

To: Interested Parties

24 June 2008

Reference: FIN 10/2008

Dear Sir or Madam

IMPORTS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM MOZAMBIQUE

I am writing to inform you that, at the 18 June meeting of the EU Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH), fishery products from Mozambique were discussed. The purpose of this letter is to alert interested parties to the outcome of these discussions.

In November 2007 the Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) mission to Mozambique on fishery products found significant improvements since their last visit in 2006. However Mozambique's monitoring programme for environmental contaminants (heavy metals, polycyclic hydrocarbons, dioxins) is not fully implemented.

Interested parties who source fishery products from Mozambique will wish to be aware of the FVO's findings regarding environmental contaminants to ensure that products comply with EU requirements.

This matter has also been drawn to the attention of Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) so that they can take this into account during sampling and analysis checks on consignments of fishery products from Mozambique. This does not affect monitoring arrangements on consignments of fishery products from EU-approved fishing vessels, which will continue as at present.

The advice contained in this letter should not be taken as an authoritative statement of the law or its interpretation. The opinion of your Home Authority or other enforcement authorities may differ. Only the courts can decide whether in particular circumstances an offence has been committed.

I hope that this is helpful but if you need any further information please let me know. The Agency's imports section on our website can be found at <http://www.food.gov.uk/imports>

Importers may also register for the Agency's on-line Guidance and Regulatory Advice on Import Legislation system (GRAIL) by following this link:
<https://grail.foodapps.co.uk/grail/general/home.aspx>

Yours sincerely

Ian Grist
Imported Food Branch
Enforcement Support Division