

Question for written answer E-000583/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Fishing ban in new Greek marine parks and the impact on fishing tourism

According to information, the publication of a national bill for the creation of new marine parks in Greece is imminent, providing for blanket fishing bans for the period from 1 April to 31 October. These regulations also appear to affect fishing tourism, an activity that has been promoted at European level as a means of diversifying the income of coastal fishers and is characterised by low intensity and a limited environmental footprint, especially given that the planned bans coincide with the most crucial tourist season of the year. At the same time, professional bodies are denouncing a lack of substantive consultation and unequal treatment in relation to recreational fishing.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the inclusion of fishing tourism in blanket fishing bans and what is the scientific and regulatory basis for such a choice, in light of the principle of proportionality and the diversification of low-intensity activities?
2. What is the Commission's position on allegations of insufficient consultation with the professionals directly involved and the use of informal or non-cross-referenced data to formulate measures with significant socio-economic impacts?
3. What measures does the Commission consider necessary to ensure the viability of professional fishing tourism fishers and to prevent unequal treatment in relation to recreational fishing, including control mechanisms against illegal trade in catches?

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