

**Question for written answer E-015174/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mairead McGuinness (PPE)

Subject: Harvesting of mussels in Ballisodare Bay, County Sligo

The common mussel found in Ballisodare, County Sligo, Ireland, is not a protected species, nor is the area considered as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Is there any EU legislation that could offer protection against potential over-harvesting? Are Member States required to carry out studies to establish baseline populations in order to guard against over-harvesting?

Can the Commission shed light on whether any existing legislation is in place to prevent depletion of the indigenous Irish mussel stock resulting in the loss of a natural resource and of biodiversity in the area?