

To: Interested Parties

9 October 2006

Reference: FSH 82

Dear Sir or Madam:

Commission Decision 2006/236/EC on Fishery Products from Indonesia

I am writing to update you on the status of fishery products imported to the UK from Indonesia in relation to the above mentioned Decision. As you are aware, this Decision requires Member States (MS) to test all consignments of fishery products for heavy metals and histamine to ensure compliance with EU standards.

The issue was discussed at a meeting of the Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health (Scofcah) in Brussels on 3 – 4 October. The Commission informed Member States that the testing programme required by the Decision remains in place for the time being. In response to a request from the UK, the Commission explained that only 11 Member States had forwarded data on histamine analysis on imports fishery products as required by Article 2 of the Decision. They asked all MS to respond so that they had all the relevant information.

The next Scofcah meeting in Brussels is expected in mid October when the Commission will be expected to report on the information received. The UK has already proposed that if the data is up to the required standard then at least some reduction in the level of testing should be possible and possibly also species specific.

I hope to write to you once I know more. In the meantime, if you or your colleagues wish to discuss this in more detail please contact me again.

Yours sincerely

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