

Basic information	
2008/2177(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Towards a 'European Cormorant Management Plan' to minimize the increasing impact of cormorants on fish stocks, fisheries and aquaculture Subject 3.15 Fisheries policy 3.15.01 Fish stocks, conservation of fishery resources 3.15.04 Management of fisheries, fisheries, fishing grounds	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	PECH Fisheries		KINDERMANN Heinz (PSE)
Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries		2008-11-18
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner
	Maritime Affairs and Fisheries		BORG Joe

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/09/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/11/2008	Vote in committee		Summary
11/11/2008	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0434/2008	
18/11/2008	Debate in Council		
04/12/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0583/2008	Summary
04/12/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
04/12/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2177(INI)

Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55-p4 Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	PECH/6/62797

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE409.389	17/09/2008	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE414.240	13/10/2008	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0434/2008	11/11/2008	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0583/2008	04/12/2008	Summary
European Commission				
Document type	Reference		Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2009)401		10/03/2009	

Towards a 'European Cormorant Management Plan' to minimize the increasing impact of cormorants on fish stocks, fisheries and aquaculture

2008/2177(INI) - 04/12/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted, by 558 votes to 7 with 18 abstentions, a resolution on the application of a European cormorant management plan to minimise the increasing impact of cormorants on fish stocks, fishing and aquaculture.

The own-initiative report had been tabled for consideration by Heinz **KINDERMANN** (PES, DE) on behalf of the Committee on Fisheries.

MEPs called on the Commission to consider all the legal means at its disposal to reduce the negative effects of cormorant populations on fishing and aquaculture and to propose solutions to the cormorant problem in this context. The Commission and the Member States are called upon, by promoting regular scientific research, to provide reliable and generally recognised data on the total size and structure of cormorant populations in Europe, as well as their fertility and mortality parameters. According to the report, the total population of cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) has grown twenty-fold over the past 25 years and is now estimated to comprise at least 1.7 to 1.8 million birds. Cormorants have caused proven permanent damage to aquaculture undertakings and stocks of many wild fish species in the inland waterways and along sea coasts in many Member States of the European Union. They have also caused permanent damage to vegetation in certain geographical areas and the risk of serious damage increases disproportionately the closer the cormorant population in a given region approaches the carrying capacity of the region's large bodies of water, thus at the same time greatly reducing the effectiveness of local protective measures.

The Commission is also called upon to submit a **cormorant population management plan in several stages**, seeking to integrate cormorant populations into the environment as developed and cultivated by man in the long term without jeopardising the objectives of the Wild Birds Directive and Natura 2000 as regards fish species and marine and freshwater ecosystems. MEPs urge the Commission, in the interests of greater legal certainty and uniform interpretation, to provide without delay a clear definition of the term 'serious damage' as used in Article 9(1)(a), third indent, of the Wild Birds Directive (The Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) of 2 April 1979). The Commission should also produce more generalised guidance on the nature of the derogations allowed under Article 9(1) of the Wild Birds Directive, including further clarification of the terminology where any ambiguity may exist.

In this context, MEPs suggest that, by means of systematic monitoring of cormorant populations supported by the EU and the Member States, a reliable, generally recognised and annually updated database should be drawn up on the development, size and geographical distribution of cormorant populations in Europe. They call on the Commission to put out to tender, and finance, a **scientific project** aimed at supplying an estimation model for

the size and structure of the **total cormorant population** on the basis of currently available data on breeding population, fertility and mortality. The Commission and the Member States are called upon to foster in an appropriate manner the creation of suitable conditions for bilateral and multilateral scientific and administrative exchanges, both within the EU and with third countries.

The Commission and the Member States are also called to:

- promote the sustainable management of cormorant populations by means of increased scientific and administrative coordination, cooperation and communication, and to create appropriate conditions for the drafting of a Europe-wide cormorant population management plan;
- make some of the funds earmarked in the EU budget for data collection in the fisheries sector, in particular under heading 11 07 02: 'Support for the management of fishery resources (improvement of scientific advice)', available for investigations, analyses and forecasts of the cormorant population on the territory of the European Union, in preparation for the future regular monitoring of these species.