

**Question for written answer E-010731/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Total allowable catches and quotas in the EU North Western Waters

As stated by Commissioner Vella recently in his speech in plenary on 27 April 2015¹, the Commission is committed to follow the most up-to-date scientific advice in order to restore fish stock populations.

Yet, in the Commission proposal for 2015 fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks (COM(2014)0670 final), the Commission seems to have proposed:

- Total allowable catches (TACs) greater than zero, despite no fishing being advised because biomass was assessed as depleted to the point that reproduction of the stock is impaired. This was the case for Irish Sea cod, Irish Sea sole, Kattegat cod, Irish Sea whiting and blue ling (III and II & IV).
- TACs where the reduction proposed was smaller than scientifically advised. For instance, 20 percent TAC reductions were proposed for Irish Sea haddock and Irish Sea plaice, despite being advised to cut TACs by 70 percent and 68 percent, respectively.
- to maintain the same level of fishing despite being advised to reduce catches, e.g. for lemon sole and witch sole (VIIhjk), cod (VIb), plaice (VIIbc), sole (VIIbc), and sprat (VIIde).

Could the Commission clarify how it has followed the most recent and the most up-to-date scientific advice in the above mentioned cases?

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+CRE+20150427+ITEM-018+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>