

conform are to be banned as of the beginning of 1992. The Bureau of Chemical Safety, Health Protection Branch, Health and Welfare Canada, has been requested to offer comments on the potential impact on Canada, including fish products.

6. A directive (Doc. C- 40) relating to materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs adopted by the EC Council in December 1988 will likely impact on fisheries, but the extent has yet to be determined. This matter is still being probed by DFO Inspection Services. Materials that do not conform will be banned everywhere as from January 1992.

7. An amendment (Doc. C-42) to a directive relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the consumer is under review by DFO's Inspection Services Directorate.

8. A directive (Doc. C-45) on the official inspection of foodstuffs (adopted in June 1989) is intended to harmonize food inspection regulations throughout the Community. It provides for inspections to be carried out by qualified inspectors on foodstuffs and on materials intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, in order to prevent risks to human health and fraudulent labelling or presentation. This directive applies principally to foodstuffs produced within the EC for domestic consumption and export. Inspections will cover all stages of production, manufacture, processing, storage, transport, distribution and trade. Imported foodstuffs will be subject to inspection on entry into the Community, but there is no provision or requirement in this directive for prior inspections to be carried out by the competent authorities of a third country exporting foodstuffs to the Community.

Fishery products including live molluscs are among a list of products which will no longer be subject to veterinary controls at borders between EC member states from January 1992 onwards. Veterinary checks, conducted in the interests of public health, will have to be effected at the point of departure only. Member states will still be able to conduct veterinary checks at ports and at their borders on live fish intended for fish farms, although even here the Council of EC Agriculture Ministers is committed to adopting a directive by the end of 1990 on harmonising such checks. To meet concern by some member states over possible laxity by others in enforcing checks on products imported from outside the Community, the following amendment was added to the relevant Directive approved last December: "Until 31 December 1992 and in order to allow the gradual implementation of the control arrangements laid down in this Directive, the member states may, by way of derogation... carry out documentary checks during transport on products imported from third countries of which they are consignees."