

Question for written answer E-003830/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Impact of the current quota allocation system on generational renewal and survival of the fishing sector

The fishing quota allocation system in the European Union has changed significantly since 2014, moving from a model of ‘regulated Olympic fishing’ (under which vessels ‘race’ one another to take as much of the quota as possible) to the current system of ‘historic rights’, which allocates fixed quotas to vessels based on past catches.

This model has been criticised from all corners in the fishing sector owing to the inequalities it creates, because it hinders generational renewal, increases the price of new licences (as quotas are linked to vessels) and makes it harder for countries to manage their fishing opportunities with any degree of fairness.

Possible imbalances have also been detected in the distribution of species shared with other countries as well as a lack of transparency in quota swaps.

In light of this situation:

1. Why did the Commission make this change to the allocation system?
2. Is the Commission aware of effects of this new model on Europe’s fishing fleet, and as such, has the Commission carried out any studies on the impact on the sector?
3. Under what conditions would the Commission consider returning to the previous model?

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