Control of certain fish diseases, especially the salmon

1999/0191(CNS) - 09/09/1999 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to amend Directive 93/53/EEC introducing minimum Community measures for the control of certain fish diseases. CONTENT : Directive 93/53/EEC foresees that, in order to eradicate all possible outbreaks of infectious salmon anaemia (ISA), all fish from infected farms shall be withdrawn without delay. In May 1998, an outbreak of ISA occurred in Scotland in a certain number of sites. The implementation of the measures provided for in Directive 93/53/EEC by the competent authorities in Scotland have shown that improvements can be made so as to allow efficient control of the disease whilst safeguarding as much as possible the interests of the infected sites. In this context, improvements can be made by introducing the possibility for spreading the obligation to empty affected farms over a period of time to be determined by the component authority in function of the local situation, and under respect of the general obligations contained in Directive 93/53/EEC. This proposal seeks to introduce such improvements. At the same time, it is believed that the control of an ISA outbreak can be better ensured by applying a vaccination policy. At present, such a possibility does not exist. Therefore, the requirements laid down in Directive 93/53/EEC must be adapted so as to introduce a procedure which allows the vaccination and the definition of the conditions under which such vaccinations may take place.