

**Question for written answer E-001768/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE) and Jozo Radoš (ALDE)**

**Subject:** The protection of fish stocks in the Adriatic against the warty comb jelly

The warty comb jelly or sea walnut (*Mnemiopsis leidyi*) is an invasive species which came to the Mediterranean from the waters off the eastern coasts of North America in 1982, probably in ballast waters. In the mid-1990s, it caused damage to the Black Sea fisheries, which is estimated at billions of euros. The sea walnut feeds on zooplankton, and the eggs and larvae of the most commercially-significant species such as sardines and anchovies, and it also competes with pelagic fish in the fight for food. The situation is very serious in the Adriatic as well, where the warty comb jelly spread in unprecedented proportions last year. Therefore, the cities located on the west coast of Istria (Novigrad, Poreč and Rovinj), together with professional support from the Center for Marine Research in Rovinj, part of the Ruđer Bošković Institute, and the Institute for Agriculture and Tourism Poreč initiated a project to monitor the warty comb jelly in the Northern Adriatic. Can the Commission say:

is it aware of the potential damage, which can be caused by the warty comb jelly as an invasive species, to the Adriatic fish stocks?

What measures does the Commission envisage or is it taking with regards to minimising or addressing the consequences of the warty comb jelly spreading?