EU measures against unsustainable fishing by non-EU countries

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Regulation (EU) 2025/2077 on certain measures for the purpose of the conservation of fish stocks in relation to countries allowing non-sustainable fishing.

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) can take measures against exporting countries that do not take adequate action to conserve fish stocks (under Regulation 1026/2012). This includes quantitative restrictions on fish imports from countries that are not sustainably conserving fish stocks.

Under this new Regulation 2025/2077, the EU has clarified how it determines if countries are not fishing sustainably. The focus is on fish stocks of common interest (these are stocks fished by both the EU and certain non-EU countries). The management of these stocks requires cooperation between those countries and the EU.

A non-EU country that does not have sufficient fishery management and control measures in place for effective conservation and management of stocks of common interest allows non-sustainable fishing if, in the EU's view:

- it fails to cooperate in the management of these stocks as required by international agreements or rules such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA)
- it fails to adopt necessary fishery management measures
- it fails to make sincere efforts to reach agreement between both (or all) parties on the adoption of necessary fishery management measures.

The EU notifies a country in advance if it may be identified as allowing non-sustainable fishing. This Regulation (2025/2077) allows the country 90 days to respond to the notification and remedy the situation. It also defines what is meant by 'failure to cooperate', and provides examples.

Timeline

The Regulation applies from **3 November 2025**.

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