

# UK fish labelling checklist

What must go on fish and shellfish labels: for consumers, and along the supply chain.

## 1. Consumer information

Fresh, chilled and frozen fish, crustaceans and molluscs, smoked, salted and dried fish, and seaweed. Reg. 1379/2013 Art. 35; Fish Labelling Regulations 2013.

- ☐ **Commercial and scientific name** e.g. Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*)
- ☐ **Production method:** "caught", "caught in freshwater" or "farmed"
- ☐ **Catch or farming area** (see below)
- ☐ **Fishing gear category** (wild-caught only): seines, trawls, gillnets and similar nets, surrounding and lift nets, hooks and lines, dredges, or pots and traps
- ☐ **"Defrosted"** if it was frozen and is sold defrosted
- ☐ **Use-by or best-before date** where appropriate

## Catch area: get it right

- ☐ **Sea-caught:** the FAO area. For FAO 27 (North-East Atlantic, incl. UK waters) and FAO 37, add the **sub-area or division in words**. "FAO 27" alone is not enough.
- ☐ **Freshwater:** the body of water and the country
- ☐ **Farmed:** the country where it reached more than half its final weight or spent more than half its rearing period (shellfish: final rearing stage of at least six months)

## General food labelling (prepacked)

- ☐ **Allergens:** fish, crustaceans and molluscs are all among the 14
- ☐ **Net quantity**
- ☐ **Storage conditions**
- ☐ **Name and address** of the business
- ☐ **Identification mark** if you're an approved establishment
- ☐ **Sold loose?** The information can go on a ticket or sign next to the product

## 2. Supply-chain traceability: every lot

MMO guidance (England). On the label, by barcode or QR code, or on accompanying documents.

- ☐ **Lot ID number**
- ☐ **Vessel name and PLN** (port letters and number)
- ☐ **Species:** FAO code, common name or scientific name
- ☐ **Date of catch** or production
- ☐ **Net weight** in kg of each species
- ☐ **Supplier's name and address**
- ☐ **ICES area**
- ☐ **Production method** (caught or farmed)
- ☐ **Gear code** e.g. TBB for beam trawl
- ☐ **Best-before date**
- ☐ **Previously frozen?**
- ☐ **At first sale: trip or landing date and port of landing**

## Good to know

- ☐ **Every box or bag needs a label**, at minimum a unique ID linking it to the lot's documents
- ☐ **Barcodes and QR codes are fine** if inspectors can see the information at any time
- ☐ **Split or merged lots** must stay traceable to the catch; a merged lot needs every vessel's details
- ☐ **Direct sales from the boat** of £45 or less per person per day don't need a label

## Common mistakes

- ☐ Boat tallies showing only the vessel name and PLN
- ☐ Gross weight instead of net (no box, bag or ice)
- ☐ Old labels left on reused boxes
- ☐ Catch area and gear not recorded at intake
- ☐ "Defrosted" forgotten on thawed fish
- ☐ Transport documents used as labels without the gear