

**Question for written answer E-002681/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Liadh Ní Riada (GUE/NGL)

Subject: EU regulations, island fishing and heritage licensing

Under EU regulations, every commercial sea-fishing boat needs to have a licence, held by the owner of the boat, and, in accordance with the common fisheries policy, every Member State must manage the size and scale (capacity) of its fishing fleet.

Can the Commission clarify if EU regulations can provide for Member States such as Ireland to implement a licensing system that would allow for heritage licences to be issued to island fishermen conducting small-scale and artisanal fishing (i.e. fishing carried out by fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed fishing gear as listed in Table 3 of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004) in order to facilitate the continuance of traditional fishing practices on Ireland's offshore islands, with specific reference to fishing within the six-mile territorial limit, including the baseline?