



Brussels, 13.12.2018
C(2018) 8452 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 13.12.2018

**on the financing of the Union contribution to international fisheries organisations and
the adoption of the work programme for 2019**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 768/2005 of 26 April 2005 establishing a Community Fisheries Control Agency and amending Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy² as amended by Regulation (EU) 2016/1626 of the European Parliament and the Council of 14 September 2016³,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC⁴,

Having regard to Council Decision 81/691/EEC of 4 September 1981 on the conclusion of the Convention on the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources (CCAMLR)⁵,

Having regard to Council Decision 82/886/EEC of 13 December 1982 concerning the conclusion of the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean (NASCO)⁶,

Having regard to Council Decision 86/238/EEC of 9 June 1986 on the accession of the Community to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), as amended by the Protocol annexed to the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the States Parties to the Convention signed in Paris on 10 July 1984⁷,

Having regard to Council Decision 81/608/EEC of 13 July 1981 concerning the conclusion of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries (NEAFC)⁸,

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1

² OJ L 128, 21.5.2005, p. 1

³ OJ L 251, 16.9.2016, p.80,

⁴ OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22

⁵ OJ L 252, 5.9.1981, p. 26

⁶ OJ L 378, 31.12.1982, p. 24

⁷ OJ L 162, 18.6.1986, p. 33

⁸ OJ L 227, 12.8.1981, p. 21

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3179/78 of 28 December 1978 concerning the conclusion by the European Economic Community of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (NAFO)⁹,

Having regard to Council Decision 95/399/EC of 18 September 1995 on the accession of the Community to the Agreement for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)¹⁰,

Having regard to Council Decision 98/416/EC of 16 June 1998 on the accession of the European Community to the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)¹¹,

Having regard to Council Decision 2002/738/EC of 22 July 2002 on the conclusion by the European Community of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South-East Atlantic Ocean (SEAFO)¹²,

Having regard to Council Decision 2008/780/EC of 29 September 2008 on the signing, on behalf of the European Community, of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)¹³,

Having regard to Council Decision 2005/75/EC of 26 April 2004 on the accession of the Community to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPFC)¹⁴,

Having regard to Council Decision 2006/539/EC of 22 May 2006 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Convention for the Strengthening of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission established by the 1949 Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Costa Rica (IATTC)¹⁵,

Having regard to Council Conclusions 12025/11 Memoranda of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Sharks and Birds of Prey under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)¹⁶,

Having regard to Council Decision of 3 October 2011 on the approval, on behalf of the European Union, of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean (SPRFMO)(2012/130/EU)¹⁷,

Having regard to Council Decision 98/392/EC of 23 March 1998 concerning the conclusion by the European Community of the United Nations Convention of 10 December 1982 on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement of 28 July 1994 relating to the implementation of Part XI thereof¹⁸, in particular the Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,

Having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2015/2437 of 14 December 2015 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) concerning the membership of the Union in the Extended Commission of the Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna,

⁹ OJ L 378, 30.12.1978, p. 1

¹⁰ OJ L 236, 5.10.1995, p. 24

¹¹ OJ L 190, 4.7.1998, p. 34

¹² OJ L 234, 31.8.2002, p. 39

¹³ OJ L 268, 9.10.2008, p. 27

¹⁴ OJ L 32, 4.2.2005, p. 1

¹⁵ OJ L 224, 16.8.2006, p. 22

¹⁶ COM/2010/0805 final

¹⁷ OJ L 67, 6.3.2012, p.1

¹⁸ OJ L 179, 23.6.1998, p. 1

Having regard to Recommendation for a Council Decision to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Union to accede to the Convention for the Conservation and management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (NPFC)¹⁹,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Union contribution to international fisheries organisations, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision which constitutes the annual work programme for 2019. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ("the Financial Regulation") establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals to the bodies identified in the work programme.
- (3) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation 2018/1046.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 *Work programme*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the Union contribution to international fisheries organisations for 2019, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2 *Union contribution to international fisheries organisations*

The maximum Union contribution to international fisheries organisations for 2019 is set at EUR 5.300.000, and shall be financed from budget line 11 03 02 of the general budget of the Union.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2019, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3 *Flexibility clause*

Cumulated changes²⁰ to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraphs of Articles 2 and 3 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial

¹⁹ COM/2018/376 final

²⁰ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraphs of Articles 2 and 3 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4
Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the bodies identified in the Annex in accordance with the conditions specified therein.

Done at Brussels, 13.12.2018

For the Commission
Karmenu VELLA
Member of the Commission