

Public Consultation on the sustainable imports of fishery products under the EU Autonomous Tariff Quota Regulation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

1. Background

Autonomous tariff quotas (ATQs) allow for the reduction or suspension of customs duties on imports of selected products. They aim to facilitate the EU industry's access to raw materials not available in the EU in sufficient quantities and/or at competitive prices. They are applied in various sectors, including fisheries.

In the fisheries sector, ATQs are currently provided for in [Council Regulation 2023/2720](#) for the 2024-2026 period. The Regulation opens 31 quotas covering unprocessed and semi-processed fisheries products needed for the EU's processing sector. For most products, the in-quota tariff is set at zero, which helps reduce the cost of raw materials and promotes food security and competitive prices for EU consumers.

Currently, tariff-free access applies on a first-come first-served basis for specific quantities of fisheries products, with no sustainability conditions attached. This raises environmental, social and economic sustainability questions, including on the possible impacts on the conservation and management of the concerned fish stocks.

The Commission is therefore looking to **possibly adjust the ATQ regime to address the sustainability of imported fishery products**.

The way to achieve this objective has not yet been decided. The Commission will conduct a back-to-back evaluation and impact assessment, which includes the environmental, social and economic consequences of a potential review of the ATQ Regulation to introduce sustainability criteria for the EU's ATQs.

2. Aim of the questionnaire

This **questionnaire is part of a public consultation** that aims to ensure that citizens play an active role in evidence-based policy making. For this purpose, the Commission is seeking a broad range of views and expertise from stakeholders on the issues at hand.

The feedback provided in this questionnaire will be used to feed the back-to-back evaluation and impact assessment that the Commission will conduct.

Documents and position papers can be added to the submissions of the questionnaire. These should be in PDF format and not exceed the size of 50 KB.

About you

* Language of my contribution

- ☐ Bulgarian
- ☐ Croatian
- ☐ Czech
- ☐ Danish
- ☐ Dutch
- ☒ English
- ☐ Estonian
- ☐ Finnish
- ☐ French
- ☐ German
- ☐ Greek
- ☐ Hungarian
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Italian
- ☐ Latvian
- ☐ Lithuanian
- ☐ Maltese
- ☐ Polish
- ☐ Portuguese
- ☐ Romanian
- ☐ Slovak
- ☐ Slovenian
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as

- ☐ Academic/research institution
- ☐ Business association
- ☐ Company/business
- ☐ Consumer organisation
- ☐ EU citizen
- ☐ Environmental organisation

- ☐ Non-EU citizen
- ☒ Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- ☐ Public authority
- ☐ Trade union
- ☐ Other

* First name

Ana

* Surname

Rodriguez

* Email (this won't be published)

arodriguez@marineboard.eu

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

European Marine Board

* Organisation size

- ☒ Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- ☐ Small (10 to 49 employees)
- ☐ Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- ☐ Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

- ☐ Afghanistan
- ☐ Djibouti
- ☐ Libya
- ☐ Saint Martin

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Tristan da Cunha | <input type="radio"/> Zambia |
| <input type="radio"/> Democratic Republic of the Congo | <input type="radio"/> Lesotho | <input type="radio"/> Saint Kitts and Nevis | <input type="radio"/> Zimbabwe |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark | <input type="radio"/> Liberia | <input type="radio"/> Saint Lucia | |

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

* Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

☐ **Anonymous**

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

☒ **Public**

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

☒ I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

Experience with the ATQ regime

1. What is your level of familiarity with the ATQ regime?

- ☐ Very familiar
- ☐ Somewhat familiar
- ☒ Not familiar

Please further elaborate on your reply.

I had never heard about it before.

2. Are you currently a user or beneficiary of the ATQ regime?

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes, as a consumer
- ☐ Yes, as an EU-based company / business / business association
- ☐ Yes, as a non-EU based company / business / business association

Objectives of the ATQ regime

The ATQ regime aims to guarantee access to the EU fish processing industry to raw materials not available in the EU in sufficient quantities and/or at competitive prices, while taking into consideration its impact on the competitiveness of EU fish producers.

3. To what extent do you consider that the ATQ regime achieves its objectives?

The ATQ regime aims to guarantee access to the EU fish processing industry to raw materials not available in the EU in sufficient quantities and/or at competitive prices, while taking into consideration its impact on the competitiveness of EU fish producers.

- ☐ The ATQ regime fully reaches these objectives.
- ☐ The ATQ regime partially reaches these objectives.
- ☐ The ATQ regime does not reach these objectives.

Role of the ATQ regime

4. What role do you consider that the ATQ regime could play in promoting environmentally sustainable seafood practices in the fisheries and fisheries processing industries?

- ☐ The ATQ regime should not play a role.
- ☐ The ATQ regime should play a limited role.
- ☒ The ATQ regime should play a strong role.

Please further elaborate on your reply

It should not just be about the competitiveness but also about the sustainability of fisheries outwith Europe.

5. Do you think that the ATQ regime should be conditioned upon environmental sustainability criteria?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ No

Please further elaborate on your reply.

6. What role do you consider that the ATQ regime could play in promoting socially responsible practices (e.g. ban of forced labour) in the fisheries and fisheries processing industries?

- ☐ The ATQ regime should not play a role.
- ☐ The ATQ regime should play a limited role.
- ☒ The ATQ regime should play a strong role.

Please further elaborate on your reply.

Europe should play a leading role in socially responsible practices.

7. Do you think that the use of the ATQ regime should be conditioned upon compliance of social sustainability criteria (e.g. working conditions, such as avoidance of forced labour)?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ No

Please further elaborate on your reply.

The EU should ensure that all products entering Europe is produced with the same standards as those that live in Europe.

Consumers and the ATQ regime

8. To what extent would it be important to have more detailed information about the environmental and/or social sustainability of processed fisheries products along the value chain and up to the consumers?

It would be very important to help with transparency and allow consumers to choose more environmentally friendly and ethically processed products.

9. Do you consider that this information would change your purchasing /selling patterns regarding processed fisheries products?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ No

Please further elaborate on your reply.

If the information was available, I would definitely check it before choosing which product to buy.

10. Do you consider that there are other more relevant factors that would affect these purchasing patterns?

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Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

Contact

MARE-B3@ec.europa.eu