European Parliament
2014-2019

TEXTS ADOPTED

P8_TA(2019)0234

Fishing in the GFCM (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) Agreement area


(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0143),

– having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 43(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0123/2018),

– having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

– having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 23 May 2018¹,

– having regard to the provisional agreement approved by the committee responsible under Rule 69f(4) of its Rules of Procedure and the undertaking given by the Council representative by letter of 6 February 2019 to approve Parliament’s position, in accordance with Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

– having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Fisheries (A8-0381/2018),

1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;

¹ OJ C 283, 10.8.2018, p. 95.
2. Takes note of the Commission statements annexed to this resolution;

3. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;

4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

(As an agreement was reached between Parliament and Council, Parliament's position corresponds to the final legislative act, Regulation (EU) 2019/982.)
Commission statement on recreational fisheries

The Commission recalls that one of the objectives set up in the MedFish4Ever Ministerial Declaration adopted in March 2017 is to establish, as soon as possible and at the latest by 2020, a set of baseline rules to ensure an effective management of recreational fisheries across the Mediterranean.

In line with this objective, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) mid-term Strategy 2017-2020 includes amongst the actions to be implemented in the GFCM area, the assessment of the impacts of recreational fisheries and the consideration of best management measures to regulate these activities. In this context, a working group for recreational fisheries has been established within the GFCM with a view to developing a harmonized regional methodology towards assessing recreational fisheries.

The Commission will continue its efforts within the GFCM in order to attain the objective set up in the MedFish4Ever Declaration.

Commission statement on red coral

The Commission recalls that the conservation measures adopted within the framework of the regional adaptive management plan for the exploitation of red coral in the Mediterranean Sea [Recommendation GFCM/41/2017/5] are temporary. These measures, which include the possibility to introduce catch limitations, will be assessed by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the GFCM in 2019 with a view to their revision by the GFCM at its 43rd annual session (November 2019).