

Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120 of 23 January 2018 fixing for 2018 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/127

## TITLE II

### FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS

#### CHAPTER III

##### *Fishing opportunities in waters of regional fisheries management organisations*

###### *Article 16*

###### **Quota transfers and exchanges**

1 Where, under the rules of a regional fisheries management organisation ('RFMO'), quota transfers or exchanges between the Contracting Parties to the RFMO are permitted, a Member State ('the Member State concerned') may discuss with a Contracting Party to the RFMO and, as appropriate, establish a possible outline of an intended quota transfer or exchange.

2 Upon notification to the Commission by the Member State concerned, the Commission may endorse the outline of the intended quota transfer or exchange that the Member State has discussed with the relevant Contracting Party to the RFMO. Thereupon, the Commission shall express, without undue delay, the consent to be bound by such quota transfer or exchange with the relevant Contracting Party to the RFMO. The Commission shall notify the secretariat of the RFMO of the agreed quota transfer or exchange in accordance with the rules of that organisation.

3 The Commission shall inform the Member States of the agreed quota transfer or exchange.

4 The fishing opportunities received from or transferred to the relevant Contracting Party to the RFMO under the quota transfer or exchange shall be deemed to be quotas allocated to, or deducted from, the allocation of the Member State concerned, as of the moment that the quota transfer or exchange takes effect in accordance with the terms of the agreement reached with the relevant Contracting Party to the RFMO or in accordance with the rules of the relevant RFMO, as appropriate. Such allocation shall not change the existing distribution key for the purpose of allocating fishing opportunities among Member States in accordance with the principle of relative stability of fishing activities.

5 This Article shall apply until 31 January 2019 for quota transfers from a RFMO Contracting Party to the Union and their subsequent allocation to Member States.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III. (See end of Document for details)*

---

## Section 1

### **ICCAT Convention Area**

#### Article 17

#### **Fishing, farming and fattening capacity limitations**

1 The number of Union bait boats and trolling boats authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm in the Eastern Atlantic shall be limited as set out in point 1 of Annex IV.

2 The number of Union coastal artisanal fishing vessels authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm in the Mediterranean shall be limited as set out in point 2 of Annex IV.

3 The number of Union fishing vessels fishing for bluefin tuna in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna between 8 kg/75 cm and 30 kg/115 cm shall be limited as set out in point 3 of Annex IV.

4 The number and total capacity in gross tonnage of fishing vessels authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, or land bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall be limited as set out in point 4 of Annex IV.

5 The number of traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery shall be limited as set out in point 5 of Annex IV.

6 The bluefin tuna farming capacity, the fattening capacity and the maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna allocated to the farms in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall be limited as set out in point 6 of Annex IV.

7 The maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for northern albacore as a target species in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 520/2007 shall be limited as set out in point 7 of Annex IV to this Regulation.

8 The maximum number of Union fishing vessels of at least 20 metres length that fish for bigeye tuna in the ICCAT Convention Area shall be limited as set out in point 8 of Annex IV.

#### Article 18

#### **Recreational fisheries**

Where appropriate, Member States shall allocate a specific share for recreational fisheries from their allocated quotas as set out in Annex ID.

#### Article 19

#### **Sharks**

1 Retaining on board, transhipping or landing any part or whole carcass of bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) in any fishery shall be prohibited.

2 It shall be prohibited to undertake a directed fishery for species of thresher sharks of the *Alopias* genus.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III. (See end of Document for details)*

---

3 Retaining on board, transhipping or landing any part or whole carcass of hammerhead sharks of the *Sphyrnidae* family (except for the *Sphyrna tiburo*) in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area shall be prohibited.

4 Retaining on board, transhipping or landing any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) taken in any fishery shall be prohibited.

5 Retaining on board silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) taken in any fishery shall be prohibited.

## Section 2

### CCAMLR Convention Area

#### Article 20

#### Prohibitions and catch limitations

1 Direct fishing of the species set out in Part A of Annex V, shall be prohibited in the zones and during the periods set out therein.

2 For exploratory fisheries, the TACs and by-catch limits set out in Part B of Annex V, shall apply in the subareas set out therein.

#### Article 21

#### Exploratory fisheries

1 Member States may participate in longline exploratory fisheries for toothfish (*Dissostichus* spp.) in FAO subareas 88.1 and 88.2 as well as in divisions 58.4.1, 58.4.2 and 58.4.3a outside areas of national jurisdiction in 2018. If a Member State intends to participate in such fisheries, it shall notify the CCAMLR Secretariat in accordance with Articles 7 and 7a of Regulation (EC) No 601/2004 and in any case no later than 1 June 2018.

