

**Question for written answer E-006275/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)

Subject: Protecting the shortfin mako shark and the social and economic sustainability of the Galician longline fleet

The shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) is tremendously important to the Galician longline fleet, representing 10% of its annual captures. Around 160 longline surface vessels land some 3 000 tonnes per year, valued at EUR 10 million.

The Council's decision to include the mako in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)¹ has been a huge blow for the sector, which is facing more bureaucracy, slower operations and higher costs.

On 7 October 2020, the Galician Parliament's fisheries and shellfish committee adopted a resolution² urging the Spanish Government to consider protection measures for the mako that will not damage the fleet economically and are consistent with all the sustainable management measures that different regional fisheries organisations, such as ICCAT, have adopted for this species.

1. Has the Commission received any proposals from the Spanish Government geared towards finding a balance between protecting the mako shark and maintaining the social and economic sustainability of the Galician longline fleet?
2. Does the Commission have any information on the measures being taken by other Member States in accordance with this Council decision?

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019D1719>

² <https://www.es.parlamentodegalicia.es/Actualidade/3136/proposicions-non-de-lei-aprobadas-polo-pleno-do-parlamento-de-galicia-o-7-de-outubro-de-2020/>