

# COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

11 DECEMBER 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 the Commission proposal for a Council Regulation 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 as  
regards deep-sea stocks [COM(2023) 587]**

## Contents

1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO NEAFC .....	2
2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO STOCKS IN THE NORTH-EAST ARCTIC.....	5

## 1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO NEAFC

### AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recitals (31) to (33) are amended as follows:

- “(31) At its 2023 annual meeting, the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) confirmed for 2024 the conservation measures for the two redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) stocks (shallow pelagic and deep pelagic) in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, prohibiting directed fisheries of those stocks and prohibiting refuelling and any support activities. In addition, in order to minimise by-catches, NEAFC prohibited fishing activities in the area where redfish aggregates. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (32) The NEAFC did not adopt a recommendation for Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) in ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2024. The Union quota for Greenland halibut in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2024 should be set at the level of 1 711 tonnes. The level of the Union quota corresponds to 9,25% of the level of the last best available scientific advice from ICES for Greenland halibut in ICES subareas 1 and 2, the ICES advice for 2023 of 18 494 tonnes.
- (33) The NEAFC adopted a catch limit for redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 for 2024. However, pending conclusion of the Union’s examination of whether to object to that NEAFC recommendation, in particular in relation to the Union’s historic fishing rights, it is appropriate that currently the Union quota for redfish in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2 is marked as ‘to be established’. It is also appropriate that the Union establish in the first half of 2024, through an in-year amendment, that Union quota, also taking into account that the fishery is limited to the period from 1 July to 31 December 2024.”

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SECTIONS

Chapter III, Section 2, is replaced by the following:

“

## SECTION 2 NEAFC CONVENTION AREA

### *Article 22* *Redfish in the Irminger Sea*

1. All fishing activities shall be prohibited in the area bounded by the following coordinates measured according to the WGS84 system:

Latitude	Longitude
63°00'N	30°00'W
61°30'N	27°35'W
60°45'N	28°45'W
62°00'N	31°35'W
63°00'N	30°00'W

2. Fishing vessels shall be prohibited from fishing, retaining on board, transshipping or landing in Union ports and Union fishing vessels also in third-country ports shallow pelagic and deep pelagic beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) from the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters (ICES subareas 5, 12 and 14, and NAFO subareas 1 and 2).
3. Union fishing vessels shall be prohibited from participating in transshipment operations involving the stocks referred to in paragraph 2.
4. Union vessels shall be prohibited from refuelling or providing support services to fishing vessels with catches of the stocks referred to in paragraph 2.

”

#### AMENDMENTS TO ANNEXES

In Annex IB, Tables 8, 16, 19 and 23 are replaced by the following:

“

<b>Table 8</b>			
Species:	Capelin <i>Mallotus villosus</i>	Zone:	2b (CAP/02B.)
Union	0	Analytical TAC	
TAC	0		

<b>Table 16</b>			
Species:	Saithe <i>Pollachius virens</i>	Zone:	International waters of 1 and 2 (POK/1/2INT)
Union	0	Analytical TAC	
TAC	Not relevant		

<b>Table 19</b>			
Species:	Greenland halibut	Zone:	International waters of 1 and 2

	<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	(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.	

**Table 23**

Species:	Redfish <i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Zone: International waters of 1 and 2 (RED/1/2INT)
Union	To be established <sup>(1)</sup>	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (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	

”

## 2. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO STOCKS IN THE NORTH-EAST ARCTIC

### AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (62) is replaced by the following:

“(62) As regards the fishing opportunities for cod in the north-east Arctic, it is appropriate to set the Union quota for cod in Svalbard waters and international waters of ICES subarea 1 and division 2b based on the reference TAC for that stock and the Union’s historic fishing rights. That Union quota should be allocated to the Member States in accordance with Council Decision 87/277/EEC<sup>1</sup>, subject to the adaptations necessary due to the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union as set out in Annex 36, table E, to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.”

### AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In Annex IB, Table 4 is replaced by the following:

“

<b>Table 4</b>			
Species:	Cod <i>Gadus morhua</i>	Zone:	Svalbard waters; international waters of 1 and 2b (COD/1/2B.)
Germany	2 455	(1)(2)	Analytical TAC Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Spain	6 346	(1)(2)	
France	1 048	(1)(2)	
Poland	1 151	(1)(2)	
Portugal	1 340	(1)(2)	
Other Member States	84	(1)(2)(3)	
Union	12 424	(1)(2)	
TAC	Not relevant		
(1)	The allocation of the share of the cod stock available to the Union in the Spitzbergen and Bear Island zone and the associated by-catches of haddock are without prejudice to the rights and obligations deriving from the 1920 Treaty of Paris.		
(2)	By-catches of haddock may represent up to 14% per haul. The by-catch quantities of haddock are in addition to the quota for cod.		

<sup>1</sup> Council Decision 87/277/EEC of 18 May 1987 on the allocation of the catch possibilities for cod in the Spitsbergen and Bear Island area and in Division 3M as defined in the NAFO Convention (OJ L 135, 23.5.1987, p. 29).

<sup>(3)</sup> Except Germany, Spain, France, Poland and Portugal. Catches to be counted against this shared quota shall be reported separately (COD/1/2B\_AMS).

”

In Annex V, Part A, the last two lines are replaced by the following:

“

Svalbard waters; international waters of 1 and 2b <sup>(1)</sup>	Fishery for snow crab with pots	20	EE	1	Not applicable
			ES	1	
			LV	11	
			LT	4	
			PL	3	
<sup>(1)</sup> The allocation of fishing opportunities available to the Union in the Spitzbergen and Bear Island zone is without prejudice to the rights and obligations deriving from the 1920 Treaty of Paris.					

”