

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.8.2026)

1. The interpretation that the 30% threshold refers to the total annual turnover of the undertaking still applies. Aid to make good the damage caused by adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to a natural disaster is covered by Section 1.2. of the 2023 Guidelines for State aid in the fishery and aquaculture sector (the 'Fishery Guidelines')¹. These provide, in point (163)(a), that 'the damage caused by the adverse climatic event which can be assimilated to a natural disaster must amount to more than 30 % of the average annual production [...]'.

The 2008 Guidelines for the examination of State aid to fisheries and aquaculture², which applied in 2011, provided, in their Section 4.4., that aid can be deemed compatible 'if the level of damages caused by the event concerned reaches the threshold of 30 % of the average annual turnover [...]'.

The switch from a reference to average annual turnover to a reference to average annual production created consistency between the wording of Guidelines in the agricultural and fisheries sectors³. In both areas the concept refers to the total annual production rather than just the production affected by the adverse climatic event, in particular due to the intention to limit aid to undertakings that have been particularly affected by the event.

2. The Commission interprets point (163)(a) of the Fishery Guidelines as referring to the 30% of the company's total production, even in cases where climate damage affects only a specific aquaculture product'.

3. At the time of the revision of the fisheries and aquaculture State aid rules, the Commission will assess the specific characteristics of the sector, including the shellfish farming and the growing impact of warming sea waters on businesses.

¹ OJ C 107, 23.3.2023, p. 1.

² OJ C 84, 3.4.2008, p. 10.

³ See point (33)(3) of the Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas (OJ C 485 of 21.12.2022, p. 1).