



2024/1015

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COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2024/1015

of 26 March 2024

amending 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

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 43(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 ⁽¹⁾ fixes 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. The total allowable catches (TACs) and effort limits, and the measures functionally linked to the TACs and effort limits set by Regulation (EU) 2024/257, should be amended to take into account the publication of scientific advice, as well as the outcomes of consultations with third countries, and meetings of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs).
- (2) Regulation (EU) 2024/257 established a TAC for skates and rays (*Rajiformes*) in Union and United Kingdom waters of International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) divisions 6a, 6b, 7a to 7c and 7e to 7k. That Regulation also established a special condition under that TAC. That special condition allows catches of small-eyed ray (*Raja microocellata*) to be taken in ICES division 7e (Western Channel) by the Union and the United Kingdom in 2024, to allow for a sentinel fishery for the purpose of fisheries-based data collection for that stock as assessed by ICES. To provide for legal certainty and to allow sentinel fishery 'monitoring programmes' to be conducted, quantities under that special condition should be allocated to Member States in accordance with the principle of relative stability and the allocation key for skates and rays in Union and United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 6a, 6b, 7a to 7c and 7e to 7k.
- (3) In the bilateral consultations on the setting of fishing opportunities for stocks listed in Annex 35 to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part ⁽²⁾ (the 'Trade and Cooperation Agreement'), the Union and the United Kingdom established, for the first time, TACs for 2024 for: (i) witch flounder (*Glyptocephalus cynoglossus*) in Union waters of ICES division 3a; (ii) lemon sole (*Microstomus kitt*) in that area; and (iii) brill (*Scophthalmus rhombus*) in that area. Pending an agreement between Member States on how those fishing opportunities are to be allocated, the TACs for those stocks were marked in Regulation (EU) 2024/257 'to be established'. The TAC and Union quota for those stocks should be fixed for the period and at the level agreed with the United Kingdom, and those Union quotas should be allocated to Member States in line with the agreement on allocation keys for those stocks reached between the Member States concerned on 18 March 2024.
- (4) On 7 and 8 March 2024, the Union and the United Kingdom conducted bilateral consultations pursuant to Article 498(2), (4) and (6) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement on the level of the TAC for sandeel and associated by-catches (*Ammodytes* spp.) in United Kingdom and Union waters of ICES subarea 4, United Kingdom waters of ICES division 2a, and Union waters of division 3a. The outcome of those consultations was documented in a Written Record signed on 12 March 2024. The relevant TAC should therefore be set at the level agreed with the United Kingdom.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2024/257 of 10 January 2024 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 (OJ L, 2024/257, 11.1.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/257/oj>).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 10.

- (5) At its 12th annual meeting in 2024, the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) adopted catch limits for jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*) and maintained exploratory fisheries for toothfishes (*Dissostichus* spp.). In addition, the SPRFMO maintained or amended functionally linked measures. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (6) At its 2023 annual meeting, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) decided to maintain the purse seine effort limits and maximum numbers of these vessels fishing for tropical tunas. Provisions related to the management of the Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in the tropical tunas fishery, and in particular to the FAD closure, were amended. Those measures should be implemented in Union law.
- (7) Fishing effort limits for Union fishing vessels fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Convention area and maximum input and capacity for Union farms of bluefin tuna in that area are based on information provided in the annual fishing plans, the annual fishing capacity management plans and the annual farming management plans for bluefin tuna of Member States, established in accordance with Articles 11, 13 and 15 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽³⁾. Member States are to submit those plans to the Commission by 31 January of each year, pursuant to Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053. Those plans are then compiled by the Commission and form the basis for the establishment of a Union annual plan, which is transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat for discussion and approval by ICCAT, as required by Article 16(2) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2053. In accordance with ICCAT rules revised at its 2023 annual meeting, inactive bluefin tuna farms and related farming capacities were for the first time not included in that Union annual plan for 2024. The 2024 Union annual plan was approved by ICCAT on 6 March 2024. The Union fishing effort limits and Union maximum farming input and capacity for 2024 should therefore be amended in line with that annual plan.
- (8) The Union quotas for stocks in the ICCAT Convention area for 2024 were adjusted during the ICCAT annual meeting in November 2023 in accordance with several ICCAT recommendations under which the Union may, upon request, carry over a set percentage of its unused quota of fishing opportunities from 2022 to 2024. Therefore, and in order to allow, before the start of the fishing seasons for the stocks concerned, the use of those quantities carried over: (i) the Union quotas for northern albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) (ALB/AN05N), for southern albacore (ALB/AS05N), for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) in the Atlantic Ocean (BET/ATLANT), as well as for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in the Atlantic Ocean, north of 5° N (SWO/AN05N), and for swordfish in the Atlantic Ocean, south of 5° N (SWO/AS05N) should be amended to reflect such adjustments to the Union quota; and (ii) the Member States quotas under those Union quotas should be amended accordingly, taking into account the principle of relative stability.
- (9) At its 14th meeting held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from 12 to 17 February 2024, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) added sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*) to the protected species listed in Appendices I and II to that Convention. Those measures should therefore be implemented in Union law by prohibiting: (i) Union fishing vessels in all waters; and (ii) third country fishing vessels in Union waters, to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land that species. However, Article 98(2) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2124 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽⁴⁾ already established such a prohibition for sand tiger shark in the Mediterranean. To avoid overlapping provisions on the same subject matter, as regards the Mediterranean, such a prohibition should therefore now only be established for Union fishing vessels in all waters other than the Mediterranean, and for third country fishing vessels in Union waters.
- (10) Both Article 41(3) and Article 43 of Regulation (EU) 2024/257 refer to the same maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in areas of the WCPFC Convention area. Article 41(3) should therefore be deleted for reasons of legal clarity.

