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(Acts whose publication is obligatory)

**COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1456/2001
of 16 July 2001**

**amending Regulation (EC) No 2549/2000 establishing additional technical measures for the
recovery of the stock of cod in the Irish Sea (ICES Division VIIa)**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 37 thereof,

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

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

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽³⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) The conditions laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2549/2000 ⁽⁴⁾ are intended to ensure that the selectivity of fishing gears deployed in the Irish sea are such that few young cod are captured.
- (2) Article 2(1) and (2) stipulate that it is prohibited to use any demersal towed net other than beam trawls incorporating a cod/end and/or extension piece made entirely or partly of multiple twine netting materials and any demersal towed net other than beam trawls incorporating a cod-end and/or extension piece of which the thickness of the twine exceeds 6 mm.
- (3) However, recent scientific advice concurs with the opinion of fishermen that a cod-end and/or extension piece constructed of double twine of thickness no more than 4 mm is technically equivalent to a cod-end and/or extension piece as currently defined.

- (4) There is a requirement on the part of some fishermen to deploy double-twine cod-ends.

- (5) Article 3 of the current regulation refers to conditions which were relevant only during 2000 and it should therefore be replaced with provisions which set out the required amendment.

- (6) Regulation (EC) No 2549/2000 should accordingly be amended,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 2549/2000 shall be replaced by the following:

'Article 3

Notwithstanding the conditions laid down in Article 2(1) and (2), when fishing with towed gears in the Irish Sea, it shall be permitted to use a cod-end and/or extension piece constructed of double-twine netting material of which the thickness of any individual twine does not exceed 4 mm.'

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

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

Done at Brussels, 16 July 2001.

For the Council

The President

L. MICHEL

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 180 E, 26.6.2001, p. 311.

⁽²⁾ Opinion delivered 5.7.2001 (not yet published in the Official Journal)

⁽³⁾ Opinion delivered 30.5.2001 (not yet published in the Official Journal)

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 292, 21.11.2000, p. 5.