

Question for written answer E-004823/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: New proposal on 2026 fishing opportunities in the western Mediterranean: one step closer to the possible collapse of Spain's Mediterranean fisheries sector

The new proposal on fishing opportunities in the western Mediterranean Sea for 2026 imposes disproportionate restrictions that disregard the available scientific evidence and that, if applied, would lead to the collapse of Spain's Mediterranean fleet, which is already depleted from years of aggressive cuts.

The 2025 reports are conclusive. The Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)¹ confirms that demersal stocks in the western Mediterranean are recovering. The FAO's General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)² notes historic progress: commercial biomass has increased by 25 %, fishing pressure has dropped by 50 % and there has been a clear reduction in the level of unsustainable stocks. This is the strongest evidence of the decade and it shows that the sector's sacrifices have yielded results. In spite of this, the Commission continues to take an approach that destroys jobs and penalises those who have acted responsibly.

The Commission's fisheries policy in the Mediterranean lacks support, is rejected by many in Parliament and is democratically unsustainable.

1. Why is the Commission ignoring the positive changes in stock levels when updating the fishing opportunities for 2026?
2. Does it believe that measures with such severe socio-economic impacts comply with Article 2 of the common fisheries policy?
3. Does it intend to propose amendments to the Regulation on the multiannual plan to bring it into line with the actual state of resources?

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¹ STECF, https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/documents/d/stecf/stecf_25-09.

² FAO GFCM, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/09ce190a-c96b-47ad-a783-ab29f778d1bb>.