

Question for written answer E-000712/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (EFDD)

Subject: Electric fishing

On 30 March 1998, under Regulation (EC) No 850/98, the Council banned electric fishing, which is the practice of sending electric signals down to the seabed to catch fish that are buried or hidden in sediment.

However, Brussels has granted derogations since 2007, which, according to the NGOs Bloom and The Black Fish, were made without approval from the Commission's scientific committee of experts. The NGOs based their accusations on a report published just one month before the derogations were granted.

1. Is it true that the Commission's scientific body never approved such derogations and actually explicitly advised the Commission against granting them?
2. Does the Commission intend to withdraw the innovative and experimental fishing status from electric fishing, under which it receives subsidies paid for by European taxpayers?