



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



17488/09 (Presse 375)

**PROVISIONAL VERSION**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

2986th Council meeting

### **Agriculture and Fisheries**

Brussels, 14-16 December 2009

President

**Mr Eskil ERLANDSSON**  
Minister for Agriculture of Sweden

# **P R E S S**

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## **Main results of the Council**

*The Council reached political agreement on the total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas for 2010.*

*The Council reached a partial political agreement in view of the second reading of a proposal on illegal logging.*

The Council held a policy debate on the future of the CAP focusing on rural development, and on the simplification of the CAP.

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<sup>1</sup>

- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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## **PARTICIPANTS**

The Governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

### **Belgium:**

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Minister for SMEs, the Self-Employed, Agriculture and Science Policy

Mr Kris PEETERS

Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for the Economy, Foreign Policy, Agriculture and Rural Policy

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Deputy Minister for Agriculture

### **Czech Republic:**

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Minister for Agriculture

Mr Stanislav KOZÁK

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### **Denmark:**

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Mr Troels Lund POULSEN

Minister for the Environment

### **Germany:**

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State Secretary at the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer protection

### **Estonia:**

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### **Ireland:**

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Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr Tony KILLEEN

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (with special responsibility for Fisheries, Forestry and the Marine)

### **Greece:**

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Minister for Rural Development and Food

### **Spain:**

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Minister for the Environment and the Rural and Marine Environment

Mr Eduardo CABANILLAS

Secretary General of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Autonomous Community of Castile-Leon

### **France:**

Mr Bruno LE MAIRE

Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

### **Italy**

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Deputy Permanent Representative

### **Cyprus:**

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Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

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Deputy Permanent Representative

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Minister for Agriculture

### **Lithuania:**

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Vice-Minister for Agriculture

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**Hungary:**

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Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Malta:**

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Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs

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Minister Counsellor

**Slovenia:**

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Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food

**Slovakia:**

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State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture

**Finland:**

Ms Sirkka-Liisa ANTTILA

Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

**Sweden:**

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Mr Rolf ERIKSSON

Minister for Agriculture  
State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

**United Kingdom:**

Mr Huw IRRANCA-DAVIES

Mr Richard LOCHHEAD

Ms Michelle GILDERNEW

Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Marine and Natural  
Environment  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment,  
Scottish Government  
Northern Ireland Minister for the Department of  
Agriculture and Rural Development

**Commission:**

Mr Joe BORG

Ms Androulla VASSILIOU

Member

Member

**ITEMS DEBATED**

**TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES (TACS) AND QUOTAS FOR 2010**

The Council reached a political agreement on a draft regulation setting fishing opportunities for 2010 for Community vessels in the waters of the Atlantic, the Channel and the North Sea (TACs and quotas for the Baltic and Black Seas were already adopted on 20 and 27 November).

In line with long-term conservation management plans applicable for certain stocks, the Council agreed to **reductions**, compared to 2009, for the following species:

- 25% for haddock in West Scotland
- 20% sole in Eastern Channel
- between 15% and 35% for all cod stocks depending on the areas and rearrangements of certain TACs. Except for cod in West Scotland and Celtic Sea (roll-over)
- 9 % for Norway lobster in Porcupine bank (with a seasonal closure for all fishing in a smaller area of the Porcupine Bank and supported by scientific advice and the Western waters RAC)
- 15 % for southern anglerfish
- 10 % for whiting in West Scotland and Irish Sea

Following the Commission statement on fisheries policy, an **overall reduction** of 10% was agreed for species where scientific advice is lacking<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Corresponding to category 11: see Commission's communication on fishing opportunities for 2010 ([9838/09](#)).

The TACs are set at **zero for porbeagle and spurdog** (except for 10% by-catches for the latter species).

As a consequence of the significant reduction of the EU **bluefin tuna** TAC agreed upon in the ICCAT framework, the Commission will assess with the Member States concerned, the best and most targeted use of financial instruments in order to address the socio-economic impact of such reduction.

In view of the encouraging signs of recovery of certain stocks, the Council agreed an **increase** of TACs:

- by 5% for megrim in the North Sea and West of Scotland.
- by 7 % for northern hake, in conformity with scientific advice and the long-term management plan
- by 7 % for plaice in the Celtic Sea
- by 15% for anglerfish in the Bay of Biscay
- by 14 % for plaice in the Irish Sea
- by 10 % for sole in the Bay of Biscay

Furthermore, in the light of the scientific surveys carried out last Autumn, the **anchovy** fisheries will be temporary re-opened as from 1 January 2010 in the Bay of Biscay. It will be subject to a later adjustment in accordance with a new scientific advice to be provided in Spring 2010.

A 5% flexibility between certain areas for horse mackerel after rearrangement of the TAC areas, was agreed upon.



*Fisheries agreement with Norway*

The draft regulation does not include final figures for stocks jointly managed with Norway or the Faroe Islands, because agreement between the parties is still pending on those resources. Instead, the political agreement includes provisional figures for shared stocks enabling the continuation of fishing activities early next year.

As a general rule, 65% of the current 2009 TAC as regards stocks jointly managed with Norway and exclusive stocks subject to transfers with Norway as well as those stocks relevant to the Faroese consultations was agreed on a provisional basis.

*Incentive catch quota*

The joint request from Denmark, the United Kingdom and Germany for an additional 5% incentive quota for cod (and other demersal species) to encourage fishermen reduce discards will be part of the future discussion with Norway.

The following table sets out the indicative values of the principal TACs for 2010 compared with those for 2009 and the Commission proposal<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See Commission proposal: 14738/09 and 14738/09 ADD 1.

<i>Species Latin name</i>	Species English name	Espèces nom français	ICES fishing zone	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>COMMISSION Proposal</b>	<b>comparison</b>
				<b>TACs 2010</b>	<b>TACs 2009</b>	<b>comparison 2010/2009</b>	<b>for 2010</b>	<b>Council / Commission</b>
						<b>%</b>		<b>2010</b>
<b><i>ANNEX IA SKAGERRAK, KATTEGAT, ICES zones I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV, EC Waters of CECAF, French Guyana waters</i></b>								
<i>Ammodytidae</i>	Sandeel	Lançon	IIa (EC waters), IIIa and IV (EC waters) (SAN/2A3A4)	<b>115375</b>	177500	-35%	na	na
<i>Ammodytidae</i>	Sandeel	Lançon	IV (Norwegian waters) (SAN/04-N)	<b>Not relevant</b>	NR	NR	pm	na
<i>Argentina silus</i>	Greater silver smelt	Grande argentine	I & II (EC and internat. waters) (ARU/1/2)	<b>111</b>	116	-4%	99	-15%
<i>Argentina silus</i>	Greater silver smelt	Grande argentine	III & IV (EC and internat. waters) (ARU/3/4)	<b>1.278</b>	1.331	-4%	1.131	-15%
<i>Argentina silus</i>	Greater silver smelt	Grande argentine	V, VI, VII (EC and internat. waters) (ARU/567)	<b>5.099</b>	5.311	-4%	4.514	-15%
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Tusk	Brosmes	By catches - EC and internat. waters of I, II & XIV (USK/1214EI)	<b>20</b>	24	-17%	20	-17%
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Tusk	Brosmes	EC waters of III (USK/03-C)	<b>24</b>	28	-14%	24	-14%
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Tusk	Brosmes	EC waters of IV (USK/04-CI)	<b>196</b>	231	-15%	196	-15%
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Tusk	Brosmes	EC and internat. waters of V, VI, and VII (USK/567EI)	<b>283</b>	435	-35%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Brosme brosme</i>	Tusk	Brosmes	IV (Norwegian waters) (USK/4AB-N)	<b>Not relevant</b>	170	na	pm	na

