

**Question for written answer E-000686/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)**

Subject: Mediterranean fisheries invaded by non-native species

Small-scale coastal fisheries in the Mediterranean are facing intense pressure from invasive non-native species, such as the silver-cheeked toadfish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*), the common lionfish (*Pterois miles*), the spinefoot (*Siganus spp.*) and the blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*).

There is evidence that their presence results in the following: declining endemic populations, changes in benthic ecosystems, increasing damage to fishing gear and economic pressure on coastal fishers.

With this in mind, can the Commission say:

1. Does it intend to promote the use of biodiversity indicators and fisheries data (e.g. CPUE, abundance indices) to quantify the impact of invasive species at national and regional level?
2. Are there any Member State coordination plans to implement management strategies, such as fisheries control, targeted removal and biosecurity measures, in line with Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 on invasive species?
3. Are there plans to scientifically assess the sustainability of the safe commercial exploitation of certain invasive species in order to reduce the economic burden on coastal fishers, without negatively impacting endemic ecosystems?

Submitted: 18.2.2026