⁽³⁾ 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).

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/2124 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 October 2023 on certain provisions for fishing in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) Agreement area (OJ L, 2023/2124, 12.10.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2124/oj>).

- (11) Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 2024/257 on entry into force and application should be corrected regarding measures on European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) in Union marine and brackish waters of ICES subareas 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9, and adjacent Union brackish waters.
- (12) Certain errors in the TAC tables in the Annexes to Regulation (EU) 2024/257 should be corrected. Those include errors concerning: (i) TACs, Union and Member States quotas; (ii) the type of TAC (i.e. 'analytical TAC' or 'precautionary TAC'); (iii) the application of year-to-year flexibility for Member States' quotas pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 ⁽⁵⁾; (iv) area descriptions; and (v) reporting codes. In addition, in those Annexes, certain provisions should be clarified in: (i) the TAC tables for undulate ray (*Raja undulata*) in Union waters of ICES subareas 8 and 9 respectively; and (ii) the TAC tables for mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.
- (13) Regulation (EU) 2024/257 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (14) The fishing opportunities provided for in Regulation (EU) 2024/257 apply from 1 January 2024. The provisions introduced by this Regulation concerning fishing opportunities should therefore also apply from that date. Such retroactive application does not affect the principles of legal certainty and protection of legitimate expectations, as the fishing opportunities concerned are increased or have not yet been exhausted.
- (15) The provisions of this Regulation concerning sand tiger shark should apply from 1 April 2024, which is: (i) after the 14th meeting of the COP to the CMS, which took place from 12 to 17 February 2024; and (ii) before the entry into force of the amendment to the Appendices I and II of the CMS on 17 May 2024.
- (16) Given the urgency of avoiding interruptions to fishing activities, this Regulation should enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Amendment of Regulation (EU) 2024/257

Regulation (EU) 2024/257 is amended as follows:

- (1) in Article 20(1), the following point is inserted:
 - '(ba) sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*) in all waters other than the Mediterranean;'
- (2) in Article 41, paragraph 3 is deleted;
- (3) Article 42 is replaced by the following:

'Article 42

Management of fishing with FADs

1. In the part of the WCPFC Convention area located between 20° N and 20° S, purse seine vessels, tender vessels, and any other vessels operating in support of purse seine vessels, shall not deploy, service or set nets on FADs between 00.00 hours on 1 July 2024 and 24.00 hours on 15 August 2024.
2. In addition to the prohibition in paragraph 1, it shall be prohibited to set nets on FADs on the high seas of the WCPFC Convention area located between 20° N and 20° S for one additional month, from 00.00 hours on 1 April 2024 to 24.00 hours on 30 April 2024, or from 00.00 hours on 1 May 2024 to 24.00 hours on 31 May 2024, or from 00.00 hours on 1 November 2024 to 24.00 hours on 30 November 2024, or from 00.00 hours on 1 December 2024 to 24.00 hours on 31 December 2024.

⁽⁵⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96 of 6 May 1996 introducing additional conditions for year-to-year management of TACs and quotas (OJ L 115, 9.5.1996, p. 3).

3. The Member States concerned shall jointly determine which of the closure periods referred to in paragraph 2 shall apply to purse seine vessels flying their flag. The Member States shall jointly inform the Commission by 15 February 2024 of the closure period selected. The Commission shall notify the secretariat of the WCPFC of the joint closure period selected by Member States concerned before 1 March 2024.

4. Each Member State shall ensure that none of its purse seine vessels deploy at sea, at any time, more than 350 FADs with activated instrumented buoys. Buoys shall be activated exclusively on board a purse seine vessel.;

(4) in Article 55(1), the following point is inserted:

'(aa) sand tiger shark (*Carcharias taurus*) in all Union waters.;

(5) in Article 59, points (a) and (b) are replaced by the following:

'(a) Article 13(1) and (7) shall apply from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2025;

(b) Article 13(2) to (6) shall apply from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.;

(6) In Article 59, the following points are inserted:

'(ca) Article 20(1), point(ba) shall apply from 1 April 2024;

(ga) Article 55(1), point (aa) shall apply from 1 April 2024.;

(7) Annexes IA, IG, IH, VI, IX and XI are amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

Entry into force and application

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2024.

