

Question for written answer E-005195/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Rosanna Conte (ID)

Subject: Increase in the number of alien invasive species in our seas and dangers to stock and food safety

According to recent evidence from experts, the ongoing increase in the temperature of sea and ocean waters, together with the traffic of ships from warm seas, is leading to serious imbalances and changes among the native resources of the Mediterranean Sea, to the benefit of microalgae and other invasive tropical fish and plant organisms.

In addition, scientific studies carried out on samples of mussels from the Adriatic Sea have shown the presence of tetrodotoxins (which we know are highly toxic and potentially fatal to humans), typically found in puffer fish which normally live in warm tropical waters such as those in South-east Asia, but which are increasingly found in our seas.

The proliferation of all these alien species is posing a problem as regards the balance of our seas: on the one hand, there is a threat to biodiversity and components of the ecosystem and on the other, toxins can clearly enter the food chain by contaminating native molluscs, fish and crustaceans, thus leading to food safety risks.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission take action to assess the scale of these issues in terms of how widespread they are, what the dangers for human consumption are and what the impact might be on fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea and local seas?
2. In its view, has Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 been sufficiently adapted to these new issues?