

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(79) 164 final.

Brussels, 23 March 1979.

## AMENDEMENT TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION

on technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission in accordance with Article 149, indent 2 of the EEC Treaty)



## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The present proposal, submitted in conformity with article 149, paragraph 2 of the Treaty modifies the proposal for a Council Regulation laying down technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources (1) in order to take into account the advice given by the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

In its Report of May 1978 as modified by its Report of October 1978, ACFM has recommended to increase the minimum mesh size in sub-areas IV and Division IIIa to 90 mm, whereas in the remainder of Region 2, including Division VIId but excluding Division VIIa, mesh sizes should be increased to 80 mm only from 1st January 1979.

As far as Division IIIa (Skagerrak and Kattegat) is concerned, the Commission has submitted to the Council its proposal of 16.2.1979, based on the results of the consultations which took place with Sweden and Norway concerning the fishing conditions in Skagerrak and Kattegat.

As regards the other parts of Region 2, the Commission maintains its attitude that, considering the serious economic effect which an increase of mesh sizes implies for the fishermen concerned, such increase should be taken by more than one step, as provided for in the modified proposal of 16.11.1978.

The purpose of the present proposal is to make this position consistent with the ICES advice by limiting the first step of increase to the North Sea only and include the Eastern Channel (ICES-Division VIId) in those remaining areas of Region 2 where an increase of mesh size will be examined by the Council for a later date.

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(1) COM(78) 635 final of 16.11.1978, modified by COM(79) 80 final of 16.2.1979

ANNEX I

In footnote (a) the following words shall be deleted :

"ICES-Division VII d".