

**Question for written answer E-006571/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Protecting the survival of the fisheries sector within the WestMED fisheries management plan

A Commission proposal concerning the WestMED management plan, which provides for further measures to reduce fishing effort by 15-30%, is of concern to the fisheries sector and to the entire Italian fisheries production chain.

While we are aware of the need to rebuild stocks in order to ensure sustainable management of resources, we are concerned about how this further reduction may have irreversible social and economic impacts on fleets, given also that it is taking place at the same time as the current health crisis, which has already seriously disrupted the sector.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission shed some light on the scientific advice which highlights the variation in the geographical distribution of stocks?
2. Can it analyse the pre- and post-COVID-19 pandemic economic data regarding the European fisheries sector?
3. Will it revise the limitation rates by readjusting them in spatial and temporal terms, also in the light of the latest data, and reconsider the WestMED management plan measures for the year 2021?