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

Done at Brussels, 26 March 2024.

For the Council
The President
D. CLARINVAL

ANNEX

Annexes IA, IG, IH, VI, IX and XI to Regulation (EU) 2024/257 are amended as follows:

(1) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 1 is replaced by the following:

'Species:	Sandeel and associated by-catches <i>Ammodytes</i> spp.	Zone:	United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a; Union waters of 3a
Denmark	158 096 ⁽¹⁾	Analytical TAC	
Germany	241 ⁽¹⁾	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Sweden	5 805 ⁽¹⁾	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	164 142		
United Kingdom	5 269		
TAC	169 411		

⁽¹⁾ Up to 2 % of the quota may consist of by-catches of whiting and mackerel (OT1/*2A3A4X). By-catches of whiting and mackerel counted against the quota pursuant to this provision and by-catches of species counted against the quota pursuant to Article 15(8) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall, together, not exceed 9 % of the quota.

Special condition: within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in the following sandeel management areas, as defined in Annex III:

Zone: Union waters of sandeel management areas

	1r	2r	3r	4	5r	6	7r
	(SAN/ 234_1R) ⁽¹⁾	(SAN/ 234_2R) ⁽¹⁾	(SAN/ 234_3R) ⁽²⁾	(SAN/ 234_4)	(SAN/ 234_5R)	(SAN/ 234_6) ⁽¹⁾	(SAN/ 234_7R)
Denmark	119 773	33 526	4 666	0	0	131	0
Germany	183	51	7	0	0	0	0
Sweden	4 398	1 231	171	0	0	5	0
Union	124 354	34 808	4 844	0	0	136	0
United Kingdom	3 992	1 117	156	0	0	4	0
Total	128 346	35 925	5 000	0	0	140	0

⁽¹⁾ Up to 10 % of this quota can be banked and used in the following year only within this management area.

⁽²⁾ This quota may only be fished in Union waters of sandeel management area 3r as monitoring TAC with an associated sampling protocol for the fishery.'

(2) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 29 is replaced by the following:

'Species:	Witch flounder <i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Zone:	Union waters of 3a (WIT/03A-C.)
Denmark	542 ⁽¹⁾	Analytical TAC	
Germany	1 ⁽¹⁾		
Netherlands	1 ⁽¹⁾		
Sweden	113 ⁽¹⁾		
Union	657 ⁽¹⁾		
TAC	657		

⁽¹⁾ Of which up to 100 % may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (WIT/*2AC4-C1).'

(3) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 60 is replaced by the following:

'Species:	Lemon sole and witch flounder <i>Microstomus kitt</i> and <i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Zone:	United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (L/W/2AC4-C)
Belgium	121	Precautionary TAC	
Denmark	335		
Germany	43		
France	92		
Netherlands	278		
Sweden	4		
Union	873 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾		
United Kingdom	1 666 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		
TAC	2 539		

⁽¹⁾ Of which up to 1 125 tonnes of lemon sole may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (LEM/*2AC4-C); and United Kingdom and Union waters of 7d (LEM/*07D.).

⁽²⁾ Of which up to 541 tonnes of witch flounder may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (WIT/*2AC4-C); and United Kingdom and Union waters of 7d (WIT/*07D.).

⁽³⁾ Of which up to 590 tonnes of lemon sole may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (LEM/*2AC4-C); Union waters of 3a (LEM/*03A-C); and United Kingdom and Union waters of 7d (LEM/*07D.).

Belgium	82
Denmark	226
Germany	29
France	62
Netherlands	188
Sweden	3

⁽⁴⁾ Of which up to 283 tonnes of witch flounder may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4 and United Kingdom waters of 2a (WIT/*2AC4-C), Union waters of 3a (WIT/*03A-C); and United Kingdom and Union waters of 7d (WIT/*07D).	
Belgium	39
Denmark	109
Germany	14
France	30
Netherlands	90
Sweden	1'

(4) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 61 is replaced by the following:

Table 61			
'Species:	Lemon sole <i>Microstomus kitt</i>		Zone: Union waters of 3a (LEM/03A-C.)
Denmark	170	⁽¹⁾	Analytical TAC
Germany	2	⁽¹⁾	
Netherlands	10	⁽¹⁾	
Sweden	5	⁽¹⁾	
Union	187	⁽¹⁾	
TAC	187		
⁽¹⁾ Of which up to 100 % may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (LEM/*2AC4-C1).'			

