

## **Seafish EU alert monitoring 11/12/15 - 18/12/15**

### **Ethics**

#### **The fundamental connection between human rights and labour rights**

The ILO joins the global community in launching a year-long campaign to mark the 50th anniversary of two landmarks in the history of human rights: the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, founded on the principles that all people are born equal in rights and in dignity.

The ILO continues to highlight the fundamental connection between human rights and labour rights and the realization of decent work for all: work carried out in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.

[http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/who-we-are/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS\\_434604/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/who-we-are/ilo-director-general/statements-and-speeches/WCMS_434604/lang--en/index.htm)

#### **Eurojust fighting human trafficking for labour exploitation**

Eurojust has published a report on prosecuting trafficking in Human Beings (THB) for the purpose of labour exploitation. The findings of the report are based on the analysis of, inter alia, 32 judgements from 11 countries and 17 cases registered at Eurojust as Trafficking in Human Beings for labour exploitation.

The report provides a brief overview of THB for labour exploitation cases handled at Eurojust, on the basis of which some of the challenges faced by the involved countries are described. Best practice in judicial cooperation as well as the possible assistance of Eurojust are emphasised, namely through facilitating the prompt exchange of information, organising coordination meetings and coordination centres, assisting in the setting up of JITs and funding thereof, and assisting in the execution of Letters of Request.

<http://eurojust.europa.eu/press/PressReleases/Pages/2015/2015-12-14.aspx>

#### **Written question on importation of fisheries products from suppliers using slave labour**

A US law firm has recently denounced a large agri-food group, with operations in Europe, which buys fisheries products from a Thai supplier which itself acquires its produce from fishing vessels that use slave labour.

What action has the Commission taken, or will it take, to put a stop to these intolerable practices?

Where such practices are reported to the Commission, will it restrict imports of fisheries products from countries which fail even to respect the most basic of human rights?

Will the requisite penalties be imposed on these callous importers and their associates?

The full question and answer can be viewed here

[www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bE-2015-012767%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bE-2015-012767%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN)

### **Third Party Trade**

#### **Joint Statement by Commissioner Malmström and Ambassador Froman on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations**

European Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström and US Trade Representative Michael Froman released the following joint statement after the conclusion of their meeting on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in Brussels.

"The European Union and the United States have made considerable progress towards a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in the past year, notably since the G7 Elmau summit in June, when we agreed to accelerate work on all elements of the agreement. We are fully committed to expeditiously reaching an ambitious, comprehensive agreement that promotes economic growth and jobs, strengthens our strategic partnership, and reflects our shared values. At our meeting today, we agreed to further intensify our work during 2016 to help negotiations move forward rapidly, including through enhanced intersessional work, frequent formal negotiating rounds, and increased Minister level consultations."

<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1413>

### **Food Safety and Labelling**

#### **European Food Safety Authority: EFSA advises on heat treatment of bivalve molluscs**

Experts at EFSA have evaluated possible alternatives to the current heat treatments of molluscs required by EU legislation before they are placed on the market. Such treatments, which are needed to kill possible viruses, may alter the quality of the final products.

Bivalve molluscs, such as mussels, oysters and clams can be a source of Norovirus and Hepatitis A infections in humans. They accumulate virus particles in their tissues during filter feeding in contaminated water.

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4332>

#### **Question for written answer on Legislative requirements for the labelling of fishery and aquaculture products**

Under Regulation (EU) 1379/2013 on the labelling of fishery and aquaculture products, companies are required to inform consumers of the type of fishing gear used.

Can the Commission confirm that the labelling requirements in Regulation (EU) 1379/2013 apply to preserved fish, including tinned tuna?

What steps is the Commission taking to ensure that the labelling requirements in Regulation (EU) 1379/2013 are properly enforced and that consumers in the EU are fully informed about the sustainability of the fish products they purchase?

Can the Commission confirm whether fish caught with fish aggregation devices can be defined as sustainably sourced under EC law?

The full question and answer given can be viewed here

[www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bE-2015-013700%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bE-2015-013700%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN)

### **Question for written answer on Labelling of mussels**

Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 (without prejudice to Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011) describes packaging requirements for aquaculture and fishery products. The production method (whether caught in the wild or the product of aquaculture) must also be indicated.

In the Netherlands, the supervisory body NVWA recently made it compulsory to label mussels as the product of aquaculture whereas in previous years the label 'caught in the wild' had been used. In the Netherlands, mussel larvae are caught in the wild and placed in beds for two or three years, after which they are harvested as mussels ready for consumption. This means that the mussels grow in their natural habitat without any techniques being used to increase the production of the mussels beyond the natural capacity of the environment.

1. Does the Commission consider that mussel growing as described above meets the definition of aquaculture in Directive 2006/88/EC or that it falls under Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 — catching of organisms in the wild?
2. Can the Commission provide clearer information to retailers on the interpretation of the definition of aquaculture, so that consumers can also be better informed about the labelling that has been opted for? If not, why not?

