

EN

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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.9.2025)

1. While the Commission represents the EU in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) negotiations, it is the prerogative of the Member States to distribute domestically its share of the EU quota. In accordance with Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Regulation¹, when allocating fishing opportunities, Member States must use transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature. Moreover, Regulation (EU) 2023/2053² provides for additional flexibility for quota allocation to small-scale vessels. The Commission therefore considers that Member States' administrations are best placed to assess the benefits of domestic fishing opportunities' allocation.

2. Sustainability is pursued under economic, social as well as environmental pillars. As such, protecting the livelihoods, tradition, culture, and community associated with small-scale fisheries is of vital importance. Member States have the responsibility to tailor the appropriate support for their small-scale fisheries, depending on their needs. This includes the allocation of quota, and the tailored support offered in the national European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)³ programme. EMFAF regulation allows Member States to offer support up to 100% of costs for small-scale fisheries.

3. Member States are best placed to identify how traditional fishing fits into their national sustainable blue economy model. EMFAF provides opportunities to support and develop traditional fisheries under the Sustainable Blue Economy objective of the fund, in particular through Community Lead Local Development (CLLD).

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, pp. 22–61).

² Regulation (EU) 2023/2053 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 (OJ L 238, 27.9.2023, pp. 1–64).

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1004.