

EU fishing opportunities for 2024–2026

Published by AGRINFO on 16 Nov 2023

Commission proposes fishing opportunities in EU- and non-EU waters for 2024–2026

[Proposal](#) for a Council Regulation fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 as regards deep-sea stocks

Update

The European Commission proposes to fix fishing opportunities for 2024, 2025, and 2026 for certain stocks in EU waters and certain stocks in non-EU waters, including those managed by regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs). Fishing opportunities for stocks outside EU waters, including catch limits, are based on the outcome of consultations with non-EU countries, or the annual meetings of RFMOs. Agreed management procedures and quotas allocated to EU Member States are set out in this proposal.

Impacted products

fish

What is changing?

The following changes applicable to non-EU countries, agreed within the relevant RFMOs, are set out in this proposal.

The **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**:

- total allowable catches (TACs) set for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) and South Atlantic swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) for 2023
- allocated quotas for Mediterranean albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) for 2023 and 2024
- a management procedure (for the first time) for Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), including management cycles of 3 years, and an implementation schedule up to 2028
- a by-catch management plan starting in 2023 for South Atlantic shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)

- a maximum limit of 300 fish aggregating devices (FADs) per fishing vessel in 2023, and a 72-day closure period for the use of FADs
- a TAC for Mediterranean albacore for 2023 at 2,500 tonnes, and for North Atlantic albacore at 37,801 tonnes
- the right of the EU, on request, to carry over a set percentage of its unused quota of fishing opportunities from 2021 to 2023.

The **Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources** (CCAMLR) adopted catch limits for target and by-catch species for the period from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

The **Indian Ocean Tuna Commission** (IOTC) established (for the first time) a catch limit for bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) in the IOTC Area of Competence. IOTC maintained the limitation of fishing capacity, of FADs, and of supply vessels; and the catch limit for yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) in that area.

The current measures related to TACs in the **South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation** (SPRFMO) Convention area will be provisionally maintained until its annual meeting is held (29 January to 2 February 2024) and the TACs for 2024 are determined.

At its 2023 annual meeting, the **Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission** (IATTC) decided to maintain the current measures applicable in its Convention area.

At its 2022 annual meeting, the **Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna** (CCSBT) confirmed the TAC for Southern bluefin tuna (*Thunnus maccoyii*) for 2023, as adopted at the 2020 annual meeting for a 3-year period from 2021 to 2023.

At its 2022 annual meeting, the **South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation** (SEAFO) decided to maintain until its 2023 annual meeting most of the TACs set for 2022 for the species under its purview.

At its 2022 annual meeting, the **Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission** (WCPFC) decided to maintain the current measures applicable in the WCPFC Convention area.

At its annual meeting in 2023, the **Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement** (SIOFA) adopted a by-catch limit for Portuguese dogfish (*Centroscymnus coelolepis*) and amended the boundaries of the Del Cano and Williams Ridge toothfishes (*Dissostichus* spp.) management areas. It extended observer and tagging requirements for toothfishes in the rest of the Agreement Area. The previously adopted fishing opportunities for the stocks covered by that Agreement were maintained.

Provisions for non-EU country vessels fishing in EU waters off French Guyana

In accordance with Decision [2015/1565](#), a maximum number of fishing authorisations will be fixed for snapper (*Lutjanus* spp.) available to **Venezuela** in EU waters off the coast of French Guyana.

Why?

Where RFMOs adopt fishing opportunities, set TACs for EU Member States, or take other measures regarding stocks in their Convention areas that affect such fishing opportunities, those measures must be implemented in EU law.

Timeline

This Regulation will apply from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Background

Regulations on fishing opportunities aim to limit fish harvests to levels that are consistent with the overall objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). Fishing opportunities are to be set for most stocks every year, and for certain stocks every 2 to 3 years. Based on scientific advice, the Commission has published its latest overview: [Sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2024](#).

As a member of RFMOs and fisheries bodies worldwide, the EU participates in, and votes on, their decisions. The Commission proposes and the Council adopts positions expressed on behalf of the EU. A Council Decision sets out the guiding principles of the EU's position on a multiannual basis. This position is then adjusted before each annual meeting of a given RFMO or fisheries body.

Resources

Council Decision [2012/19/EU](#) on the approval of fishing opportunities in EU waters off the coast of French Guiana to fishing vessels of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Council Regulation (EU) [2023/194](#) fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, as well as fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks

Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (2023) [Sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2024](#)

[Proposal](#) for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and repealing Decision (EU) [2019/868](#)

[Proposal](#) for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and repealing Decision (EU) [2019/867](#)

[Proposal](#) for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and repealing Decision (EU) [2019/860](#)

[Proposal](#) for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation and repealing Decision (EU) [2019/859](#)

[Proposal](#) for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Programme and repealing Decision (EU) [2019/812](#)

[Proposal](#) for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Extended Commission of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna and repealing Decision (EU) [2019/824](#)

[Proposal](#) for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation and repealing Decision (EU) [2019/861](#)

[Proposal](#) for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and repealing Decision (EU) [2019/862](#)

[Proposal](#) for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement and repealing Decision (EU) [2019/858](#)

Sources

[Proposal](#) for a Council Regulation fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 as regards deep-sea stocks

[COM/2023/587 final](#)

Disclaimer: *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*