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(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 655/2000
of 27 March 2000
opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 26 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Community supplies of certain fishery products currently depend on imports from third countries. It is in the Community's interest to suspend in part or in whole the customs duties for the products in question, within Community tariff quotas of an appropriate volume. In order not to jeopardise the development prospects of this production in the Community and to ensure an adequate supply to satisfy user industries, it is advisable to open those quotas, applying customs duties varied accordingly to sensitivity of the different products on the Community market.
- (2) It is necessary, in particular, to ensure for all Community importers equal and uninterrupted access to the said quotas and to ensure the uninterrupted application of the rates laid down for the quotas to all imports of the products concerned into all Member States until the quotas have been used up.
- (3) The decision for the opening of autonomous tariff quotas should be taken by the Community. To ensure the efficiency of a common administration of these quotas, there is no reasonable obstacle to authorising the Member States to draw from the quota-volumes the necessary quantities corresponding to actual imports. However, this method of administration requires close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission and the latter must in particular be able to

monitor the rate at which the quotas are used up and inform the Member States accordingly.

- (4) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 of 2 July 1993 laying down provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code ⁽¹⁾, has codified the management rules for tariff quotas designed to be used following the chronological order of dates of customs declarations.
- (5) Having regard to the economic importance of this Regulation for European industry it is necessary to invoke the ground of urgency referred to in point I(3) of the Additional Protocol to the Treaty of Amsterdam on the role of national parliaments in the European Union,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

1. The import duties on the goods listed in the Annex shall be suspended at the indicated duty rate for the periods and in the amounts indicated therein.
2. Imports of the products in question shall not be covered by the quotas referred to in paragraph 1 unless the free-at-frontier price, which is determined by the Member States in accordance with Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 of 17 December 1992 on the common organisation of the market in fishery and aquaculture products ⁽²⁾, is at least equal to the reference price fixed, or to be fixed, by the Community for the products under consideration of the categories of the products concerned.

Article 2

The tariff quotas referred to in Article 1 shall be administered by the Commission in accordance with Articles 308a to 308c of Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93.

Article 3

The Member States and the Commission shall cooperate closely to ensure that this Regulation is complied with.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 253, 11.10.1993, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1662/99 (OJ L 197, 29.7.1999, p. 25).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 388, 31.12.1992, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 3318/94 (OJ L 350, 31.12.1994, p. 15).

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall apply from 1 April 2000.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 27 March 2000.

For the Council

The President

F. GOMES

ANNEX

Order No	CN code	Taric code	Description	Amount of quota (tonnes)	Quota duty (%)	Quota period
09.2753	ex 0302 50 10 ex 0302 50 90 ex 0302 69 35 ex 0303 60 11 ex 0303 60 19 ex 0303 60 90 ex 0303 79 41	20 10 10 10 10 10 10	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>) and fish of the species <i>Boreogadus saida</i> , excluding livers and roes, presented fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a) (b)	90 000	3	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2756	ex 0303 60 11 ex 0303 60 19 ex 0303 60 90 ex 0303 79 41	10 10 10 10	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>) and fish of the species <i>Boreogadus saida</i> , excluding livers and roes, frozen, for processing (a) (c)	8 000	3	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2758	ex 0302 70 00	20	Cod livers (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>) and fish liver of the species <i>Boreogadus saida</i> , fresh or chilled, for processing (a) (b)	300	0	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2765	ex 0305 62 00 ex 0305 69 10	20 25 29 10	Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i> , <i>Gadus ogac</i> , <i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>) and fish of the species <i>Boreogadus saida</i> , salted or in brine, but not dried or smoked, for processing (a) (b)	8 000	0	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2773	ex 0306 13 10 ex 0306 23 10	10 11 91	Shrimps and prawns of the species <i>Pandalus borealis</i> , in shell, fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a) (b)	12 000	0	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2779	ex 0304 90 05	10	Surimi, frozen, for processing (a) (b)	16 000	3,5	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2780	ex 0304 20 91 ex 0304 90 97	10 60	Frozen blue grenadier fillets <i>Macruronus novaezealandiae</i> and other frozen meat of blue grenadier, for processing (a) (b)	20 000	3,5	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2785	ex 0307 49 59 ex 0307 99 11	10 10	Tubes of squid (<i>Ommastrephes</i> spp. excluding <i>Ommastrephes sagittatus</i> , <i>Nototodarus</i> spp., <i>Sepioteuthis</i> spp.) and <i>Illex</i> spp., frozen, for processing (a) (b)	11 000	3,5	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2786	ex 0307 49 59 ex 0307 99 11	20 20	Squid (<i>Ommastrephes</i> spp. excluding <i>Ommastrephes sagittatus</i> , <i>Nototodarus</i> spp., <i>Sepioteuthis</i> spp.) and <i>Illex</i> spp., frozen whole, tentacles and fins, for processing (a) (b)	500	3	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2788	ex 0302 40 00 ex 0303 50 00 ex 0304 10 97 ex 0304 90 22	10 10 20 10	Herrings (<i>Clupea harengus</i> , <i>Clupea pallasii</i>), whole, head included, of a weight exceeding 140 g per piece or flaps of a weight exceeding 80 g per piece), excluding livers and roes, fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a) (b)	20 000	0	1.11. to 31.12.2000

Order No	CN code	Taric code	Description	Amount of quota (tonnes)	Quota duty (%)	Quota period
09.2790	ex 1604 14 16	20 95	Fillets known as 'loins' of tunas and skipjack, for processing (a) (b)	4 000	6	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2792	ex 1604 12 99	10	Herrings, spiced/vinegar cured, in brine, preserved in barrels of at least 70 kg net drained weight, for processing (a) (b)	5 000	6	1.4. to 31.12.2000
09.2794	ex 1605 20 99	45	Shrimps and prawns of the species <i>Pandalus borealis</i> , cooked and peeled, for processing (a) (b)	5 000	6	1.4. to 31.12.2000

(a) Control of the use for this special purpose shall be carried out pursuant to the relevant Community provisions.

(b) This quota is available for products intended to undergo any operation, unless it is solely for one or more of the following operations:

- cleaning, gutting, tailing, heading,
- cutting (excluding dicing, filleting, production of flaps or cutting of frozen blocks or splitting of frozen interleaved fillet blocks),
- sampling, sorting,
- labelling,
- packing,
- chilling,
- freezing,
- deep freezing,
- thawing, separation.

The quota is not available for products intended, in addition, to undergo treatment (or operations) which gives quota entitlement, where such treatment (or operations) is (are) carried out at retail or catering level. The reduction of customs duties shall apply only to fish intended for human consumption.

(c) The quota is available for products destined exclusively for salting and drying.