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European Union

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Animal By-Products: Fish Feed

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Approved by:

Justina Torry

U.S. Mission to the European Union, Brussels

Prepared by:

Gerda Vandercammen

Report Highlights:

This report concerns the first of two scientific opinions that will serve as the basis for a derogation on the ban on intra species recycling for fish. This ban was introduced in the new animal by-products legislation.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2], E2

Background. The EU animal by-products regulation, which is scheduled to enter into force on May 1, 2003 introduces a general ban on intra species recycling. This regulation, however, also provides for the adoption of a derogation on the intra species ban for fish and fur animals under certain conditions. A Commission proposal establishing these conditions is currently being developed and will likely be discussed at the next meeting with stakeholders that will take place on March 28 in Brussels. The proposal implementing the derogation for fish is based on the risk analysis which is the subject of two scientific reports.

Scientific Reports.

The issue of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies has been dealt with separately by an ad hoc group of the Scientific Steering Committee. Its report entitled "The feeding of wild fishmeal to farmed fish and recycling of fish with regards to the risk of TSE" has been adopted and will be published shortly.

The other scientific report dealing with non-TSE related issues was published on the DG SANCO website at http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/scab/out87_en.pdf. This report was prepared by the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare.

The report covers the following aspects:

- ! Current practice: what fish by-products are fed to fish, including the feeding of sea-caught fish or fish offals from plants manufacturing fish products for human consumption, and the use of by-products originating on fish farms (e.g. dead fish);
- ! Which animal or public health disease risks are associated with the feeding of fish by-products
- ! Which treatment methods of these by-products could reduce or eliminate identified risks.

Based on its analysis, the Scientific Committee recommends that:

1. In order to limit any risk of the transmission of fish diseases to fish or humans via the feeding of fish by-products processed into fishmeal/fishfeed, and in the light of the issue of intra-species recycling,
 - ! The by-products of farmed finfish should not be fed to farmed finfish,
 - ! The by-products of farmed invertebrates should not be fed to farmed invertebrates.
2. The feeding to fish of "wet" diets containing fresh or frozen but otherwise unprocessed fish by-products is not recommended.
3. Processes used for the production of feed or fertilizers from by-products of wild or farmed fish should be validated with regards to their ability to inactivate representative model organisms.
4. Current procedures used to process mortalities from fish farms should be validated in terms of their ability to inactivate fish pathogens and also in terms of microbiological safety of the end-product.

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