



2023/2604

17.11.2023

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2023/2604

of 15 November 2023

establishing a fisheries closure for bottom trawl vessels flying the flag of Italy and targeting European hake in the Strait of Sicily (GFCM geographical subareas 12-13-14-15-16)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009 establishing a Union control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 36(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EU) 2023/195 ⁽²⁾ lays down fishing opportunities for 2023.
- (2) According to the information received by the Commission, the maximum allowable fishing effort for bottom trawl vessels flying the flag of or registered in Italy and targeting European hake in the Strait of Sicily (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean geographical subareas 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16), is deemed to have been reached for 2023.
- (3) It is therefore necessary to prohibit certain fishing activities for that stock group,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Effort exhaustion

The maximum allowable fishing effort allocated to Italy for bottom trawl vessels targeting European hake in the Strait of Sicily (General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean geographical subareas 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16) for 2023 referred to in the Annex shall be deemed to be reached from the date set out in that Annex.

Article 2

Prohibitions

Fishing activities for the stock referred to in Article 1 by bottom trawl vessels flying the flag of or registered in Italy shall be prohibited from the date set out in the Annex. In particular it shall be prohibited to retain on board, relocate, tranship or land fish from that stock caught by those vessels after that date.

Article 3

Entry into force

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

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EU) 2023/195 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/110 as regards the fishing opportunities for 2022 applicable in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas (OJ L 28, 31.1.2023, p. 220).

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

Done at Brussels, 15 November 2023.

*For the Commission,
On behalf of the President,
Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS
Member of the Commission*

ANNEX

No	14/TQ195
Member State	Italy
Fishing effort group code	EFF4/MED4_OTB2
Stock group	European hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>) in the Strait of Sicily (GSAs 12-13-14-15-16)
Vessels concerned	Bottom trawl vessels T-10
Closing date	10 October 2023