



2020/0302(COD)

29.4.2021

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DRAFT REPORT

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 640/2010 (COM(2020)0670 – C9-0336/2020 – 2020/0302(COD))

Committee on Fisheries

Rapporteur: Gabriel Mato

(Simplified procedure - Rule 52(1) of the Rules of Procedure)

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ***■*** symbol or strikeout. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 640/2010 (COM(2020)0670 – C9-0336/2020 – 2020/0302(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2020)0670),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article (43)2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C9-0336/2020),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 27 January 2021¹,
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Fisheries (A9-0000/2021),
1. Adopts its position at first reading, taking over the Commission proposal;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

¹ Not yet published in the Official Journal.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Background of the Proposal

The European Union has been a Contracting Party to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas ("the ICCAT Convention") since 1997.

The ICCAT Convention provides a framework for regional cooperation on the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and the adjoining seas through the setting up of an International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas ("ICCAT").

ICCAT has the authority to adopt binding recommendations for the conservation and management of the fisheries under its purview. These acts are essentially addressed to the ICCAT Contracting Parties, such as the Union, but also contain obligations for private operators (e.g. vessel masters).

Content of the Proposal

This proposal [COM (2020) 670] sets out the rules for a Union Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme in order to implement conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT, under its Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme. The latter's purpose is to identify the origin of all Bluefin tuna.

A Union Catch Documentation Programme is in fact already in place, under Regulation (EU) No 640/2010. In the proposal currently under consideration, which is intended to repeal Regulation (EU) No 640/2010, the recording and validation of catch and subsequent trade events of Bluefin tuna is performed through an electronic Bluefin tuna catch document system (eBCD) which has been functioning since 2017 and which Member States and operators already use. The proposal stipulates that the electronic system can be replaced, exceptionally, by paper documents (the BCD, Bluefin Tuna Catch Document), equivalent to the electronic system requirements.

In addition, the proposal establishes general provisions on the use of Bluefin catch and re-export documents and sets rules for the recording and validation of catch and subsequent trade events of Bluefin tuna. Specific rules are set for tagged fish. It also contains provisions for verification before validation, transmission of data of eBCD users and annual reporting to ICCAT. Lastly, it proposes extensive use of delegated acts to modify the basic act in future (in Article 14).

Opinion of the Rapporteur

The rapporteur welcomes the fact that the Commission has undertaken an exercise of strict transposition of the ICCAT Recommendations, thus establishing a level playing field for all operators. Ensuring identical conditions for everybody, while promoting the EU's high sustainability standards to foreign fleets through EU action in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and other international fora, is crucial for our operators

and for improving international ocean governance.

The rapporteur believes that it is important, vis-à-vis to the operators, to the public and to our partner countries, that the Commission proposes a swift transposition of RFMOs' Recommendations, in order to avoid delays in the implementation of certain provisions. It is not logical that ICCAT Recommendations dating back to 2018 and setting deadlines for 2020 are adopted in 2021.

In that light, and given that this file involves a highly technical transposition exercise devoid of substantial political content, the rapporteur has decided not to submit any amendments to the Commission's proposal.