

What requirements must fish and seafood comply with to be allowed on the European market?

Industry insiders believe that while the seafood industry has had fewer requirements imposed on it, it will become more controlled over time. The history of the industry with issues of mislabelling, fraud and other bad practices has seen a reaction from the European Commission, businesses and consumers. Now, there are an increasing number of requirements (mandatory, market and niche) with which your product will need to comply in order to gain market or border entry to Europe. Read on to learn how to get your products onto the European market.

Contents of this page

1. [What are the mandatory requirements?](#)
2. [What additional requirements do buyers often have?](#)
3. [What are the requirements for niche markets?](#)

1. What are the mandatory requirements?

There are mandatory requirements, set by European countries, which your government and company will have to follow to export your fish and seafood products to Europe. A competent authority will have to be assigned in your country and your company's facilities will have to be accredited. Furthermore, your products will have to be correctly labelled, with proof of source and with all necessary health certificates. While there is a lot to think about, the following section will give you an overview of the most important requirements for you to consider.

Country and processing facilities need to be accredited

Before you can export your products to Europe, your country needs to be accredited by the European authorities. For this reason, your country needs to have regulations and capacity in place to ensure that the fish and seafood produced in your country will meet European food safety requirements, and pose no threat to European consumers.

Once your government applies for European Union approval for exports of fish and seafood products, the European authorities will engage in a dialogue and appoint a "competent authority". This authority will be responsible for developing and implementing regulations that meet the European requirements.

The competent authority is the government department in your country that the European Union finds the most capable (competent) of monitoring the seafood and fisheries products to be sent to the European Union to ensure the safety and quality of the food. The European Union concludes an agreement with this department, giving them responsibility for the mandatory control measures before export.

Usually, the competent authority is a department in the ministry in which aquaculture and fisheries are regulated. For example, the competent authority in Peru is the [Organismo Nacional de Sanidad Pesquera \(SANIPES\)](#); in Costa Rica the National Animal Health Services (SENASA); in Senegal the Directorate of Fish Processing Industries; in Bangladesh the [Department of Fisheries](#) in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development; and in Vietnam [NAVIQAD](#), the Quality Department of the Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Once a competent authority has been appointed, and once the European Union has granted approval for fish and seafood exports to Europe, the competent authority can approve your facilities for export to Europe.

Representatives of the competent authority in your country will visit and audit your facilities to ensure that the regulations are met. Key requirements that you as an exporter need to meet are the implementation of the

hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) standards and the ability to trace your products back to registered fishing vessels or aquaculture farms.

HACCP is a method to control your processing operations. The method helps you to identify possible issues, and teaches you how to prevent and resolve them, with the aim of ensuring hygiene, safety and traceability. Europe has one of the highest food safety standards in the world. Products that are found to be non-compliant will be registered and reported in the [Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed \(RASFF\)](#).

European Union regulations on food hygiene cover all stages of the production, processing, distribution and placing on the market of food intended for human consumption. The European Union's hygiene rules include the following:

- Primary responsibility for food safety resting with the food business operator;
- Food safety ensured throughout the food chain, starting with primary production;
- General implementation of procedures based on the hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) principles;
- Application of basic hygiene requirements, possibly further specified for certain categories of food.

Every couple of years, an audit team of the European Union authorities will visit your country and meet with your competent authority. The European Union will audit the systems that are in place and will visit some facilities throughout the supply chain in your country to see whether regulations are implemented properly. In an audit report, the European Union auditors will report on their findings and provide recommendations for improvement if shortcomings are identified.

It is crucial that the competent authority and the stakeholders in the fish and seafood supply chain in your country cooperate with the auditors and take action to implement the recommendations made. If the recommendations are met, the European Union will not take any action. However, if your authorities refuse to follow the recommendations, the European Union might eventually take measures against your country. In the most extreme cases, this situation might result in a trade ban for the whole sector.