2 With regard to FAO subareas 88.1 and 88.2 as well as divisions 58.4.1, 58.4.2 and 58.4.3a, TACs and by-catch limits per subarea and division, and their distribution among Small Scale Research Units (SSRUs) within each of them, shall be as set out in Part B of Annex V. Fishing in any SSRU shall cease when the reported catch reaches the specified TAC, and the SSRU shall be closed to fishing for the remainder of the season.

3 Fishing shall take place over as large a geographical and bathymetric range as possible to obtain the information necessary to determine fishery potential and to avoid over-concentration of catch and fishing effort. However, fishing in FAO subareas 88.1 and 88.2 as well as in divisions 58.4.1, 58.4.2 and 58.4.3a shall be prohibited in depths less than 550 metres.

#### Article 22

#### Krill fishery during the 2018/2019 fishing season

1 If a Member State intends to fish for krill (*Euphausia superba*) in the CCAMLR Convention Area during the 2018/2019 fishing season, it shall notify the Commission, no later than 1 May 2018, of its intention to fish for krill, using the format laid down in Part C of Annex V

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III. (See end of Document for details)*

---

to this Regulation. On the basis of the information provided by Member States, the Commission shall submit the notifications to the CCAMLR Secretariat no later than 30 May 2018.

2 The notification referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall include the information provided for in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 601/2004 for each vessel to be authorised by the Member State to participate in the krill fishery.

3 A Member State intending to fish for krill in the CCAMLR Convention Area shall notify its intention to do so only in respect of authorised vessels either flying its flag at the time of the notification or flying the flag of another CCAMLR member that are expected, at the time the fishery takes place, to be flying the flag of that Member State.

4 Member States shall be entitled to authorise participation in a krill fishery by vessels other than those notified to CCAMLR Secretariat in accordance with paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Article, if an authorised vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*. In such circumstances the Member States concerned shall immediately inform the CCAMLR Secretariat and the Commission, providing:

- a full details of the intended replacement vessel(s), including information provided for in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 601/2004;
- b a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

5 Member States shall not authorise a vessel on any CCAMLR illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) Vessel List to participate in krill fisheries.

### *Section 3*

## ***IOTC Area of Competence***

### *Article 23*

#### **Limitation of fishing capacity of vessels fishing in the IOTC Area of Competence**

1 The maximum number of Union fishing vessels fishing for tropical tunas in the IOTC Area of Competence and the corresponding capacity in gross tonnage shall be as set out in point 1 of Annex VI.

2 The maximum number of Union fishing vessels fishing for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the IOTC Area of Competence and the corresponding capacity in gross tonnage shall be as set out in point 2 of Annex VI.

3 Member States may re-allocate vessels assigned to one of the two fisheries referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 to the other fishery, provided that they can demonstrate to the Commission that this change does not lead to an increase of fishing effort on the fish stocks involved.

4 Member States shall ensure that, where there is a proposed transfer of capacity to their fleet, vessels to be transferred are on the IOTC Record of Vessels or on the record of vessels of other tuna RFMOs. Furthermore, no vessels featuring on the list of vessels engaged in IUU fishing activities of any RFMO may be transferred.

5 Member States may only increase their fishing capacity beyond the ceilings referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 within the limits set out in the development plans submitted to the IOTC.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III. (See end of Document for details)*

---

#### *Article 24*

### **Drifting FADs and supply vessels**

- 1 A purse-seine vessel shall not deploy more than 350 active drifting FADs at any time.
- 2 The number of supply vessels shall be no more than one supply vessel in support of not less than two purse-seine vessels, all flying the flag of the same Member State. This provision shall not apply to Member States using only one supply vessel.
- 3 A single purse seine vessel shall not be supported by more than one single supply vessel of the same flag State at any time.
- 4 As from 1 January 2018, no new or additional supply vessel shall be registered in the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels.

#### *Article 25*

### **Sharks**

- 1 Retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of thresher sharks of all the species of the *Alopiidae* family in any fishery shall be prohibited.
- 2 Retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in any fishery shall be prohibited, except for vessels under 24 metres overall length engaged solely in fishing operations within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Member State whose flag they fly, and provided that their catch is destined solely for local consumption.
- 3 When accidentally caught, species referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not be harmed. Specimens shall be promptly released.

#### *Section 4*

### ***SPRFMO Convention Area***

#### *Article 26*

### **Pelagic fisheries**

- 1 Only Member States having actively exercised pelagic fisheries activities in the SPRFMO Convention Area in 2007, 2008 or 2009 may fish for pelagic stocks in that area in accordance with the TACs set out in Annex IJ.
- 2 Member States referred to in paragraph 1 shall limit the total level of gross tonnage of vessels flying their flag and fishing for pelagic stocks in 2017 to the total Union level of 78 600 gross tonnage in that area.
- 3 The fishing opportunities set out in Annex IJ may only be used under the condition that Member States send to the Commission the list of vessels actively fishing or engaged in transshipment in the SPRFMO Convention Area, records from vessel monitoring systems,

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III. (See end of Document for details)*

---

monthly catch reports and, where available, port calls, at the latest by the fifth day of the following month, with the aim of communicating that information to the SPRFMO Secretariat.

