

EN
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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
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In 2025, the EU's aquatic food self-sufficiency rose to 38.1%, the first increase since 2018¹.

The Commission works to increase food security.

First, with sound fisheries management in EU waters to boost biomass and healthy marine ecosystems, optimising domestic fisheries, though the resource is finite and improvements are fragile.

Second, maintaining fishing rights in third countries via Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements and participation in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.

Third, and most importantly, promoting the sustainable development of EU aquaculture through a framework based on the Commission's strategic guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture² and Member States' multiannual national strategic plans for aquaculture. The Commission supports Member States in implementing these plans and in applying the Commission's Strategic Guidelines, through guidance, funding and the exchange of good practices. Progress depends on effective implementation by Member States, in particular in areas such as licensing and access to space and water, which remain primarily under their competence³.

Regarding imports, EU Free Trade Agreements typically include sustainability provisions, including on international labour standards, while the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies curbs harmful subsidies. The Commission is also exploring sustainability criteria for the Autonomous Tariff Quota regime for fisheries products.

Ongoing evaluations, including the Regulation on the Common Fisheries Policy⁴, Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture⁵, and the EU Strategy for Fisheries External Action, integrate these efforts.

¹ <https://eumofa.eu/-the-eu-fish-market-2025-edition-is-online>. This excludes catch of EU long-distance fleets landed in third countries and exported to the EU.

² https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean/blue-economy/aquaculture/aquaculture-guidelines_en.

³ See the Mid-term assessment of the implementation of the 'Strategic guidelines for EU aquaculture' and the 'Multi-annual National Strategic Plans' for aquaculture: <https://aquaculture.ec.europa.eu/key-documents/mid-term-assessment-implementation-strategic-guidelines-eu-aquaculture-and-multi>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1380/oj>.

⁵ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-seeks-feedback-future-fisheries-and-aquaculture-sector-2026-02-24_en.