

Seafish Food Legislation Newsletter

March 2018 Seafish Activities

Reducing Red Tape

Food Fraud Conference

Seafish attended *Food Fraud: A Global Insight*, a conference held on 1 March 2018 and hosted by Professor Chris Elliott (Queen's University Belfast) and Helen Sisson (Greencore). Samuel Godefroy (Université Laval) laid out the international regulatory landscape for tackling food fraud. Typical pitfalls encountered worldwide in the fight against fraud are the lack of definition of terms associated with food fraud, reliance on dated methodology and the tendency of national authorities to prioritise food safety while giving food fraud a lower priority.

Seafood featured highly in presentations made by Elliott (The Sins of Seafood) and Petter Olsen of NOFIMA (Supply Chain Mapping). Elliott claimed that his analytical techniques can be used to distinguish between trawl-caught and line-caught fish. Olsen explained that several attributes cannot be verified analytically but are reliant on traceability data. This can be addressed for example with mass balance accounting. Helen Sisson spoke about the Food Industry Intelligence Network, a subscription-funded group of 26 food industry members who share anonymised fraud data in order to protect themselves from potential fraud. Gavan Wafer of the National Food Crime Unit and Rob McNaughton of the Scottish Food Crime and Incidents Unit gave an account of their activities in the UK and in Scotland. A panel discussion on the use of blockchain provided some insight into the technique, with examples of successful use of the technology from the seafood industry and from brewing.

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British Frozen Food Federation Technical Seminar 2018

Seafish attended BFFF's inaugural Technical Seminar on Thursday 22nd February.

The programme offered a wide ranging and interesting debate on the major technical issues facing food businesses today. Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP and Brenstech addressed food fraud, discussing the good practice measures businesses can take to counter food fraud. Processing examples of food fraud were used to suggest controls or

checks food businesses can undertake to protect themselves. In terms of seafood these examples drew reference to double glazing and polyphosphate use.

Greencore discussed the risk management systems they have in place and how they contribute to identifying vulnerabilities and initiating action plans. Greencore provided details of the Food Industry Intelligence Network (FIIN) in which participating members supply traceability and test information. The data is anonymised, collated, analysed and used to disrupt food fraud activities and protect consumer interests.

Presentations were also given by Roythornes Solicitors, Food Standards Scotland, Office for Product Safety and Standards, Qadex, Air Liquide, Fera, Sharman Scientific and Leatherhead Food Research.

Presentations from the seminar are available [here](#).

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Seafood Regulation Expert Group

A meeting was held on Monday 5th March in London. The group welcomed new representation from Direct Seafoods UK and guest speakers from a variety of departments across DEFRA and the FSA.

DEFRA's marine pollution team provided an engaging presentation on the 'Problem with Plastics: bad news, good news, and what is the risk?' alongside the FSA's chemical contamination team who provided valuable insight into the link between plastics and food safety. The agenda further facilitated rich discussions between government and the supply chain on wider developments in UK/EU seafood regulation.

Key points of discussion were:

- Plastic Pollution, Food Safety and Future Regulation
- Brexit
- US Marine Mammal Protection Act
- EU-US Trade in Live Bivalve Molluscs
- EU Working Group Updates
- New EU Technical Conservation Regulation
- Fisheries Control
- IUU
- Country of Origin Labelling
- CMO Regulations and the New Statutory Instrument

The draft minutes will be available shortly [here](#)

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Brussels

DG SANTE Publishes a Market Study on Date Marking and Other Information Provided on Food Labels and Food Waste Prevention

This study has been carried out to help inform EU actions to prevent food waste. The study examined the practical application of EU date labelling legislation and its implication for food waste prevention. The main food categories contributing to food waste were fruit and vegetables, bakery products, meat including fish and poultry and dairy products. The study's recommendations call for the production of technical guidance for food businesses on: how to determine shelf life, the choice between use by and best before date marks, specific storage advice and open life instructions and examine opportunities for possible extension to product life. Further research is needed regarding consumers' use of date marks and storage advice in order to help to inform future policy making.

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Public Consultation on the Transparency and Sustainability of the EU Risk Assessment Model in the Food Chain

EU citizens have put into question EFSA's risk assessment model based on studies provided by the industry and this particularly where the industry seeks an authorisation, e.g. for pesticides, GMOs etc. The Commission is seeking stakeholder views on:

- The transparency and independence of the EU risk assessment system with respect to the underlying industry studies and information on which EFSA's risk assessment/scientific advice is based
- Risk communication, and
- The governance of EFSA, in particular the involvement of the EU Member States in the EU risk assessment system.

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Marine Legislation

The February edition of the Seafish Marine Environmental Legislation newsletter can be viewed [here](#). This month there are details of consultations on:

- Wales – National Marine Plan
- England – Marine Planning
- EU – Risk Assessment in the Food Chain
- EU – Definition of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
- EU – Bio-Economic Strategy

... and news on:

- UK – Fishing After Brexit
- EU – Press Release on Overfishing
- Brexit and the Environment
- Scotland – Marine Protected Areas
- EU – Water Framework Directive

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