REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Minister of Agriculture and food

ORDER

№ РД 09-406
гр. Sofia,11.04.2024

Pursuant to Art. 32, para. 1, para. 4 and para. 5 of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act (FAA), art. 3, para. 1 and Art. 5, para. 2 of the Structural Regulations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food /Pub. DV. no. 82 of 18.10.2019/, in connection with an approved report with reg. No. 13-806/04.04.2024 of the Executive Director of the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture and in order to establish the banning periods for catching fish and other aquatic organisms during the reproductive period of the species in the waters of the Black Sea, the Danube River and inland water bodies, with the aim of creating optimal conditions for natural reproduction of spring and spring-summer breeding fish and determining water bodies in which recreational fishing is permitted during the period of the ban and after agreement with the Minister of the Environment and Waters by letter with ex. №12-00-325-1/02.04.2024 of the Ministry of Environment and Water,

I ORDER:

I. I forbid the catching of fish in 2024 during the period of its reproduction in Fishery sites under Art. 3, para. 1, points 1 and 2 of the FAA, as follows:

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1. Pontic shad (Danube mackerel) (*Alosa immaculata*) in the Bulgarian section of the Danube River during the period from 01.05.2024 to 31.05.2024 inclusive.

2. Turbot (*Scophthalmus maximus*) in the waters of the Black Sea during the period from 15.04.2024 to 15.06.2024 including, as well as any fishing activity, including transshipment, retention on board, landing and first sale for the period, in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) 2024/259 of 10 January 2024 fixing for 2024 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Mediterranean and Black Seas

3. Gobies (family *Gobiidae*) in the waters of the Black Sea with net fishing gear during the period from 15.04.2024 to 15.05.2024 including, with the exception of traps located in the water area of ports and groynes at a distance of 1 km from the coastline.

4. The spring-summer breeding fish, depending on the altitude of the fishery sites, as follows:

- from 15.04.2024 to 31.05.2024, including, in fish economic sites located up to 500 m above sea level;

- from 01.05.2024 to 15.06.2024, including, in fish economic sites located from 500 to 1500 m above sea level.

II. When carrying out commercial fishing during the period of the prohibitions under item I, the following fishing gear is not allowed to be used:

- single-walled nets with a mesh size smaller than 36 mm, double-walled and multi-walled nets in the waters of the Danube River;
- bottom gill nets with a mesh size of less than 400 mm in the waters of the Black Sea;
- net fishing gear with a mesh size of less than 22 mm in the waters of the Black Sea.

III. I am extending the ban on catching pike-perch (*Sander lucioperca*), northern pike (*Esox lucius*), rasper (*Aspius aspius*) in the Bulgarian section of the Danube River until 31.05.2024 including.

IV. The ban on catching, carrying, storing, transporting and selling sturgeon fish of the species danube sturgeon (Acipenser gueldenstaedtii), sterlet sturgeon (Acipenser ruthenus), starry sturgeon (Acipenser stellatus) and beluga (Huso huso) until 01.01.2026, including during the breeding period, in the Bulgarian water area of the Danube River and the Black Sea, according to joint Order No. RD 09-1029/16.12.2020 and Order No. RD-1066/23.12.2020 of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Minister of Environment and Water.

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V. I allow recreational fishing during the ban period in the following water bodies on the territory of the country:

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VI. Geographic coordinates are written in degrees and decimal parts of degrees.

This order does not cancel the prohibitions and restrictions of activities imposed by virtue of other normative and administrative acts.

The order is subject to appeal in accordance with the Code of Administrative Procedure within one month from the announcement of its issuance or within 14 days from the individual announcements to the persons who participated in the proceedings before the administrative body.

I assign control over the execution of the order to the Executive Director of the Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture.

The order to be communicated to the relevant officials for information and implementation.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD:

KIRIL VATEV

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