Summary

Advice 08-2008 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC: chemical contaminants and drug residues in farmed fish consumed in Belgium

The Scientific Committee started a self tasking study on chemical contaminants and veterinary drug residues in farmed fish consumed in Belgium with the aim to examine the possibilities to improve the food safety of the aquaculture products by a better control of farmed fish feed.
Hites *et al.* (2004) reported significantly higher concentrations of organochlorine contaminants in farmed salmon compared to wild salmon.
The Scientific Committee analyzed the control results of environmental contaminants and veterinary drug residues carried out by the FASFC in fish and feed for fish. In general, the level of environmental contaminants found in the Belgian farmed trouts is not of concern. Prohibited drug residues are found in aquaculture products, mainly in imported shrimps.

As a consequence of the increasing demand of consumers and the decline of sea fishing, fish farming is expanding. In order to preserve natural stocks and to contribute to the development of a durable worldwide aquaculture, there is a tendancy to replace fishmeal, as source of proteins, by crop products. Innovations in fishfarming take also place in Belgium. New fish species (e.g. tilapias) are produced.

The Scientific Committee emphasizes the importance of the control of fish feed, but also of products of conventional aquaculture and of products resulting from the emergent sectors. The control of imported products and more particularly the control of antibiotic residues needs to be continued.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section “Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen” and “Comité scientifique/Avis”.