

# COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

29 MAY 2024

*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 ]**

## Contents

1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO ICCAT .....	2
2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO NPFC .....	7
3. OTHER AMENDMENTS .....	9

## 1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO ICCAT

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pursuant to Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup>, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/897 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>2</sup>, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Malta and Portugal requested to carry-over 5% of their annual quota of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Atlantic Ocean, east of 45°W, and the Mediterranean from 2023 to 2024.

For that purpose, those Member States submitted to the Commission revised annual fishing and capacity management plans for bluefin tuna in the ICCAT Convention area. Based on those plans, on 23 May 2024, the Commission submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat a revised EU annual plan for approval by ICCAT, pursuant to Article 11(5) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053.

On 24 May 2024, ICCAT approved that plan. Therefore, it is proposed to amend the Member States quotas and EU quota for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, east of 45°W and the Mediterranean for 2024 in line with that plan. Those amendments should take into account: (i) transfers of Member States' quotas from 2023 to 2024; and (ii) where the sum of Member States' quotas is below the EU quota determined by ICCAT, adjustments to the Member States and EU quotas based on that difference and on relative stability.

Pursuant to Article 15(7) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053, Spain, Croatia, Malta and Portugal submitted to the Commission revised farming management plans for bluefin tuna in the ICCAT Convention area. Based on those plans, on 23 May 2024, the Commission submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat a revised EU annual plan for approval by ICCAT, pursuant to Article 11(5) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053.

On 24 May 2024, ICCAT approved that plan. Therefore, it is proposed to amend the EU maximum farming input and capacity for 2024, in line with that plan.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (11) is replaced by the following:

“

(11) Pursuant to Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of

---

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 (OJ L 238, 27.9.2023, p. 1).

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 (OJ L 238, 27.9.2023, p. 1).

the Council<sup>3</sup>, certain Member States submitted to the Commission revised annual fishing and capacity management plans with requests to carry-over 5 % of their annual quota of bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Atlantic Ocean, east of 45°W, and the Mediterranean from 2023 to 2024. Based on those plans, on 23 May 2024, the Commission submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat a revised Union annual plan for 2024 for approval by ICCAT. On 24 May 2024, ICCAT approved that revised Union annual plan. In order to ensure consistency with the revised Union annual plan approved by ICCAT, the TAC for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, east of 45°W, and the Mediterranean for 2024 should therefore be amended accordingly.

”

Recital (12) is replaced by the following:

“

(12) Pursuant to Article 15(7) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053, certain Member States submitted to the Commission revised farming management plans for bluefin tuna in the ICCAT Convention area. Based on those revised plans, on 23 May 2024 the Commission submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat a revised Union annual plan for 2024 for approval by ICCAT. On 24 May 2024, ICCAT approved that plan. The Union’s maximum farming input and capacity should therefore be amended in line with that plan.

”

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex I, point 11 is replaced by the following:

“

(11) In Annex ID, Table 12 is replaced by the following:

“

<b>Table 12</b>	
Species: Bluefin tuna <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Zone: Atlantic Ocean, east of 45°W, and Mediterranean (BFT/AE45WM)

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 (OJ L 238, 27.9.2023, p. 1).

Cyprus	188,48	(4)	Analytical TAC
Greece	357,49		Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Spain	6 904,70	(2)(4)	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
France	6 807,40	(2)(3)(4)	
Croatia	1 101,24	(6)	
Italy	5 440,04	(4)(5)	
Malta	438,06	(4)	
Portugal	643,03		
Other Member States	79,60	(1)	
Union	21 960,05	(2)(3)(4)(5)	
TAC	40 570,00	(1)	

(1) Except Cyprus, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Malta and Portugal, and exclusively as by-catch. Catches to be counted against this shared quota shall be reported separately (BFT/AE45WM\_AMS).

(2) Special condition: within this TAC, the following catch limits and allocation between Member States shall apply to catches of bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm by the vessels referred to in point 1 of Annex VI (BFT/\*8301):

Spain	1 049,60
France	487,60
Union	1 537,20

(3) Special condition: within this TAC, the following catch limits and allocation between Member States shall apply to catches of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6,4 kg or measuring no less than 70 cm by the vessels referred to in point 1 of Annex VI (BFT/\*641):

France	100,00
Union	100,00

(4) Special condition: within this TAC, the following catch limits and allocations between Member States shall apply to catches of bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm by the vessels referred to in point 2 of Annex VI (BFT/\*8302):

Spain	138,09
France	136,15
Italy	108,80
Cyprus	3,77
Malta	8,76
Union	395,57

(5) Special condition: within this TAC, the following catch limits and allocations between Member States shall apply to catches of bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm by the vessels referred to in point 3 of Annex VI (BFT/\*643):

Italy	108,80
Union	108,80

(6) Special condition: within this TAC, the following catch limits and allocations between Member States shall apply to catches of bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm by the vessels referred to in point 3 of Annex VI for farming purposes (BFT/\*8303F):

Croatia	991,12
Union	991,12

”  
”

In Annex I, point 15 is replaced by the following:

“

(15) Annex VI, point 6, is replaced by the following:

“

6. Maximum bluefin tuna farming capacity and fattening capacity for each Member State and maximum input of wild-caught bluefin tuna that each Member State may allocate to its farms in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

Table A

Maximum tuna farming capacity and fattening capacity		
	Number of farms	Capacity (in tonnes)
Greece	0	0
Spain	6	14 752,70
Croatia	4	7 902,00
Italy	2	1 160,00
Cyprus	0	0
Malta	5	17 213,00
Portugal	2	740,00

Table B

Maximum input of wild-caught bluefin tuna (in tonnes)	
Greece	0
Spain	8 744,10
Croatia	2 945,60
Italy	610,00
Cyprus	0
Malta	12 295,00
Portugal	517,00

”

”

## 2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO NPFC

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

At its 2024 annual meeting, the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), in addition to amending measures for chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*) in the NPFC Convention area, amended the measures regarding bottom fishing in that area. Under those amended bottom fishing measures adopted by the NPFC, there are specific requirements for Contracting Parties, such as effort limitations capping fisheries at historical effort levels and protocols for ensuring that new fishing operations do not have significant adverse impacts on marine species or any vulnerable marine ecosystem (VME).

Member States: (i) have not conducted bottom fishing in the NPFC Convention area; and (ii) did not communicate to the Commission an intention to conduct new bottom fishing in 2024. Therefore, it is proposed to set at zero the maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to undertake bottom fishing in the NPFC Convention area in the period from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Article 1, point 8, point (ja) is replaced by the following:

“

(ja) Annexes IM and Xa shall apply from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025;

”

”

### AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex I, the following point (17) is inserted:

“

(17) The following Annex Xa is inserted:

“

### ANNEX Xa

## NPFC CONVENTION AREA

Maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to undertake bottom fishing in the NPFC Convention area:

Union	0
-------	---

”

”



### **3. OTHER AMENDMENTS**

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Commission proposal should be amended to correct the following errors:

- In Recitals (9) and (10), “Regulation (EU) 2017/2017” should be replaced by “Regulation (EU) 2017/2107”.
- In Article 2, points (1) and (2), “Annex I, Part D” should be replaced by “Annex IA, Part D”.