

**Question for written answer E-002558/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Impact on fishing of hydrocarbon exploration in the Porcupine Bank

The Community waters of Ireland, and the waters around Porcupine Bank in particular, are vital to the fishing industry. In recent years, the area has attracted a number of oil and gas exploration surveys in locations where fishing fleets from several Member States operate.

Given that the Porcupine Bank area is part of the Community waters of Ireland and an important fishing area for the community fleet,

What studies does the Commission have on the impact of hydrocarbon exploration on fishery resources in the Porcupine Bank area?

How many exploration surveys are currently being conducted and on which specific stretches?

What protocols on environmental protection and marine resources must the oil companies follow when seeking authorisation?