

Traceability and consumer information for fish landed in Scotland on the fish market: A joint Food Standards Scotland, Marine Scotland and Seafish guidance note

European fisheries control and marketing measures require catch information to be available throughout the supply chain and ultimately to the consumer. This must be provided no later than first sale by those involved in presenting the fish. Sales notes subsequently sent to Fishery Offices do not meet with this requirement as they are completed after the first sale has taken place.

The marketing regulations (EU 1379/2013) also require producer organisations to contribute 'to the traceability of fishery products and access to clear and comprehensive information for consumers'.

This document is intended as a basic guide on how to meet the minimum level of information required by the regulations. It is not intended to be prescriptive instructions about the methods which are expected to be put in place. It is for individual operators to decide exactly how to conform to the requirements. Some example approaches are described below.

The catch information required within the supply chain:

- Lot¹/batch reference. *This must allow fish to be traceable back to the vessel(s) that caught it. Lots/batches can subsequently be merged and may be identified with a new lot/batch reference;*
- Supplier name and address;
- Name of fishing vessel (or vessels for pair trawlers or group sales) and port identification number (PLNs);
- Date of catch or harvest. *This can include several calendar days or one period of time corresponding to several dates of catches;*
- Box weight or number of individual fish, e.g. lobsters;
- Predominant FAO sub area or division where caught;
- Category of fishing gear used;
- Commercial designation and scientific name of species caught; and,
- FAO alpha-3 code.

The information must be provided at or before sale even though this may subsequently be provided on sales invoices. Examples include:

- Labelling of individual boxes or bins - some vessels already do if weighing at sea, or Lots as sold;
- Provision of information to buyers prior to sale – fish selling companies may already do this by e-mail in a label format such as that attached. This label may also be provided with the vessels catch on the market;
- Include in forward information systems; and,
- Include in data provided at electronic auctions.

¹ A 'lot' is defined as "a quantity of fisheries and aquaculture products of a given species or the same presentation coming from the same relevant geographical area and the same fishing vessel, or group of fishing vessels, or the same aquaculture production unit".

Lots may be merged or split after first sale providing it is possible to trace them back to the catching or harvesting areas. In such cases a new lot or sub lot identification reference may be provided.

When fish are transported away from the market the information required should be available to hauliers

Further information can be found on the Seafish website at <http://www.org/industry-support/legislation/traceability-and-labelling> or by contacting the local Fishery Office or your local authority's Environmental Health Department. The traceability information is needed at each step of the supply chain from landing through first sale and processing to ensure information travels with the fish and subsequent businesses can label or provide information to consumer. The flow chart below demonstrates how this can be achieved:

