COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1951/2002
of 31 October 2002
prohibiting fishing for hake by vessels flying the flag of Belgium

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 of 12 October 1993 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy [1], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2846/98 [2], and in particular Article 21(3) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Council Regulation (EC) No 2555/2001 of 18 December 2001 fixing for 2002 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where limitations in catch are required [3], as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1811/2002 [4], lays down quotas for hake for 2002.

(2) In order to ensure compliance with the provisions relating to the quantity limits on catches of stocks subject to quotas, the Commission must fix the date by which catches made by vessels flying the flag of a Member State are deemed to have exhausted the quota allocated.

(3) According to the information received by the Commission, catches of hake in the waters of ICES division VIIIa, b, d, e by vessels flying the flag of Belgium or registered in Belgium have exhausted the quota allocated for 2002. Belgium has prohibited fishing for this stock from 18 October 2002. This date should be adopted in this Regulation also,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Catches of hake in the waters of ICES division VIIIa, b, d, e by vessels flying the flag of Belgium or registered in Belgium are hereby deemed to have exhausted the quota allocated to Belgium for 2002.

Fishing for hake in the waters of ICES division VIIIa, b, d, e by vessels flying the flag of Belgium or registered in Belgium is hereby prohibited, as are the retention on board, transhipment and landing of this stock caught by the above vessels after the date of application of this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall apply from 18 October 2002.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 31 October 2002.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 261, 20.10.1993, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 358, 31.12.1998, p. 5.
[3] OJ L 347, 31.12.2001, p. 1.
[4] OJ L 276, 12.10.2002, p. 1.