(5) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 68 is replaced by the following:

Table 68			
'Species:	Ling <i>Molva molva</i>		Zone: Union waters of 3a (LIN/03A-C.)
Belgium	11		Precautionary TAC'
Denmark	88		
Germany	11		
Sweden	34		
Union	144		
United Kingdom	0		
TAC	144		

(6) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 73 is replaced by the following:

'Species: Norway lobster <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>		Zone: United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (NEP/2AC4-C)
Belgium	1 107,5	Analytical TAC
Denmark	1 107,5	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies'
Germany	16	
France	33	
Netherlands	570	
Union	2 834	
United Kingdom	18 350	
TAC	21 184	

(7) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 78 is replaced by the following:

'Species: Northern prawn <i>Pandalus borealis</i>		Zone: United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (PRA/2AC4-C)
Denmark	588 ⁽¹⁾	Precautionary TAC
Netherlands	6 ⁽¹⁾	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Sweden	24 ⁽¹⁾	
Union	618 ⁽¹⁾	
United Kingdom	174 ⁽¹⁾	
TAC	792 ⁽¹⁾	

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

(8) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 79 is replaced by the following:

'Species: Northern prawn <i>Pandalus borealis</i>		Zone: Norwegian waters south of 62°N (PRA/4N-S62)
Denmark	50	Analytical TAC
Sweden	123 ⁽¹⁾	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Union	173	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
TAC	Not relevant	

⁽¹⁾ By-catches of cod, haddock, pollack, whiting and saithe are to be counted against the quotas for these species.'

(9) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 93 is replaced by the following:

'Species: Turbot and brill <i>Scophthalmus maximus</i> and <i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>		Zone: United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (T/B/2AC4-C)
Belgium	251	Analytical TAC
Denmark	537	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies
Germany	137	
France	65	
Netherlands	1 904	
Sweden	4	
Union	2 898 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	
United Kingdom	708 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
TAC	3 606	

⁽¹⁾ Of which up to 400 tonnes of turbot may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4 and United Kingdom waters of 2a (TUR/*2AC4-C).

⁽²⁾ Of which up to 308 tonnes of brill may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4 and United Kingdom waters of 2a (BLL/*2AC4-C); and United Kingdom and Union waters of 7d and 7e (BLL/*7DE.).

⁽³⁾ Of which up to 1 638 tonnes of turbot may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4 and United Kingdom waters of 2a (TUR/*2AC4-C).

Belgium	142
Denmark	303
Germany	77
France	37
Netherlands	1 077
Sweden	2

(4)	Of which up to 1 260 tonnes of brill may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4 and United Kingdom waters of 2a (BLL/*2AC4-C); Union waters of 3a (BLL/*03A-C); and United Kingdom and Union waters of 7d and 7e (BLL/*7DE.).	
	Belgium	109
	Denmark	233
	Germany	60
	France	28
	Netherlands	828
	Sweden	2'

(10) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 94 is replaced by the following:

Table 94			
'Species:	Brill <i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>	Zone:	Union waters of 3a (BLL/03A-C.)
Denmark	116	(1)	Analytical TAC
Germany	0	(1)	
Netherlands	11	(1)	
Sweden	21	(1)	
Union	148	(1)	
TAC	148		
(1)	Of which up to 100 % may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (BLL/*2AC4-C1).'		

(11) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 98 is replaced by the following:

Table 98			
'Species:	Skates and rays <i>Rajiformes</i>	Zone:	United Kingdom and Union waters of 6a, 6b, 7a-c and 7e-k (SRX/67AKXD)
Belgium	824	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	Precautionary TAC
Estonia	5	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	
France	3 702	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	
Germany	11	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	
Ireland	1 191	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	
Lithuania	19	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	
Netherlands	3	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	
Portugal	20	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	
Spain	996	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	
Union	6 771	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	
United Kingdom	2 985	(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)	
TAC	9 756	(3)(4)(5)	

- ⁽¹⁾ Catches of cuckoo ray (*Leucoraja naevus*) (RJN/67AKXD), thornback ray (*Raja clavata*) (RJC/67AKXD), blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*) (RJH/67AKXD), spotted ray (*Raja montagui*) (RJM/67AKXD), sandy ray (*Leucoraja circularis*) (RJI/67AKXD) and shagreen ray (*Leucoraja fullonica*) (RJF/67AKXD) shall be reported separately.
- ⁽²⁾ Special condition: of which up to 5 % may be fished in 7d (SRX/*07D.), without prejudice to the prohibitions set out in Union and United Kingdom law for the areas specified therein. Catches of cuckoo ray (*Leucoraja naevus*) (RJN/*07D.), thornback ray (*Raja clavata*) (RJC/*07D.), blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*) (RJH/*07D.), spotted ray (*Raja montagui*) (RJM/*07D.), sandy ray (*Leucoraja circularis*) (RJI/*07D.) and shagreen ray (*Leucoraja fullonica*) (RJF/*07D.) shall be reported separately. This special condition shall not apply to small-eyed ray (*Raja microocellata*) and undulate ray (*Raja undulata*).
- ⁽³⁾ Shall not apply to undulate ray (*Raja undulata*). Catches of this species in 7e shall be counted against the quantities provided for in that separate TAC (RJU/7DE.). When accidentally caught in 6a, 6b, 7a-c and 7f-k, this species shall not be harmed. Specimens shall be promptly released. Fishers shall be encouraged to develop and use techniques and equipment to facilitate the rapid and safe release of the species.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Shall not apply to small-eyed ray (*Raja microocellata*), except in 7e, 7f and 7g. When accidentally caught, this species shall not be harmed. Specimens shall be promptly released. Fishers shall be encouraged to develop and use techniques and equipment to facilitate the rapid and safe release of the species. Within the limits of the abovementioned quotas, no more than the quantities of small-eyed ray in 7f and 7g provided below may be taken.

