

**Question for written answer E-002425/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Urgent need for EU action regarding the spread of *Lagocephalus sceleratus* in popular coastal tourist destinations in Greece

Despite repeated scientific warnings and previous representations to the Commission concerning the spread of the toxic silver-cheeked toadfish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*) in the Eastern Mediterranean, recent media reports and scientific evidence indicate that the species has now reached the Saronic Gulf, one of Greece's most densely populated coastal areas and a major tourist destination.

Incidents involving bathers, including cases requiring medical treatment, have already been reported, given that this particular species contains tetrodotoxin, one of nature's most powerful neurotoxins.

The situation now raises serious concerns not only for marine ecosystems and fisheries, but also for public safety, public health and the tourism economy of Mediterranean coastal areas, particularly at a time when millions of citizens and visitors are entering the summer bathing season across the Mediterranean.

The Commission is asked:

1. Does it consider that the presence of *Lagocephalus sceleratus* in heavily frequented tourist areas and popular bathing sites constitutes a risk to public safety, public health and the economic activity of coastal areas?
2. What immediate measures could it take to help to protect citizens and fishers, as well as to inform visitors about the risks associated with this species?
3. Does it intend to urgently support and fund actions to limit the population of *Lagocephalus sceleratus* and assist Mediterranean Member States in addressing a problem that simultaneously threatens biodiversity, fisheries, citizens' safety and the tourism economy?

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