0 = yes/no)	Deductions of Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applicable (1/0 = yes/no)
Species					
Common name	Latin name				
Megrims	<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0
Anglerfish	<i>Lophius spp.</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0
Turbot and brill	<i>Psetta maxima & Scophthalmus rhombus</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0
Skates and Rays	<i>Rajidae spp.</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0
Dab and flounder	<i>Limanda limanda & Platichthys flesus</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0
Lemon sole and witch	<i>Microstomus kitt & Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0

(1) Community waters

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