Species:	Small-eyed ray	Zone:	7f and 7g
	<i>Raja microocellata</i>		(RJE/7FG.)
Belgium	5 ⁽¹⁾		Precautionary TAC
Estonia	0 ⁽¹⁾		
France	22 ⁽¹⁾		
Germany	0 ⁽¹⁾		
Ireland	7 ⁽¹⁾		
Lithuania	0 ⁽¹⁾		
Netherlands	0 ⁽¹⁾		
Portugal	0 ⁽¹⁾		
Spain	6 ⁽¹⁾		
Union	40 ⁽¹⁾		
United Kingdom	46 ⁽¹⁾		
TAC	86		

⁽¹⁾ Special condition: of which up to 5 % may be fished in 7d and reported under the following code: (RJE/*07D.). This special condition is without prejudice to the prohibitions set out in Union and United Kingdom law for the areas specified therein.

⁽⁵⁾ Within the limits of the abovementioned quota, no more than the quantities of small-eyed ray provided below may be taken in division 7e so as to allow for a sentinel fishery for the purpose of fisheries-based data collection for the stock as assessed by ICES.

Species:	Small-eyed ray <i>Raja microocellata</i>	Zone:	7e (RJE/07E.)
Belgium	1	⁽¹⁾	Precautionary TAC
Estonia	0	⁽¹⁾	
France	6	⁽¹⁾	
Germany	0	⁽¹⁾	
Ireland	2	⁽¹⁾	
Lithuania	0	⁽¹⁾	
Netherlands	0	⁽¹⁾	
Portugal	0	⁽¹⁾	
Spain	2	⁽¹⁾	
Union	11	⁽¹⁾	
United Kingdom	5	⁽¹⁾	
TAC	16		

⁽¹⁾ Only vessels participating in sentinel fishery “monitoring programmes” for small-eyed ray in 7e may land catch of this stock. Specimens caught by other vessels shall not be harmed and shall be promptly released. Each Party shall independently determine how to allocate its quota to the vessels participating in its monitoring programmes. Participating vessels will be required to collect and share data on: landings and discards, and preferably biological characteristic data of the catch (length, weight and sex).’

(12) In Annex IA, Part B, the tables in footnote 2 to Table 101 are replaced by the following:

Species:	Undulate ray <i>Raja undulata</i>	Zone:	Union waters of 8 (RJU/8-C.)
Belgium	0		Precautionary TAC
France	13	⁽¹⁾	
Portugal	10		
Spain	10	⁽²⁾	
Union	33		
United Kingdom	0		
TAC	33		

⁽¹⁾ An additional 28,5 tonnes may be allocated to vessels participating in the sentinel fishery to allow fisheries-based data collection for this stock as designed by a national scientific institute. Catches from this additional allocation shall be reported separately (RJU/8-C.SEN). France shall communicate the name(s) of the vessel(s) to the Commission before allowing any catches. This shall be without prejudice to the relative stability.

⁽²⁾ An additional 21,5 tonnes may be allocated to vessels participating in the sentinel fishery to allow fisheries-based data collection for this stock as designed by a national scientific institute. Catches from this additional allocation shall be reported separately (RJU/8-C.SEN). Spain shall communicate the name(s) of the vessel(s) to the Commission before allowing any catches. This shall be without prejudice to the relative stability.

Species:	Undulate ray	Zone:	Union waters of 9
	<i>Raja undulata</i>		(RJU/9-C.)
Belgium	0	Precautionary TAC	
France	20		
Portugal	15 ⁽¹⁾		
Spain	15		
Union	50		
United Kingdom	0		
TAC	50		

⁽¹⁾ An additional 50 tonnes may be allocated to vessels participating in the sentinel fishery to allow fisheries-based data collection for this stock as designed by a national scientific institute. Catches from this additional allocation shall be reported separately (RJU/9-C.SEN). Portugal shall communicate the name(s) of the vessel(s) to the Commission before allowing any catches. This shall be without prejudice to the relative stability.'