<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	IIIa (HER/03A)	<b>20.924</b>	32.190	-35%	pm	na
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	EC waters of IV north of 53°30' N (HER/04A) (HER/04B)	<b>63.598</b>	97.843	-35%	pm	na
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (HER/04-N)	<b>Not relevant</b>	846		pm	na
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	by-catches in IIIa (HER/03A-BC)	<b>5.442</b>	8.373	-35%	pm	na
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	by-catches in IV, VIId and in EC waters of IIa(HER/2A47-DX)	<b>10.390</b>	15.985	-35%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	IVc, VIId (HER/4CXB7D)	<b>15.319</b>	23.567	-35%	pm	na
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	EC and internat. waters of Vb and VIb and VIaN (HER/5B6ANB)	<b>13.715</b>	21.760	-37%	21.100	na
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	VIaS, VIIbc (HER/6AS7BC)	<b>7.451</b>	9.314	-20%	6.986	-25%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	VIa Clyde (HER/06ACL)	<b>720</b>	800	-10%	680	-15%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	VIIa (HER/07A/MM)	<b>4.800</b>	4.800	0%	4.800	0%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	VIIe, f (HER/7EF)	<b>1.000</b>	1.000	0%	1.000	0%
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	VIIg, h, j, k (HER/7G-K)	<b>10.150</b>	5.918	72%	10.150	72%
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	Anchovy	Anchois	VIII (ANE/08.)	<b>7000</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	Anchovy	Anchois	IX, X; EC waters of CEECAF 34.1.1 (ANE/9/3411)	<b>8.000</b>	8.000	0%	6.800	-15%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Skagerrak (COD/03AN.)	<b>2.588</b>	3.981	-35%	pm	na
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Kattegat (COD/03AN.)	<b>379</b>	505	-25%	379	-25%

<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	EC waters of IIa and IV, the part of IIIa not covered by the Skagerrak and Kattegat (COD/2A3AX4)	<b>15.536</b>	23.902	-35%	pm	na
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (COD/04-N)	<b>Not relevant</b>	382	Not relevant	pm	na
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Vlb; EC & int. waters of Vb to the west of 12°00W and of XII & XIV (COD/561214) [splitting of TAC]	<b>80</b>	302	-74%	80	-74%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	VIa, EC & int. waters of Vb to the east of 12°00W (COD/5B6A-C)	<b>240</b>	240	0%	180	
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	VIIa (COD/07A)	<b>674</b>	899	-25%	674	-25%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	VIIb-c, VIIe-k, VIII, IX & X; EC waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (COD/7XAD34)	<b>4.023</b>	4.023	0%	3.017	-25%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	VIIId (COD/07D)	<b>1.091</b>	1.678	-35%	pm	na
<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	Requin taupe commun	EC waters of III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X & XII (POR/1-14CI)	<b>0</b>	436	-100%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrims	Cardines	EC waters of IIa & IV (LEZ/2AC4-C)	<b>1.757</b>	1.597	10%	1.597	0%
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrims	Cardines	EC and intern. waters of Vb; intern. Waters of XII & XIV (LEZ/561214)	<b>3.079</b>	2.799	10%	2.799	0%
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrims	Cardines	VII (LEZ/07)	<b>18.300</b>	18.300	0%	18.300	0%
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrims	Cardines	VIIIa, VIIIb, VIIIId, VIIIe (LEZ/8ABDE)	<b>2.125</b>	2.125	0%	2.125	0%
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrims	Cardines	VIIIc, IX & X; EC waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (LEZ/8C3411)	<b>1.287</b>	1.430	-10%	1.216	-15%

<i>Limanda limanda and Platichthys flesus</i>	Dabe and Flounder	dabé et Flet	EC waters of IIa and IV (D/F/2AC4-C)	<b>18.810</b>	18.810	0%	18.810	0%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	EC waters of IIa and IV (ANF/2AC4-C)	<b>11.345</b>	11.345	0%	11.345	0%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	Norwegian waters of IV (ANF/4AB-N)	<b>Not relevant</b>	1.550	Not relevant	pm	na
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VI, EC & int. waters of Vb, int. Waters of XII & XIV (ANF/561214)	<b>5.567</b>	5.567	0%	5.567	0%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VII	<b>32.292</b>	28.080	15%	32.292	15%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VIIIa,b,d,e	<b>9.108</b>	7.920	15%	9.108	15%
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Baudroie	VIIIc, IX, X, CEECAF 34.1.1 (EC waters)	<b>1.496</b>	1.760	-15%	1.320	-25%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	IIIa, IIIbcd (EC waters)	<b>1.441</b>	2.217	-35%	pm	na
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	EC waters of IIa and IV	<b>21.241</b>	32.679	-35%	pm	na
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	<b>Not relevant</b>	707	Not relevant	pm	na
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	VIb; XII and XIV (EC and internat. waters) (HAD/61214)	<b>4.997</b>	5.879	-15%	4.997	-15%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	Vb, VIa (EC and internat. waters) (HAD/5BC6A)	<b>2.673</b>	3.516	-24%	1.600	-54%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	VIIb-k, VIII, IX, X; CEECAF 34.1.1 (EC waters)	<b>11.579</b>	11.579	0%	11.579	0%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	VIIa	<b>1.424</b>	1.424	0%	1.424	0%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	IIIa	<b>168</b>	258	-35%	pm	na
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	EC waters of IIa and IV (WHG/2AC4)	<b>8.185</b>	12.593	-35%	pm	na

