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E-000785/2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.5.2025)

The Commission carried out a risk assessment for the silver-cheeked toadfish (*Lagocephalus sceleratus*) under the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Regulation¹ and proposed its inclusion on the list of IAS of Union concern in 2022. However, the proposal did not obtain the necessary support from the Member States.

Measures addressing *Lagocephalus sceleratus* may be covered by the European Maritime, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)², in the framework of sustainable fishing activities, under the conditions set out in the EMFAF Regulation³, provided that the Member State has set out such action in its Operational Programme. For instance, in Greece, under Specific Objective 1.6, EMFAF funds initiatives for ecosystem protection and IAS management. Measures aim to enhance knowledge and address IAS, mitigate their impact on biodiversity and consumer safety. Compensation for affected fishers is supported through impact assessments to ensure proper allocation of financial assistance.

Action on IAS is a priority of the EU programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE)⁴. LIFE funding for the silver-cheeked toadfish will depend on whether relevant proposals are submitted and selected for funding in a competitive process.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species, OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 35.

² https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/funding/emfaf_en

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004, OJ L 247, 13.7.2021, p. 1–49.

⁴ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en