Tariff quotas for certain fishery products

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EU proposes 1-year extension of current (2024–2026 period) autonomous tariff quotas for certain fishery products for processing

Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Council Regulation 2023/2720 opening and providing for the management of autonomous Union tariff quotas for certain fishery products for the 2024-2026 period.

Update

The European Commission is proposing a 1-year extension to the autonomous tariff quotas (ATQs) for certain fishery products, which were set for the 2024–2026 period. This will give the European Union (EU) additional time to complete its review of the ATQ regime and consider how to introduce sustainability criteria.

ATQs are established to ensure an adequate supply of raw materials for the EU fish processing industry where they are not sufficiently available in the EU, by reducing or suspending import duties.

Impacted products

Certain fish and fishery products destined for processing in the EU

What is changing?

The European Commission is proposing a 1-year extension to the current ATQs for certain fishery products. These ATQs suspend or reduce import duties for certain fishery products to allow the EU fish processing industry adequate access to raw materials.

ATQs are set for the period 2024–2026 for the fishery products listed in Table 1. These tariff quotas are only for certain fishery products that are intended for further processing (e.g. dicing, filleting, production of flaps, cutting of frozen blocks). For full details of the individual quotas (detailed descriptions, TARIC customs codes), see the Annex of Regulation 2023/2720.

Unlike quotas agreed through tariff negotiations, ATQs are unilaterally established by the EU in response to the needs of the EU fish processing industry, to avoid a shortfall in supplies of raw

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materials for processing.

Why?

The EU is currently reviewing how to incorporate sustainability criteria as a condition for accessing ATQs for products where there is insufficient EU supply (see EU autonomous tariff quota for imported fisheries products). Extending the existing ATQs will allow time for this review process to be completed.

Timeline

The adoption of a revised ATQ regime that includes sustainability criteria is expected in the first quarter of 2027. This proposal extends the existing ATQ regime to **31 December 2027**.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Exporters of eligible fishery products may continue to benefit from improved access to the EU market through reduced or suspended import duties within the available quotas.

However, countries exporting fishery products to the EU under preferential free trade agreements may be negatively affected as ATQs could erode the competitive advantage provided by their preferential duty-free access. ATQs can increase competition and reduce the relative attractiveness of preferential suppliers to EU importers.

Recommended Actions

Exporters should check if their products are covered by the ATQs and meet the relevant product, origin, and processing requirements in Regulation 2023/2720.

They should also monitor quota availability, as access is limited to specified volumes and is managed on a first-come, first-served basis. To find out how much quota has already been used for a specific product, visit the European Commission's Tariff quota consultation webpage and enter the Order number (shown on the left of Table 1 below) without the decimal point: e.g. 09.2503 should be entered as 092503.

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Background

In recent decades, the EU has become increasingly dependent on imports of fish and fish products to meet demand. The EU's fisheries and aquaculture production currently meets only about 38% of its needs (EUMOFA 2025). The Union has concluded several agreements with non-EU countries or territories to permit the suspension or partial waiver of normal duties applicable to certain fishery products to ensure an adequate supply to its processing industry.

These autonomous trade measures for fishery and aquaculture products enable the EU fish processing industry to import raw materials from non-EU countries' for further processing at reduced rates or duty-free, and allow EU Member States to draw from the tariff quota the quantities that correspond to their actual import needs. Tariff quota entitlement is based on the supply of an appropriate volume until the tariff quotas have been used up, and requires a minimum capacity of treatment or operation. Imports are subject to end-use customs supervision in accordance with Regulation 952/2013 (Art. 254).

Regulation 2023/2720 establishes ATQs for the period 2024–2026, including Alaska pollock, cod, hake, shrimp and prawns, squid, surimi, tilapia, and tuna loins. The quotas are established autonomously by the EU. Once the quota is exhausted, the normal customs duty generally applies.

Resources

Council Regulation 2023/2720 opening and providing for the management of autonomous Union tariff quotas for certain fishery products for the 2024-2026 period

EUMOFA (2025) The EU Fish Market: 2025 edition. European Market Observatory for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products.

Sources

Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Council Regulation 2023/2720 opening and providing for the management of autonomous Union tariff quotas for certain fishery products for the 2024-2026 period

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
2024–2026 tariff quotas for certain fishery products

