

Question for written answer E-004676/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: The recovery of bluefin tuna stocks and the need to adopt new national quotas for all fleet segments

Reports from the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) confirm the remarkable recovery of bluefin tuna stock in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, following strict management and control measures applied by the contracting parties to the ICCAT, in particular the EU and its fishers.

Parliament has repeatedly called for full implementation of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013¹, requiring Member States to use transparent and objective environmental, social and economic criteria when allocating fishing opportunities, and to ensure a fair distribution of national quotas among all fleet segments.

Given the socio-economic importance of bluefin tuna for many coastal communities, and considering the species' role as a key predator amid risks of decline in other small pelagic stocks, the Commission is asked:

1. Does it intend to support an increase in the total allowable catch for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean in the light of the sustained improvement of the stock?
2. Does it intend to support additional by-catch quotas for bluefin tuna to address situations where fishers catch this species without targeting it?
3. What measures does it intend to take to protect EU fisheries and the EU market from illegal, unreported and unregulated activities carried out by non-EU vessels in EU waters?

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¹ OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj>.