

**Question for written answer E-009333/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ricardo Serrão Santos (S&D)

Subject: Reducing fishing mortality for seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)

According to a recent study by the European Parliament, 'fishing for seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) is subject to little regulation at European level and is not covered by a TAC system. The ICES conclusions show signs of a decline in biomass in certain areas. Given that seabass is an economically valuable and traditionally important species for both professional fisheries and recreational fishing, it would be appropriate to draw up a long-term management plan that will apply to all stakeholders'.

The Commission's proposals on this subject are not yet clear.

As a Member of the European Parliament elected by Portugal, I am extremely concerned at the state of seabass stocks in Europe and support measures aimed at achieving a drastic reduction in fishing mortality. Can the Commission answer the following questions on the management of this species:

1. Will the Commission introduce management measures for seabass, such as restricting bottom trawling in seabass spawning grounds during the spawning season and significantly increasing the minimum landing size (to 48 cm), or will specific measures be introduced for recreational fishing?
2. If so, what is the timescale for the introduction of these measures?