#### *Article 27*

##### **Bottom fisheries**

1 Member States shall limit their bottom fishing catch or effort in 2017 in the SPRFMO Convention Area to those parts of the Convention Area where bottom fishing has occurred from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2006 and to a level that does not exceed the annual average levels of catches or effort parameters in that period. They may fish beyond the track record only if SPRFMO endorses their plan to fish beyond the track record.

2 Member States without a track record in bottom fishing catch or effort in the SPRFMO Convention Area over the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2006 shall not fish, unless SPRFMO endorses their plan to fish without the track record.

#### *Section 5*

##### ***IATTC Convention Area***

#### *Article 28*

##### **Purse-seine fisheries**

1 Fishing by purse-seine vessels for yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) shall be prohibited:

- a from 29 July 00:00 hours to 8 October 2018 24:00 hours or from 9 November 2018 00:00 hours to 19 January 2019 24:00 hours in the area defined by the following limits:
  - the Pacific coastlines of the Americas,
  - longitude 150° W,
  - latitude 40° N,
  - latitude 40° S;
- b from 9 October 2018 00:00 hours to 8 November 2018 24:00 hours in the area defined by the following limits:
  - longitude 96° W,
  - longitude 110° W,
  - latitude 4° N,
  - latitude 3° S.

2 For each of their vessels, Member States concerned shall notify to the Commission before 1 April 2018 the selected period of closure referred to in paragraph 1. All the purse-seine vessels of the Member States concerned shall stop purse-seine fishing in the areas defined in paragraph 1 during the selected period.

3 Purse-seine vessels fishing for tuna in the IATTC Convention Area shall retain on board and then land or tranship all yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tuna caught.

4 Paragraph 3 shall not apply in the following cases:

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- a where the fish is considered unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size; or
- b during the final set of a trip when there may be insufficient well space remaining to accommodate all the tuna caught in that set.

#### *Article 29*

### **Drifting FADs**

1 A purse-seine vessel shall not have more than 450 FADs active at any time in the IATTC Convention Area. A FAD is considered active when it is deployed at sea, starts transmitting its location and is being tracked by the vessel, its owner or operator. A FAD shall only be activated on board a purse-seine vessel.

2 A purse-seine vessel may not deploy FADs during 15 days before the start of the selected closure period set out in Article 28(1)(a) and it shall recover the same number of FADs as initially deployed within 15 days prior to the start of the closure period.

3 Member States shall report to the Commission, on a monthly basis, daily information on all active FADs as required by the IATTC. The reports shall be submitted with a delay of at least 60 days, but not longer than 75 days. The Commission shall transmit that information to the IATTC Secretariat without delay.

#### *Article 30*

### **Catch limits for bigeye tuna in long-line fisheries**

The total annual catches of bigeye tuna by longline vessels of each Member State in the IATTC Convention Area shall not exceed 500 metric tons or their respective yearly catches of bigeye tuna in 2001.

#### *Article 31*

### **Prohibition of fishing for oceanic whitetip sharks**

1 It shall be prohibited to fish for oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in the IATTC Convention Area, and to retain on board, to tranship, to store, to offer to sell, to sell or to land any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks caught in that area.

2 When accidentally caught, the species referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be harmed. Specimens shall be promptly released by vessel operators.

3 Vessel operators shall:

- a record the number of releases with indication of status (dead or alive);
- b report the information specified in point (a) to the Member State of which they are nationals. Member States shall transmit the information collected during the previous year to the Commission by 31 January.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III. (See end of Document for details)*

---

## Article 32

### **Prohibition of fishing for Mobulid rays**

It shall be prohibited for Union fishing vessels in the IATTC Convention Area to fish for, to retain on board, to tranship, to land, to store, to offer to sell or to sell any part or whole carcass of Mobulid rays (family *Mobulidae*, which includes the genera *Manta* and *Mobula*). As soon as Union fishing vessels notice that Mobulid rays have been caught, Union fishing vessels shall, wherever possible, promptly release them alive and unharmed.

## Section 6

### **SEAFO Convention Area**

## Article 33

### **Prohibition of fishing for deep water sharks**

Directed fishing for the following deep water sharks in the SEAFO Convention Area shall be prohibited:

- ghost catshark (*Apristurus manis*),
- blurred smooth lanternshark (*Etmopterus bigelowi*),
- shorttail lanternshark (*Etmopterus brachyurus*),
- great lanternshark (*Etmopterus princeps*),
- smooth lanternshark (*Etmopterus pusillus*),
- skates (*Rajidae*),
- velvet dogfish (*Scymnodon squamulosus*),
- deep-sea sharks of the *Selachimorpha* super-order,
- picked dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*).

