

**Priority question for written answer P-001336/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Francisco Guerreiro** (Verts/ALE), **Ska Keller** (Verts/ALE), **Caroline Roose** (Verts/ALE), **Grace O'Sullivan** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EU fishing industry exporting shark fins to California

During the recent public hearing on the European Citizens' Initiative entitled 'Stop Finning – Stop the Trade', a European industry representative stated that one EU market for detached shark fins is the US state of California<sup>1</sup>. This is surprising as in 2012, California clearly decided that 'it shall be unlawful for any person to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute a shark fin'<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, since 22 December 2022 the same law has applied to the whole of the United States. Consequently, the European fishing industry may have been violating both US federal and California state law for almost a decade.

1. Is the Commission aware of the EU fishing industry's selling fins, namely to the state of California, disregarding conservation efforts in third countries and potentially breaking their law?
2. If this is happening, what authorisation are European companies using to send an illegal product to California, and how many shipments have been sent since 2012?
3. If the Commission is unaware of such practices, is it (alongside the Member States) willing to fully cooperate with any investigation into shipments of fins to California that may have been in breach of state and federal law in the United States?

**Supporter<sup>3</sup>**

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<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/267515/Item%201%20Mr%20VOCES%20Europeche%20powerpoint%20Finning%20EP%2027%20March%202023.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://law.justia.com/codes/california/2022/code-fgc/division-3/chapter-1/section-2021/>.

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