

**Question for written answer E-009621/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ricardo Serrão Santos (S&D)

Subject: Mass use of fish aggregation devices

Non-governmental environmental organisations such as Greenpeace and Pew have recently spoken out against the mass use of fish aggregation devices (usually known as FADs) to increase the catch efficiency of high-sea tuna fishing vessels. According to scientists, between 20 and 1061 FADs are used per vessel in each season (Delgado de Molina et al., 2014). Using these devices increases the efficiency of local fishing, but delays and alters the movement of shoals of fish (Fonteneau, 2014). Apart from the long-term effects on ecosystems, which may lead to the collapse of fish stocks, their use very probably contributes to disrupting the behaviour and therefore the presence of shoals in traditional fishing grounds, some of them coinciding with the Macronesian archipelagos (i.e. the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands). In view of this, I ask the Commission:

1. Is the Commission aware of the mass use of FADs?
2. If so, what precautionary regulatory measures are to be taken to reduce the effects of mass use of FADs in European waters and by vessels flying European flags?
3. If not, what action will the Commission take to check the intensity and effects of the mass use of FADs?