The full question and answer can be viewed here

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bE-2015-013237%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

### **Fish By-Products**

#### **Directorate-General for Research, Innovation and Science: Horizon 2020: Fresh resources from food processing**

EU-funded researchers have demonstrated sustainable ways to get the most out of produce. By-products from fish are included. The focus of APROPOS is to develop novel eco-efficient bio-mechanical processing solutions to enrich intermediate fractions from industrial high protein and oil-containing process residues originating from agriculture and fisheries.

According to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization, only 25-50% of a fish is used for food, these co-streams are an untapped source of food, health and agricultural products as they are rich in proteins, fatty acids such as omega 3, and other valuable compounds.

So far, members of APROPOS have demonstrated a number of extracts from fish co-streams.

- protein powder from fish-filleting residues – added to low-protein food to make it more nutritious;
- anti-oxidising and anti-inflammatory bioactive peptides extracted from fish

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/fresh-resources-food-processing#comments>

## **EMFF**

### **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund will invest EUR 5.75bn to boost maritime jobs and growth**

The European Commission published a Communication setting out how the money available under the EU's five European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) will be spent in the period 2014-2020.

Under the EMFF in particular, a total of EUR 5.75 billion will be spent on implementing the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP).

Under their respective operational programmes, Member States have committed to supporting sustainable and competitive fisheries and aquaculture, creating 10 200 jobs while maintaining another 85 000. Fuel efficiency is expected to increase by more than 40%, while the introduction of the landing obligation will lower the volume of unwanted catches by more than 20%.

[http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index_en.htm)

## **Common Fisheries Policy**

### **Presentation on a New Common Fisheries Policy: structure for technical measures and multiannual plans**

On December 14, the European Parliament debated and voted upon the report on the Presentation on a New Common Fisheries Policy: structure for technical measures and multiannual plans. On December 15, the report was adopted with 571 votes in favour and 6 votes against.

The report can be found here

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2015-0328&language=EN>

For details of discussions contact [f\\_wright@seafish.co.uk](mailto:f_wright@seafish.co.uk)

The text adopted by Parliament on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec can be viewed here

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2015-0447+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

## **Council Register - Community Fisheries Control Agency**

There are currently more than 300 civilian and military authorities in the Member States responsible for carrying out coastguard functions in a wide range of areas such as maritime safety, security, search and rescue, border control, fisheries control, customs control, general law enforcement and environmental protection. A number of EU agencies, in particular the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, the European Maritime Safety Agency and the European Fisheries Control Agency, support the national authorities in the exercise of these functions.

The purpose of this legislative proposal reinforcing European co-operation on coastguard functions is to improve co-operation and co-ordination between the relevant EU agencies in order to enhance synergies between their respective services, thus allowing them to provide more efficient and cost effective multipurpose services to national authorities carrying out coastguard functions

The Proposal for a Regulation to establish a Community Fisheries Control Agency can be viewed here <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15395-2015-INIT/en/pdf>

## **IUU**

### **Question for written answer on Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Black Sea**

A number of vessels flying the flag of third countries have been intercepted while fishing illegally in Romania's territorial waters. At the same time, it is very important to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in general and in the territorial waters of the Member States, in particular:

In view of this:

What is the estimated level of IUU fishing in the Black Sea as a percentage of legal fishing levels?  
What is the estimated number of foreign-flagged vessels involved in IUU fishing?

The full question and the answer can be viewed here

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bE-2015-013528%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

### **Question for written answer on action vis-à-vis the Member States on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing**

The fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is crucial in order to guarantee the sustainable management of marine resources. Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing was adopted for this purpose.

What action is the Commission taking to ensure that Member States correctly carry out the checking, inspection and verification activities assigned to them by the regulation?

Can the Commission guarantee that a consignment that has been refused at a Member State port will not be allowed to enter another Member State?

The full question and answer can be viewed here

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bE-2015-013840%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

## **Shellfish Farming**

### **Written question on shellfish farming**

There are certain factors which adversely affect shellfish production, including environmental and climate-related factors but, above all, animal predators. In Italy, several production areas for mussels, oysters and clams, such as La Spezia, Trieste and Gaeta, have been complaining of extensive damage caused by sea breams (e.g.: Sparus aurata). The same problem has been reported and

studied also in production areas in other Member States, such as France, Spain and Croatia. This issue of predation has come to affect as much as 40% or more of production. The issue has become more widespread and serious in recent years due to the gradual increase in sea temperatures which affects the metabolism and reproductive cycle of fish predators.

Bearing in mind that containment measures and systems have a severe impact on production costs, could the Commission not launch coordination instruments, workshops and EU activities with a view to comprehending the phenomenon and seeking sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions?

Will the Commission also implement measures to support the businesses affected and take preventive measures to protect areas where predators are active?

The full question and answer can be viewed here

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bWQ%2bP-2015-014757%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>