

The EU adopts new conservation measures for the protection of the marine environment

The European Commission has adopted two regulations that will facilitate two Member States to comply with European environmental legislation to protect natural environments. In particular the regulations will help the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework and the Habitats and Birds Directives.

The first regulation concerns the North Sea, where new fishing bans will apply to a marine protected area in Swedish waters and to some Natura 2000 sites in Danish waters. The second regulation concerns the Danish Natura 2000 sites of the Baltic Sea and replaces Regulation (EU) 2015/1778. The new measures aim to protect reefs, and both sea-pen and burrowing fauna. The protection measures prohibit fishing with bottom trawling gears or - in some cases – any kind of fishing.

As an additional control measure, the use of automatic identification systems has become mandatory for vessels not required to have vessels monitoring systems on board in the Swedish protected area.

Both regulations were adopted in accordance with Article 11 of Regulation 1380/2013 and are based on joint recommendations issued by the three Member States concerned, i.e. Denmark, Germany and Sweden.

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