

WRITTEN QUESTION P-2519/07
by Roger Knapman (IND/DEM)
to the Commission

Subject: Maerl dredging and Directive 92/43/EEC

Could the Commission explain why the dredging of maerl (calcified seaweed) was halted off the coast of Cornwall as a result of Directive 92/43/EEC¹, the 'Habitats Directive'?

The reason given by English Nature was that the types of seaweed (*Lithothamnion corallioides* and *Phymatolithan calcareum*) are named as a protected species in the aforementioned Directive, however this would appear undermined by the fact that such dredging is continuing within the EU, namely off the French coast.

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.