Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 893/2014 of 14 August 2014 prohibiting fishing activities for traps registered in Italy, Portugal and Spain fishing for Bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45° W, and in the Mediterranean Sea

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 893/2014

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prohibiting fishing activities for traps registered in Italy, Portugal and Spain fishing for Bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45° W, and in the Mediterranean Sea

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules on the Common Fisheries Policy,[(1)] and in particular Article 36, paragraph 2 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Council Regulation (EU) No 43/2014 of 20 January 2014 fixing for 2014 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, to Union vessels, in certain non-Union waters[(2)] fixes the amount of Bluefin tuna which may be fished in 2014 in the Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45° W, and the Mediterranean Sea by European Union fishing vessels and traps.

(2) Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 of 6 April 2009 concerning a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, amending Regulation (EC) No 43/2009 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1559/2007[(3)], requires Member States to inform the Commission of the individual quota allocated to their vessels over 24 metres. For catching vessels less than 24 metres and for traps, Member States need to inform the Commission at least of the quota allocated to producer organisations or groups of vessels fishing with similar gear.

(3) The Common Fisheries Policy is designed to ensure the long-term viability of the fisheries sector through sustainable exploitation of living aquatic resources based on the precautionary approach.

(4) In accordance with Article 36, paragraph 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, where the Commission finds that, on the basis of information provided by Member States and of other information in its possession, fishing opportunities available to the European Union, a Member State or group of Member States are deemed to have been exhausted for one or more gears or fleets, the Commission shall inform the Member State(s) concerned thereof and shall prohibit fishing activities for the respective area, gear, stock, group of stocks or fleet involved in those specific fishing activities.

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 893/2014. (See end of Document for details)*

(5) The information in the Commission's possession indicates that the fishing opportunities for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45° W, and the Mediterranean Sea allocated to traps registered in Italy, Portugal and Spain have been exhausted.

(6) On the 7 July, Italy informed the Commission that it had imposed a stop on the fishing activities of its three traps active in the 2014 bluefin tuna fishery as of 29 June 2014 at 15:00.

(7) On the 16 July, Portugal informed the Commission that it had imposed a stop on the fishing activities of its three traps active in the 2014 bluefin tuna fishery as of 15 July 2014 at 00:00.

(8) On the 10, 18 and 20 June, Spain informed the Commission that it had imposed a stop on the fishing activities of its four traps active in the 2014 bluefin tuna fishery as of 10 June for two traps, as of 19 June for one trap and as of 20 June for the remaining trap resulting in the prohibition of all the activities as of 20 June 2014 at 00:00.

(9) Without prejudice to the actions by Italy, Portugal and Spain mentioned above, it is necessary that the Commission confirms the prohibition of fishing for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45° W and the Mediterranean Sea by traps registered in Italy as of 29 June at 15:00, for traps registered in Portugal as of 15 July at 00:00 and for traps registered in Spain as of 20 June 2014 at 00:00 at the latest.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Fishing for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45° W, and the Mediterranean Sea by traps registered in Italy shall be prohibited as of 29 June 2014 at 15:00.

Bluefin tuna caught by those traps as of that date shall not be retained on board, placed in cages for fattening or farming, transhipped, transferred, harvested or landed.

Article 2

Fishing for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45° W, and the Mediterranean Sea by traps registered in Portugal shall be prohibited as of 15 July 2014 at 00:00.

Bluefin tuna caught by those traps as of that date shall not be retained on board, placed in cages for fattening or farming, transhipped, transferred, harvested or landed.

Article 3

Fishing for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45° W, and the Mediterranean Sea by traps registered in Spain shall be prohibited as of 20 June 2014 at 00:00 at the latest.

Bluefin tuna caught by those traps as of that date shall not be retained on board, placed in cages for fattening or farming, transhipped, transferred, harvested or landed.