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**RESTRICTED WORKING GROUP ON PARASITES IN FISHERY PRODUCTS**

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Article 11(8) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 provides for implementing measures to be laid down regarding parasites in fishery products:

- to specify criteria for determining when epidemiological data indicate that a fishing ground does not present a health hazard with regard to the presence of parasites and, consequently,
- determining when the competent authority may authorise food business operators not to freeze fishery products in accordance with Annex III, Section VIII, Chapter III, Part D.

Parasites in fishery products have been discussed on several occasions, including working group meetings on 3 April 2006 and 6 November 2006.

In the ongoing review of the hygiene Regulations Member States have also asked for a clarification of requirements regarding parasites in fishery products, both wild and farmed fish. Furthermore the term "Obviously contaminated with parasites" should be clarified.

A call for interest to participate in a restricted working group on parasites in fishery products will shortly be sent to the Member States.