

Amendments to Exemptions in force in EU Waters

The amendments to exemptions in force in EU waters from 1 January 2022 are outlined below:

North Sea 2021 – 2023 Delegated Act (2020/2014)

- (1) Article 6, paragraph 1, point (c)(ii) is replaced by the following: ‘(ii) with a mesh size of 90 to 119 mm equipped with a Seltra panel with a top panel of 140 mm mesh size (square mesh), 270 mm mesh size (diamond mesh), 300 mm mesh size (square-mesh), or in sub-division Kattegat, a square mesh panel of at least 120 mm in the period from 1 October to 31 December every year which target flatfish or roundfish in the Union waters of ICES division 3a;’
- (2) Article 11, point (11) is replaced by the following: ‘(11) in the demersal mixed fishery by vessels using beam trawls with a mesh size of 80-119 mm in Union waters of ICES subarea 4: a quantity of whiting below the minimum conservation reference size, which shall not exceed 2 % of the total annual catches of plaice and sole;’

Western Waters 2021 – 2023 Delegated Act (2020/2015)

- (1) Article 1 is replaced by the following: ‘In the Union Waters of North-Western Waters (ICES subareas 5, 6 and 7), of South-Western Waters (ICES subareas 8, 9 and 10 (waters around Azores), and of CECAF zones 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0 (waters around Madeira and the Canary Islands), the landing obligation provided for in Article 15(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 shall apply in demersal and pelagic fisheries in accordance with this Regulation for the period 2021-2023.’
- (2) In Article 6(1), the following point (f) is added: ‘(f) plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) caught in ICES divisions 7b to 7k with seines (SSC);’
- (3) In Article 10(4), point (b) is replaced by the following: ‘(b) caught by bottom trawls in ICES subarea 8 until 31 December 2022. Member States having a direct management interest shall submit as soon as possible, but by no later than 1 May 2022, additional scientific information supporting this exemption for cuckoo ray caught with bottom trawls. The STECF shall assess that scientific information by 31 July 2022.’
- (4) In Article 13(1), point (f) is replaced by the following:
 - (f) for boarfish (*Caproidae*), up to a maximum of 0,5 % of the total annual catches of that species for all gears in those areas, by vessels using bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB) in ICES divisions 7b, 7c and 7f to 7k;’
- (5) In Article 13, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following: ‘The de minimis exemption laid down in point (a) of paragraph 1, shall be applicable until 31 December 2022. Member States having a direct management interest shall submit, as soon as possible and by no later than 1 May 2022, additional scientific information on catch composition. The STECF shall assess the provided scientific information by 31 July 2022.’
- (6) In Article 14(1), point (m) is replaced by the following:

'(m) for whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*), up to a maximum of 5 % of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using pelagic trawls, beam trawls, bottom trawls and seines (gear codes: OTB, OTT, OTM, PTB, PTM, TBN, TBS, TBB, OT, PT, TX, TM, SSC, SPR, SDN, SX, SV) in ICES subarea 8;'