COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1257/2004

of 7 July 2004

prohibiting fishing for blue whiting by vessels flying the flag of a Member State

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 1954/2003 [2], and in particular Article 21(3) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Council Regulation (EC) No 2287/2003 of 19 December 2003 fixing for 2004 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 lays down quotas for blue whiting for 2004 [3].

(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 blue whiting in the waters of ICES division Vb (Faroese waters) by vessels flying the flag of a Member State or registered in a Member State have exhausted the quota allocated for 2004. The Community has prohibited fishing for this stock from 29 April 2004. This date should be adopted in this Regulation also,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Catches of blue whiting in the waters of ICES division Vb (Faroese waters) by vessels flying the flag of a Member State or registered in a Member State are hereby deemed to have exhausted the quota allocated to the Community for 2004.

Fishing for blue whiting in the waters of ICES division Vb (Faroese waters) by vessels flying the flag of a Member State or registered in a Member State is hereby prohibited, as are the retention on board, transshipment 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 that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 29 April 2004.

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

Done at Brussels, 7 July 2004.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 261, 20.10.1993, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 289, 7.11.2003, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 344, 31.12.2003, p. 1.