COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 31 January 2002

amending Decision 98/125/EC approving the multiannual guidance programme for the fishing fleet of Ireland for the period from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2001

(notified under document number C(2002) 354)

(Only the English text is authentic)

(2002/104/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999 of 17 December 1999 laying down the detailed rules and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the Fisheries sector and the processing and marketing of its products [1], and in particular Articles 5 and 6 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 97/413/EC of 26 June 1997 concerning the objectives and detailed rules for restructuring the Community fisheries sector for the period from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2001 with a view to achieving a balance on a sustainable basis between resources and their exploitation [2], and in particular Article 9(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The objectives fixed by Commission Decision 98/125/EC of 16 December 1997 approving the multiannual guidance programme for the fishing fleet of Ireland for the period from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2001 [3] were calculated using the information available at that time.

(2) The Irish authorities requested an adjustment of the objectives of the multiannual guidance programme for the fishing fleet of Ireland to take into account additional fishing opportunities in Mauritanian and adjacent west African waters.

(3) Articles 2 and 8 of Decision 97/413/EC provide for such an adjustment of the objectives of the multiannual guidance programmes.

(4) The Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries has confirmed that there may be scope for additional pelagic fishing opportunities in Mauritanian and adjacent west African waters, notably concerning stocks of sardinella and horse mackerel.

(5) The recently signed Fishing Agreement with the Republic of Mauritania lays down fishing opportunities for pelagic species and specifies the modalities for utilisation of these opportunities; in addition, the Agreement establishes a joint EU-Mauritania scientific committee which will monitor closely the situation of the stocks.

(6) The capacity and effort objectives of the pelagic segment should be increased accordingly in order to allow the exploitation of these additional fishing opportunities.

(7) Fisheries should be identified within the pelagic segment with separate effort objectives for the exploitation of stocks in Community waters and for the exploitation of stocks in Mauritanian and adjacent waters.

(8) The measures envisaged in the present Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The table of objectives for the multiannual guidance programmes for the fishing fleet of Ireland for the period 1997 to 2001, shown in the Annex to the present Decision, including the footnotes, cancels and replaces that shown in the Annex to Decision 98/125/EC.

[1] OJ L 377, 30.12.1999, p. 10.
[2] OJ L 175, 30.7.1997, p. 27.
[3] OJ L 39, 12.2.1998, p. 41.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to Ireland.

Done at Brussels, 31 January 2002.

For the Commission

Franz FISCHLER

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Ireland

Area	Stocks	Segment	Fishery	Catch composition	Pilot rate	Weighted reduction	Situation 1.1.1997		Objective 31.12.1996				Objective 31.12.2001			
							GT (*)	kW	GT (*)	kW	GT (*) × t ('000)	kW × t ('000)	GT (*)	kW	GT (*) × t ('000)	kW × t ('000)
EU waters	Demersal and pelagic	Polyvalent (1)		DR: 6 % OF: 12 % Others: 12 %	30 %	5,3 %	41 879	161 232	48 769	173 027			46 185	163 857		
EU, third country and international waters	Pelagic	Pelagic trawl and purse seines	Mackerel: IV, VI, VII b, c, VII e, f, g, h, j, k	DR: 2 % OF: 19 % Others: 79 %	25 %	5,3 %	20 254	38 893	22 308	29 039	6 001	7 405			5 683	7 013
			Mauritanian waters (2)												4 343	4 450
Segment totals							20 254	38 893					36 363	43 439	10 026	11 463
	Flatfish and demersal	Beam trawl (3)	Cod VII a, Plaice and Sole VII e, f, g, h, j, k	DR: 8 % OF: 28 % Others: 64 %	30 %	10,6 %	1 130	5 129	1 156	6 113	330	1 786	1 156	6 113	295	1 597
Total							63 263	205 254	72 234	208 179			83 704	213 409		

DR: Depletion Risk.
OF: Overfished.
(*) Includes estimated GT values in accordance with Article 4 of the present Decision. The objectives will be revised as real GT values become available.
(1) The objectives of the polyvalent segment for 31.12.1996 have been increased by 5 473 GT and by 28 447 kW to take into account the capacity of previously unregistered vessels. These figures will be revised when all remaining licence applications have been processed.
(2) The capacity objectives of this segment have been increased by 14 055 GT and by 14 400 kW to take into account additional fishing opportunities in Mauritanian and other West African waters. The fishing effort objectives for Community waters remain unchanged. The fishing effort objectives fixed for Mauritanian waters assume a baseline activity of the vessels concerned of 309 days per year. These effort objectives are subject to review in the light of the development of the fisheries.
(3) Up to 285 GT and 906 kW from the polyvalent segment objective may be transferred to the beam trawl segment objective during MAGP IV in order to update existing vessels in that segment.