

EN

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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.10.2026)

For several years the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has advised to stop all catches of cod. To avoid choking fisheries which by-catch cod, total allowable catches (TAC) are set, but limited to by-catches only. The TAC should however not exceed actual needs because as few cod as possible should be fished. The Commission proposal is based on the latest available data, i.e. the reported landings of cod per Member State in 2025.

As regards sprat, the Commission proposal is based on the latest scientific advice from ICES which estimates that the sprat biomass has almost doubled and is expected to increase further, and that the TAC can be increased by 44%.

The proposed TACs are 211 tonnes of eastern cod and 31 tonnes of western cod. Member States can swap quotas. Total annual EU landings reported by the Member States to the Commission were 110-202 tonnes (since 2021) of eastern cod, and 42 tonnes (2024) and 19 tonnes (2025) of western cod. By the end of September 2026 total reported EU landings in 2026 were 32 tonnes and 7 tonnes, respectively.