

**Question for written answer E-000682/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Niels Fuglsang (S&D)

Subject: Possible derogation further to the entry into force in Denmark of Regulation (EU) 2019/1241 of 20 June 2019 on fisheries and marine ecosystems

Adoption of the Regulation on the conservation of fisheries resources and the protection of marine ecosystems through technical measures means that the maximum legal quantity of detached claws, as regards edible crabs, is limited to 75 kg. For the time being, that provision applies only to catches of edible crabs in the North Sea. From 1 May 2023 onwards, the EU rule will be enforced in Denmark and the Danish Fisheries Agency will penalise infringements.

According to Danish fishermen, the regulation risks having serious economic consequences for those fishermen for whom it will no longer be profitable to fish for edible crab claws because of the quantity cap specified in the regulation.

In addition, there is a risk of an inappropriate level of wastage, given that there are no restrictions on catches of whole crabs, which could lead to a higher proportion of individual crabs being wasted instead of being returned to the sea and entering the overall ecosystem.

Will the Commission consider the possibility of a flexible quota-based system for catches of edible crab in order to address the economic consequences that very restrictive implementation of the regulation risks causing?

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