Scheme of joint international inspection, Northwest Atlantic fisheries Organisation, NAFO (amend. regul. 1956/88/EEC)

1995/0150(CNS) - 21/12/1995 - Final act

-OBJECTIVE: To amend the scheme of joint international inspection regarding vessels operating in the NAFO Regulatory Area, following the conclusion of an EC-Canada fisheries agreement signed on 20 April 1995, in order to strengthen monitoring and compliance with inspection measures currently in force. -COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation (EC) No 3067/95 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1956 /88 adopting provisions for the application of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. -SUBSTANCE: The amendments to Regulation (EEC) No 1956/88 are primarily aimed at increasing the role and responsibilities of the Commission inspectors assigned to the International Inspection Scheme. They cover the following points: . inspections are carried out in a non-discriminatory manner; . the number of inspections is based upon fleet size, taking into account their compliance records; . inspections must avoid damage to the cargo or to the gear inspected and minimize disruption to fishing activities; . crews and the vessels operating in conformity with the relevant measures should not be subject to harassment, and inspections may only be carried out with a view to enforcing NAFO rules; . particular attention will be paid to such infringements as misreporting of catches, mesh size violations, hail system violations, interference with the satellite tracking system, preventing an inspector from carrying out his or her duties, and fishing for a stock for which fishing is prohibited; . any information about illegal practices or evidence of infringements will be forwarded to the inspection authorities of the flag Member State and to the NAFO Executive Secretary. In certain cases, these authorities may require the vessel to proceed to a nearby port with a view to its thorough inspection; . if an apparent infringement is deemed sufficiently serious, the inspector is required to notify the NAFO Executive Secretary immediately and may take all necessary measures to ensure security of the evidence, including sealing the vessel's hold. -ENTRY INTO FORCE: 6 January 1996.