<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	Vb (EC and internat. waters), VI, internat. waters of XII and XIV (WHG/561214)	<b>431</b>	574	-25%	431	-25%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	VIIa	<b>157</b>	209	-25%	157	-25%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	VIIb-k	<b>14.407</b>	16.949	-15%	14.407	-15%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	VIII	<b>3.240</b>	3.600	-10%	3.060	-15%
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Merlan	IX, X, CEEAF 34.1.1 (EC waters)	<b>588</b>	653	-10%	555	-15%
<i>Merlangius merlangus and Pollachius pollachius</i>	Whiting and Pollack	Merlan et Lieu jaune	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	<b>Not relevant</b>	190	Not relevant	pm	na
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Merlu	IIIa; IIIbcd (EC waters) (HKE/3A/BCD)	<b>1.661</b>	1.552	7%	1.397	-10%
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Merlu	EC waters of IIa and IV (HKE/2AC4-C)	<b>1.935</b>	1.808	7%	1.627	-10%
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Merlu	Vb (EC waters), VI, VII; XII, XIV (internat. waters) (HKE/5671214)	<b>30.900</b>	28.879	7%	25.991	-10%
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Merlu	VIII a, b, d, e (HKE/8ABDE)	<b>20.609</b>	19.261	7%	17.335	-10%
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Merlu	VIIIc, IX, X, CEEAF 34.1.1 (EC waters)	<b>9.300</b>	8.104	15%	9.300	15%
<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	Norwegian waters of II and IV	<b>Not relevant</b>	4.000	na	pm	na

<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	EC and international waters of I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIIa,b,d,e, XII and XIV (WHB/1X14)	<b>48.138</b>	74.058	-35%	pm	na
<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	VIIIc, IX and X; EC waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (WHB/8C3411)	<b>9.851</b>	15.155	-35%	pm	na
<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	EC waters of II, IVa, V, VI north of 56°30N and VII west of 12°W (WHB/24A567)	<b>Not relevant</b>		Not relevant	pm	
<i>Microstomus kitt &amp; Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Lemon sole and Witch	Limande sole et plie grise	IIa and IV (EC waters)	<b>6.521</b>	6.793	-4%	5.774	-15%
<i>Molva dypterigia</i>	Blue ling	Lingue bleue	EC waters and internat. waters of VI, VII	<b>2032</b>	2309	-12%	1732	-25%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	I, II (EC and internat, waters)	<b>38</b>	45	-16%	38	-16%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	IIIa, IIIb-d (EC waters) (LIN/03)	<b>90</b>	100	-10%	85	-15%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	IV (EC waters) (LIN/04)	<b>2.428</b>	2.856	-15%	2.428	-15%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	V (EC and internat, waters) (LIN/05)	<b>34</b>	34	0%	34	0%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV (EC waters and internat, waters) (LIN/6X14)	<b>7.003</b>	10.776	-35%	14.164	31%
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Lingue	IV (Norwegian waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	850	Not relevant	pm	na
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	IIIa; IIIbcd (EC waters)	<b>5.170</b>	5.170	0%	5.170	0%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	IIa (EC waters), IV (EC waters) (NEP/2AC4-C)	<b>23.188</b>	24.837	-7%	23.188	-7%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	IV (Norwegian waters) (NEP/4AB-N)	<b>Not relevant</b>	1.210	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	Vb (EC and internat, waters), VI (NEP/5BC6)	<b>16.057</b>	18.891	-15%	16.057	-15%

<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VII	<b>22.432</b>	24.650	-9%	17.160	-30%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VIII a, b, d, e (NEP/8ABDE)	<b>3.899</b>	4.104	-5%	3.488	-15%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	VIIIc	<b>95</b>	112	-15%	95	-15%
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Langoustine	IX, X, CEEAF 34.1.1 (EC waters)	<b>337</b>	374	-10%	337	-10%
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	IIIa	<b>4.033</b>	6.205	-35%	pm	na
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	Ila (EC waters), IV (EC waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	4.980	Not relevant	pm	na
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	Norwegian waters south of 62°00' N	<b>Not relevant</b>	664	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
<i>Penaeus spp.</i>	'Penaeus' shrimps	Crevette royale	French Guyana	<b>4.108</b>	4.108	0%	4.108	0%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	Skagerrak (PLE/03AN)	<b>5.956</b>	9.163	-35%	pm	na
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	Kattegat (PLE/03AS)	<b>1.520</b>	2.338	-35%	pm	na
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	EC waters of Iia and IV; that part of IIIa not covered by the Skagerrak and Kattegat (PLE/2A3AX4)	<b>34.120</b>	47.875	-29%	pm	na
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	Vb (EC and internat. waters), VI; XII and XIV (internat. waters) (PLE/561214)	<b>707</b>	668	6%	668	0%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VIIa	<b>1.627</b>	1.430	14%	1.627	14%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VII b, c	<b>80</b>	94	-15%	80	-15%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VII d, e	<b>4.274</b>	4.646	-8%	3.949	-15%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VII f, g	<b>451</b>	422	7%	451	7%



<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VII h, j, k	<b>218</b>	256	-15%	218	-15%
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Plie	VIII, IX, X, CEECAF 34.1.1 (EC waters)	<b>403</b>	448	-10%	381	-15%
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Pollack	Lieu jaune	Vb (EC and internat. waters), VI, XII, XIV (internat. waters) (POL/561214)	<b>405</b>	13066	-97%	383	na
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VII (POL/07)	<b>13.770</b>	15.300	-10%	13.005	-15%
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VIII a, b, d, e	<b>1.512</b>	1.680	-10%	1.680	0%
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Lieu jaune	VIIIc (POL/08C)	<b>236</b>	262	-10%	223	-15%
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Lieu jaune	IX, X, CEECAF 34.1.1 (EC waters) (POL/9/3411)	<b>288</b>	288	0%	288	0%
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	IIIa; EC waters of IIa,b,c,d and IV (POK/2A34)	<b>39.291</b>	60.448	-35%	pm	na
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	VI; EC and internat. waters of Vb, XII and XIV (POK/561214)	<b>8.493</b>	13.066	-35%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	Norwegian waters south of 62° N	<b>Not relevant</b>	880	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	VII, VIII, IX, X, CEECAF 34.1.1 (EC waters) (POK/7/3411)	<b>3.411</b>	3.790	-10%	3.222	-15%
<i>Psetta maxima &amp; Scophthalmus rhombus</i>	Turbot and brill	Turbot et barbue	IIa (EC waters), IV (EC waters) (T/B/2AC4-C)	<b>1.397</b>	5.263	-73%	4.474	-15%

<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	Ila (EC waters), IV (EC waters)	<b>1.397</b>	1.643	-15%	1.397	-15%
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	IIIa (EC waters) (SRX/03-C)	<b>58</b>	68	na	58	na
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	VIab (EC waters), VIIa-c, e-k (EC waters) (SRX/67AKXD)	<b>13.387</b>	15.748	new area	13.387	new area
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	VIIId (EC waters) (SRX/07D)	<b>887</b>	1.044	new area	887	new area
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et Raies	VIII et IX (EC waters) (SRX/89-C)	<b>5.459</b>	6.423	new area	5.459	new area
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	Ila (EC waters), IV; Vb and VI (EC and internat. waters) (GHL/2A-C46)	<b>244</b>	720	-66%	612	-15%
<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel	Maquereau	IIIa; EC waters of Ila, IIIb, c, d and IV (MAC/2A34)	<b>15.243</b>	23.450	-35%	pm	na
<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel	Maquereau	Ila (non-EC waters), Vb (EC and internat. waters), VI, VII, VIII a, b, d, e, XII, XIV (MAC/2CX14)	<b>202.495</b>	311.531	-35%	pm	na
<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel	Maquereau	VIIIc, IX, X, CEEAF 34.1.1 (EC waters) (MAC/8C3411)	<b>28.663</b>	35.829	-20%	pm	na
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	IIIa, IIIb,c,d (EC waters)	<b>680</b>	800	-15%	680	-15%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	EC waters of II and IV (SOL/24)	<b>9.042</b>	14.000	-35%	14.100	na
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	Vb (EC and internat. waters), VI, XII, XIV (SOL/561214)	<b>61</b>	68	-10%	58	-15%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIa	<b>402</b>	502	-20%	377	-25%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIb, c	<b>45</b>	50	-10%	43	-14%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIId	<b>4.219</b>	5.274	-20%	3.650	-31%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIe	<b>618</b>	650	-5%	553	-15%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIIf, g	<b>993</b>	993	0%	920	-7%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIIh, j, k	<b>498</b>	553	-10%	470	-15%
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Sole commune	VIIIa, b (SOL/8AB)	<b>4.829</b>	4.390	10%	4.490	2%

