

**Question for written answer E-004315/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)

Subject: Management plan for vessels registered to operate in the Cantabrian and North West Fishery

The fundamental purpose of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy is to ensure that fishing activities are sustainable and consistently managed, and that they help provide food supplies. Articles 16 and 17 are particularly relevant as they refer to the allocation of fishing opportunities to Member States.

On 18 March, the Spanish Government published Order AAA/417/2014 of 17 March in their Official Bulletin, establishing a management plan for vessels registered to operate in the Cantabrian and North West Fishery. The Order determines the percentages of mackerel and horse mackerel opportunities allocated to seine boats in each region. Mackerel opportunities are shared out between the autonomous communities as follows: 48.11% to the Basque Country (69 vessels), 24.86% to Galicia (153 vessels), 24.03% to Cantabria (44 vessels) and 3% to Asturias (11 vessels).

1. Does the Commission believe it is fair to allocate seine boats from Galicia just 24.86% of horse mackerel catches when they make up 55% of the vessels operating there? Would it not be fairer and more proportionate to divide catches according to crew numbers?
2. Why are 70% of allocations granted according to catch figures from 2002 to 2011, when the Galician sector has been regulated since 1982? Why are the figures for 2012 and 2013, when Galician and Basque fleets had the same limit, omitted from the count?