

# Regulatory Affairs

## Introduction

The Regulation team maintains an overview of current and emerging legislation issues relating to seafood and the marine environment. The team anticipates challenges and responds to legislative developments in the UK and Europe and communicates the views, interests and concerns of the seafood industry to policymakers. Regulation, in most cases from the European Union, is now the driving force behind many of the issues faced by the seafood industry. The Regulation team also keeps abreast of UK and EU legislation issues that are important to the seafood industry, providing seafood-specific advice and commentary.

By following policy as it is being developed, engaging in debate and responding to consultations on legislation under discussion, the team ensures that the seafood industry makes its position clear well before the legislation is finalised. The team also mediates on enforcement issues to ensure that the European Commission and the UK Government take account of the interests of the seafood industry. By maintaining close ties with the authorities, such as the Food Standards Agency, Defra and the Scottish Government, the team has access to precise and up-to-the-minute information. This is passed on to industry through the Seafish website, monthly

newsletters and in a series of legislative guidance notes aimed at helping the seafood industry interpret the legislation. The team also provide workshops on new legislation that will have a big impact on businesses.

The areas covered by the Regulation team are:

- Labelling and traceability
- Contaminants and veterinary residues
- Imports and exports
- Food safety
- Marine environment and water quality

The team sit on a variety of groups:

- Business Expert Hygiene group — a government led group that discusses and directs food hygiene issues.
- Business Expert Labelling group — a government group that discusses and directs food labelling issues.
- Business Reference Panel for Better Regulation Delivery Office — to input business views on better regulation policy.
- Fish Names expert group — a government sponsored group that advises on the commercial names list for fish and related issues.
- Seafood Importers and Processors Alliance — an international alliance of seafood businesses dedicated to food safety issues and legislation.
- Institute of Food Science and Technology — a professional body concerned with all aspects of food science and technology.
- Gangmasters Licensing Authority — the non-departmental public body responsible for gangmaster licensing set up to protect workers from exploitation.
- BFFF / Seafish Importers Committee (a group of UK importers concerned with issues relating to the importation of seafood).

We host a Food Legislation Expert Group to disseminate information and discuss issues with sectoral representatives. The core membership of the group includes government departments and trade bodies:

- British Port Wholesale Fish Merchants' Association
- National Association of British Market Authorities
- National Federation of Fishmongers
- Marine Management Organisation
- Food Standards Agency
- National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
- Shellfish Association of Great Britain
- British Ports Association Fishing Ports Working Group
- National Federation of Fish Friers
- Marine Scotland
- Food and Drink Federation
- Scottish Fishermen's Federation
- British Frozen Food Federation
- Scottish Seafood Association
- British Retail Consortium

## Contact us

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*Supporting a profitable, sustainable and socially responsible future for the seafood industry.*