

Brussels Weekly Update - 18/04/2018

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [FVO Audit report on Solomon Islands - Fishery products derived from Tuna species](#). Source FVO.

The EU Food and Veterinary Office carried out an audit in Solomon Islands from 27 November to 1 December 2017. This audit was the seventh in a series of audits dedicated to obtaining a clear picture of the tuna industry as a whole and determine whether the tuna imported into the EU meets the applicable public health requirements (in particular limits for **histamine** and **heavy metals**), also in the context of fishery policy requirements and customs rules. The scope of the audit series extends to geographically identified hubs, where tuna and tuna-like species caught are landed and/or processed (all forms) for export to the European Union.

The FVO mission detected deficiencies in a number of areas (temperature limits for chilled products, option to store fuel in fish holds up to the time of the audit, conditions for recirculation of water for thawing, the option to keep manual temperature records for stored frozen fish, the need to freeze rapidly in all circumstances). However, the competent authorities already initiated a number of corrective actions on these points in the course of the audit.

The resulting deficiencies observed in the tuna processing establishment, as well as those found in respect of the application of HACCP principles in the freezer vessels, and the current lack of clarity with regard to dual use of fish holds, affect the reliability of the guarantees provided by the competent authority with regard to applicable requirements in these areas. However, the FVO considers that actions taken by Solomon authorities provide a solid basis to remedy these deficiencies.

- [Evaluation of the Eel Regulation](#). Source DG MARE.

The evaluation will assess the measures taken for the recovery of European eel stock under the Eel Regulation and their contribution to the achievement of the objectives of this regulation, on the basis of several criteria, such as the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence, EU added-value and sustainability of the measures taken under the Regulation.

The Commission informed about a public consultation to consult EU stakeholders on their views on the implementation of the Eel Regulation. This consultation will be made available via the Commission's central public consultations page in October 2018 for a minimum period of 12 weeks.

- [EU Japan Economic Partnership](#). Source European Commission.

On 18 April 2018, the text of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement was presented by the Commission to the Council. This step marks the beginning of the ratification process at the EU level. This is the first step towards the signature and conclusion of the agreement. Once approved by the Council, the agreement will be sent to the European Parliament, aiming for the entry into force before the end of the current mandate of the European Commission in 2019.

- [Outcome of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council - 16/04/2017](#). Source EU Council.

Legal interpretation of article 15 of the CFP Regulation - On behalf of Croatia, Cyprus Greece, Italy, Portugal and Slovenia, the Spanish delegation asked confirmation of whether article 15 regulation 1380/2013 should be interpreted as applying to all catches of stocks subject to catch limits, independently of the fisheries and geographical areas in which they occur, or it should be framed within the fisheries and geographical areas listed and species subject to TAC in the CFP regulation. The Commission restated its opinion that article 15 should be interpreted in its wider sense and encouraged member states to make use of the tools currently available (notably flexibilities and EMFF funds) to address the problem of choke species linked to the landing obligation and its possible impact on small-scale fishing communities.

Fisheries partnership agreement: negotiations between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco. The Council adopted a decision authorising the opening of negotiations between the EU and the Kingdom of Morocco for the amendment of the existing Fisheries Partnership Agreement (FPA), and the conclusions of a protocol implementing it. The Council also agreed on the related negotiating directives.

Western Waters management plan. The Council discussed a proposal aimed at establishing a multi-annual plan for fishing in the Western Waters. The new plan would bring the five existing single-species based multi-annual plans into a single one.

Agendas:

- [Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed Section Biological Safety of the Food Chain](#). 03/05/2017.
- [EP Fisheries Committee](#). 24/04/2018.

Useful links:

- [European Market Observatory for Fishery and Aquaculture Products](#). April 2018.
- [Ex-post and ex-ante evaluation study of the sustainable fisheries partnership agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Cabo Verde](#).
- [EPF position on information to patients on food and nutrition](#). Source European Patient Forum.

Events:

- [SEAFOOD EXPO GLOBAL](#). 21-24 April. Brussels.
- [8th Annual European Food Sure Summit](#). 16 - 18 April 2018. Amsterdam