

**Question for written answer E-002845/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Impact of trawling restrictions in Spanish waters in the Mediterranean

In recent years permitted trawling days at sea have been slashed by 40%, with the corresponding detrimental effects on the quality of life and income of fishers. The recent proposal to further cut these days to only 27 per year – under the banner of environmental sustainability – runs counter to the balancing principle of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) which strives to find the right environmental, social and economic balance.

Furthermore, scientists suggest that resources in the Mediterranean are recovering, and fishers are reporting improvements in fish stocks. This measure would appear to be based on ideologically motivated interpretations rather than an assessment of the true situation. I would therefore like to ask the Commission:

1. How this proposal, that could lead to the disappearance of the trawling sector in Spain, could possibly comply with the principle of Article 2 of Regulation 1380/2013, which requires a fair balance of environmental sustainability vis-a-vis social and economic benefits?
2. Given that other scientific models suggest that Mediterranean fish stocks are recovering, how it plans to include these perspectives and fishers' observations in the decision-making process to ensure the future viability of this sector?

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