<i>Solea spp.</i>	Sole	Sole	VIIIc, d, e, IX, X, CECAF 34.1.1 (EC waters) (SOX/8CDE34)	<b>1.094</b>	1.216	-10%	1.034	-15%
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Sprat	Sprat	IIIa	<b>31.265</b>	48.100	-35%	pm	na
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Sprat	Sprat	IIa (EC waters), IV (EC waters)	<b>98.005</b>	150.777	-35%	170.000	na
<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Sprat	Sprat	VIIId, e	<b>5.531</b>	6.144	-10%	5.223	-15%
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spurdog dogfish	Aiguillat chien de mer	IIIa (EC waters) (DGS/03A-C)	<b>0</b>	104	new area	0	na
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spurdog / dogfish	Aiguillat chien de mer	IIa & IV (EC waters) (DGS/2AC4-C)	<b>0</b>	266	-100%	0	-100%
<i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Spurdog dogfish	Aiguillat chien de mer	IIIa, EC & Int. Waters of I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII & XIV (DGS/15X14)	<b>0</b>	1.002	-100%	0	-100%
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	EC waters of IVb, IVc, VIId (JAX/47D)	<b>30.144</b>		#DIV/0!	pm	
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	EC waters of Iia, Iva, VI, VIIa-c, VIIe-k, VIIIa,b,d,e; Vb (EC and internat. Waters); internat. waters of XII and XIV (JAX/2AX14)	<b>98.968</b>	New TAC	Not relevant	pm	
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	VIIIc (JAX/08c)	<b>25.310</b>	34.770	-27%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	IX (JAX/09)	<b>31.142</b>	165.939	-81%	pm	na
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	X, CECAF Azores (JAX/X34PRT)	<b>3.072</b>	3.200	-4%	2.720	-15%
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	CECAF Madeira Islands JAX/341PRT	<b>1.229</b>	1.280	-4%	1.088	-15%
<i>Trachurus spp.</i>	Horse mackerel	Chinchard	CECAF Canary Islands (JAX/341 SPN)	<b>1.229</b>	1.280	-4%	1.088	-15%

<i>Trisopterus esmarki</i>	Norway pout	Tacaud norvégien	Ila (EC waters), IIIa, IV (EC waters) (NOP/2A3A4)	<b>75.888</b>	26.250	189%	Not relevant	Not relevant
<i>Trisopterus esmarki</i>	Norway pout	Tacaud norvégien	IV (Norwegian waters) (NOP/4AB-N)	<b>Not relevant</b>	1.000	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
		Industrial fish	IV (Norwegian waters) (I/F/4AB-N)	<b>Not relevant</b>	800	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
		Combined quota	EC waters of Vb; VI and VII (R/G/5B67-C)	<b>Not relevant</b>			Not relevant	
		Other species	IV (Norwegian waters) (OTH/4AB-N)	<b>Not relevant</b>	5.000	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
		Other species	EC waters of Iia, IV and Via north of 56°30N (OTH/2A46AN)	<b>Not relevant</b>			Not relevant	
<b>ANNEX IB NORTH EAST ATLANTIC AND GREENLAND AND ICES zones I, II, V, XII, XIV and Greenland Waters of NAFO 0 and 1</b>								
<i>Chionoecetes spp.</i>	Crabe	Snow crab	Greenland waters of NAFO 0 and 1	<b>500</b>	500	0%	Not relevant	Not relevant
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Hareng	EC and International waters of I and II (HER/1/2)	<b>96.543</b>	106.959	-10%	pm	na
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Norwegian waters of I and II (COD/1N2AB)	<b>Not relevant</b>	19.324	Not relevant	pm	na
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Greenland waters of NAFO 0 and 1, Greenland waters of V and XIV (COD/NO1514)	<b>2.500</b>	3.500	-29%	Not relevant	Not relevant
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	Internat. waters of I and IIb (COD/1/2B)	<b>22.356</b>	19.793	13%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Gadus morhua and Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Cod and haddock	Cabillaud et églefin	Vb (Faroese waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	500	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	Atlantic halibut	Flétan	V, XIV (Greenland waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	1.075	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	Atlantic halibut	Flétan	NAFO 0 and 1 (Greenland waters)	<b>49</b>	75	-35%	Not relevant	na

<i>Mallotus villosus</i>	Capelin	Capelan	I Ib	<b>0</b>	0	0%	pm	0%
<i>Mallotus villosus</i>	Capelin	Capelan	V, XIV (Greenland waters)	<b>0</b>	0	0%	Not relevant	0%
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Eglefin	I, II (Norwegian waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	2.500	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Blue whiting	Merlan bleu	Faroese waters	<b>Not relevant</b>	3.000	Not relevant	pm	na
<i>Molva molva and Molva dypterygia</i>	Ling and Blue ling	Lingue et lingue bleue	Vb (Faroese waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	3.065	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	Greenland waters of V and XIV (PRA/514GRN)	<b>Not relevant</b>	7.000	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	Greenland waters of NAFO 0 and 1 (PRA/N01GRN)	<b>4.000</b>	4.000	0%	Not relevant	Not relevant
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	I, II (Norwegian waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	3.000	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	International waters of I and II	<b>Not relevant</b>	0	na	Not relevant	na
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Lieu noir	Vb (Faroese waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	2.425	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	Norwegian waters of I and II	<b>Not relevant</b>	50	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	International waters of I and II (GHL/12/INT)	<b>Not relevant</b>	0	0%	Not relevant	0%
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	Greenland waters of V and XIV	<b>Not relevant</b>	7.500	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	Greenland waters of NAFO 0 and 1	<b>Not relevant</b>	2.500	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel	Maquereau	I Ia (Norwegian waters)	<b>pm</b>	12.300	Not relevant	pm	na
<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel	Maquereau	Vb (Faroese waters)	<b>pm</b>	3.001	Not relevant	pm	na
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	V (EC and internat. waters); XII and XIV (internat. waters) (RED/51214)	<b>6992</b>	0	0%	to be established	0%

