

**Question for written answer E-004283/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Ignazio Corrao (NI)**

**Subject:** Disaster caused by alien species 'Mnemiopsis leidyi' (sea walnut)

In recent years, the 'Mnemiopsis leidyi' (sea walnut) has been increasingly present in the Mediterranean Sea. It is an alien species that is among the top 100 invasive species in the world.

It devours zooplankton (fish eggs and larvae), which alters the trophic chain, and has a very high reproductive capacity (a single individual can produce thousands of eggs per day), in addition to its ability to adapt to the environment, causing huge damage to fishing in lagoons.

Its presence en masse has long been detected in several Italian lagoons, not least in the Oristano lagoons in Sardinia, which is having an ecological impact and causing great damage to the fishing economy.

Some monitoring and sampling campaigns have been carried out in Italy, but only at regional level, such as the 'Sea Walnut' project, funded by the Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of this situation?
2. Has it taken any measures to determine the scale of the phenomenon in terms of the dissemination of the species and its impact on biodiversity?
3. What instruments does it intend to implement or develop in order to guarantee income support for fishing operators?