Order number	CN code[a]	Description for processing	Annual amount of quota (tonnes net weight)	Quota duty (%)
09.2503	ex 0303 39 85	Flatfish, frozen	7,500	0
	ex 0303 39 85			
09.2504	0302 11 20	Trout	10,000	5
09.2505	ex 0303 54 10[b]	Chub mackerel, whole, fillets and flaps	5,000	7.5
	ex 0304 89 49	Other fish of *Trachurus* spp., excluding *Trachurus trachurus*, *Trachurus murphyi* and horse mackerel (scad) (*Caranx trachurus*)		
	ex 0304 99 99	Cobia (Rachycentron canadum)		
09.2508	ex 0307 43 35	Squid, frozen	75,000	0
09.2746	ex 0302 89 90	Southern red snapper, fresh, chilled	1,500	0
09.2748	ex 0302 91 00	Hard fish roes, fresh, chilled or frozen, salted or in brine	5,700	0
	ex 0303 91 90	Gilt-head sea bream (*Sparus aurata*)		
	ex 0305 20 00	Fillets of herring (*Clupea harengus*, *Clupea pallasii*), frozen, for processing	29,170	
09.2750	ex 0305 20 00	Hard fish roes, washed, cleaned of adherent organs and simply salted or in brine (for manufacture of caviar substitutes)	1,200	0
	ex 1604 32 00	Caviar substitutes for processing		
09.2759	ex 0302 51 10	Cod and similar species, excluding livers and roes, fresh, chilled or frozen	110,000	0
	ex 0302 51 90			
	ex 0302 59 10			
	ex 0303 63 10			
	ex 0303 63 30			
	ex 0303 63 90			
	ex 0303 69 10			
09.2760	ex 0303 66 11	Hake and pink cusk-eel, frozen	10,000	0
	ex 0303 66 12			
	ex 0303 66 13			
	ex 0303 66 19			
	ex 0303 89 70	Flaps of herring (*Clupea harengus*, *Clupea pallasii*) (butterflies), frozen, for processing		
	ex 0303 89 90	Fillets of redfish (*Sebastes* spp.), fresh or chilled, for processing	1,520	
09.2761	ex 0304 79 50	Blue grenadier and Patagonian grenadier, frozen fillets, other frozen meat	17,500	0
	ex 0304 95 90			
	ex 0304 79 90			
09.2762	ex 0306 11 10	Rock lobster and other sea crawfish, live, chilled, frozen	200	0
	ex 0306 11 90			
	ex 0306 31 00			
09.2765	ex 0305 62 00	Cod, salted or in brine, not dried or smoked	2,000	0
	ex 0305 69 10			
09.2770	ex 0305 63 00	Anchovies, salted or in brine, not dried or smoked	1,500	0
09.2772	ex 0304 93 10	Surimi, frozen	60,000	0
	ex 0304 94 10			
	ex 0304 95 10			
	ex 0304 99 10			
09.2774	ex 0304 74 15	Pacific hake and Argentine hake (Southwest Atlantic hake), frozen fillets, other fish meat	40,000	0
	ex 0304 74 19			
	ex 0304 95 50			

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Table 1
Continued

Order number	CN code[a]	Description for processing	Annual amount of quota (tonnes net weight)	Quota duty (%)
09.2776	ex 0304 71 10	Cod, frozen fillets, frozen meat	45,000	0
	ex 0304 71 90			
	ex 0304 95 21			
	ex 0304 95 25			
09.2777	ex 0303 67 00	Alaska pollack, frozen, frozen fillets, frozen meat	340,000	0
	ex 0304 75 00			
	ex 0304 94 90			
09.2778	ex 0304 83 90	Flatfish, frozen fillets, other fish meat	10,000	0
	ex 0304 99 99			
09.2785	ex 0307 43 91	Pod[c] of squid, frozen, with skin and fins	20,000	0
	ex 0307 43 92			
	ex 0307 43 99			
09.2786	ex 0307 43 91	Squid, frozen, whole or tentacles and fins	5,000	0
	ex 0307 43 92			
	ex 0307 43 99			
09.2790	ex 1604 14 26	Filets known as 'loins' of tunas and skipjack	35,000	0
	ex 1604 14 36			
	ex 1604 14 46			
09.2794	ex 1605 21 90	Shrimps and prawns, cooked and peeled	4,500	0
	ex 1605 29 00			
09.2798	ex 0306 16 99	Shrimps and prawns, in shells, fresh, chilled or frozen	2,000	0
	ex 0306 35 90			
09.2800	ex 1605 21 90	Shrimps and prawns, cooked and peeled	4,000	0
	ex 1605 29 00			
09.2802	ex 0306 17 92	Shrimps and prawns, whether in shell or not, fresh, chilled or frozen, not cooked	48,000	0
	ex 0306 36 90			
09.2804	ex 1605 40 00	Crayfish tails, cooked	2,500	0
09.2821	0307 43 33	Squid, frozen, for processing	1,000	0
09.2822	ex 0303 11 00	Pacific salmon (sockeye salmon, red salmon), headed and gutted, and in fillets, frozen	10,000	0
	ex 0303 12 00			
	ex 0304 81 00			
09.2824	0302 52 00	Haddock fresh, chilled or frozen with heads off, gilled and gutted	3,500	0
	0303 64 00			
09.2826	ex 0306 17 99	Shrimps and prawns, whether in shell or not, fresh, chilled or frozen	16,000	0
	ex 0306 36 90			
09.2515	ex 0304 61 00	Frozen fillets of tilapia	10,000	0

a Combined Nomenclature.
b From 15 February to 15 June, benefit of tariff quota not granted to goods declared for free circulation.
c Body of cephalopod or squid headless and without tentacles, with skin and fins.

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Source: based on Regulation 2023/2720, Annex

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