

**Question for written answer E-009813/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Ole Christensen (S&D) and Bendt Bendtsen (PPE)**

Subject: Possibility of using fish meal from starfish as pig feed

To improve the conditions for mussel fishing in the Limfjord in Jutland, Danish fishermen have been catching starfish, which are a major nuisance for the mussel fishing industry. To avoid waste, the starfish that are caught have been made into a protein fish meal which can be used as an ingredient in animal feed. The conversion of starfish into fish meal formed part of the Starpro project, which has so far shown that this method has great potential as it can benefit mussel fishing, avoid waste of resources and last but not least create jobs.

The Starpro project has been challenged by the fact that, under the EU's TSE Regulation, it is not permitted to feed pigs or poultry with fish meal made from starfish, as starfish are not included within the definition of 'aquatic animals' in Article 3(9) of Regulation No 1069/2009.

In the light of the above, we wish to ask the Commission:

1. Is it possible to extend the definition of 'aquatic animals' in Regulation No 1069/2009 to include starfish?
2. Will the Commission make efforts to ensure that fish meal from starfish can in future be used as animal feed so as to optimise the use of marine resources?