<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	I and II (Norwegian waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	1.500	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	I and II (internat. waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>			pm	
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	V, XIV (Greenland waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	0	na	Not relevant	na
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	Va (Icelandic waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	0	na	Not relevant	na
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	Vb (Faroese waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	1.600	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
	By-catches		NAFO 0, 1 (Greenland waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	2.300	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
	Other species		I, II (Norwegian waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	350	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
	Other species		Vb (Faroese waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>	760	Not relevant	Not relevant	na
	Flatfish		Vb (Faroese waters)	<b>Not relevant</b>			Not relevant	
<b>ANNEX IC NORTH WEST ATLANTIC Area of NAFO</b>								
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	NAFO 2J3KL	<b>0</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	NAFO 3NO	<b>0</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Cabillaud	NAFO 3M	<b>5500</b>	0	0%	5500	0%
<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Witch flounder	Plie grise	NAFO 2J3KL	<b>0</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Witch flounder	Plie grise	NAFO 3NO	<b>0</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	American Plaice	Faux Flétan	NAFO 3M	<b>0</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	American Plaice	Faux Flétan	NAFO 3LNO	<b>0</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Illex illecebrosus</i>	Short fin squid	Calmar à nageoires courtes	NAFO sub-zones 3 and 4	<b>34.000</b>	34.000	0%	34.000	0%
<i>Limanda ferruginea</i>	Yellowtail flounder	Limande à queue jaune	NAFO 3LNO	<b>17000</b>	17000	0%	17000	0%

<i>Mallotus villosus</i>	Capelin	Capelan	NAFO 3NO	<b>0</b>	0	0%	0	0%
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Northern prawn	Crevette nordique	NAFO 3L	<b>334</b>	334	0%	30000	8882%
<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Nothern prawn	Crevette nordique	NAFO 3M	<b>pm</b>			pm	
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan du Groenland	NAFO 3LMNO	<b>6.951</b>	6.951	0%	11.856	71%
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skate	Raie cendrée	NAFO 3LNO	<b>8.500</b>	8.500	0%	12.000	41%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO 3LN	<b>638</b>	0	0%	3500	0%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO 3M	<b>7.813</b>	7.813	0%	10.000	28%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO 3O	<b>7.000</b>	7.000	0%	20.000	186%
<i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Redfish	Sébaste	NAFO Subarea 2, divisions 1F and 3K	<b>2.503</b>	2.503	0%	2.503	0%
<i>Urophycis tenuis</i>	White hake	Merluche blanche	NAFO 3NO	<b>5.000</b>	5.000	0%	6.000	20%
<b>ANNEX ID HIGHLY MIGRATORY FISH - All AREAS</b>								
<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	Bluefin tuna footnote	Thon rouge	Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45°W and Mediterranean (BFT/AE045W)	<b>11.907</b>	11.907	0%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Swordfish	Espadon	Atlantic Ocean (north of latitude 5° N)	<b>8.232</b>	8.232	0%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Swordfish	Espadon	Atlantic Ocean (south of latitude 5° N)	<b>5.717</b>	5.717	0%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Germo alalunga</i>	Northern Albacore	Thon blanc	Atlantic Ocean (north of latitude 5° N)	<b>38.193</b>	38.193	0%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Germo alalunga</i>	Southern Albacore	Thon blanc	Atlantic Ocean (south of latitude 5° N)	<b>1.915</b>	1.915	0%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Thunnus obesus</i>	Bigeye tuna	Thon obèse	Atlantic Ocean	<b>31.200</b>	31.200	0%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Makaira nigricans</i>	Blue marlin	Makaire bleu	Atlantic Ocean	<b>103</b>	103	0%	pm	Not relevant

<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Portbeagle	Requin-taupe	EC and internat. waters of I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV				pm	
<i>Tetrapturus alba</i>	White marlin	Makaire blanc	Atlantic Ocean	47	47	0%	pm	Not relevant
<b>ANNEX IE ANTARCTIC Area of CCAMLR</b>								
<i>Champocephalus gunnari</i>	Antarctic icefish	Poisson des glaces antarctique	FAO 48.3 Anatarctic ANI/F483	3834	3834	0%	pm	na
<i>Champocephalus gunnari</i>	Antarctic icefish	Poisson des glaces antarctique	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic ANI/F5852	102	102	0%	pm	na
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Antarctic toothfish	Léginés	FAO 48.3 Antarctic TOP/F483	3920	3920	0%	pm	na
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Antarctic toothfish	Léginés	FAO 48.4 Antarctic TOP/F484	75	75	0%	pm	na
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Antarctic toothfish	Léginés	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic TOP/F5852	2500	2500	0%	pm	na
<i>Euphausia superba</i>	Krill	Krill	FAO 48 KRI/F48	3 470 000	3 470 000	100%	pm	na
<i>Euphausia superba</i>	Krill	Krill	FAO 58.4.1 Antarctic KRI/F5841	440 000	440 000	100%	pm	na
<i>Euphausia superba</i>	Krill	Krill	FAO 58.4.2 Antarctic KRI/F5842	2 645 000	2 645 000	100%	pm	na
<i>Lepidonotothen squamifrons</i>	Grey rockcod	Colin austral	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic NOS/F5852	80	80	0%	pm	na
<i>Paralomis spp.</i>	Crab	Crabe	FAO 48.3 Anatarctic PAI/F483	1600	1600	0%	pm	na



<i>Macrourus spp.</i>	Grenadier	Grenadier	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic GRV/F5852	<b>360</b>	360	0%	pm	na
	Other species	Autres espèces	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic OTH/F5852	<b>50</b>	50	0%	pm	na
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Requins et raies	FAO 58.5.2 Antarctic SRX/F5852	<b>120</b>	120	0%	pm	na
<i>Martiala hyadesi</i>	Squid	Calmar	FAO 48.3 Antarctic SQS/F483	<b>2500</b>	2500	0%	pm	na
<b>ANNEX IF SOUTH-EAST ATLANTIC OCEAN Area of SEAFO</b>								
<i>Beryx spp.</i>	Alfonsinos	Béryx	SEAFO	<b>200</b>	200	new TAC	pm	new TAC
<i>Chaceon spp.</i>	Deep-sea Red crab	Gérion ouest-africain	SEAFO Sub Division B1	<b>200</b>	200	0%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Chaceon spp.</i>	Deep-sea Red crab	Gérion ouest-africain	SEAFO excluding Sub division B1	<b>200</b>	200	0%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Dissostichus eleginoides</i>	Patagonian Toothfish	Légine australe	SEAFO	<b>260</b>	260	0%	pm	Not relevant
<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	Orange roughy	Hoplosthète orange	SEAFO	<b>260</b>	260	new TAC	pm	new TAC
<b>ANNEX IG SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA - All Areas</b>								
<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>	Bluefin tuna footnote	Thon rouge	By-catches in all areas (SBF/F41-81)	<b>10</b>	10	0%	pm	Not relevant
<b>ANNEX IH WCPFC Area</b>								
<i>Xiphias gladius</i>	Swordfish	Espadon	WCPFC area south of 20° S				pm	
<b>ANNEX IJ SPFO Area</b>								
<i>Trachurus murphyi</i>	Jack mackerel	Chinchard du Chili	SPFO (CJM)	<b>179000</b>				

**ANIMAL WELFARE LABELLING SCHEME & ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN NETWORK OF REFERENCE CENTRES FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF ANIMALS**

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission of its report on options for animal welfare labelling and the establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals ([15307/09](#)).

