

Question for written answer E-001642/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Implementation of EU regulation banning fishing with winch trawls

Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 prohibits fishing with trawl nets such as winch trawls above seagrass beds (*Posidonia Oceanica*) and prohibits the use of winch trawls within of 1.5 nautical miles from the coast in less than 50 metres of water in order to protect the coastal maritime environment.

This is because, when used over seagrass beds, winch trawls catch mainly fry, that is to say small fish which have not yet reached reproductive age.

However,, under Ministerial Decision No 10245/163681 of 30 December 2014 the Greek authorities have now authorised inshore fishing with winch trawls from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015 on the pretext of carrying out research, thereby directly jeopardising the marine ecosystem and the last remaining fish stocks.

This has caused great concern among coastal communities in Greece that are already in a desperate situation because of the drastic reduction in fish stocks.

In view of this:

What measures will the Commission take to ensure that fishing methods in Greece comply with EU legislation so as to protect the marine environment and the livelihoods of thousands of fishermen who continue to use traditional methods?