

**Question for written answer E-001957/2015
to the Council**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Spanish seine fishing fleet quota

Spain and Portugal's entire seine fishing fleet has a sardine quota of 19 005 tonnes. Between this year and last, the jack mackerel quota has been increased by 70 % in the IXA zone but reduced by 50 % in the VIIC zone. The Atlantic mackerel quota has also been cut by 25.5 % as compared with last year. Galician seine fishing fleets have always targeted these three species.

According to the seine fishing sector in my Autonomous Community, this situation is unsustainable as the quotas barely provide scope for four months' worth of catches. Seine fishers have complained of their desperation and what they consider to be excess pressure from inspectors and the threat of crippling penalties.

In addition to addressing the anomaly of Galician waters being divided into two zones (VIIC and IXA), will the Council explore the possibility of increasing the above quotas in order to stem the drift towards the impending loss of the majority of Galicia's seine fishing fleet, either by varying the principle of relative stability or by other means?