(13) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 103 is replaced by the following:

Table 103

Species:	Mackerel	Zone:	Union waters of 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d; United Kingdom waters of 2a; Union and United Kingdom waters of 4; Norwegian waters of 2a and 4a
	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>		(MAC/2A34-N)
Belgium	476	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Analytical TAC
Denmark	27 882	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies
Germany	496	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
France	1 498	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
Netherlands	1 508	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
Sweden	4 569	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	
Union	36 429	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
TAC	739 386		

⁽¹⁾ Special condition: within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in the following zones.

	3a (MAC/*03A.)	United Kingdom and Union waters of 3a, 4b and 4c (MAC/*3A4-BC)	4b (MAC/*04B.)	4c (MAC/*04C.)	United Kingdom and international waters of 2a, 5b, 6, 7, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14 (MAC/*2AX14)
Belgium	0	0	0	0	286
Denmark	0	4 130	0	0	9 774
Germany	0	0	0	0	298
France	0	490	0	0	899
Netherlands	0	490	0	0	905
Sweden	0	0	390	10	2 741
Union	0	5 110	390	10	14 903

⁽²⁾ Within the limits of these quotas, and in agreement with the relevant coastal State, no more than the quantities given below may also be taken in the two following zones:

	Norwegian waters of 2a and 4a (MAC/*02A4AN-)	Faroese waters (MAC/*FRO1)
Belgium	0	To be established
Denmark	0	To be established
Germany	0	To be established
France	0	To be established
Netherlands	0	To be established
Sweden	0	To be established
Union	0	To be established

⁽³⁾ Special condition: including the following tonnage to be taken in Norwegian waters of 2a and 4a (MAC/*2A4AN):

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When fishing under this special condition, by-catches of cod, haddock, pollack, whiting and saithe are to be counted against the quotas for these species.

⁽⁴⁾ Within the limits of this quota, the following transfers are made by Denmark to be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 6, 7, 8d; Union waters of 8a, 8b and 8e; international waters of 12 and 14; and United Kingdom and international waters of 2a and 5b (MAC/*2A14):

Germany	531
Spain	1
Estonia	4
France	354
Ireland	1 769
Latvia	3

Lithuania	3
Netherlands	774
Poland	37

(14) In Annex IA, Part B, footnote 1 to Table 106 is replaced by the following:

⁽¹⁾ 'May be fished only in Union waters of 4 (SOL/*04-EU).'

(15) In Annex IA, Part B, Table 111 is replaced by the following:

'Species:	Common sole <i>Solea solea</i>	Zone:	7f and 7g (SOL/7FG.)
Belgium	730	Analytical TAC	
France	73	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies'	
Ireland	37		
Union	840		
United Kingdom	405		
TAC	1 267		

(16) In Annex ID, Tables 7, 8, 11, 14, 15 and 16 are replaced by the following:

'Species:	Northern Albacore <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, north of 5°N (ALB/AN05N)
Ireland	4 310,57	Analytical TAC	
Spain	24 295,97	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
France	7 641,47	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Portugal	2 664,72		
Union	38 912,73	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
TAC	47 251		

⁽¹⁾ The number of Union fishing vessels fishing for Northern albacore as a target species shall be: 1 241.

⁽²⁾ Special condition: Within the limit of this quota, no more than the following quantity may be taken in United Kingdom waters (ALB/*AN05N-UK): 280,00.

Table 8

Species:	Southern Albacore <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, south of 5°N (ALB/AS05N)
Spain	1 051,30	Analytical TAC	
France	345,49	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Portugal	735,71	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Union	2 132,50		
TAC	28 000		

Table 11

Species:	Bigeye tuna <i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean (BET/ATLANT)
Spain	8 079,90	⁽¹⁾	Analytical TAC
France	3 431,99	⁽¹⁾	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Portugal	3 067,50	⁽¹⁾	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Union	14 579,39	⁽¹⁾	
TAC	62 000	⁽¹⁾	

⁽¹⁾ Catches of bigeye tuna by purse seiners (BET/*ATLPS) and longliners with an overall length of 20 metres and above (BET/*ATLLL) shall be reported separately. As of June, when catches reach 80 % of the quota, Member States are required to transmit the catches for these fishing vessels on a weekly basis.

Table 14

Species:	Swordfish <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, north of 5°N (SWO/AN05N)
Spain	6 294,13	⁽²⁾	Analytical TAC
Portugal	1 143,97	⁽²⁾	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Other Member States	168,10	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Union	7 606,20		
TAC	13 200		

⁽¹⁾ Exclusively for by-catches. Catches to be counted against this shared quota shall be reported separately (SWO/AN05N_AMS).

⁽²⁾ Special condition: up to 2,39 % of this quantity may be fished in the Atlantic Ocean, south of 5° N (SWO/*AS05N). Catches to be counted against the special condition of the shared quota shall be reported separately (SWO/*AS05N_AMS).

