

**Question for written answer E-001959/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Enrico Gasbarra (S&D)**

Subject: Mollusc fishing

The European Union has been regulating mollusc fishing since 1960.

Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 drastically increased controls on fishermen, now liable for fines and criminal penalties even if a single clam in the total catch measures less than 2.5 cm. In specific terms, the reduction of the tolerance threshold previously applied from 10 to 0 % and the imposition of a limit on the fishing area of at least 0.3 miles from the shoreline when clams, tellina clams and razor clams are for the most part concentrated near the shoreline, is having severe consequences for the Italian fishing market and associated industries.

Does the Commission believe it is possible to: a) review and reduce these thresholds while fully complying with the principle of protection of fishery resources laid down in the above Regulation, b) renegotiate the additional measures taken to re-establish a minimum tolerance threshold for the catch as a whole and c) review the threshold distance of the area which can be fished on the basis of a reorganisation of selection systems and more innovative and advanced choices?