

# **COMMISSION SERVICES NON PAPER**

## **26 November 2020**

*This document serves as a basis for discussion at the Working Party on Internal and External 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 COM(2020) 668 for a Council Regulation fixing for 2021 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union vessels, in certain non-Union waters**

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# 1. AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX IA OF THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL

## EXPLANATORY NOTE:

For Whiting in the Bay of Biscay (8), the quotas in the Commission Proposal are amended to take account of a *de minimis* deduction of 3.3%, leading to an overall reduction of 13% compared to the Union quota in 2020.

## CHANGES TO ANNEX IA:

In Annex IA to the Commission Proposal COM (2020) 668, the fishing opportunities table for whiting in ICES subarea 8 is replaced by the following:

Species:	Whiting <i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Zone:	8 (WHG/08.)
Spain	880	Precautionary TAC	
France	1 321		
Union	2 201		
TAC	2 276		

## 2. AMENDMENTS TO NEAFC STOCKS AND UNILATERAL QUOTAS IN THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC

### EXPLANATORY NOTE:

ICES issued scientific advice for shallow pelagic and deep pelagic redfish in ICES subareas 5, 12, and 14 and in NAFO subareas 1 and 2 for zero catches. The NEAFC Annual Meeting was prepared in the Council working party on 6 November 2020. The Annual Meeting took place on 10-13 November 2020, where NEAFC adopted a conservation measure for the two redfish stocks in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, prohibiting directed fisheries of those stocks. In addition, it prohibited fishing activities in the area where redfish aggregates, to minimise its by-catches.

For redfish in ICES subareas 1 and 2, the European Union submitted a proposal for a TAC of 16 540 tonnes, however, NEAFC was not able to adopt a recommendation for that stock. The Council working party was informed on the outcome of the NEAFC Annual Meeting on 26 November 2020. The Commission is proposing to set the fishing opportunities for those stocks in line with the scientific advice, the adopted NEAFC recommendation and, where no recommendation was adopted, with the EU position expressed in NEAFC.

As regards Greenland halibut in international waters of ICES subareas 1 and 2, the Commission proposes to maintain the TAC at its 2020 level of 1 800 tonnes.

1. Recital 30 is replaced by the following:

“At its annual meeting in 2020, the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) adopted a conservation measure for the two redfish stocks in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, prohibiting directed fisheries of those stocks. In addition, it prohibited fishing activities in the area where redfish aggregates, to minimise its by-catches. That NEAFC measure, based on the ICES advice for zero catches, should be implemented in the Union law. NEAFC was not able to adopt a recommendation for redfish in ICES subareas 1 and 2. For that stock, the relevant TAC should be established in line with the Union position expressed in NEAFC.”

2. In Chapter III, the following Section is inserted:

**“SECTION 1A  
NEAFC CONVENTION AREA**

*Article 16a  
Closures for redfish in the Irminger*

All fishing activities shall be prohibited in the area bounded by following co-ordinates measured according to the WGS84 system:

Latitude	Longitude
63°00'	-30°00'
61°30'	-27°35'

60°45'	-28°45'
62°00'	-31°35'
63°00'	-30°00'

”

3. In Annex IB, the relevant fishing opportunities tables are replaced by the following:

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

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

Species:	Greenland halibut <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Zone:	International waters of 1 and 2 (GHL/1/2INT)
Union	1 800 <sup>(1)</sup>	Precautionary TAC	
TAC	Not relevant		

(1) Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.

Species:	Redfish (shallow pelagic) <i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Zone:	Union and international waters of 5; international waters of 12 and 14 (RED/51214S)
Estonia	0	Analytical TAC	
Germany	0	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Spain	0	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
France	0		
Ireland	0		
Latvia	0		
The Netherlands	0		
Poland	0		
Portugal	0		
Union	0		
TAC	0		

Species:	Redfish (deep pelagic) <i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Zone:	Union and international waters of 5; international waters of 12 and 14 (RED/51214D)
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Estonia	0	(1)(2)	Analytical TAC Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Germany	0	(1)(2)	
Spain	0	(1)(2)	
France	0	(1)(2)	
Ireland	0	(1)(2)	
Latvia	0	(1)(2)	
The Netherlands	0	(1)(2)	
Poland	0	(1)(2)	
Portugal	0	(1)(2)	
Union	0	(1)(2)	

TAC 0 (1)(2)

(1) May only be taken within the area bounded by the lines joining the following coordinates:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	64°45'N	28°30'W
2	62°50'N	25°45'W
3	61°55'N	26°45'W
4	61°00'N	26°30'W
5	59°00'N	30°00'W
6	59°00'N	34°00'W
7	61°30'N	34°00'W
8	62°50'N	36°00'W
9	64°45'N	28°30'W

(2) May only be taken from 10 May to 31 December.

Species:	Redfish <i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Zone:	International waters of 1 and 2 (RED/1/2INT)
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Union	to be established	(1)(2)	Analytical TAC Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
TAC	16 540	(3)	

(1) The fishery will be closed when the TAC is fully utilised by NEAFC Contracting Parties. From the closure date, Member States shall prohibit directed fishery for redfish by vessels flying their flag.

(2) Vessels shall limit their by-catches of redfish in other fisheries to a maximum of 1 % of the total catch retained on board.

(3) Provisional catch limit to cover catches of all NEAFC contracting parties. It may be fished from 1 July to 31 December.

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