



Proposal for a Regulation on the conservation of fishery resources and protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures 2016/0074(COD)

Joint NGO voting recommendations

September 2017

Technical measures are the rules for where, when and how fishing may take place. These measures are fundamental to regulating the impact of fishing on stocks and marine ecosystems. Technical conservation measures will play a key role in achieving some of the main objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, in particular:

- Restoring and maintaining fish stock biomass levels above levels capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield (MSY);
- Implementing the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management;
- Minimising the impacts of fisheries on the wider environment;
- Avoiding unwanted catches and gradual elimination of discards and;
- Achieving coherence with Union environmental legislation.

Below please find a list of our key recommendations, which take into consideration how technical conservation measures can achieve these CFP objectives. We strongly urge members of the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries to vote in favour of amendments that strengthen the Commission's proposal and increase protections for marine ecosystems.

Key NGO recommendations:

- Ensure that technical conservation measures are designed to achieve the objectives of and are coherent with environmental legislation as stipulated in the CFP Regulation, in particular the Birds and Habitats Directives as well the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD): **support AMs: 7, 248, 252, 254, 324, 332, 346, 350, 354, 378, 380, 449, 469, 548.** and **reject AMs: 3, 82;**

- Include recreational fisheries in the scope of the technical conservation measures Regulation: **support AMs: 19**, and **reject AMs: 385**;
- Ensure that the technical conservation measures regulation has concrete and quantifiable targets, which can lead to a result based management: **support AMs: 250, 335, 354, 456, 457, 466, 504**, and **reject AMs: 6, 25, 75, 91, 337, 571**;
- Include monitoring, assessment and reporting requirements on the technical measures used to be able to review these to achieve the targets set: **support AMs: 250, 350, 358, 467, 492, 547**;
- Ensure that technical conservation measures are designed to avoid unwanted catches and gradually eliminate discards by having minimum conservation reference sizes (MCRS) in line with the best available scientific advice, consistent across sea basins and using the most precautionary size: **support AMs: 269, 489, 552**, and **reject AMs: 84, 87, 491**;
- Ensure that baseline technical conservation measures are in place to guarantee that EU conservation standards are maintained or improved through the regionalisation process. **support AMs: 510**, and **reject AMs: 90, 439, 443, 445, 503, 517, 555**;
- Ensure that baseline technical conservation measures to minimise and where possible eliminate incidental catches of seabirds, marine mammals and marine reptiles are included in all sea basins, such as maintaining the ban on driftnet in the Baltic Sea, including through the respective Annexes. **support AMs: AM 299, 605, 606, 607, 608, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 662, 666, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 675, 677, 678, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711** and **reject AMs: 198, 663, 664, 665, 667, 695, 705**;
- Ensure that closed and restricted areas to protect juveniles and spawning aggregations are established on the basis of best available scientific advice: **support AMs: 323, 525, 31 ENVI, 43 ENVI** and **reject AMs: 63, 82, 471**;
- Ensure that innovative fishing methods shall be prohibited until evaluation based on the best available scientific advice assesses their cumulative impact on all targeted areas and all impacted species in that regard: **support AMs: 228, 259, 262, 292, 293, 415, 534, 539, 541** and **reject AMs: 540**;
- Ensure that the Commission is empowered to act if Member States do not submit joint recommendations: **support AMs 498, 523, 550, 568, 569** and **reject AMs 16, 81, 100, 556, 557, 570**.