

- In the seafood industry the combination of stable catch levels and increased demand will mean higher prices. Both the US and Europe are expecting increases of +500 g per head per year. This will yield and increase of 250,000 tonnes in consumption per year (In the North Sea, the current yield for relevant species is 1 million tonnes per annum). These changes will be more important than new sanitary regulations.

- There are no collective sanitary regulations yet, it is still a proposal and more will emerge from current and proposed discussions. The EEC Sanitary Regulations are directives not regulations and are still superseded by other EEC and national regulations.

Main Contents of Proposal:

- The principle is different from the American approach, involving the licensing of plants not products. Each facility is given a number which follows the products through to the consumer.

- It provides requirements for processing facilities e.g. cleanable doors, floors, ceilings, etc.

- There are specific requirements for frozen fish, processed products, canning and vacuum packs, smoked and salted fish, pre-cooked shellfish and molluscs.

- This proposal will probably be negotiated into a compromise proposal. e.g. canning will require records of treatment, random checks, etc.

- With imports, the EEC will do the licensing, provide procedures for each 3rd country and provide on-site inspection by EEC experts.

- All licensed and 3rd country establishments get an identification number to put on all their products.

- Under the proposal, an EEC commission or a member state may ban imports if health safety is threatened.

- The directive is supposed to supplant national sanitary requirements, but it probably won't work that way as there will still be different national requirements, but the process will make it easier.

- It will not be prohibitive or restrictive and limit imports, as the need for imports will increase. The directive paragraph on 3rd countries is likely to change and be replaced by spot-checks or the present formula.