

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3534/08
by Heinz Kindermann (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Common Fisheries Policy (CFP): implications of the European Union's current discard practice

The discarding of the non-marketable components of a trawler's catch is a significant fisheries management problem. By-catch and discard rates vary from one fishing area to another. The Commission has indicated a figure of 10-15% as a general target for reducing discards – a rate which can be regarded as safe – and intends to employ approaches specific to each fishing area in an effort to achieve the targets.

1. Which fishing areas in which regions already have discard rates of less than 10 or 15% and can therefore be regarded as unproblematical (please provide complete list)?
2. In which fishing areas is current discard practice having a scientifically proven impact on stocks?
3. In which fishing areas is current practice having a scientifically proven impact on the marine environment?
4. What form does this impact on the marine environment take?
5. What ways does the Commission see of compensating the fishing industry for the loss of income which will result from reducing discard rates?
6. How will the landing requirement serve to reduce discards of certain species (e.g. sharks, rays, crabs, mussels, etc.) which show significant survival rates when discarded?
7. What measures does the Commission intend to take in order to ensure that socioeconomic research accompanying the efforts to reduce discards can be carried out?