Table 15

Species:	Swordfish <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Zone:	Atlantic Ocean, south of 5°N (SWO/AS05N)
Spain	4 978,46	⁽¹⁾	Analytical TAC
Portugal	327,94	⁽¹⁾	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Union	5 306,40		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
TAC	10 000		

⁽¹⁾ Special condition: up to 3,51 % of this quantity may be fished in the Atlantic Ocean, north of 5° N (SWO/*AN05N).

Table 16

Species:	Swordfish <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Zone:	Mediterranean Sea (SWO/MED)
Croatia	13,74	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Analytical TAC
Cyprus	50,67	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
Spain	1 565,04	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply
France	109,08	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
Greece	1 036,02	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
Italy	3 208,44	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
Malta	380,64	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
Union	6 363,63	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
TAC	9 017		

⁽¹⁾ This quota may be fished only from 1 April to 31 December.

⁽²⁾ Special condition: by-catches of Mediterranean swordfish are to be counted against this quota, but shall be reported separately (SWO/MED-BC). Dead catches of Mediterranean swordfish from sport and recreational fisheries are to be counted against this quota, but shall be reported separately (SWO/MED-SR).'

(17) In Annex ID, footnotes 5 and 6 to Table 12 are replaced by the following:

⁽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	105,66
Union	105,60
⁽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	952,17
Union	952,17'

(18) Annex IF is replaced by the following:

'ANNEX IF

SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA – AREAS OF DISTRIBUTION

Species:	Southern bluefin tuna <i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	Zone:	All areas of distribution (SBF/F41-81)
Union	13 ⁽¹⁾	Analytical TAC	
TAC	20 642	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	
⁽¹⁾ Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.'			

(19) Annex IG is replaced by the following:

'ANNEX IG

WCPFC CONVENTION AREA

Table 1

Species:	Bigeye tuna <i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Zone:	WCPFC Convention area (BET/WCPFC)
Union	2 000 ⁽¹⁾	Precautionary TAC	
TAC	Not relevant ⁽¹⁾		
⁽¹⁾ This quota may only be fished by vessels using longlines.			

Table 2

Species:	Swordfish <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Zone:	WCPFC Convention area south of 20°S (SWO/F7120S)
Union	3 170,36	Precautionary TAC	
TAC	Not relevant'		

(20) Annex IH is replaced by the following:

‘ANNEX IH

SPRFMO CONVENTION AREA

Table 1

Species:	Toothfishes <i>Dissostichus</i> spp.	Zone:	SPRFMO Convention area, research blocks A and B ⁽¹⁾ (TOT/SPR-AB)
TAC	162 ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	Precautionary TAC	

⁽¹⁾

Research block A:

- NW 50°30' S, 136°E
- NE 50°30' S, 140°30' E
- SE 54°50' S, 140°30' E
- SW 54°50' S, 136°E

Research block B:

- NW 52°45' S, 140°30' E
- NE 52°45' S, 145°30' E
- SE 54°50' S, 145°30' E
- SW 54°50' S, 140°30' E

⁽²⁾

This annual TAC is for exploratory fisheries only. Fishing shall be limited to depths between 600 m and 2 500 m. Fishing shall be limited to one trip of a maximum duration of 60 consecutive days which may occur any time between 1 May and 15 November 2024. From 1 to 15 November 2024, longlines shall be set at night-time only and all fishing shall cease immediately if the death of the following occurs:

- a) one specimen of any of the following species: wandering albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), grey-headed albatross (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*), black-browed albatross (*Thalassarche melanophris*), grey petrel (*Procellaria cinerea*), soft-plumaged petrel (*Pterodroma mollis*); or
- b) three specimens of any of the following species: light-mantled albatross (*Phoebastria palpebrata*), southern giant petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*) and northern giant petrel (*Macronectes halli*).

Fishing shall further be limited to a maximum number of 5 000 hooks per set, with a maximum of 100 sets. Longlines shall be set at least 3 nautical miles apart from each other, and not set at previous longline locations within one calendar year. Fishing shall cease either when the TAC is reached or if 100 sets have been set and hauled during the trip, whichever is earlier.

⁽³⁾

Of which up to 129 tonnes may be fished in research block A. Catches of toothfishes in research block A shall be reported separately (TOT/SPR-A).

⁽⁴⁾

Of which up to 33 tonnes may be fished in research block B. Catches of toothfishes in research block B shall be reported separately (TOT/SPR-B).

