

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2930/04  
by Fernando Fernández Martín (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Aqua-culture subsidies in the Canaries

Over the last few years, aqua-culture production of fish has grown rapidly in the Canary Islands. In various islands of the Archipelago, all along the coast, close inshore, there are significant numbers of cages for breeding fish. The environmental impact of these installations have led to protests from various citizens' associations. Articles 3 and 4 and Annex II of Directive 97/11/EC<sup>1</sup> lay down the obligation to assess the risks of ecological consequences of the type in question, and prevent them.

Does the Commission know whether the environmental impact assessment was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Directive and those of the implementing national legislation? Can the Commission guarantee, or does it have any evidence one way or another, confirming that the installations in question meet the requirements laid down if they are to qualify for European aid to the islands' fishing industry, particularly with regard to the demand that the environmental impact be assessed in terms of the installations' annual production?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 73, 14.3.1997, p. 5.