REPORT ON OTHER OECD ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FISHERIES

This paper is being circulated for INFORMATION and DISCUSSION at the 86th Session of the Committee for Fisheries (9-11 October 2000). It will be considered under agenda item 2 (b).

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RECENT DOCUMENTS RELATED TO ACTIVITIES IN THE OECD THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES

The purpose of this information note is to keep the Committee for Fisheries up to date with major developments in the OECD since last meeting in March 2000. Some documents of relevance to the Committee for Fisheries, circulated in other parts of the Organisation, are reported on below.

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Council

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON HARMONISATION OF REGULATORY OVERSIGHT IN BIOTECHNOLOGY
C(2000)86/ADD2

This report of OECD’s Working Group on Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology is complementary to that of OECD’s Task Force for the Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds [C(2000)86/ADD1]. It focuses specifically on the environmental safety implications of the use of products of modern biotechnology, including the use of genetically engineered organisms, in food production. In this context, this includes those safety considerations which have implications for the conservation of biodiversity, given that biodiversity is the ultimate source of food and genetic resources.

Regarding use of biotechnology in fisheries the following is reported:

No transgenic animals have yet been commercialised but a number of applications involving animals are under development. In particular, there is interest world-wide in applying genetic engineering to aquaculture (e.g. Chen & Powers, 1990) and genetically modified salmon are close to commercialisation. Although genetic modification of animals is not yet a priority for the Working Group, the OECD has made an initial study on the environmental impacts of aquaculture (OECD, 1996) which could be a basis for future activities in this field.

Chen and Powers, 1990.


The Fisheries Division has not provided input to this report.
The draft Economic Survey of Canada was on 30 May 2000 submitted to the Economic and Development Review Committee for CONSIDERATION. The Canadian authorities did not have the opportunity to comment on this draft before it was circulated.

The chapters on Making growth more environmentally sustainable and Assessment and Recommendations include discussions of fisheries issues.

The second draft of the Economic Survey of Canada that takes into account comments made during the examination by the EDRC, as well as more recently available data, was circulated to the EDRC for APPROVAL at its meeting on 6 July 2000. The second draft included some changes to paragraphs discussing fisheries issues.

The Fisheries Division has provided comments on earlier drafts of this report.

This review of Iceland’s environmental performance examines results in the light of domestic objectives and international commitments. The report is organised in three parts:

- Part I is entitled "Environmental Management” and focuses on implementing environmental policies, water and waste management, as well as land management and the central highlands;
- Part II is entitled "Sustainable Development" and focuses on economy and the environment, environmental/social interface and fisheries; Chapter 6 is devoted to Sectoral integration: Fisheries.
- Part III is entitled "International Commitments” and focuses on international co-operation.
Conclusions and recommendations are found in the document ENV/EPOC/GEP(2000)9/ADD1)

The examination of the environmental performance of Iceland will take place on 6 November.

One of the Fisheries Division staff participated on the mission to Iceland and on the evaluation team.

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Environment Directorate
Environment Policy Committee

OECD ENVIRONMENTAL OUTLOOK
ENV/EPOC/… (to be put on OLIS in October 2000)

This report analyses environmental development to 2020, including the use of natural resources. Fisheries are being analysed and discussed in Chapter 9, using the economic model JOBS as well as statistics and publications from FAO and OECD. A consultancy report (see AGR/FI/RD(2000)8) has also provided significant input to the fisheries chapter.

The Fisheries Division has provided comments on previous drafts of this report.

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Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

IMMUNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE

A symposium/workshop was organised as a part of the 8th Congress of the International Society of Developmental and Comparative Immunology (ISDCI), 3-6 July 2000, Cairns, Australia. This symposium was supported by the OECD Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems (2000 – 2004).

Knowledge of the functioning of the immune system in the diverse marine and freshwater species that are the subject of either current or developing aquaculture activities is essential to the viability and hence the sustainability of the industry. An immunological approach to health maintenance offers the opportunity to develop cost effective and environmentally acceptable and sustainable strategies for the prevention of infectious disease. These strategies include the development of effective vaccines for the control of specific diseases and the enhancement of resistance to infectious agents through stimulation of innate immune mechanisms. The 8th Congress of the ISDCI provides a venue to bring together expertise covering a range of relevant species. This proposal follows the successful OECD-supported symposium on immunology and the advancement of aquaculture that was part of the 7th ISDCI Congress held in 1997 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Policy Relevance: Knowledge of the immunology of aquaculture species provides an opportunity to develop environmentally acceptable strategies for the control of fish diseases in aquaculture.

The Fisheries Division has not been involved in this work.