## Section 7

### **WCPFC Convention Area**

## Article 34

### **Conditions for bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna and south Pacific albacore fisheries**

1 Member States shall ensure that the number of fishing days allocated to purse-seine vessels fishing for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*), yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) and skipjack tuna (*Katsuwonus pelamis*) in the part of the WCPFC Convention Area located in the high seas between 20° N and 20° S does not exceed 403 days.

2 Union fishing vessels shall not target south Pacific albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the WCPFC Convention Area south of 20° S.



---

*Status: Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III. (See end of Document for details)*

---

3 Member States shall ensure that catches of bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) by longliners do not exceed 2 000 tonnes in 2018.

#### *Article 35*

### **Management of fishing with FADs**

1 In the part of the WCPFC Convention Area located between 20° N and 20° S, it shall be prohibited for purse-seine vessels to deploy, service or set on FADs between 00:00 hours of 1 July 2018 and 24:00 hours of 30 September 2018.

2 In addition to the prohibition set in paragraph 1, it shall be prohibited to set on FADs on the high seas of the WCPFC Convention Area, between 20° N and 20° S, for an additional two months: either from 00:00 hours of 1 April 2018 to 24:00 hours of 31 May 2018, or from 00:00 hours of 1 November 2018 to 24:00 hours of 31 December 2018. The choice for the additional two months shall be notified to the Commission before 31 January 2018.

3 Paragraph 2 shall not apply in the following cases:

- a in the final set of a trip, if the vessel has insufficient well space left to accommodate all fish;
- b where the fish is unfit for human consumption for reasons other than size; or
- c when a serious malfunction of freezer equipment occurs.

4 Member States shall ensure that each of its purse-seine vessels have deployed at sea, at any time, no more than 350 FADs with activated instrumented buoys. The buoy shall be activated exclusively onboard a vessel.

5 All purse-seine vessels fishing in the part of the WCPFC Convention Area referred to in paragraph 1 shall retain onboard and land or tranship all bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna caught.

#### *Article 36*

### **Limitations to the number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for swordfish**

The maximum number of Union fishing vessels authorised to fish for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) in areas south of 20° S of the WCPFC Convention Area shall be as set out in Annex VII.

#### *Article 37*

### **Catch limits for swordfish in long-line fisheries south of 20°S**

Member States shall ensure that catches of swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) south of 20°S by long-liners do not exceed in 2018 the limit set out in Annex IH. Member States shall also ensure that there is no shift of the fishing effort for swordfish to the area north of the 20°S, as a result of that measure.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III. (See end of Document for details)*

---

### Article 38

#### **Silky sharks and oceanic whitetip sharks**

1 Retaining on board, transshipping, storing or landing any part or whole carcass of the following species in the WCPFC Convention Area shall be prohibited:

- a silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*),
- b oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*).

2 When accidentally caught, species referred to in paragraph 1 shall not be harmed. Specimens shall be promptly released.

### Article 39

#### **Overlap area between IATTC and WCPFC**

1 Vessels listed exclusively in the WCPFC register shall apply the measures set out in this Section when fishing in the overlap area between IATTC and WCPFC as defined in Article 4(s).

2 Vessels listed in both the WCPFC register and the IATTC register and vessels listed exclusively in the IATTC register shall apply the measures set out in Article 28(1)(a), (2), (3) and (4) and Articles 29, 30 and 31 when fishing in the overlap area between IATTC and WCPFC as defined in Article 4(s).

### Section 8

#### **GFCM Agreement Area**

### Article 40

#### **Small pelagic stocks in geographical subareas 17 and 18**

1 Catches of small pelagic stocks by Union fishing vessels in the geographical subareas 17 and 18 shall not exceed the levels exerted in 2014, reported in accordance with Article 24 of Regulation (EU) No 1343/2011, as set out in Annex IL to this Regulation.

2 Union fishing vessels targeting small pelagic stocks in geographical subareas 17 and 18 shall not exceed 180 fishing days per year. Within that total of 180 fishing days, a maximum of 144 fishing days targeting sardine and a maximum of 144 fishing days targeting anchovy shall apply.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III. (See end of Document for details)*

---

*Section 9*

***Bering Sea***

*Article 41*

**Prohibition on fishing in the high seas of the Bering Sea**

Fishing for pollock (*Theragra chalcogramma*) in the high seas of the Bering Sea shall be prohibited.

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 23/01/2018.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120, CHAPTER III.