

**Question for written answer E-015123/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Salmon farming: non-compliance by Norway with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

As a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), Norway undertook to comply with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) under the European Economic Area Agreement.

The directive is essential in the case of Norway, which is a major exporter of farm-raised salmon. However, Norway seems to have scant regard for the biological impact of intensive aquaculture in its implementation. Some genetic contamination has been observed: the species of farm-raised salmon selected often breed with wild species and are gradually threatening them with extinction.

In addition there are huge amounts of organic waste and sea lice as a result of an over-concentration of farm-raised salmon in a small area. The lice are a threat both to farm-raised salmon and to wild salmon in the area. This in turn is a threat to marine biodiversity.

Pesticides such as diflubenzuron (which is banned in the EU) are used, for example, in an attempt to stop the lice multiplying; however, they also contaminate other species in the area.

Would the Commission be able to initiate an independent study to assess the environmental impact of salmon farming with the aim of ensuring compliance by Norway with the Water Framework Directive?