

**Question for written answer E-001812/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Assessment of the closure of fishing areas and protection of the common dolphin

From 22 January to 20 February 2024, following a decision in France by the Conseil d'État, a large area in the Bay of Biscay was closed to certain types of commercial fishing gear – those types deemed to present a risk – in order to reduce the mortality of cetaceans, and specifically the common dolphin.

Ahead of the winter period:

1. Has the Commission asked the STECF for an environmental, social and economic assessment of the 2024 closure?
2. Could it set out the measures it is planning to put in place for the next period to limit these incidental catches, fund action to reconcile fishing activities with biodiversity and compensate the coastal economy where necessary.

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