Table 2

Species:	Jack mackerel <i>Trachurus murphyi</i>	Zone:	SPRFMO Convention area (CJM/SPRFMO)
Germany	18 622,82	Analytical TAC	
Netherlands	20 185,21	Article 3(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Lithuania	12 958,23	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 shall not apply	
Poland	22 280,74		
Union	74 047,00		
TAC	Not relevant'		

(21) In Annex VI, point 4 is replaced by the following:

4. Maximum number of fishing vessels of each Member State that may be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

Table A

	Number of fishing vessels ⁽¹⁾							
	Greece ⁽²⁾	Spain	France	Croatia	Italy	Cyprus ⁽³⁾	Malta ⁽⁴⁾	Portugal
Purse seiners ⁽⁵⁾	0	7	22	18	21	1	2	0
Longliners	0	38	23	0	40	17	63	0
Baitboats	0	66	8	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	0	1	47	24	0	0	0	0
Trawlers	0	0	56	0	0	0	0	0
Small-scale coastal	64	696	89	0	0	0	0	0
Other artisanal ⁽⁶⁾	41	0	60	0	142	0	240	76'

⁽¹⁾ The numbers in this table may be further increased, provided that the Union's international obligations are complied with.

⁽²⁾ One medium-size purse seiner has been replaced by no more than 10 longline vessels, or by one small purse seiner and three other artisanal vessels.

⁽³⁾ One medium-size purse seiner may be replaced by no more than 10 longline vessels, or by one small purse seiner and no more than three longline vessels.

⁽⁴⁾ One medium-size purse seiner may be replaced by no more than 10 longline vessels.

⁽⁵⁾ The individual numbers of purse seiners in this table are the result of transfers between Member States and do not constitute historical rights for the future.

⁽⁶⁾ Polyvalent vessels, using multi-gear equipment (longline, handline, trolling line).

(22) In Annex VI, point 5 is replaced by the following:

5. Maximum number of traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery authorised by each Member State

Maximum number of traps	
Member State	Number of traps
Spain	6
Italy	5
Portugal	2'

(23) In 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	7	15 860,72
Croatia	4	7 880,00
Italy	3	1 160,00
Cyprus	0	0
Malta	6	17 213,00
Portugal	2	667

Table B

Maximum input of wild-caught bluefin tuna (in tonnes)	
Greece	0
Spain	11 329,09
Croatia	3 225,10
Italy	610,00
Cyprus	0
Malta	12 295,00
Portugal	517,00'

(24) Annex IX is replaced by the following:

‘ANNEX IX

WCPFC CONVENTION AREA

1. Maximum number of Union fishing vessels using longlines authorised to fish for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in areas south of 20°S of the WCPFC Convention area

Spain	14
Union	14

2. Maximum number of Union purse seiners authorised to fish for tropical tuna in areas between 20°N and 20°S of the WCPFC Convention area

Spain	4
Union	4

(25) In Annex XI, point 2 is replaced by the following:

- ‘2. In Annex IA, Part B, to Regulation (EU) 2023/194, the tables for mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in Union waters of ICES division 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d; United Kingdom waters of division 2a; Union and United Kingdom waters of ICES subarea 4; and in Norwegian waters of divisions 2a and 4a are replaced by the following:

“Species:	Mackerel <i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Zone:	Union waters of 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d; United Kingdom waters of 2a; Union and United Kingdom waters of 4; Norwegian waters of 2a and 4a (MAC/2A34-N)
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Belgium	501	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Analytical TAC
Denmark	29 446	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾	Article 8(2) of this Regulation applies
Germany	523	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
France	1 579	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
Netherlands	1 589	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
Sweden	4 743	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	
Union	38 381	⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
TAC	782 066		

⁽¹⁾ Special condition: within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in the following zones.

	3a	United Kingdom and Union waters of 3a, 4b and 4c	4b	4c	United Kingdom and international waters of 2a, 5b, 6, 7, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14
	(MAC/*03A.)	(MAC/*3A4BC)	(MAC/*04B.)	(MAC/*04C.)	(MAC/*2AX14)
Belgium	0	0	0	0	301
Denmark	0	4 130	0	0	10 312
Germany	0	0	0	0	314
France	0	490	0	0	947
Netherlands	0	490	0	0	953
Sweden	0	0	390	10	2 846
Union	0	5 110	390	10	15 673

⁽²⁾ Within the limits of these quotas, and in agreement with the relevant coastal State, no more than the quantities given below may also be taken in the two following zones:

	Norwegian waters of 2a and 4a (MAC/*02A4AN-)	Faroese waters (MAC/*FRO1)
Belgium	0	0
Denmark	0	0
Germany	0	0
France	0	0
Netherlands	0	0
Sweden	0	0
Union	0	0

⁽³⁾ Special condition: including the following tonnage to be taken in Norwegian waters of 2a and 4a (MAC/*2A4AN):

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When fishing under this special condition, by-catches of cod, haddock, pollack, whiting and saithe are to be counted against the quotas for these species.

⁽⁴⁾ Within the limits of this quota, the following transfers are made by Denmark to be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 6, 7, 8d; Union waters of 8a, 8b and 8e; international waters of 12 and 14; and United Kingdom and international waters of 2a and 5b (MAC/*2A14):

Germany	749
Spain	1
Estonia	6
France	499
Ireland	2 495
Latvia	5
Lithuania	5
Netherlands	1 092
Poland	53''