While one Member State requested that further work is carried out on the basis of this report, other Member States recalled the need to avoid extra burden and/or to ensure that distortion of competition with third countries is avoided.

*Background information:*

The debate on how to improve the communication to consumers regarding animal welfare in livestock production has been running in the EU for several years.

The conference: "*Animal Welfare – Improving by Labelling?*" organised in Brussels on 28 March 2007 by the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Commission and the German Presidency enabled a first broad discussion to take place with representatives of all stakeholder groups.

The report identifies various issues concerning animal welfare labelling and communication, and the possible establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals, based on the results of an external study provided to the Commission in January 2009.

Following that conference the Council adopted in May 2007 conclusions on animal welfare labelling ([9151/07](#)), inviting the Commission to assess further the issue of animal welfare labelling and to submit a report to the Council in order to allow an in-depth debate on the issue.

The impact assessment accompanying the report does not conclude on any definitive option neither for animal welfare labelling nor for the possible establishment of a European Network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals. In relation to welfare labelling, it does however identify the legislative and non-legislative options that are considered the most feasible at this stage (harmonised requirements for voluntary animal welfare claims and/or a Community animal welfare label).

Currently there is no EU legislation on specific animal welfare labelling of products of animal origin. As a consequence there are no harmonized requirements for labelling of animal welfare standards in the EU. However, a number of private schemes have emerged in recent years . Among these can be mentioned:

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- Schemes that focus only on animal welfare (e.g. Freedom Food (UK), Neuland (DE), Animal Index System (AT))
- Schemes that focus on various aspects including animal welfare (e.g. organic farming, Label Rouge (FR))
- Schemes that focus on aspects other than animal welfare but have positive side effects on animal welfare (e.g. PDO/PGI schemes)

***Freedom Food (UK)***

Freedom Food is a farm assurance and food labelling scheme set up by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) in 1994 to improve farm animal welfare and to address growing consumer demand for food produced to higher animal welfare standards.

*For further information:*

<http://www.rspca.org.uk/freedomfood>

***Label Rouge (France)***

Label Rouge is a French national quality assurance scheme for food products managed by the Ministry of Agriculture. Participation is open to groups of producers and processors of food products after demonstration of their ability to comply with the *notices techniques*, the minimum technical requirements of the label. Animal welfare specifications relate to the type of rearing, the genetics, maximum stock densities, the origin and type of feed, the slaughter age and the transport. 'Label Rouge' logo was created in 1965. French law governs the use of the label.

The final product is not only marked with a logo, but also provides more detailed information on the production, the so-called "*caractéristiques certifiées*". The most important product segment of Label Rouge is poultry.

*For further information:*

<http://www.poultrylabelrouge.com/>

***Egg marketing legislation (EU)***

The egg marketing legislation is designed to inform consumers of the production system used to produce eggs. It provides minimum standards, but Member States are free to go beyond this should they wish to. One example is the UK's Lion code. Legislation on the general labelling of eggs was first established in 1990 under a Council Regulation.

Although the labelling scheme is derived from EU legislation, the views of stakeholders including producer organisations and animal welfare organisations were considered in the drafting of the legislation. Egg labelling is not designed to be an animal welfare label, although consumers are able to purchase eggs from the system which they feel offers the best animal welfare, if this is an important factor in their purchase decision.

There are four permitted production system labels: eggs from caged hens, barn eggs, freerange eggs and organic eggs. The mandatory labelling scheme for eggs was introduced in 2004 following the optional ability to label eggs produced from caged hens as “eggs from caged hens” which had been in operation since 1995.

A necessary precondition of the optional labelling was that this was meaningful to consumers and that they were prepared to pay a price premium for eggs produced in systems which they associated with higher animal welfare criteria.

Since the implementation of the legislation, the percentage of non-caged egg production has increased significantly in nearly all Member States.

**OBLIGATIONS OF OPERATORS WHO PLACE TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET**

The Council reached a partial political agreement on the text of a draft Regulation<sup>1</sup> laying down the obligations of operators who place **timber and timber products** on the market ([14482/08](#)).

The political agreement on the entire text could be reached during one of the Council forthcoming meeting<sup>2</sup>.

The European Parliament adopted its opinion on 22 April 2009.

The Council adopted the FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) Regulation in December 2005 and gave the Commission mandate to open negotiations with third countries willing to enter voluntary partnership agreements<sup>3</sup> (VPA).

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<sup>1</sup> Except certain parts of the text relating to Articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union which still need to be assessed in light of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

<sup>2</sup> Possibly on 22 December, without discussion.

<sup>3</sup> The first VPA was signed on 20 November this year with the Republic of Ghana (see [15913/09](#)).

**PROTECTION OF ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES**

The Council took note of the oral presentation given by the Presidency regarding the state of play regarding the proposal for a Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes ([15546/08](#)).

Thanking in particular the Czech Presidency for its important role in the progress achieved, the Presidency informed the Council that a tentative agreement on the content of the proposal had been reached with the European Parliament. This agreement did not however include the provisions related to comitology which were to be finalised under the Spanish Presidency.

The Parliament delivered its opinion at first reading on 5 May 2009.

**STATE AIDS FOR HUNGARY, ITALY, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA**

The Council adopted two decisions stating that the exceptional aid granted between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2013 by the Latvian and Lithuanian authorities, for the purchase of agricultural land, were to be considered compatible with the internal market.

The Council reached political agreement on a similar decision concerning Hungary and agreed to adopt it at one of its forthcoming session<sup>1</sup>.

Under the Community Guidelines for State aid in the agriculture sector applied during the period 2000-2006, it was possible to grant state aid for purchase of land costing up to 40%-50% of the eligible expenses of the investment. Using this possibility, the Lithuanian and the Hungarian national legislations provided for state aid consisting in different forms of subsidies. Latvia had a State aid scheme in force between 2002 and 2007.

Such possibility was ruled out under the 2007-2013 Guidelines, with a foreseen phasing out by 31 December 2009.

Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania have each addressed an application to the Council requesting that the Council declares their state aid for the purchase of agricultural land between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2013, compatible with the common market.

In application of Article 108(2), third subparagraph of the Treaty, the Council must, acting unanimously<sup>2</sup>, make known its attitude within three months of the application being made by a Member State for authorisation to grant such aid.

