

**Question for written answer E-001102/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sandra Pereira (The Left)

Subject: Tuna quotas

Fishers and fishing industry organisations in the Azores have again raised the matter of quotas and are calling for a comprehensive study of current stocks in the region, as they believe there is some discrepancy between what fishers observe at sea and the catch limits imposed on them. They also state that stocks of species like tuna vary from one year to the next, leaving quotas out of line with the real situation.

Portugal's bigeye tuna quota is currently 3 100 tonnes, of which roughly 2 800 tonnes are the quota for the Azores and Madeira together.

The Azores Fisheries Federation is calling for a specific, independent quota to be assigned only to the outermost regions, considering the highly selective and sustainable pole and line fishing that is carried out there. In light of the above:

1. What measures is the Commission considering to support Member States – rather than limiting them as it does now – so that they are able to develop human and technical resources to carry out their own periodic studies into the state of fish stocks?
2. Given the industry's reasonable demands, what steps is the Commission considering to create more suitable quotas for bigeye tuna and bluefin tuna?

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