

**Question for written answer E-002220/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Alain Cadec (PPE)**

Subject: 25th ordinary meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) from 13 to 21 November 2017

A new scientific assessment of Bluefin tuna stock should show that the aims of the multiannual plan for the recovery of this species will have been achieved seven years in advance. This success allowed the quotas to be increased by 20% per year between 2015 and 2017. In France, this increase has been accompanied by higher demand for European fishing authorisations for hook method fishing, while the number of purse seiners authorised to fish has fallen since 2008.

The 25th ordinary meeting of the ICCAT will take place from 13 to 21 November 2017. In this context, I would like to draw to the attention of the Commission the following two points:

1. The need to stabilise the formulae for allocating European fishing authorisations and sub-quotas between fishing methods in order to ensure legal stability for vessels, allow for sustainable management of resources and stabilise markets;
2. The need to extend the duration of fishing for purse seiners from 30 to 50 days in order to reduce the risk to equipment (engine failure, bad weather conditions, etc.) and make it possible for vessels to fish better without fishing more.

Can the Commission clarify its position on these two issues?