

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1547/02
by Brigitte Langenhagen (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: By-catches of marine mammals, in particular dolphins

Numerous press articles have reported that dead dolphins have been washed ashore along the coasts of Europe, above all along the French Atlantic coast. The marine mammals become caught in fishermen's nets and suffer serious injuries which result in their death. It is also reported that the fishermen frequently cut open the dolphins so that the carcasses sink to the sea-bed and nothing can be proven.

Does the Commission have any information on by-catches of dolphins? Does it have any information on the results of the fisheries surveillance carried out by the Member States as regards dolphins? What measures are taken by the inspection authorities in the Member States when the practices described above are discovered? Does the action taken by the inspection authorities vary between Member States?

What measures does the Commission intend to take to reduce overall by-catches of marine mammals?