

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0760/02
by Brigitte Langenhagen (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Use of by-catches

It is clearly standard practice in some fishing nations that by-catches must be landed with the rest of the catch instead of being thrown back into the sea.

1. In which countries does the above procedure apply, and what experience has been gained with this method?
2. Does the Commission see any possibility of discontinuing the current practice of throwing by-catches (undersized fish, unwanted catches) back into the sea and landing and marketing them with the rest of the catch instead, counting them against the relevant quota and thereby easing pressure on stocks to some extent?
3. How is the Commission proposing to resolve the long-standing problem of by-catches and discards as part of the reform of European fisheries policy?