

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Terry Wynn, Catherine Stihler, Neil Parish, Paulo Casaca and Elspeth Attwooll

on drift netting for salmon at sea

Lapse date: 24.1.2006

Written declaration on drift netting for salmon at sea

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. noting the serious continuing decline in the number of Atlantic salmon returning to spawn in European Union (EU) rivers recorded by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO),
- B. emphasising that recent ICES advice indicates that all of the EU's main salmon stocks lie below safe biological limits,
- C. expressing concern that Ireland continues to license large-scale mixed-stock drift netting for salmon,
- D. noting in particular, the advice from ICES and NASCA that such activity should cease where salmon stocks are below safe biological limits,
- 1. Calls on the Commission and the Council to
 - a. devise a comprehensive EU action programme for salmon conservation,
 - b. identify appropriate legislative measures, taking into account a precautionary approach,
 - c. require Member States to cease all remaining mixed stock exploitation of Atlantic salmon in EU waters with suitable compensation for resulting loss of earnings;
- 2. Instructs the President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.