

**Question for written answer E-004322/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Martin Günther (The Left)

Subject: Commission's position on bottom trawling in Marine Protected Areas

The EU's Marine Action Plan, published in 2023, set an aspirational objective to phase out bottom trawling in all Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by 2030.

However, the EU Ocean Pact, published in June 2025, does not mention 'bottom trawling' and instead promotes a 'case-by-case' approach to identifying fishing techniques compatible with conservation objectives in MPAs. This appears to mark a reversal of the Commission's previous Marine Action Plan under former Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius, which called for a clear, time-bound phase-out of bottom trawling in protected areas.

Bottom trawling continues across large proportions of Europe's MPAs, including 85 % of Germany's and 77 % of France's marine Natura 2000 sites.

1. Is the Commission still committed to phasing out bottom trawling in all EU MPAs by 2030?
2. Does the Ocean Pact's case-by-case approach replace or override the Marine Action Plan's target of prohibiting bottom trawling in MPAs by 2030?

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