

**Question for written answer E-001621/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: The socio-economic impact of closing areas to bottom fishing

A recent report published by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) paints a clear picture of the socio-economic impact of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1614 which, by closing 87 areas to bottom fishing, has reduced fishing days and fish landings by 16 % and 20 % respectively for Spanish fleets while also causing their turnover to drop by 11 %.

The report indicates that, in 2022, Spanish fleets (including 67 longliners) had fished in 60 of the areas that were later closed by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1614. Just over half of the longliners involved (52.9 %) operate out of Burela and Celeiro, accounting for 94.7 % and 90 % of these two ports' respective fleets. In addition, 45.8 % of all Spanish gill net (GNS) vessels that used to fish in these areas are based in Cedeira and Celeiro, while the bottom fishing ban could also have repercussions for 90 % of the port of Ribeira's trawl (OTB) fleet.

According to the STECF, this state of affairs could lead to a loss of fishing areas, an uptick in operational costs and the displacement of fishing fleets while also having a detrimental impact on ports in the vicinity.

1. Given the colossal impact that Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1614 has had, will the Commission scrap or amend it?
2. How will the Commission implement STECF's recommendation that 'all long-term measures should protect both vulnerable ecosystems as well as the communities engaged in sustainable fishing in those waters'?
3. Will the Commission pledge to delay adopting decisions until it has analysed their socio-economic impact?

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