

**Question for written answer E-005415/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Promoting small-scale inland fisheries in the drylands of Sub-Saharan Africa

There are dryland areas in Sub-Saharan Africa in which the surface volumes of water bodies fluctuates wildly. A recent FAO study on fisheries in these areas has shown how small fish species can live and breed in these water bodies and can thus be a resilient and diversified means of subsistence in an unpredictable environment.

The study maintains that, properly managed, these water bodies could produce 1.25 million tonnes of fish in southern Africa alone, half the total recorded inland fisheries yield of the entire continent and potentially a valuable resource in helping the region's 390 million people lift themselves out of hardship.

Further benefits could also be had if adequate processing and storage facilities were introduced, as sun-dried fish caught in a boom year can last for years and could be tapped as a local supply for emergency food rations around the region.

Is the Commission providing aid to promote small-scale inland fisheries in the drylands of Sub-Saharan Africa?

Given the enormous potential benefits of such fishing, does it intend to do so?