

**Question for written answer E-004192/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Oihane Agirregoitia Martínez (Renew)

Subject: Restrictions on fishing in Scotland's Marine Protected Areas

The Scottish Government's press release of 16 October 2025 on the entry into force of restrictions for a total of 42 marine areas – over 32 000 kilometres squared, located between 12 and 200 miles from the Scottish coast – threatens EU small-scale and distant-water fisheries as well as the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

The restrictions, which aim to protect and regenerate marine ecosystems, affect fishing grounds such as Rockall that have been part of the historic rights of access enjoyed by fishing fleets such as the Basque fishing fleet.

This measure constitutes a clear threat to the sector's economic and social stability. It is essential that a balance be struck between the economic, social and sustainable dimensions of this issue.

1. Is the Commission planning compensatory measures to protect fishers in the face of this roll-back of access to European waters?
2. If so, what would the timelines and conditions of these measures be?
3. Is the Commission working on assessing the economic impact of these restrictions?

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