

# Regulatory Affairs

## Introduction

The Regulation team:

- Maintains an overview of current and emerging legislation issues relating to seafood and the marine water quality.
- 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 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. With an increasing focus on the suitability of current EU regulations as we exit the EU, we will use our existing networks to ensure seafood concerns are recognised and industry is kept informed of developments.

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 EU and UK authorities and organisations, the team has access to precise and up-to-the-minute information. This is passed on to industry through the Seafish website and social media. We produce weekly EU updates, monthly newsletters and a series of legislative guidance notes aimed at helping the seafood industry and regulators interpret the legislation. The team delivers workshops on new legislation that will have a big impact on businesses, as well as resolving enquiries from individual businesses.

**The areas covered by the Regulation team are:**

- labelling and traceability;
- contaminants and veterinary residues;
- imports and exports;
- food safety; and
- marine 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 led group that discusses and directs food labelling issues.
- Business Expert Diet and Health Group — a government led group that discusses and directs issues related to nutrition and, diet and health messaging.
- 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.
- GAA Food Safety Group — To develop food safety educational material that will help the global seafood industry meet the import requirements of nations they wish to export to.
- BFFF / Seafish Importers Committee (a group of UK importers concerned with issues relating to the importation of seafood).

Seafish has responsibility for the ‘Seafood Regulation Expert Group’ (SREG) a committee supported by the UK government’s Regulatory Delivery office. Membership of the group generally consists of trade associations and government departments who have an interest in seafood. The SREG seeks to disseminate regulatory updates to those working within the seafood industry and acts as a forum for discussion and feedback to generate industry positions and priorities

Seafish Regulation also has a primary authority agreement with West Yorkshire joint services in the areas of food safety and food standards. Any guidance issued can be assured under the primary authority agreement meaning it is legally backed and businesses can follow the advice consistently in any authority area. This removes the variations in regulatory enforcement that can be seen between authorities.

**Contact us**

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