Control of certain fish diseases, especially the salmon

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The committee adopted the report (consultation procedure) by Ian HUDGHTON (Greens/EFA, UK) approving, subject to a number of amendments, the Commission proposal amending the directive on the control of certain fish diseases. The report pointed out that the current culling regime had not achieved its intended results - ISA had not been eradicated and the number of cases was continuing to increase. It felt that the Commission's amendments to the directive were acceptable in that the proposed measures did not amount to a relaxation of the current regime but rather aimed to ensure that controls were implemented more logically and systematically. Salmon farms would be able to market unaffected salmon rather than culling them immediately before they were of marketable size. The committee acknowledged the urgent nature of the proposal and the need to avoid further delays so that the salmon industry did not suffer further damage. It therefore felt that the proposal should be approved without substantive amendments but pointed out that it had not addressed other vital issues, such as compensation and the existence of ISA in wild salmon. In particular, the committee called on the Commission to instigate scientific and technical research into the development of a vaccine and proper research into the sources of ISA and any interchange between wild and farmed salmon.