

MARKET ACCESS

Improvements for Canadian firms have been realized in the case of better market access to the European Union {EU} as a result of the 1993 recognition of equivalency of Canada's fish inspection system with its reliance on Quality Management Program {QMP}. This success has largely led to an exemption from the mandatory import inspection requirements implemented by the EU in January, 1993. Fishery products not currently covered by the derogation include trade in live molluscan shellfish products, and because of fish health and disease concerns of live aquacultured products. Efforts will be undertaken to conclude agreements in 1995 for these products to permit similar ease of access into the European Union.

Sanitary Conditions

The conditions referred to in Article 11 of EU Directive 91/493/EEC and to in Article 9 of Directive 91/492/EEC {fixing the specific conditions for imports} are based directly on those referred to in Article 8{3} of Directive 90/675/EEC {the application of less frequent checks}. During the discussions in the Council prior to the adoption of Directive 91/493/EEC several Member States maintained that if a third country satisfied the specific import conditions, it should qualify on that account for less frequent checks as provided for in Article 8{3} of Directive 90/675/EEC.

EU COMMISSION DECISION OF 26 JULY 1993 LAYING DOWN SPECIAL CONDITIONS GOVERNING IMPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN CANADA

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community. Having regard to Council Directive 91/493/EEC of 22 July 1991 laying down the health conditions for the production and the placing on the market of fishery products', and in particular Article 11 thereof,

Whereas a group of Commission experts has conducted an inspection visit to Canada to verify the conditions under which fishery products are produced, stored and dispatched to the Community; Whereas the provisions of Canadian legislation on health inspection and monitoring of fishery products may be considered equivalent to those laid down in Directive 91/493/EEC;

Whereas the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the competent Canadian authority, and its Inspection Directorate are capable of effectively verifying the application of the laws in force; Whereas the procedure for obtaining the health certificate referred to in point {a} of Article 11 {4} of Directive 91/493/EEC must also cover the definition of a model certificate, the minimum requirement regarding the language{s} in which it must be drafted and the grade of the person empowered to sign it;