

**Question for written answer E-015590/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Blanco López (S&D)**

Subject: Proposed seine fishing quotas for the Cantabrian and Northwest fishing zone

At the meeting of the Committee on Fisheries of 10 November 2015, I raised the concern felt at the distribution of seine fishing quotas for the Cantabrian and Northwest fishing zone with the Director-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, on behalf of the Galician Association of Purse Seiner Owners (Acerga).

The Director-General undertook to look into the proposed allocation of fishing opportunities for this fleet issued by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, which fails to take account of the social and economic criteria set out in Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of 11 December 2013 on the common fisheries policy (CFP).

The Cantabrian and Northwest fishing zone is a traditional and often family-based inshore fishery that has been self-regulating on a responsible and sustainable basis for 35 years, setting daily catch limits and reducing fishing effort to four days a week, implementing temporary cessations of activity and reducing catch limits when necessary.

The current system takes no account of the fact that the economies of small coastal communities depend on fishing. It makes no provision for management measures to optimise the profitability of the resource, minimum individual quotas to guarantee viability, or a long list of other useful measures. In short, it is not a sustainable model and nor is it in keeping with the new CFP.

What view does the Commission take of these proposed fishing quotas?

Might there be discrepancies between the CFP and the distribution of seine fishing quotas for the Cantabrian and Northwest fishing zone?