EU fishing opportunities for 2026–2028

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Council Regulation (EU) 2026/786 amending Regulation (EU) 2026/249 fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters

Council Regulation (EU) 2026/249 fixing for 2026, 2027 and 2028 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) 2025/202

What is changing and why?

Regulation 2026/249 fixes fishing opportunities for 2026–2028, including for EU vessels fishing outside EU waters. This Regulation adopts the latest decisions taken in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

Regulation 2026/786 amends Regulation 2026/249 regarding fishing opportunities for stocks managed by RFMOs and for certain stocks jointly managed with non-EU countries. It takes into account the latest scientific advice, and outcomes of consultations with non-EU countries and RFMOs.

As a member of RFMOs and fisheries bodies worldwide, the EU participates in, and votes on, their decisions. The European Commission proposes, and the European Council adopts, positions on behalf of the EU.

The guiding principles of the EU's position in RFMOs for the period 2024–2028 are set out in the latest European Council Decisions (Table 1). Positions are then adjusted and specified year-to-year before each annual meeting of a given RFMO or fisheries body. Catch limits and other measures agreed in RFMOs of which the EU is a member are adopted in EU law and then implemented.

Timeline

Regulations 2026/249 and 2026/786 apply from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026.

However, where specified, certain Articles and Annexes apply at different dates.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
European Union positions regarding RFMOs, 2024–2028

European Council Decision	Regional fisheries management organisation (RFMO)
2024/395	Extended Commission of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT Extended Commission)
2023/2807	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
2024/366	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)
2023/2901	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)
2023/2812	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
2023/2808	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)
2023/2801	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
2023/2823	South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)
2023/2888	Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
2022/392	North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC)
2023/2826	South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO)
2023/2810	Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

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Source: European Council Decisions 2022/392, 2023/2801, 2023/2807, 2023/2808, 2023/2810, 2023/2812, 2023/2823, 2023/2826, 2023/2888, 2023/2901, 2024/366, 2024/395

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