

Council Regulation (EC) No 3071/95 of 22 December 1995 amending, for the 19th time, Regulation (EEC) No 3094/86 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Whereas under Articles 2 and 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3760/92 of 20 December 1992 establishing a Community system for fisheries and aquaculture (3), the Council must adopt, in the light of available scientific opinion, the conservation measures needed to guarantee the rational and responsible exploitation of living marine aquatic resources on a sustainable basis; whereas, to this end, the Council may establish technical measures regarding fishing gear and methods of using it;

Whereas it is necessary to define principles and certain procedures for establishing these technical measures at Community level, so that each Member State can manage fishing activities in the maritime waters under its jurisdiction or sovereignty;

Whereas Council Regulation (EEC) No 3094/86 of 7 October 1986 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources (4) lays down the general technical rules for catching and landing biological resources in the waters which it defines;

Whereas fishing activities using passive gear, in particular bottom set gillnets, entangling nets and trammel nets, have increased sharply over recent decades in the waters of the European Union;

Whereas there is an increasing tendency to use smaller and smaller mesh sizes for bottom set gillnets, entangling nets and trammel nets, which is resulting in increasing mortality rates for juveniles of the target species of the fisheries concerned;

Whereas this trend should be checked and the mesh sizes used for passive gear such as bottom set gillnets, entangling nets and trammel nets should be designed to achieve selective catches of the target species or group of target species;

Whereas biological parameters for the species concerned differ between geographical areas; whereas these differences justify the application of different measures in those areas;

Whereas in order to permit fishermen adequate time to adapt existing gear to the new requirements, a sufficient transition period should be provided;

Whereas Regulation (EEC) No 3094/86 should therefore be amended,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 3094/86 is hereby amended as follows:

1. The following paragraph 12 shall be added to Article 2:

'12 (a) Bottom set gillnets, entangling nets and trammel nets with mesh sizes that do not correspond to any of the categories set out in Annexes VI or VII shall be prohibited and may not be kept on board fishing vessels. In the case of trammel nets, the mesh size referred to in this Regulation is that of the piece of net with the smallest mesh size.

(b) When catches are made in regions 1 and/or 2 by fishing vessels using bottom gillnets, entangling nets and/or trammel nets with mesh sizes corresponding to one of the categories set out in Annex VI, the percentage of quantities retained on board expressed in live weight, for one

or any combination of species or groups of species mentioned in the corresponding mesh size category, may not be less than 70 %.

(c) When catches have been made in region 3 by fishing vessels using bottom set gillnets, entangling nets and/or trammel nets with mesh sizes corresponding to one of the categories set out in Annex VII, the percentage of quantities retained on board expressed in live weight, for one or any combination of species or groups of species mentioned in the corresponding mesh size category, may not be less than 70 %.

(d) For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

(i) "bottom set gillnets or entangling nets" are any gear made up of a single piece of net, fixed by any means to the bottom;

(ii) "trammel nets" are any gear made up of two or more pieces of net hung jointly in parallel on a single headline, fixed by any means to the bottom of the sea.

(e) Letters (a), (b), (c) and (d) shall not apply to catches of salmonidae and agnatha.'

2. Annexes VI and VII shall be added in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force two years following the date of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

Detailed rules for the application of this Regulation including the measurement of mesh size shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18 of Regulation (EEC) No 3760/92 no later than 31 December 1997.

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

Done at Brussels, 22 December 1995.

For the Council

The President

L. ATIENZA SERNA

ANNEX VI missing

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