



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Fisheries*

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**2011/2307(INI)**

25.1.2012

# OPINION

of the Committee on Fisheries

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

on our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020  
(2011/2307(INI))

Rapporteur: Crescenzo Rivellini

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses that no one country can deal with the problem of biodiversity loss, particularly in marine ecosystems, and that the Member State governments must cooperate and coordinate their efforts more effectively in order to address this global issue; emphasises that strong implementation of biodiversity policy benefits both society and economy;
2. Points out that the commitment to maintain or restore fish stocks to levels above those that can produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) by 2015, as provided for in the common fisheries policy reform package proposed by the Commission, was endorsed by the heads of state and government at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002;
3. Calls on the Commission to further develop the MSY approach, taking account of all aspects of fish populations, in particular size, age and reproductive status, addressing the issue of multi-species stocks and taking ecosystem interactions into account;
4. Emphasises the importance of scientific advice based on reliable and sufficient data for effective and sustainable fisheries management; stresses the need for data on a wide range of ecosystem parameters in order to develop an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries, and calls on Member States to significantly step up their efforts in collecting and providing such data;
5. Welcomes the new EU strategy for biodiversity to 2020, in particular Target 4 concerning optimum management of fish stocks;
6. Welcomes the commitment to avoid by-catch of unwanted species, preserve vulnerable marine ecosystems and eliminate discards;
7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to fully implement and fund this new strategy by ensuring that each EU funding measure is consistent with biodiversity and water protection laws;
8. Emphasises that achieving the six targets of the new EU strategy for biodiversity to 2020 depends on compliance with the rules already laid down by the EU and proper management of the relevant initiatives and programmes, in particular the Natura 2000 network of protected areas and the LIFE + programme; calls for adequate funding for Natura 2000 sites in the new financial period;
9. Emphasises that the real test of the EU's commitment to achieving the biodiversity target and the real key to this issue is not this new strategy, but, rather, the forthcoming reforms of the common agricultural and common fisheries policies and the multiannual financial framework; points out, further, that the inadequate degree to which biodiversity protection was integrated into other EU policies caused the failure of the first strategy;

10. Calls on the Commission to develop reliable indicators of environmental sustainability, including marine and coastal sustainability, in order to assess the degree of progress towards the overall goal of protecting biodiversity;
11. Considers that marine biodiversity conservation needs to be addressed at the highest level at the Rio+20 summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012;
12. Welcomes the UN General Assembly resolution on ensuring sustainability of the world's fisheries adopted on 6 December 2011, which stresses that urgent efforts are needed to achieve sustainable use of the world's oceans and seas;
13. Welcomes the plan presented in November 2011 and developed by four UN agencies (UNESCO, FAO, UNDP and IMO) to encourage countries to renew their commitment to limiting the degradation of the oceans and dealing with threats such as overexploitation of fisheries, pollution and biodiversity decline;

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	24.1.2012
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 22 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Kriton Arsenis, Alain Cadec, Chris Davies, João Ferreira, Carmen Fraga Estévez, Pat the Cope Gallagher, Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo, Marek Józef Gróbarczyk, Carl Haglund, Ian Hudghton, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Werner Kuhn, Isabella Lövin, Gabriel Mato Adrover, Guido Milana, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, Ulrike Rodust, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Struan Stevenson, Catherine Trautmann
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Ioannis A. Tsoukalas
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Bogdan Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz