


# Procedure file

Basic information	
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2002/2281(INI)
Procedure completed	
Fisheries resources: conservation and sustainable development in Mediterranean Sea, action plan	
Subject 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.70.20 Sustainable development	
Geographical area Mediterranean Sea area	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>PECH</b> Fisheries	PPE-DE <a href="#">LISI Giorgio</a>	12/11/2002
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	<a href="#">2476</a>	16/12/2002
European Commission	Commission DG <a href="#">Maritime Affairs and Fisheries</a>	Commissioner	

Key events			
09/10/2002	Non-legislative basic document published	<a href="#">COM(2002)0535</a>	Summary
16/12/2002	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
16/01/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/05/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
20/05/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0171/2003</a>	
19/06/2003	Debate in Parliament		
19/06/2003	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0281/2003</a>	Summary
19/06/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2281(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure

Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/5/19023

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	<a href="#">COM(2002)0535</a>	09/10/2002	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES1251/2002</a> <a href="#">OJ C 133 06.06.2003, p. 0029-0033</a>	26/03/2003	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	<a href="#">A5-0171/2003</a>	20/05/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	<a href="#">T5-0281/2003</a>	19/06/2003	EP	Summary

## Fisheries resources: conservation and sustainable development in Mediterranean Sea, action plan

**PURPOSE** : to lay down a Community Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources in the Mediterranean Sea under the Common Fisheries Policy. **CONTENT** : Mediterranean fisheries represent an important and vital sector of the Community fisheries. The Mediterranean Sea and the fisheries carried out there are characterised by a number of distinctive features with important implications for the conservation policy under the Common Fisheries Policy. These features include: relative extension of national vs. international waters, straddling and shared stocks, overall characteristics of fishing activities, availability of scientific information and a number of other considerations, e.g. leisure fisheries. Some of these features are not exclusive to the Mediterranean, but they are more pronounced in this region. On the basis of the guiding principles and objectives outlined in the previous sections, the Commission considers that a number of actions at Community level should be taken in order to achieve the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy in the Mediterranean Sea. In this Action Plan, the following specific fields of actions are foreseen at Community level and described below: - establishing a concerted approach over the jurisdiction of maritime waters, - reducing overall fishing pressure, - applying catch limitations where possible, - improving the current exploitation pattern and reducing negative effects on stocks and the environment, - improving control and enforcement, - strengthening scientific structures and improving scientific knowledge, - greater stakeholders' involvement in the consultation process. The Action Plan is presented as relevant priority initiatives for the next three years. Actions taken in the context of this Action Plan should include the widest possible consultation with stakeholders, the scientific community and national administrations at the earliest stages of the process. This orientation should allow exchange of opinions, debate and final agreement within the framework of ACFA, Advisory Committee for Fisheries and Aquaculture, the STECF and the Council.?

## Fisheries resources: conservation and sustainable development in Mediterranean Sea, action plan

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Giorgio LISI (EPP-ED, I) on the Community Action Plan. It acknowledged the need to overhaul the system of derogations which, it said, was proving "counterproductive" and also welcomed the decentralised approach promoted in the action plan. However, it was opposed to the proposal to extend the TAC system and stressed the need for a flexible approach to achieving the objectives of fisheries reform. The Commission was urged to make a more detailed assessment of the impact of the CFP reform on the Action Plan for the Mediterranean with particular reference to the socio-economic repercussions on the areas concerned, and to make provision for innovative support measures. MEPs also pointed out that the small-scale fisheries sector was responsible for creating the most employment in fisheries and should therefore be given preferential treatment in the implementation of the FIGG. The report stressed the need for non-EU Mediterranean countries to be involved as part of a multilateral approach to the management of Mediterranean fishery resources. This approach should also take account of the structural and organisational shortcomings of the fisheries sector in non-EU Mediterranean countries, by means of partnership projects and exchanges of good practice. Among its other recommendations, the committee called on the Member States to step up checks and introduce much harsher penalties with genuine deterrent effect in order to combat illegal fishing. The Commission was also urged to liaise more closely with non-Mediterranean flag states whose vessels fish in the Mediterranean. Lastly, the report regretted that due consideration was not being given, at Community level, to an integrated approach to the management of coastal areas. It pointed out that "fishermen are generally more sinned against than sinning" when it comes to damage to the environment in some areas of the Mediterranean, which is often due to urban and industrial pollution. The committee therefore called for studies to be carried out into the impact on biodiversity and habitats of intense fishing activity in populated coastal areas with a view to apportioning responsibility and launching integrated management plans for coastal areas. ?

## Fisheries resources: conservation and sustainable development in Mediterranean Sea, action plan

The European adopted its own-initiative report drafted by Giorgio LISI (EPP-ED, Italy) on fisheries resources in the Mediterranean. (Please see the summary of 20/05/03.) Parliament asked the Commission not to encourage the establishment of new fisheries protection zones (FPZs) before having assessed their workability and the implications in the event of third countries taking a similar step. The programme proposed by the Commission is ambitious in overall terms, in that it seeks to achieve objectives which are largely contingent on actions by third countries in a very short space of time, despite the fact that new, reliable scientific data is not yet available. Parliament emphasised the need to coordinate research and to establish a model for the Mediterranean which can be used to extrapolate reliable data. Finally, Parliament believed that the extreme fragmentation of the market could be overcome if the centralisation of landing points were to be promoted - the practicalities of which would have to be compatible with the specific nature of the Mediterranean. It supported the establishment of local data-collection networks in order to facilitate research in this area.?