

COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

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*This document serves as a basis for discussion at the Working Party on Fisheries Policy.
It cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission.
It is intended solely for those to whom it is addressed.*

**Updates to Commission proposal for a Council Regulation
amending and correcting Regulation (EU) 2024/257 fixing for 2024,
2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks,
applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain
non-Union waters and Regulation (EU) 2023/194 fixing for 2023
such fishing opportunities [COM(2024) 213 final]**

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1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO NORTHERN PRAWN IN THE SKAGERRAK AND KATTEGAT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257¹ provisionally set at zero the TAC for Northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) in EU and Norwegian waters of International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) division 3a (Skagerrak and Kattegat) for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, pending the publication by ICES of its scientific advice for Northern prawn in ICES divisions 3a and 4a east (Skagerrak, Kattegat and northern North Sea in the Norwegian deep) for that period.

ICES published that advice on 7 June 2024². Following the publication of that ICES advice, the EU held bilateral consultations with Norway on: (i) the level of the overall fishing opportunities for that stock for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025; and (ii) the level of the TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a for that period.

Those consultations were conducted on 18 and 19 June, on the basis of the EU position outlined in the Commission services non-paper endorsed by the Council on 12 June 2024. The outcome of those consultations was documented in an Agreed Record signed on 19 June 2024. The EU and Norway agreed to set the level of the overall fishing opportunities for Northern prawn in ICES divisions 3a and 4a east for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 in line with the ICES advice at the level of 4 557 tonnes. In addition, the EU and Norway agreed to set the TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 at the level of 3 190 tonnes. It is therefore proposed to set the TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a at the level agreed with Norway.

In accordance with paragraph 5.4.1 of the Agreed Record of bilateral fisheries consultations between the EU and Norway for 2024³, signed on 8 December 2023, the parties considered transfers of Northern prawn in Norwegian waters of the North Sea south of 62°N from Norway to the EU, in addition to the level set out in Table 2 of that Agreed Record. Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 did not allocate to Member States the full fishing opportunities for Northern prawn in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14 for 2024, in order for EU to pay for these possible transfers. Since it was not possible for the EU to agree with Norway on additional transfers of Northern prawn in the North Sea, the unallocated fishing opportunities for Northern prawn in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14 should now be allocated to Member States. It is therefore proposed to amend the Member States quotas for Northern prawn in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14 accordingly.

¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 of 10 January 2024 fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 (OJ L, 2024/257, 11.01.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/257/oj>).

² <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25019483.v1>

³ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f622a804-e195-44e7-b647-bb743b9ab408_en?filename=2023-12-08-EU-NO-Bilateral-Agreed-Record-2024.pdf

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (4) is replaced by the following:

“

- (4) On 18 and 19 June 2024, the Union and Norway held consultations on: (i) the level of the overall fishing opportunities for Northern prawn in ICES divisions 3a and 4a east for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025; as well as (ii) the level of the TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a. The outcome of those consultations was documented in an Agreed Record signed on 19 June 2024. The TAC for Northern prawn in ICES division 3a should therefore be set at the level agreed with Norway. In addition, the Union and Norway considered transfers of Northern prawn in Norwegian waters of the North Sea south of 62°N from Norway to the EU, in addition to the level set out in Table 2 of the Agreed Record of bilateral fisheries consultations for 2024, signed on 8 December 2023. The Member States quotas for Northern prawn in Greenland waters of ICES subareas 5 and 14 should be amended accordingly.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex I, point 3 is replaced by the following:

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- (3) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 77 is replaced by the following:

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Species:	Northern prawn <i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Zone:	3a (PRA/03A.)
Denmark	1 107 ⁽¹⁾	Analytical TAC	
Sweden	596 ⁽¹⁾	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	1 703 ⁽¹⁾	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
TAC	3 190 ⁽¹⁾		

⁽¹⁾ This quota may only be fished from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

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In Annex I, point 4 is deleted.

In Annex I, the following point (9a) is inserted:

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(9a) In Annex IB, Table 13 is replaced by the following:

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Table 13			
Species:	Northern prawn <i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Zone:	Greenland waters of 5 and 14 (PRA/514GRN)
Denmark	1 725	Analytical TAC	
France	1 725	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	3 450	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Norway	1 700		
Faroe Islands	0		
TAC	Not relevant		

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