

Brussels Weekly Update - 04/04/2018

FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE, TRADE AND FOOD SAFETY ISSUES

- [Thailand prepares fisheries sector for EU inspection this week](#). Source VietnamPlus

According to VietnamPlus on 4th April, the EU has started a mission in Thailand to assess the progress made by this country to tackle IUU fishing. According to the EU's itinerary, inspectors will randomly visit Port-In/Port-Out (Pipo) centres at major fishery piers along the coastal provinces. EU officials will also visit the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) in Bangkok.

- [NOAA publishes global list of fisheries and their risks to marine mammals](#)

The NOAA register is a step toward meeting specific requirements in the Marine Mammal Protection Act on the sources of fish imported into the U.S. The register includes nearly 4,000 fisheries across some 135 countries. These fisheries have until 2022 to demonstrate that the methods they use to catch fish, as well as other marine animals such as coral, crabs, lobsters and shellfish, either aren't much of a danger to marine mammals, or they employ comparable methods and mitigation measures to similar operations in the United States.

- [EU monitoring of metals and iodine in seaweed, halophytes and products based on seaweed](#). Source European Commission.

As seaweed and halophytes form an increasingly important contribution to the consumption patterns of certain EU consumers, the Commission considers necessary to assess whether the contribution of arsenic, cadmium, iodine, lead and mercury from seaweed and halophytes to the total exposure of these substances, would necessitate the establishment of MLs for arsenic, cadmium and lead for these commodities or the amendment of the MRL for mercury for algae and prokaryotic organisms or any action to be taken related to the exposure to iodine from these products.

Member States, in collaboration with food and feed business operators, perform during the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 monitoring on the presence of arsenic, cadmium, iodine, lead and mercury in seaweed, halophytes and products based on seaweed. The monitoring should include edible halophytes including *Salicornia europaea* and *Tetragonia tetragonoides* and a wide variety of seaweed species, reflecting consumption habits and feed uses, including Arame (*Ecklonia bicyclis*), Bladderwrack (*Fucus vesiculosus*), Dulse (*Palmaria palmata*), Hiziki (*Hizikia fusiforme*), Irish moss (*Chondrus crispus*), Oarweed (*Laminaria digitata*), Kombu (*Laminaria japonica*, *Saccharina japonica*), Nori or Purple laver (*Porphyra* and *Pyropia* spp.), Rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*), Sea lettuce (*Ulva* sp.), Sea spaghetti (*Himanthalia elongata*), Serrated wrack (*Fucus serratus*), Sponge seaweed (*Codium* sp.) Sugar kelp (*Saccharina latissima*) Wakame (*Undaria pinnatifida*) and Winged kelp (*Alaria esculenta*), in order to enable an accurate estimation of exposure. Also occurrence data should be gathered for food additives based on seaweed, including E400, E401, E403, E404, E405, E406, E407, E407a and E160a (iv).

Agendas:

- [Working Party of Veterinary Experts \(Potsdam Group\)](#). 11/04/2018. (US equivalence exercise on live bivalve molluscs update from the Commission and exchange of views).
- [EP Fisheries Committee](#). 21-22/03/2018.

Useful links:

- [Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health](#)
 - [Food losses and food waste: assessment of progress made on the implementation of June 2016 Council conclusions - Information from the Presidency and the Commission - Exchange of views](#)
 - [Review EU Regulatory Risk Management of Marine Biotoxins In the Marine Bivalve Mollusc Food-Chain](#). Source MDPI.
 - [EPF position on information to patients on food and nutrition](#). Source European Patient Forum.
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Events:

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