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<sup>1</sup> The Italian request will be dealt with in January.

<sup>2</sup> Under the unanimity rule, abstentions by Members present in person or represented shall not prevent the adoption by the Council of acts which require unanimity (Article 238(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU).



Total exceptional aid for the period 2010-2013, amounts to:

- HUF<sup>1</sup> 4 000 million for Hungary ([16848/09](#));
- LVL<sup>2</sup> 8 million for Latvia ([16846/09](#)); and
- LTL<sup>3</sup> 55 million for Lithuania ([16843/09](#)).

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<sup>1</sup> Hungarian forints (about EUR 14,83 million).  
<sup>2</sup> Latvian lats (about EUR 11,22 million).  
<sup>3</sup> Lithuanian litas (about EUR 15,93 million).

**DAIRY MARKET QUARTERLY REPORT**

The Council took note of a quarterly report of the situation on the dairy market.

Latest figures show further improvement in dairy prices in recent weeks and stabilisation of the "farm gate" prices in member states, even if at relatively low level ([16813/09](#)).

## **SIMPLIFICATION OF THE CAP**

The Council took note of the views expressed by ministers on the Simplification of the Common agricultural policy (CAP) based on a Commission staff working document (16208/09).

Under the Swedish Presidency, which had made a priority of it, the topic has been addressed in different ways and from different angles, in particular by the Chief Veterinary Officers and by the Conference of the Paying Agencies, as well as during a workshop organised in Brussels in September.

The Council had adopted conclusions on simplification of the CAP in May, inviting the Commission to examine and assess by the end of the year a list of 39 concrete simplification suggestions submitted by 16 Member States.

Today, several member states have expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the Commission's assessment of the 39 suggestions for simplification, and have in particular welcomed the Commission's commitment to prepare in the coming months a number of draft acts and proposals to follow up on a number of suggestions made, including alternative solutions.

Others, however, pointed out that the Commission's assessment did not lead to a positive follow-up on a number of suggestions made and would like to see those suggestions being reviewed through a political process.

Moreover, several delegations have indicated areas where they see scope for further simplification, and have asked the Commission in particular to take a more proportionate and risk-based approach to carrying out controls, conducting compliance audits and imposing financial corrections.

As regards the functioning of the Commission's Simplification Experts Group, a number of suggestions for improvement have been made. The Commissioner has noted those carefully.

For the near future, the Council would like to invite the Commission services to come forward with the draft acts and proposals indicated in the working document, and to continue working on the various ongoing simplification projects, in particular through the Simplification Experts Group.

At the Council meeting on 24 April, several delegations jointly submitted a list of 39 concrete suggestions for simplifying the CAP ([9103/09](#)).

## **FUTURE OF THE CAP: RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

The Council held a policy debate on the future of the CAP, with a particular focus on rural development policy ([15372/09](#)). The Council debate on the future of rural development policy is the continuation of previous discussions under the Czech<sup>1</sup> and French<sup>2</sup> Presidencies, which focused on the first pillar of the CAP.

Member states were invited to reflect on the future challenges they consider to be most relevant for European agriculture and rural areas and on what changes were needed in the rural development programme in order to tackle these challenges, while respecting the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

Several Ministers emphasised that although there is already quite a good existing policy, there is still room for improvement because a central banner is needed, which in their view, could be Green Growth. Some urged structural changes; the replacement of the axes-structure with a new clearer one with more focused targets. Some others pointed out the need to redesign some of the individual measures, and establish balance between targeting and simplification.

In its introductory words, the Commission representative highlighted that strengthening competitiveness, protecting the environment and creating new jobs are the three most important challenges we face when we talk about the future of rural development.

After the discussion, she estimated too early to mention any figures and invited Member States to reflect on several issues that most delegates touched upon, such as the criteria to be defined for the distribution of money intending to replace historical grounds.

The Swedish Presidency concluded that there is a need to keep rural development as part of the common policy, in order to face several important challenges such as sustainable development, climatic change, water management, and biodiversity.

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<sup>1</sup> See the Czech Presidency conclusions of 23 June 2009, on the future of the CAP after 2013 and especially direct payments ([10713/09](#))

<sup>2</sup> See the conclusions of the French Presidency of 28 November 2008, on the future of the CAP after 2013 ([16287/2/08 REV2](#)).

The current regulation on rural development policy for the period 2007 to 2013 states that member states and regions rural development funding shall aim at improving:

- the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector;
- the environment and the countryside;
- the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy.

### **A BETTER FUNCTIONING FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN IN EUROPE**

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission of the Communication "A better functioning food supply chain in Europe", and of the Commission's commitment to report by the end of 2010 on the advancement of the concrete proposals outlined therein.

The Council looks forward to discussing further work on this issue and has in particular taken note of the Commission's commitment.

In the second half of 2007, agricultural commodity price increases accelerated and by early 2008 reached exceptional levels. The European Council of June 2008 asked the Commission to report back on these issues by December 2008.

In response, the Commission proposed to better monitor developments in agricultural commodity and food prices, to analyse the impact of speculation on agricultural commodity prices and to investigate the functioning of the food supply chain.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the provision of food information to consumers

- Information from the Presidency

The Council took note of a Presidency progress report ([16594/09](#)) outlining the state of play in the negotiations on a Commission proposal for a regulation on the provision of food information to consumers. The examination of the draft regulation should continue during the incoming Spanish Presidency. The first reading opinion of the European Parliament is expected in June 2010.

- (b) Negotiations with Russia in the veterinary and phytosanitary field

- Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information given by the Commission representative regarding the veterinary and phytosanitary negotiations with the Russian Federation.

There is no formal veterinary or phytosanitary agreement between the EU and the Russian Federation: the negotiations are based on arrangements such as export certificates and Memoranda of Understanding. The negotiation is led by the Commission, based on several mandates granted by the Council<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> See [10252/07 ADD1](#)

- (c) International Conference on GMOs in European Agriculture and Food Production (The Hague, 25-16 November 2009)

– Information from the delegation of Netherlands

The Council took note of the information given by the delegation of the Netherlands regarding the conclusions of the *Internal Conference on GMOs in European Agriculture and Food Production policy in Europe* ([17129/09](#))

Some delegations warmly thanked Gerda Verburg, Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and her colleague, Jacqueline Cramer Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment who jointly organised the event.

The Austrian and Hungarian delegations welcomed the idea to have a Commission's proposal allowing individual Member States to adopt national measures leading to regulate and/or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs on their own territory<sup>1</sup>.

Commissioner Vassiliou reminded ministers of President Barroso's political guidelines regarding GMOs: "In an area like GMOs, for example, it should be possible to combine a Community authorisation system, based on science, with freedom for Member States to decide whether or not they wish to cultivate GM crops on their territory."

At the Agriculture Council in November 2009 (see press release [16290/09](#)), in the context of an authorisation procedure for a GM product, the delegation of Netherlands favoured an urgent change of the EU legislation in order to overcome the problem of the asynchronous approvals of GMOs. In addition, the Dutch Minister seized this opportunity and invited delegations to participate in the International Conference on GMOs which was to take place in the Hague, upon her Ministry's initiative.

