



7.9.2015

0035/2015

WRITTEN DECLARATION

submitted under Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure

on the Almadraba trap fishing

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Lapse date: 7.12.2015

Written declaration, under Rule 136 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, on Almadraba trap-fishing¹

1. Almadraba is one of the oldest recorded fishing methods for catching bluefin tuna.
2. It is respectful of the marine environment, given its seasonal and local nature, the structure of its passive fishing gears, its low energy consumption and its low waste generation.
3. There are other reasons for its low impact on the environment, such as the short time that the fish remain trapped, the size of the net, which ensures that by-catch is kept to a minimum and the fact that the fish caught are adult specimens that have already bred and spawned.
4. It generates about 43 jobs per vessel, as compared with the 10 on seine-haul tuna fishing vessels in the Mediterranean or surface longliners operating in international waters.
5. The Council and the Commission are invited to implement measures aimed at protecting Almadraba.
6. The Council and the Commission are also called upon to:
 - consider the possibility of an additional scientific quota for Almadraba in order to assess the effects of the recovery plan, which guarantees the financial profitability of fisheries;
 - enable access to new grants and promote the creation of SMEs related to Almadraba, which provide value and employment;
 - support the initiative of including Almadraba in the UNESCO World Heritage list.
7. This declaration, together with the names of the signatories, is forwarded to the Council and the Commission.

¹ Under Rule 136(4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, where a declaration is signed by a majority of Parliament's component Members, it is published in the minutes with the names of its signatories and forwarded to the addressees, without however binding Parliament.