Important to realise is that if you want to export cultivated fish and seafood to Europe, your government authorities need to get special approval based on a Residue Monitoring Plan (RMP). The RMP needs to get approval from the European authorities and will be audited separately every 2 or 3 years.

Although these regulations have already been in place for many years and do not regularly change, this requirement is the most crucial for you and your country to meet. There are countries which only recently got access to the European Union market for aquaculture products, such as Myanmar, or countries which are still working to get access, such as Nigeria. It is a lengthy process that requires commitment from all stakeholders involved in your country.

Tips:

See whether your country is already listed by the European Union, and which companies in your country can export fish and seafood to Europe, on the [EU Traces portal](#).

Read more about what the authorities in your country must do to get approval to export fish and seafood products to the European Union on page 4 of this publication.

Contact Open Trade Gate Sweden if you have [specific questions about rules and requirements in Sweden and the European Union](#).

Maximum residue levels must not be exceeded

The European Union has strict and complex regulations on maximum residue levels (MRL) for fish and seafood. These levels are written down in different regulatory documents. Depending on the species and the source (fisheries or aquaculture), you need to prove for every shipment that your products do not exceed the relevant maximum residue levels by providing a health certificate produced by an accredited laboratory with your shipment.

If you want to export to Europe, it means that you need to have systems in place in your processing establishments but also upstream in your supply chain. You need to ensure that the raw materials which you source meet European standards and are not already contaminated when they enter your factory. You need to be sure that your suppliers handle products with care by maintaining a proper cold chain and hygienic storage facilities. You will be responsible if a container is rejected when it enters the European port.

The regulations of which you should be aware when you export fish or seafood to Europe are the following:

- [Regulation \(EC\) No 470/2009](#) lays down the procedure for setting MRLs for residues of pharmacologically active substances in food of animal origin, such as antibiotics. See the complete list of substances and their MRLs in the Annex to [Regulation \(EU\) No 37/2010](#);
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 396/2005](#) establishes European Union MRLs for pesticides. They are laid down in various Regulations and a [publicly available database](#) is maintained by the European Union;
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1881/2006](#) lays down MRLs for certain environmental contaminants such as heavy metals, including mercury;
- Some other substances classified as “feed additives” in the European Union (coccidiostats and histomonostats) may also leave residues in food derived from animals reared on feed containing them. See the [European Union Register of Feed Additives](#).

Although European Union regulations are already complex, not all types of residue are included or clearly set. Every now and then, regulations change when the European authorities start monitoring a certain residue more strictly. Moreover, your authorities also have a role to play. In the national plans developed by your competent authority, your authority decides on the list of residues which is relevant in the context of your country’s fish and seafood industry.

Chlorate levels in imported fish and seafood are one of the residues that came into focus in 2019, and a tighter MRL is expected soon. Processing establishments that do not have access to clean water use chlorate to treat the water before it is used in the processing facilities. At the end of 2019, German authorities found levels of chlorate in imported fish and seafood products which raised concerns about the safety for human consumption of these products.

As a result of the concerns raised in Germany, a debate has started about what chlorate levels are reasonable. Eventually, this debate may result in a change to the acceptable levels of chlorates in food exported to Europe. Chlorate-based pesticides have already been banned. Of course, these types of changes can have a large impact on your operations and it is crucial for you to stay on top of them to be as prepared as you can when changes to regulations are made.

As the fish and seafood industry becomes more mature, authorities become more aware of the kinds of issues that affect the trade of imported fish and seafood, such as the levels of certain substances found in the products and the labelling of those substances. It is likely that European regulations will become stricter. Chlorate is only one example; another example is the use of antibiotics in cultivated seafood, the regulations for which change regularly. We expect that the fish and seafood trade will be fully regulated and controlled by 2030.

Tips:

Check our [news item on chlorate](#) to understand the issue of chlorate in food and water better; it

explains the issue in more detail.

Take out insurance on the cargo that you ship to Europe to cover financial losses when a container is rejected at the European port. Just as an example, [read more about seafood cargo insurance on the website of DLV](#), a leading cargo insurance provider.

