

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2007/2110(INI)

11.10.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Fisheries

on management of deep-sea fish stocks
(2007/2110(INI))

Draftsman: Marios Matsakis

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls its resolution of 14 November 2006 on a Thematic Strategy on the Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment ¹, in which it advocated a number of measures to promote a sustainable use of the seas and the conservation of marine ecosystems;
2. Agrees with the Commission that current levels of exploitation of deep-sea stocks must inevitably be reduced and that measures currently in force have been too poorly implemented to have been effective;
3. Is concerned that the total allowable catches (TACs) have been substantially higher than those recommended by scientists (by an average of between 42 and 57 per cent) and therefore calls on the Commission and Member States to adopt a significant reduction in TACs for the threatened stocks;
4. Notes with concern that the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) points out in both its 2002 and 2004 recommendations for deep-sea species that most species are outside safe biological limits; regrets that the EU has reduced fishing effort to a significantly smaller extent than was called for in the ICES recommendations; stresses, further, the importance of improved biological background data in order to set quotas that will guarantee sustainable fishing;
5. Proposes that fishing should not be permitted in deep-sea areas where there has not yet been any fishing activity until those areas have been investigated and the scientific opinion is that responsible sustainable fishing in keeping with international measures can take place without any risk of biodiversity depletion or habitat damage;
6. Expresses its concern over the inefficiency and poor implementation of the current Regulations; calls on the Commission to improve monitoring and control procedures in Member States;
7. Stresses the importance of developing new techniques in order to ensure a functioning control and surveillance system; calls on the Commission to continue to develop control techniques, and points in this connection to the possibility of electronic logbooks;
8. Highlights the advantages of setting up a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) within the NATURA 2000 network and believes that such a move will have positive effects on overexploited fish stocks; encourages Member States to make use of all the possibilities afforded by the marine components of the Natura 2000 network;
9. Urges the Commission to make every effort to ensure implementation and possible improvement of existing international deep-sea fishing agreements;
10. Calls on the Commission not to prevent Member States from imposing national fishing bans and other possible restrictions on fishing in order to ensure sustainable fish stocks;

¹ Texts Adopted, P6_TA(2006)0486.

11. Recalls the targets established at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg on September 2002, in particular to maintain or restore fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible not later than 2015;
12. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to develop common guidelines, exchange best practices, improve the use of available Community technology and involve think tanks and NGOs in order to better implement measures to reduce illegal fishing and the sale of illegal catches on European markets;
13. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote more environment friendly catching methods which do not harm the environment and the ecological biodiversity as a result of unwanted by-catches or unnecessary injury to other living organisms;
14. Calls on the Commission to involve the relevant NGOs more closely in the decision-making process and pay more attention to scientific studies on the consequences of over-exploitation of natural resources and the use of obsolete methods and technologies which have a negative effect on the environment.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	3.10.2007
Result of final vote	+: 29 -: 1 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Adamos Adamou, Johannes Blokland, John Bowis, Frieda Brepoels, Dorette Corbey, Chris Davies, Avril Doyle, Anne Ferreira, Matthias Groote, Satu Hassi, Gyula Hegyi, Jens Holm, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Urszula Krupa, Jules Maaten, Marios Matsakis, Roberto Musacchio, Riitta Myller, Miroslav Ouzký, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Vittorio Prodi, Frédérique Ries, Richard Seeber, Bogusław Sonik, Antonios Trakatellis, Anja Weisgerber, Glenis Willmott
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Giovanni Berlinguer, Philip Bushill-Matthews, Bairbre de Brún, Duarte Freitas, Genowefa Grabowska, Karsten Friedrich Hoppenstedt
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	