

Council Regulation (EU) 2017/127 of 20 January 2017 fixing for 2017 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters

TITLE II

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS

CHAPTER III

Fishing opportunities in waters of regional fisheries management organisations

Section 3

IOTC Area of Competence

Article 22

Limitation of fishing capacity of vessels fishing in the IOTC Area of Competence

- 1 The maximum number of Union fishing vessels fishing for tropical tunas in the IOTC Area of Competence and the corresponding capacity in gross tonnage shall be as set out in point 1 of Annex VI.
- 2 The maximum number of Union fishing vessels fishing for swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*) and albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the IOTC Area of Competence and the corresponding capacity in gross tonnage shall be as set out in point 2 of Annex VI.
- 3 Member States may re-allocate vessels assigned to one of the two fisheries referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 to the other fishery, provided that they can demonstrate to the Commission that this change does not lead to an increase of fishing effort on the fish stocks involved.
- 4 Member States shall ensure that, where there is a proposed transfer of capacity to their fleet, vessels to be transferred are on the IOTC Record of Vessels or on the record of vessels of other tuna regional fisheries organisations. Furthermore, no vessels featuring on the list of vessels engaged in IUU fishing activities of any RFMO may be transferred.
- 5 Member States may only increase their fishing capacity beyond the ceilings referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 within the limits set out in the development plans submitted to the IOTC.

[^{F1}Article 22a

Catch limits

Catches of yellowfin tuna by Union vessels fishing with purse seiners shall not exceed the catch limits set out in Annex IK.]

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to Council Regulation (EU) 2017/127. Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Textual Amendments

- F1** Inserted by Council Regulation (EU) 2017/595 of 27 March 2017 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/127 as regards certain fishing opportunities.

Article 23

Drifting fish aggregating devices (FADs) and supply vessels

- 1 A purse seine vessel shall not deploy more than 425 active drifting FADs at any one time.
- 2 The number of Union supply vessels shall not exceed half of the Union purse-seine vessels. For the purposes of this paragraph, the number of Union supply vessels and Union purse-seine vessels shall be established on the basis of the IOTC register of active vessels.

Article 24

Sharks

- 1 Retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of thresher sharks of all the species of the *Alopiidae* family in any fishery shall be prohibited.
- 2 Retaining on board, transshipping or landing any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) in any fishery shall be prohibited, except for vessels under 24 metres overall length engaged solely in fishing operations within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Member State whose flag they fly, and provided that their catch is destined solely for local consumption.
- 3 When accidentally caught, species referred to in paragraph 1 and 2 shall not be harmed. Specimens shall be promptly released.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Regulation revoked by [2023 c. 28 Sch. 1 Pt. 2](#)