

Question for written answer E-005760/2015
to the Council
Rule 130
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Subject: Managing bass stocks at European level

Statistics on bass stocks have been alarming for years. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) recommends reducing fishing by 60%. What is more, 25% of the fish taken are caught by recreational anglers.

At a time when the European Union is struggling to adopt a common management framework, and after years of inertia, the Commission has chosen the implementing acts procedure to impose emergency conservation measures whose fairness is open to question.

However, stable and coherent policies on the management of bass stocks are fundamental to the viability of the professional and recreational fishing industry and efforts to achieve the maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

The plenary debate of 12 March 2015, and the resolution subsequently adopted, made clear that the Commission and the European Parliament both support the introduction of a Total Admissible Catch (TAC) and management measures at European level. It is now for the Council, therefore, to discuss conservation measures and to acknowledge that, as shown by trends in European fish stocks, a TAC and quotas must be introduced if the MSY is to be achieved.

Will the Presidency therefore say whether it intends to secure an agreement in the Council on the issue of regulating bass stocks at European level? Will it support the introduction of a TAC and quotas?