

Question for written answer E-003345/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

Dario Nardella (S&D), Giuseppe Lupo (S&D)

Subject: Spread of the blue crab and threats to biodiversity and production in the Orbetello lagoon

The blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*), an invasive alien species from the Atlantic coast of the United States, has now settled in the Tyrrhenian Sea, notably in the Orbetello lagoon in Tuscany, where it is causing serious harm to biodiversity and fishing activities.

The proliferation of the species – compounded by the recent deaths of large numbers of sea bream and sea bass – is undermining the lagoon's ecological balance, and threatening the production of fisheries and aquaculture cooperatives and businesses. Each female can lay up to 1.5 million eggs per brood, with several reproductive cycles per year, leading to an exponential increase. Despite some 60 tonnes of crabs having been disposed of, these measures are not proving effective enough to contain the invasion. Moreover, the resources earmarked for addressing the problem are insufficient to guarantee a structural and lasting response.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission take steps to include the blue crab on the list of invasive alien species of EU concern?
2. Will it set aside specific funding to support fishing and aquaculture businesses affected by the proliferation of the blue crab in Italy?
3. What measures will it take to halt the damage this species is causing to biodiversity?

Submitted: 1.9.2025