

# COMMISSION SERVICES NON PAPER

20 APRIL 2023

*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 Regulation (EU) 2023/194 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, as well as fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks [COM(2023) 114]**

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## 1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO GREENLAND HALIBUT IN THE NORTHEAST ARCTIC

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The EU submitted a proposal at the 2022 North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) annual meeting for a total allowable catch (TAC) for Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) in International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) subareas 1 and 2 (northeast Arctic) for 2023 of 18 494 tonnes. That proposal was in line with the scientific advice<sup>1</sup> published in 2021 by ICES for that stock for 2023. However, the NEAFC did not adopt the EU's proposal for Greenland halibut or any other management measures for that stock.

Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194<sup>2</sup> sets a provisional EU quota for Greenland halibut in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2023.

In order to allow fishing to continue, it is proposed to set a definitive EU quota for Greenland halibut in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2023 at the level of 1 711 tonnes. The level of that definitive EU quota is based on the EU historic fishing rights and corresponds to 9,25% of the TAC for Greenland halibut in ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2023 proposed by the EU at the 2022 NEAFC annual meeting.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

The following recital is inserted:

“(3a) Regulation (EU) 2023/194 sets a provisional Union quota for Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for the period from 1 January 31 March 2023. In order to allow fishing to continue, it is therefore necessary to replace that provisional Union quota by a definitive Union quota for that stock for 2023. The Union quota for Greenland halibut in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2023 should be set at the level of 1 711 tonnes. The level of that Union quota corresponds to 9,25 % of the TAC for Greenland halibut in ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2023 proposed by the EU at the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) (18 494 tonnes, in line with the ICES advice).”

### AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Point 2(ii) of the Annex, the table is replaced by the following:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.8198>

<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, as well as fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks (OJ L 28, 31.1.2023, p. 1).

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Species:	Greenland halibut <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Zone:	International waters of 1 and 2 (GHL/1/2INT)
Union	1 711 <sup>(1)</sup>	Precautionary TAC	
TAC	Not relevant		
<sup>(1)</sup>	Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.		

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## 2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO REDFISH IN THE NORTHEAST ARCTIC

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The EU submitted a proposal at the 2022 NEAFC annual meeting for a TAC for redfish (*Sebastes* spp.) in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 (northeast Arctic) for 2023 of 16 802 tonnes. That proposal corresponded to 25% of the amount indicated in the latest available scientific advice<sup>3</sup> for redfish in ICES subareas 1 and 2 (67 210 tonnes), published by ICES in 2020. However, the NEAFC did not adopt the EU's proposal for redfish. In addition, Norway submitted a proposal for that stock at the 2022 NEAFC annual meeting, which NEAFC did not adopt.

Regulation (EU) 2023/194 does not set the fishing opportunities for redfish in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2023.

In order to allow fishing for that stock to commence once the relevant fishing season starts on 1 July 2023, it is proposed to set the EU quota for redfish in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2023 at the level of 6 000 tonnes. The level of that EU quota approximately corresponds to the average of the three highest annual EU catches of redfish in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 in the period from 2013 to 2022 (highest average annual catches occurred in 2016, 2017 and 2018, with average annual catches in these years of 6 273 tonnes). In addition, the level of that EU quota is lower than the TAC proposed by the EU at the 2022 NEAFC annual meeting.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

The following recital is inserted:

“(3b) Regulation (EU) 2023/194 does not set the fishing opportunities for redfish (*Sebastes* spp.) in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2023. In order to allow fishing for that stock to commence once the relevant fishing season starts on 1 July 2023, the Union quota for redfish in international waters in ICES subareas 1 and 2 should be set based on the average of the three highest annual Union catches of redfish in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 in the period from 2013 to 2022.”

### AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In point 2 of the Annex, the following is inserted:

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<sup>3</sup> <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19478510.v1>

(iii) the table for redfish (*Sebastes* spp.) in international waters of 1 and 2 is replaced by the following:

Species:	Redfish <i>Sebastes</i> spp.	Zone:	International waters of 1 and 2 (RED/1/2INT)
Union	6 000 <sup>(1)</sup>	Analytical TAC	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.
TAC	Not relevant	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply.	
<sup>(1)</sup>	May only be fished from 1 July to 31 December. Fishing vessels shall limit their by-catches of redfish in other fisheries to a maximum of 1 % of the total catch retained on board.		

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