

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004044/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(15 October 2025)**

Subject: New marine parks and trawler ban in Greece

In its communication on the European Ocean Pact (COM(2025)281), the European Commission sets out that the management of marine protected areas must be based on scientific data and risk assessment, with the involvement of all stakeholders, and not on generalised bans.

Nevertheless, the Greek Government has announced the creation of new marine parks and a total ban on trawler fishing in all protected areas — without prior scientific evidence or a socioeconomic analysis of the impact on a sector that provides around 70 000 jobs and a significant proportion of domestic fish production. What is more, Turkish trawlers fish without restriction, even in Greek waters, while Greek fishers face further limitations. The government is, for all intents and purposes, shirking its duties as regards fisheries control and defending national sovereign rights.

In view of Parliament's resolutions stressing the need for a balance between environmental protection, food security and social cohesion, can the Commission say:

1. Does it consider a total ban on trawlers without a scientific risk assessment or a socioeconomic study to be in keeping with the spirit of the European Ocean Pact?
2. What measures does it intend to take to ensure that Member States do not adopt unilateral and disproportionate rules that undermine fisheries production and local communities?

Submitted: 15.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(18 December 2025)**

Based on an exclusive competence of the European Union (Art. 3 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union), the Commission pursues conservation of marine biological resources under the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation (1380/2013) ⁽¹⁾ (CFP).

Decisions to prohibit or limit certain fishing techniques in marine protected areas must be taken in that context and consider the type of fisheries, the characteristics of the area and the impact on marine ecosystems.

Case-by-case assessments are needed to determine where and how less harmful techniques are needed to achieve the conservation objectives of marine protected areas. This allows to address the issue without disproportionately impacting fishing communities and is in line with the European Ocean Pact ⁽²⁾.

Under both the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) ⁽³⁾ and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) ⁽⁴⁾, Member States must protect ecosystems via the designation and management of protected sites.

If the conservation of these sites necessitates regulating fishing activity, fisheries conservation measures in marine protected areas can be adopted by Member States in waters under their sovereignty or jurisdiction and so long as other Member States with a direct management interest in the fishery concerned are not affected.

If other Member States are affected, Art. 11 and 18 of the CFP Regulation requires them to submit joint recommendation on measures to be adopted by the Commission.

Finally, the Commission has recently published guidance ⁽⁵⁾ on the application of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive in relation to marine fishing activities.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0281>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/147/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/1992/43/oj?eliuri=eli%3Adir%3A1992%3A43%3Aoj&locale=en>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7557c784-9f37-11f0-97c8-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.