Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 619/2013 of 26 June 2013 prohibiting fishing activities for purse seiners flying the flag of or registered in France, Greece, Italy, Malta 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 619/2013

of 26 June 2013

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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 40/2013 of 21 January 2013 fixing for 2013 the fishing opportunities available in EU waters and, to EU vessels, in certain non-EU waters for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks which are subject to international negotiations or agreements[(2)] fixes the amount of bluefin tuna which may be fished in 2013 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 Council 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 619/2013. (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 purse seiners flying the flag of or registered in France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain have been exhausted.

(6) On the 3, 5, 8 and 17 June, France informed the Commission of the fact that it had imposed a stop on the fishing activities of its 17 purse seine vessels active in the 2013 bluefin tuna fishery with effect from 3 June for 10 vessels, with effect from 5 June for four vessels, with effect from 8 June for two vessels, and with effect from 17 June for the remaining vessel resulting in the prohibition of all the activities as of 17 June 2013 at 17:22.

(7) On the 3 June, Greece informed the Commission of the fact that it had imposed a stop on the fishing activities of its purse seine vessel active in the 2013 bluefin tuna fishery with effect from 3 June 2013 at 8:00.

(8) On the 13 June, Italy informed the Commission of the fact that it had imposed a stop on the fishing activities of its 12 purse seine vessels active in the 2013 bluefin tuna fishery with effect from 5 June for four vessels, with effect from 6 June for four vessels, with effect from 9 June for three vessels, and with effect from 13 June for the remaining vessel resulting in the prohibition of all the activities as of 13 June 2013 at 15:27.

(9) On the 8 June, Malta informed the Commission of the fact that it had imposed a stop on the fishing activities of its purse seine vessel active in the 2013 bluefin tuna fishery with effect from 8 June 2013 at 21:56.

(10) On the 3 and 17 June, Spain informed the Commission of the fact that it had imposed a stop on the fishing activities of its six purse seine vessels active in the 2013 bluefin tuna fishery with effect from 3 June for five vessels and with effect from 17 June for the remaining vessel resulting in the prohibition of all the activities as of 17 June 2013 at 00:00.

(11) Without prejudice to the actions by France, Greece, Italy, Malta 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 purse seiners flying the flag of or registered in the EU Member States concerned with effect from 17 June 2013 at 17:22 at the latest for France, with effect from 3 June 2013 at 8:00 for Greece, with effect from 13 June 2013 at 15:27 at the lastest for Italy, with effect from 8 June 2013 at 21:56 for Malta and with effect from 17 June 2013 at 00:00 at the latest for Spain.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Fishing for bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean, east of longitude 45° W, and the Mediterranean Sea by purse seiners flying the flag of or registered in France shall be prohibited as from 17 June 2013 at 17:22 at the latest.

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