

**COMMISSION DECISION**

of 8 June 1979

relating to the institution of a Scientific and Technical Committee for Fisheries

(79/572/EEC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas progress in constructing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources requires the advice of highly qualified scientific personnel, particularly as to the application of marine and fisheries biology and fishing technology or similar disciplines;

Whereas this advice should be channelled by setting up a permanent committee established by the Commission,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

A Scientific and Technical Committee for Fisheries, hereinafter called 'the Committee', is hereby established by the Commission.

*Article 2*

1. The Committee may be consulted periodically by the Commission on the measures necessary to ensure the protection of fishing grounds, the conservation of the biological resources of the sea and their balanced exploitation.

2. The Committee shall prepare an annual report on the situation as regards fishery resources, on ways and means of conserving fishing grounds and stocks and on the scientific and technical facilities available within the Community.

3. The Committee may draw the attention of the Commission to any problem referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

*Article 3*

The Committee shall be composed of not more than 25 members.

*Article 4*

Members of the Committee shall be nominated by the Commission from highly qualified scientific persons having competence in the fields referred to in Article 2.

*Article 5*

The Committee shall elect a chairman and two vice-chairmen from among its members. They shall be elected on the basis of a simple majority of the members.

*Article 6*

1. The mandate of a member, chairman or vice-chairman of the Committee shall have a term of two years. It shall be renewable. However, the chairman and vice-chairmen of the Committee may not be immediately re-elected after being in office for two consecutive periods of two years. Duties shall not be subject to remuneration.

After the expiry of the period of two years, the members, chairman, or vice-chairmen of the Committee shall remain in office until their replacement or the renewal of their mandate.

2. Where it is impossible for a member, chairman or vice-chairman of the Committee to fulfil his mandate, or where he resigns voluntarily, he shall be replaced for the remaining term of the mandate in accordance with the procedure provided in Article 4 or 5.

*Article 7*

1. The Committee may form working groups from among its members.

2. The mandate of the working groups shall be to report to the Committee on the subjects referred to them by the latter.

*Article 8*

1. The Committee and the working groups shall meet at the invitation of a representative of the Commission.

2. The representative of the Commission as well as other officials and interested agents of the Commission shall take part in meetings of the Committee and the working groups.

3. The representative of the Commission may invite individuals having particular expertise in the subject being studied to participate at the meetings.

4. Commission departments shall provide the secretariat of the Committee and of the working groups.

*Article 9*

1. The deliberation of the Committee shall relate to requests for opinions made by the representative of the Commission.

The representative of the Commission, in requesting the opinion of the Committee, may fix a period within which the opinion is to be given.

2. Where the opinion requested is the subject of the unanimous agreement of the members of the Committee, the latter shall draw up common conclusions. In the absence of unanimous agreement, the various positions taken in the course of the deliberations shall be entered in a report drawn up on the responsibility of the representative of the Commission.

*Article 10*

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 214 of the Treaty, members of the Committee shall not

divulge information coming to their knowledge as a result of the work of the Committee when the representative of the Commission informs them that the opinion requested relates to matters of a confidential nature.

In this case only members of the Committee, the representative of the Commission, and other officials and interested agents of the Commission shall be present at the meetings.

Done at Brussels, 8 June 1979.

*For the Commission*

Finn GUNDELACH

*Vice-President*

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