

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2810/02
by Stephen Hughes (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: North Sea gill net fishery

Norwegian legislation implementing the EU/Norway Agreement on technical measures for 2002 in the North Sea is currently in place, and that legislation provides that the Norwegians may apply their 148mm gill net rule outside the Norwegian four-mile zone. Fishermen from the north-east of England are extremely concerned that they must apply that rule from the shore and believe that their livelihoods are threatened as a result of this.

Could the Commission comment on the possibility that a derogation for EC inshore fishermen similar to that for Norwegian fishermen will be adopted in the near future?