

**Question for written answer E-002760/2024
to the Council**
Rule 144
Diana Riba i Giner (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Cuts to fishing quotas in the western Mediterranean

The Commission has published its proposal on fishing quotas that entails a further cut in fishing days in the Mediterranean Sea. Specifically, fishing days are to be reduced from 133 by between 20 and 28 days per boat in 2025. This proposal, which the Catalan fishing sector cannot possibly accept, will be debated in the Council on 9 and 10 December.

The Catalan fishing sector has actively cooperated by reducing working hours and days, marking out protected fishing zones and limiting fishing techniques and types of fishing gear. These changes have represented a great deal of effort on the part of Catalan fishers, thus demonstrating their commitment to socially and environmentally sustainable fishing. This approach significantly impacts many localities in the western Mediterranean, where fishing is the lifeblood of their local economy and society.

1. Does the Council know whether the Commission has carried out a social and economic impact study to support this proposed reduction that is so damaging to the Catalan fishing sector?
2. Does the Council know what studies and data the Commission bases its proposal on and whether these are in line with FAO data and other independent assessments for the western Mediterranean?

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