Contact your European buyer to find out the latest updates on European regulation changes.

Labelling regulations must be strictly followed

European regulations on labelling are clear. There might, however, be slight differences between the labelling of unprocessed and processed fish and seafood, and between the labelling of wild and cultivated fish and seafood. In general, the following information needs to be labelled on seafood products, with pre-packed products having some additional information needs that products which have not been pre-packed do not need to include.

All products:

- The name of the product, including the commercial and scientific names;
- List of ingredients (including all relevant E numbers, which are the identifying numbers given to the substances that the European Union permits to be added to food), to be added to the outer carton label;
- Production method – it must be mentioned whether it is a cultured product or wild catch;
- Origin – reference the country where they are produced;
- Net weight – the net weight must be mentioned on pre-packed products;
- Date of minimum durability, consisting of the day, month and year, in that order and preceded by the words “best before” or “best before end” or the “use by” date;
- European Union seller – the name or business name and address of the manufacturer, packer or seller established in the European Union;
- The packaging must contain a European Union approval number;
- The packaging must also contain a “lot number”, which is a number that is given to products belonging to the same batch from the same exporter;
- Nutrition – ingredients and nutritional value must be mentioned.

Additional information for pre-packed products:

- List of ingredients (including all relevant E numbers, which are the identifying numbers given to the substances that the European Union permits to be added to food), to be added to the consumer packaging label;
- Quantity of ingredients (as a % of the total net weight);
- Net weight;
- Name or business name and address;
- Country of origin or place of provenance;
- Instructions for use (only if needed);
- Nutrition declaration;
- Packed in a protective atmosphere;
- Date of first freezing (what is considered the right date of freezing needs to be agreed on with the buyer. Some buyers prefer the first date that raw materials are frozen; for example, when a fish is caught and frozen on board, even if it is not yet in its final form. Other buyers may want the date of freezing to be the first time that the product is frozen in its final form; for example, fish fillets rather than the whole fish frozen on board);
- Added proteins of different origin;
- If a product is processed, such as surimi or fish balls, this information needs to be mentioned (a preparation of...);
- Identification mark;

- Added water needs to be included as an ingredient.

The last point needs extra attention. Added water has been a recent point for discussion among importers and European authorities. Although it is clear that water needs to be mentioned on the package, it is not always clear how water content should be measured and how it should be labelled. There are also differences in interpretation between Member States.

Water should always be mentioned on the ingredient list in the order of its share of the total weight of the product compared with other ingredients. For example, if 8% water is added, the label should read 92% fish, water, followed by any other ingredients.

In the case of processed fish, if less than 5% water is added, the order in which water is mentioned on the ingredient list is not important. However, if more than 5% water is added, water should not only be mentioned in the right order on the ingredient list, but it also has to be stated explicitly in the name of the product, which should read “shrimp with added water”, for example.

In Germany, authorities apparently take it a step further; if more than 12% water is added, the seller is no longer allowed to name the product as shrimp. Instead, a product with more than this amount of added water should be labelled a “preparation from” shrimp.

The consequences of the interpretation of the Regulation are far-reaching, affecting not only consumer perception but also the customs code under which the shrimp product has to be imported. As “preparations from” fish or seafood fall under HS16 instead of HS03, they are subject to higher import duties that increase the price of the product. Authorities in the Netherlands claim not to go this far, as long as importers assure that the product name is not misleading for consumers.

Tips:

The debate about how to deal with added water in seafood labelling is still ongoing. As the impact of decisions can be large, we recommend that you stay on top of the issue by asking your contacts in Europe for regular updates.

Check the EU's pocket guide to gain [a detailed understanding of the European Union's requirements for fish and seafood labelling](#), and to investigate the differences in label requirements between processed and unprocessed products.

