

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0246/08  
by Aloyzas Sakalas (PSE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Overfishing in the Curonian Lagoon (Lithuania)

Smaller and smaller fish catches show a rapid depletion of the fish stock in the Curonian Lagoon. The main reason for this depletion seems to be illegal fishing through standing nets throughout the Lagoon, with the worst situation on the Lithuanian mainland side (Silute).

Is the Commission aware of this situation? Are any statistics available on the existing fish stock in the Lagoon? Has the Commission tried to stimulate any collaboration activities, e.g. between the national park authorities in Neringa (who have no patrol boats of their own) and the Lithuanian coast guard to combat these illegal practices?

Is the Commission not of the opinion that one should try to preserve traditional fishing – which does not hurt the environment as such – and in the meantime limit commercial fishing until the fish stock has recovered?