

**Priority question for written answer P-000878/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Difficulties encountered by Pointe de Bretagne handline fishers in accessing pollack quotas and failure to apply Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation

In recent years, Pointe de Bretagne handline fishers have issued constant warnings about the state of pollack stocks, and the measures they have proposed have been rejected. Stock numbers have plummeted and drastic measures were adopted by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in December 2023.

Because of the failure to apply Article 17 of the Common Fisheries Policy Regulation concerning fishing quotas, many handline fishers have no quotas for 2024 because they do not belong to a producers' organisation (OP) or did not obtain a quota through an OP.

Most of those affected are young fishers who have decided to use selective techniques with minimal environmental impact. For some, pollack accounts for 70 % to 75 % of their catches and the majority of their annual income. These young fishers are first-time borrowers who have recently taken out loans for their vessels and risk going bankrupt.

1. What short-term mechanisms can the Commission use to prevent the disappearance of low-impact, small-scale fishing, such as handline fishing, and to encourage generational renewal?
2. What steps does it intend to take to address the unfair distribution of quotas by the Member States? How will it ensure that Article 17 is at last applied and quotas are distributed on the basis of transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature.

Supporter¹

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