COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 2354/2002
of 20 December 2002
fixing the reference prices for a number of fishery products for the 2003 fishing year

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 of 17 December 1999 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products [1], and in particular Article 29(1) and (5) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 provides that reference prices valid for the Community may be fixed each year, by product category, for products that are the subject of a tariff suspension under Article 28(1). The same holds for products which, by virtue of being either the subject of a binding tariff reduction under the WTO or some other preferential arrangements, must comply with a reference price.

(2) For the products listed in Annex I(A) and (B) to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000, the reference price is the same as the withdrawal price fixed in accordance with Article 20(1) of that Regulation.

(3) The Community withdrawal and selling prices for the products concerned are fixed for the 2003 fishing year by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2352/2002 [2].

(4) The reference price for products other than those listed in Annexes I and II to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 is established on the basis of the weighted average of customs values recorded on the import markets or in the ports of import in the three years immediately preceding the date on which the reference price is fixed.

(5) There is no need to fix reference prices for all the species covered by the criteria laid down in Article 29(1) of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000, and particularly not for those imported from third countries in insignificant volumes.

(6) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Management Committee for Fishery Products,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

The reference prices for the 2003 fishing year of fishery products listed in Article 29 of Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 shall be as laid down in the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 January 2003.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 20 December 2002.

For the Commission
Franz FISCHLER
Member of the Commission

[1] OJ L 17, 21.1.2000, p. 22.
[2] See page 29 of this Official Journal.