

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6.

1. Member to Agreement notifying: <u>EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Articles 3.2 and 7.2):
2. Agency responsible: European Commission Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: European Commission EC-TBT Enquiry Point Fax: (+32) 2 299 80 43 E-mail: ec-tbt@cec.eu.int
3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [X], 5.7.1 [], other: This measure has also been notified under the SPS Agreement.
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Aquatic organisms, including fish, shellfish and other invertebrates and aquatic plants
5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Proposal for a Council Regulation (.....) concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture, (COM(2006) 154 final, 4 April 2006) (32 pages, in English, French and Spanish).
6. Description of content: It is proposed to establish at the level of the EU member States a system of permits for non-native species which are introduced for aquaculture. Under the proposed measures, all projects to introduce a non-native species, or a native species which is locally absent from an area, would have to be submitted for approval to a national advisory committee, which would determine whether the proposed introduction was 'routine' (i.e. from a known source of aquatic organisms classified as low risk) or not. In the case of non-routine introductions, an environmental risk assessment would have to be carried out. Only movements which are assessed as low risk (or reduced to low risk by application of mitigation procedures or technologies) would be granted a permit which can cover a five year period. The proposal requires quarantine procedures for non-routine introductions and also sets out a number of requirements concerning pilot release, contingency plans, monitoring and the keeping of national registers.

<p>7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: It is proposed to regulate the introduction of non-native and locally absent species in aquaculture so as to prevent their possible negative impact on the surrounding environment. While non-native species have played an important role in the growth of aquaculture in the EU, in some cases such introductions can have an adverse impact on ecosystems and cause significant loss of biodiversity. These measures would therefore regulate the introduction of such species through the setting up of a permit system. The proposal builds on the voluntary codes of practice formulated by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the European Inland Fishery Advisory Commission (EIFAC/FAO). The EU 2002 Strategy for Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture included a commitment to address the possible negative consequences of such movements. The proposal leads from the EC's international commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>
<p>8. Relevant documents: Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning use of alien and locally absent species in aquaculture (available in English, French and Spanish).</p> <p>An impact assessment is available separately in English as European Commission Document SEC(2006) 421, 4 April 2006.</p> <p>When adopted it will be published in the Official Journal available at: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/oj/index.html</p>
<p>9. Proposed date of adoption: Late in 2006 Proposed date of entry into force: 20 days after the date of publication in the Official Journal of the European Union</p>
<p>10. Final date for comments: 60 days from date of circulation</p>
<p>11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available of the other body:</p> <p>European Commission EC-TBT Enquiry Point Fax: (+32) 2 299 80 43 E-mail: ec-tbt@cec.eu.int</p>