

**Question for written answer E-001503/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ricardo Serrão Santos (S&D)

Subject: Adjustments to total allowable catches

Total allowable catches (TACs) have gradually been adjusted upwards since 2015 to take account of discards from fisheries affected by the landing obligation. The level of adjustment has been set according to the current level of discards, and as such the mortality of the respective stocks has not increased.

1. Given that only a minimum quantity of discards has been landed in the past five years and that TACs have been consistently adjusted upwards, how can the Commission and Member States ensure that fishing mortality rates do not increase?
2. If TAC adjustments are directly proportional to the current level of discards, how can the Commission and Member States ensure that the objectives of the landing obligation to reduce unwanted catches are still achieved?
3. What measures have been taken to ensure that all vessels benefiting from TAC adjustments are aware of the landing obligations? How is this being monitored?