

**Question for written answer E-000327/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D), Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D), Estrella Durá Ferrandis (S&D),
Clara Aguilera (S&D), Nicolás González Casares (S&D)**

Subject: Concerns within Alicante's fishing sector

On 22 January 2024 I had the opportunity to meet with the Santa Pola Fishermen's Guild. The head of the guild, José López Chacopino, explained to me the needs and concerns of the fishing sector and the issues with the EU rules.

In relation to the biological rest periods, in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1022, it was conveyed that these rest periods do not seem to benefit the regeneration of smaller species. The multi-annual plan for demersal stocks in the Mediterranean, established by this regulation, applies only to certain species – such as blue and red shrimp – the fishing of which has been restricted since 2022 with the imposition of maximum catch limits.

1. How is the Commission dealing with this undesirable effect of biological rest periods for blue and red shrimp and other small species which, owing to the food pyramid, are reported to be benefitting the regeneration of larger species such as bluefin tuna, and what solutions does the Commission propose?
2. What is the scientific advice concerning these species in the Mediterranean? Does the Commission see an increase in total allowable catches (TACs) for bluefin tuna as a solution to the proliferation of this species and its undesirable effects on other species such as blue and red shrimp?

Submitted: 1.2.2024