Visit the European Union Trade Helpdesk for more [information on import rules and taxes in the European Union](#)

Learn country-specific labelling laws. For the European Union, it is important to put the right commercial and scientific name of your product on the product label, and there are also differences between European Union Member States. For example, grouper is labelled as a general group (Grouper – *Epinephelus spp.*) in Germany and the Netherlands, but you need to label the grouper with its specific commercial and scientific name (Mérou loutre – *Epinephelus tauvina*) in France. On the European Union [website](#), you can find what commercial designations are recognised in the different European Member States.

Prove that your fish and seafood come from legal sources

The European Union Regulation to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing came into effect on 1 January 2010. According to the European Union, IUU fishing [is any fishing that is in forbidden areas, uses illegal methods or goes unreported](#). IUU fishing has a negative effect on the sustainable management of global (and local) fish stocks, and creates unfair competition against those that fish legally and

responsibly.

The European Union requires you to prove that your fish and seafood do not come from IUU fisheries. Your wild fish products need to be sent with a catch certificate that is approved by your competent authority. The catch certificate shall contain [all the information specified in the specimen shown in Annex II of the European IUU legislation](#). You can only obtain a catch certificate for fish and seafood purchased from vessels which are registered and licensed by the competent authorities in your country.

The European authorities have committed to increasing their efforts to sustain the health of global oceans, which is reflected in the pressure that authorities put on developing countries to comply with the IUU Regulation. Several countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Ecuador have been confronted by yellow cards that require the authorities in the countries to take action against IUU fisheries. If the government does not take action, European authorities might impose a red card, which would mean a ban on European imports of fish and seafood from that origin.

Tips:

For an overview of [countries which are currently confronted with yellow or red cards](#), check this overview presented by the Europe-based non-governmental organisation IUU Watch.

To read [a summary of Europe's IUU regulations](#), check this European Union publication.

Check this write-up about [the European Union CATCH system which will eventually replace the old paper-based catch certificate system](#). Currently, the CATCH system is not a must for non-European Union countries.

A new system for country of origin certificates

If you export fish and seafood products from a country that is listed as “Standard GSP”, “GSP+” or “Everything But Arms” (EBA) from the European Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP), you might benefit from reduced or even removed import tariffs. However, you will only get this benefit if you can prove that the product which you export also originates from the country from which it is exported. You, as an exporter, need to prove this fact and the European Union has a new system to do so.

The REX system was introduced by amending Regulation (EU) No 1063/2010 in the context of improving the GSP Rules of Origin (RoO) in 2010. Most elements of this Regulation had already come into effect on 1 January 2011, but the REX system had been deferred to 1 January 2017. Now, there is a transition period until 30 June 2020 for the GSP beneficiary countries to move from the previous system of origin certification to the new REX system.

The REX system will eventually replace the old system of origin certification completely. The main difference between the 2 systems is that a government authority in the country of origin would issue a certificate (referred to as Form A) that would ensure the country of origin of exported goods in the old system; in the new system, the guarantee of origin is provided in the REX system by the economic operator (read: the exporter) itself.

Tips:

[Check whether your country is benefitting from GSP, GSP+ or EBA status](#). Select your country name in the tool on this European Union webpage.

Read more about [the practical aspects of REX and what it means for you as an exporter](#) on the

European Union website.

A [detailed article about the pros and cons of the new system](#) according to European Union shrimp importers was published in ShrimpTails magazine.

2. What additional requirements do buyers often have?

Beyond the requirements placed on you by the European countries, there are also a range of common requirements that most buyers will have. Buyers will want proof that your company and its facilities live up to certain standards of food safety and social and environmental responsibility. For example, sustainability certifications are already a market entry requirement for the north-western European retail markets, and are a growing requirement across other regional and end-consumer markets.

Food Safety Certification

Food safety regulations of the European Commission are regarded as one of the most, if not the most, stringent legal food safety standards. Nevertheless, most European buyers will have additional food safety requirements. Certainly in retail, but also in most foodservice and wholesale markets, European buyers will require you to have your facilities certified by a third party. The most commonly required standards are [British Retail Consortium \(BRC\)](#) and [International Featured Standards \(IFS\)](#).

