

**Question for written answer E-001289/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Extending the scope of Regulation No 1069/2009 to cover starfish

For a number of years now, Danish fishermen in the Limfjord in Jutland have been catching starfish, which is a nuisance for the mussel fishing industry. To avoid waste, the starfish that are caught have been made into a protein fish meal which can be used as an ingredient in animal feed. The conversion of starfish into fish meal formed part of the Starpro project, which has shown that this method has great potential, as it can benefit mussel fishing, avoid wasting resources and create jobs. Fishing for starfish is also environmentally friendly.

One problem for the Starpro project has been that, under the EU's TSE Regulation, it is not permitted to feed pigs or poultry with fish meal made from starfish, as starfish are not included within the definition of 'aquatic animals' in Article 3(9) of Regulation No 1069/2009. In its reply to Question E-009813/2015, the Commission conceded that the existing legislation on animal by-products does not prohibit the use of starfish in the production of feed for farmed animals. However, the Commission has acknowledged some shortcomings in its answer. The Starpro project is therefore still restricted by the TSE Regulation.

In the light of the above, we wish to ask:

Will the Commission state why the definition of 'aquatic animals' under Regulation No 1069/2009 still does not cover starfish?

Will the Commission make efforts to ensure that fish meal from starfish can in future be used as animal feed so as to optimise the use of marine resources?