

**Question for written answer E-012768/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Protecting fishermen from the financialisation and privatisation of the sea

The 'financialisation' of the sea is a growing trend thanks to techniques making it possible to quantify the sea's carbon value. In this way NGOs that manage protected sea areas sell carbon credits to big businesses, which are able to use them to compensate for their own emissions or sell them on the carbon market.

This system makes it possible to protect increasingly large sea areas, by financing the NGOs or states that manage them, but it also has an impact on the local fishing communities which are then forced out of areas they used to fish, particularly in developing countries.

Finally, this financialisation and privatisation of protected sea areas comes on top of the growth in other activities such as ecotourism (particularly scuba diving) and renewable marine energy production, which do not welcome fishermen, even artisanal fishermen, in their vicinity.

At a time when protected sea areas are proliferating in Europe, does the Commission propose to defend the right of European fishermen to exercise their livelihood, or does its thinking reflect the logic of the financialisation and privatisation of the sea, which will ultimately deprive fishermen of their means of subsistence?