The industry is working on harmonising food safety standards and increasing mutual acceptance through benchmarking third-party food safety schemes by the [Global Food Safety Initiative \(GFSI\)](#). As more schemes are getting benchmarked by the GFSI, it is likely that retailers and other distributors will accept multiple schemes, reducing pressure on suppliers to have multiple third-party food safety schemes in place.

Tips:

Check the websites of the [BRC Global Standards](#) company and [IFS](#) to find out more details about the standards and certification requirements.

Search for your country, and other ones that produce your product, in the [BRC database](#) and find out which of your competitors are already BRC-certified.

Social compliance certification

While United States supermarkets often have their own social compliance audits and certificates, European supermarkets often require their suppliers to be certified for social compliance by a third party. Just as food safety certification, social compliance certification is mainly relevant for your processing establishments. These certificates relate to the rights, health and incomes of the people working in your facilities, and also in your broader supply chain, but it can be more difficult for you to certify your complete supply chain according to these standards at the moment.

In Europe, the most widely accepted third-party social compliance accreditation schemes are [Social Accountability International's \(SAI\) SA8000 Standard](#) and the [Business Social Compliance Initiative \(BSCI\)](#). While SA8000 is really a compliance tool, BSCI goes much further and requires accredited companies to show that they are making continuous efforts to improve the situation where a shortcoming is found. The fewer shortcomings and the more progress, the better the BSCI rating will be.

With recent scandals surrounding labour rights and even slave labour allegations in several fisheries around the world, looking at social responsibility and potentially having third-party social compliance certification might make you a frontrunner in your sector, and a preferred supplier in the European market.

Tips:

Check the website of the [Seafood Slavery Risk Tool](#) and enter the fishery in which you are involved to find out what they say about the risks of slavery in your supply chain.

To have a better understanding of other social risks that NGOs campaign against in the seafood industry, check the report of Fairfood, which [addresses labour issues in the shrimp industry](#).

Read this [overview of aspects on which you will be audited to get SA8000 accredited](#).

Sustainability certification

Contrary to food safety and social compliance certification, sustainability certifications relate to your processing establishment as well as the primary production location from which you source your raw materials. Regardless of whether it is fishing boats or fish farms, increasing numbers of European buyers require your primary production facilities to be certified.

As described in our trend study, [sustainability certification can no longer be viewed as a niche requirement](#). Although it was previously only required in the retail market in north-western Europe, retailers in other parts of Europe and the foodservice market have nowadays also started to use sustainability certification as a market access requirement.

The most commonly accepted sustainability certification scheme in Europe for wild-caught seafood is from the [Marine Stewardship Council](#) (MSC). The most commonly accepted sustainability scheme for cultivated seafood is from the [Aquaculture Stewardship Council](#) (ASC). Although there are other certification schemes ([Friends of the Sea](#), [GLOBALG.A.P.](#), [Best Aquaculture Practices](#)), they are still considered to be niche market requirements.

Market acceptance of sustainability schemes might change once more retailers and other distributors commit to source-certified seafood only from schemes that have been benchmarked by the [Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative](#) (GSSI). Once more certification schemes have been benchmarked, retailers are unlikely to commit to a single scheme, but will instead commit to any scheme that has been benchmarked positively by the GSSI.

If you want to have or maintain access to European retail markets, you need to invest in getting your own production facilities and those of your suppliers certified. In the longer term, this trend applies not only to the retail market but also to the foodservice and wholesale markets.

Tips:

For a full overview of certification schemes in the sector, consult the [ITC Sustainability Map](#). Enter your sector or product, the producing region or country and the target destination region or country to see the relevant schemes.

