

EN

E-005049/2025

Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.2.2026)

The Commission recalls that national management plans under the Mediterranean Regulation¹ (hereafter ‘MedReg’) for certain fisheries are relevant for the protection of habitats. According to Article 4, fishing with boat seines, among others, above seagrass beds of, in particular, *Posidonia oceanica* or other marine phanerogams, shall be prohibited and this is the main rule. By way of derogation, the use of boat seines may be authorised under certain circumstances within management plans provided for under Article 19. Although the Commission may provide observations on the national management plans of the Member States, their adoption at national level is not subject to the approval by the Commission. Adopted national management plans are a prerequisite for the adoption of the implementing acts granting the derogations.

However, in the absence of a ministerial decision adopting the national management plan for boat seines, no valid derogation from the applicable rules is currently in place since the expiry of the previous derogation in June 2020. Therefore, this fishery must comply with all provisions of the MedReg, notably the distance from the coast and the prohibition to fish in particular above seagrass beds of *Posidonia oceanica*. Greece informed the Commission of its decision not to proceed with the adoption of the boat seines national management plan under the MedReg and to withdraw this fishing gear from the national fleet register.

The Commission does not intend to propose an amendment of the MedReg regarding this issue.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 of 21 December 2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean Sea, amending Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1626/94.