

**Priority question for written answer P-001516/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Thomas Bajada (S&D)

Subject: Closure period – common dolphinfish (*coryphaena hippurus*)

Paragraph 23 of Recommendation GFCM/46/2023/14 of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and Article 82 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2124 establish that fishing for common dolphinfish stock is prohibited between 1 January and 14 August of every year, including the current year, 2024. Yet, multiple citizen reports point to the fishing and selling of common dolphinfish in EU markets during the ongoing closure period.

In this regard:

1. How is the Commission monitoring this situation and preventing the fishing and selling of this fish stock in EU markets during the closure period?
2. What steps will it take to ensure a level playing field among EU and non-EU fishers in the Mediterranean Sea, while also enhancing the effectiveness of the conservation efforts of our fishers?

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