Shellfishing in Galicia had a terrible year in 2023, and it was particularly bad in the Muros-Noia estuary, where even hatchlings are dying, leaving shellfish farmers without work for months. However, they are prevented from applying for financial support under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) in these circumstances as one of the funding requirements is that they must have carried out fishing activities for at least 120 days during the last two years.

Indeed, that requirement prevents EMFAF aid from being of any use to the sector at a time when it needs it most.

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation?

2. Does the Commission intend to amend the EMFF Regulation, which in Articles 33 and 34 establishes financial support for temporary and permanent cessation of activities, among other things, with a view to ensuring that those who have not been able to work the adequate number of days can benefit from the aid and that the aid is effective for those who need it most?

3. What alternatives does the Commission offer those working in the sector who currently have no form of income?

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