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<sup>1</sup> See Council conclusions of December 2008 (press release [16585/09](#)) and the exchange of views of June 2009 on the same subject (press release [11259/09](#)).

- (e) Abolition of production levy for sugar producers by repealing Article 51 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007

- Request from the Polish delegation

The Council took note of the request made by the Polish delegation, supported by the Belgian, Czech, Danish, German, Lithuanian, Austrian, Romanian and Slovak delegations, to abolish the production charge for sugar producers ([16995/09](#)) and of the comments made by the Portuguese and United Kingdom delegations.

The Commission representative recalled that the production charge had been introduced principally to ensure that the sugar reform remained neutral for the EU budget over the period 2007-2013. The introduction by the reform of decoupled direct payments for beet growers partially compensated for the price reduction.

Mariann Fischer Boel also emphasised that as a source of revenue for the EU budget, the production charge could only be discussed in the appropriate forum.

- (f) Transitional Community aid for the sugar beet producers in the Member States applying the single area payment scheme (SAPS)

- Request from the Slovak delegation

The Council took note of the request made by the Slovak delegation, supported by the Hungarian, Polish and Slovenian delegations, to exclude the transitional Community aid scheme for sugar beet producers from the Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS) envelope in those Member States applying the SAPS ([17370/09](#)).

The Commission representative stated that there was a possibility of granting state aid to sugar beet growers under the single CMO regulation.

- (g) WTO - Agreement on Trade in Bananas

- Information from the Commission

The Commission representative informed delegations about the successful outcome of the negotiations on trade in bananas between the European Union, the Latin American MFN banana suppliers, the ACP Countries, as well as the United States, which allowed the "Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas" with the Latin American suppliers and the settlement agreement with the United States to be initialled in Geneva on 15 December 2009.

Marian Fischer Boel also indicated the Commission's intention to submit to Council the appropriate proposals for decision in due course.



**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

**FISHERIES**

**Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna - *Council conclusions***

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in document [16936/09](#).

**AGRICULTURE**

**European Union food aid for deprived persons - *Council conclusions***

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in document [17150/1/09 REV 1](#).

**Maximum levels for contaminants in food - committee procedure**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission's regulation concerning maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs. The new regulation is aimed at amending regulation 1881/2006 as regards ochratoxin A in the light of a recent scientific opinion of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, the Council can oppose an act which exceeds the implementing powers of the Commission, is not compatible with the aim or content of the basic instrument or does not respect subsidiarity or proportionality if the regulatory committee previously supported the envisaged measures.

**GENERAL AFFAIRS**

**Implementation of Lisbon Treaty: Delegated acts**

The Council adopted a declaration on the implementation of Article 290 of the Lisbon Treaty concerning delegated acts. The Council underlines, in particular, the importance of the Commission's commitment to, in the preparatory phase, systematically consult experts from the national authorities of all the member states, which will be responsible for implementing the delegated acts once they have been adopted.

Under Article 290 of the Lisbon Treaty the Council and the European Parliament may delegate to the Commission the power to adopt non-legislative acts of general application to supplement or amend certain non-essential elements of the legislative act.

**EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

**EU special representative for the crisis in Georgia - new financial reference amount**

The Council adopted a decision amending Joint Action on the appointment of a special representative for the crisis in Georgia in order to provide the financial reference amount covering the expenditure related to the mandate of the special representative until 28 February 2010.

**EU police mission for Palestine**

The Council adopted a decision amending Joint Action on the EU police mission for Palestine as regards the financial reference amounts intended to cover the expenditure for this mission in 2010 (16068/09).

**COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY**

**Restrictive measures (Belarus - Iran - Uzbekistan)**

- Belarus

The Council adopted a decision extending, until 31 October 2010, the restrictive measures against certain officials of Belarus laid down in common position 2006/276/CFSP, due to the absence of tangible progress in areas identified by the Council (16366/09).

However, the suspension of the travel restrictions imposed on certain leading figures in Belarus, with the exception of those involved in the disappearances which occurred in 1999 and 2000 and of the president of the central electoral commission, are also extended until October 2010. At the end of that period, the Council will review the restrictive measures in light of the situation in the country. The Council may decide to reapply or lift travel restrictions at any time, in light of actions by the Belarusian authorities in the sphere of democracy and human rights.

- Iran

The Council adopted a regulation (16605/09) amending regulation 423/2007 concerning restrictive measures against Iran in order to:

- correct certain references in the list of goods and technology that are banned for export;
- update the list of controlled items in order to maintain its effectiveness; and
- empower the Commission to maintain the lists of prohibited and controlled goods and technology and to amend them on the basis of information provided by either the United Nations security council or the sanctions committee, or by member states.

In line with common position 2007/140/CFSP, regulation 423/2007 prohibits the supply, sale or transfer to Iran of goods and technology, in addition to those determined by the United Nations, that could contribute to Iran's enrichment-related, reprocessing or heavy water-related activities, to the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems or to the pursuit of activities related to other topics about which the International Atomic Energy Agency has expressed concerns.

- Uzbekistan

The Council adopted a regulation repealing the restrictive measures which the EU imposed against Uzbekistan on 14 November 2005 ([16038/09](#)).

These measures include the prohibition of sale, supply, transfer or export to Uzbekistan of equipment which might be used for internal repression and the provision of certain financing, financial assistance or technical assistance to any natural or legal person, entity or body in, or for use in, Uzbekistan.

### **ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

#### **International accounting standards - committee procedure with scrutiny**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission's regulation concerning certain international accounting standards. The new regulation is aimed at incorporating an amendment to the International Accounting Standard 32 on financial instruments decided by the International Accounting Standard Board in October 2009. It clarifies how to account for certain rights when the issued instruments are denominated in a currency other than the functional currency of the issuer.

Under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, the Council can oppose an act which exceeds the implementing powers of the Commission, is not compatible with the aim or content of the basic instrument or does not respect subsidiarity or proportionality if the regulatory committee previously supported the measures envisaged.

#### **Derogations from VAT directive for Estonia**

The Council adopted decisions authorising Estonia to apply a measure derogating from the directive on the common system of value added tax (VAT).

By way of derogation from article 167 of the VAT directive, Estonia is allowed to postpone the right of deduction of VAT in respect of taxable persons until it has been paid to the supplier of goods or of services. The taxable persons concerned must have opted for a scheme under which the VAT on their supplies of goods and of services becomes chargeable on receipt of the payment. Under the scheme, their annual turnover must not exceed a threshold which shall be set by Estonia at up to the equivalent in national currency of EUR 200 000 ([16131/09](#)).

**HEALTH**

**Radioisotopes - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in document [17025/09](#).

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Future international climate agreement with Iceland - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in document [17343/09](#).

**LIFE-Nature projects - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in document [16634/1/09 REV 1](#).

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