



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 11.03.1998
COM(1998) 144 final

Proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC)

**amending Regulation (EC) No.45/98
fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable
catches for 1998 and certain conditions under which they may be fished**

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The objective of the present proposal is to fix fishing possibilities for certain stocks of fish and to allocate these equitably to Member States. The fixing and the sharing of possibilities for fishing falls exclusively within the competence of the Community and arises from obligations set out in Article 8(4) of Regulation (EEC) No 3760/92 of the Council of 20 December 1992¹, establishing a Community regime for fishing and aquaculture.

According to scientific evidence, a number of fish stocks in the North Sea, which at present constitute an important by-catch in traditional fisheries, could be in the near future subject to an increased exploitation which may put them in biological risk. It would be therefore desirable to set limits to their catch in order that, without being necessarily restrictive in the short term, they would prevent an uncontrolled expansion of exploitation rates.

The allocation of these catch limits must, in accordance with the second sub-paragraph of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EEC) No 3760/92, ensure relative stability of fishing activities. This can be approached by setting Member States' fish quotas for 1998 as the highest catch observed during the last five-year period.

The Commission had already presented a similar proposal to the Council in 1997² in the framework of the general decisions on TACs for 1998. However, the Council postponed its decision in order to allow a revision of catch statistics. Accordingly, the present proposal replaces the former by updating the relevant catch statistics on the basis of Member States' catch declarations.

This proposal intends to address these matters by modifying Council Regulation (EC) N° 45/98³.

¹ O.J. No L389, 31.12.1992, p.1

² COM(97)669 final

³ O.J. No L12, 19.1.1998, p. 1

**Proposal for a
Council Regulation (EC) No /98 of 1998
amending Regulation (EC) No.45/98
fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable
catches for 1998 and certain conditions under which they may be fished**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3760/92¹ of 20 December 1992 establishing a Community system for fisheries and aquaculture as amended by the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden, and in particular Article 8 (4) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas Regulation (EC) No. 45/98² fixes, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the TACs for 1998 and certain conditions under which they may be fished;

Whereas it is desirable to set new TACs for 1998 in order to limit the catches of a number of additional fish stocks or group of fish stocks in the North Sea; whereas these TACs should be allocated among Member States in accordance with the second sub-paragraph of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EEC) No 3760/92;

Whereas Council Regulation (EC) No. 45/98 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION :

¹ O.J. No L389, 31.12.1992, p.1

² O.J. No L12, 19.1.1998, p.1

Article 1

The tables in annexes I and II to this Regulation shall be inserted, respectively, in Annexes I and III to Regulation (EC) No 45/98.

Article 2

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

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

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,
The President

Species: Megrim		Zone: IIa(1), North Sea (1)	
Lepidorhombus spp.			
België / Belgique	10	(1)	Community waters
Danmark	10		
Deutschland	10		
Ellada			
España			
France	50		
Ireland			
Italia			
Luxembourg			
Nederland	40		
Osterreich			
Portugal			
Suomi/Finland			
Sverige			
United Kingdom	2880		
EC	3000		
TAC	3000		
Species: Anglerfish		Zone: IIa(1), North Sea (1)	
Lophiidae			
België / Belgique	770	(1)	Community waters
Danmark	1710		
Deutschland	830		
Ellada			
España			
France	150		
Ireland			
Italia			
Luxembourg			
Nederland	580		
Osterreich			
Portugal			
Suomi/Finland			
Sverige	10		
United Kingdom	17950		
EC	22000		
TAC	22000		

Species: Turbot (2) <i>Psetta maxima</i>		Zone: IIa(1), North Sea	
België / Belgique	660	(1)	Community waters
Danmark	1410	(2)	Including brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>)
Deutschland	360		
Ellada			
España			
France	170		
Ireland			
Italia			
Luxembourg			
Nederland	5000		
Osterreich			
Portugal			
Suomi/Finland			
Sverige	10		
United Kingdom	1390		
EC	9000		
TAC	9000		
Species: Skates and rays <i>Rajidae</i>		Zone: IIa(1), North Sea	
België / Belgique	1010	(1)	Community waters
Danmark	30		
Deutschland	40		
Ellada			
España			
France	150		
Ireland			
Italia			
Luxembourg			
Nederland	860		
Osterreich			
Portugal			
Suomi/Finland			
Sverige			
United Kingdom	3910		
EC	6000		
TAC	6000		

Species: Dab (2) <i>Limanda limanda</i>		Zone: Ila (1), North Sea (1)	
België / Belgique	760	(1)	Community waters
Danmark	2860	(2)	including flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>)
Deutschland	4300		
Ellada			
España			
France	290		
Ireland			
Italia			
Luxembourg			
Nederland	17380		
Osterreich			
Portugal			
Suomi/Finland			
Sverige	0		
United Kingdom	2410		
EC	28000		
TAC	28000		
Species: Lemon sole (2) <i>Microstomus kitt</i>		Zone: Ila (1), North Sea (1)	
België / Belgique	600	(1)	Community waters
Danmark	1640	(2)	including witch (<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>)
Deutschland	210		
Ellada			
España			
France	450		
Ireland			
Italia			
Luxembourg			
Nederland	1370		
Osterreich			
Portugal			
Suomi/Finland			
Sverige	20		
United Kingdom	6710		
EC	11000		
TAC	11000		

Stocks			Type of TAC A=analytical P= precautionary	Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applicable (1/0 = yes/no)	Deductions of Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applicable (1/0 = yes/no)
Species		Area			
Common name	Latin name				
Megrim	<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0
Anglerfish	<i>Lophius spp.</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0
Turbot and brill	<i>Psetta maxima & Scophthalmus rhombus</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0
Skates and Rays	<i>Rajidae spp.</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0
Dab and flounder	<i>Limanda limanda & Platichthys flesus</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0
Lemon sole and witch	<i>Microstomus kitt & Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Ila(1) , North Sea (1)	P	1	0

(1) Community waters

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