



News Release

68/06

18 December 2006

CC FORMALLY CLEARS PAN FISH/MARINE HARVEST MERGER

The Competition Commission (CC) has formally cleared the anticipated acquisition by Pan Fish ASA of Marine Harvest NV.

In its final report published today at www.competition-commission.org.uk, the CC has concluded that the acquisition may not be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition in the market for the supply of European farmed Atlantic salmon in the UK.

This confirms the CC's provisional findings, which were published last month. See news release dated 7 November at:

www.competition-commission.org.uk/press_rel/2006/nov/index.htm

The merger was referred by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on 6 July 2006.

Notes to editors

1. The CC is an independent public body, which carries out investigations into mergers, markets and regulated industries.
2. The Enterprise Act 2002 empowers the OFT to refer to the CC completed or proposed mergers for investigation and report which create or enhance a 25 per cent share of supply in the UK (or a substantial part thereof) or where the UK turnover associated with the enterprise being acquired is over £70 million.
3. The Pan Fish/Marine Harvest Inquiry Group consists of five members: Christopher Clarke (Group Chairman and a Deputy Chairman of the CC), Christopher Bright, Ivar Grey, Professor Michael Waterson, and Jonathan Whitarcar.
4. The CC has a 24-week period in which it is required to publish its report, which may be extended by no more than eight weeks if it considers that there are special reasons why the report cannot be published within that period.
5. Further information on the CC and its procedures, including its policy on the provision of information and the disclosure of evidence, can be obtained from its website at: www.competition-commission.org.uk.
6. Media enquiries should be directed to Rory Taylor on 020 7271 0242 (email: rory.taylor@cc.gsi.gov.uk).