Check the websites of the [ASC](#) and [MSC](#) to find out more about their certification standards, and also to see which of your competitors are already certified, if any. Please be aware that your products should be certified for their production methods and your facilities should be certified by the Chain of Custody certifications by either the [ASC](#) or [MSC](#) to ensure traceability in the supply chain.

3. What are the requirements for niche markets?

New technology, and the ability to use it for increased levels of monitoring and control, is one of the driving forces behind the niche market demands (currently). For example, levels of traceability that are not yet common buyer demands are being requested by those buyers, particularly in retail, who want to brand themselves as being at the forefront of sustainability. Consumers are more interested in the source of their seafood, which encourages traceability in retail and also stimulates the increase in organically certified seafood, which is still niche but stable.

Increased traceability demands in wild and farmed fish and seafood supply chains

Traceability innovators are offering an increasing number of traceability services and the market is showing interest, even if it is mostly just a niche market. If you supply fish or seafood to European retailers, you will sooner or later be confronted with requirements to avoid fraud, mislabelling and the risks of IUU products entering the supply chain. If you want to be a frontrunner, link up with traceability innovators and alternative feed protein producers working to resolve these issues.

Traceability, related to ruling out the risks of IUU practices and fraud, is becoming more important in the European retail market. Driven by new opportunities that are generated by new technologies on the one hand and driven by perceived reputational risks on the other hand, supermarkets take their traceability requirements more seriously than other markets.

Many European retailers are beginning to look beyond the traceability of the consumer products themselves and also consider the ingredients needed to produce those consumer products.

For farmed fish, reputational risks perceived by retail chains often relate to the use of fishmeal and oil from unsustainable or irresponsible sources which target overfished stocks or which use methods that damage ecosystems. Retailers themselves, but also suppliers, are working hard to take traceability to the next level.

Several retailers in Europe are involved in the Seafood Taskforce. The Seafood Taskforce is a non-profit organisation. Its members are made up of businesses, governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations. The taskforce aims to tackle IUU fishing, and the social and environmental damage that it causes.

The Seafood Taskforce is piloting a new tool, which enables them to track the origins of the different inputs to the farm; for example, tracing the fishmeal and oil which is used on the farm back to the boats and fisheries that supply them. These retailers will require that their suppliers make an attempt to map the whole supply chain and all of its inputs, including the indirect ones. You can imagine the challenge involved.

A seafood company that is working hard to reduce supply chain risks is [Thai Union](#). With partners such as [Calysta](#) and [Corbion](#), which provide alternative proteins that can replace fishmeal and oil, Thai Union aims to produce a zero-fishmeal product range. Calysta's Feedkind single-cell protein and Corbion's algae-based protein can reduce the use of fishmeal and oil almost entirely. Calysta and Corbion are just 2 of the many innovators working on alternative ingredients.

Calysta's Feedkind product is an excellent example of how alternative ingredients can also help supply chain partners to increase the traceability of their products. With a simple test, it can be confirmed whether the consumer-packed product contains their Feedkind ingredient. If not, it identifies a gap in the chain of custody of the supply chain and the problem that needs to be addressed.

A DNA traceback is another way of increasing the traceability of products. It has already been used in other animal protein sectors for a long time, but it is now also being developed for farmed fish and seafood. United Kingdom supermarket chain [Marks & Spencer](#) and United Kingdom importer [Seafresh](#) announced in 2017 that they would partner with [Identigen](#), a DNA traceback technology company. The 3 companies claim that "this

partnership will give guaranteed transparency... [and] that what they are buying is sourced from approved sources.”

Tips:

Although it is not discussed specifically above, because blockchain is often not mentioned in relation to IUU fishing, blockchain is one of the other major technologies driving innovation in seafood supply chains. Search for blockchain in seafood on Google and many pilot project, such as those of [IBM](#), turn up. One of the initiatives is [FishCoin](#). Contrary to the others, where the focus is on transparency, FishCoin focuses on improving the livelihoods of small-scale fishermen and fish farmers.

Read more about the use of alternative proteins and digital innovation in the shrimp industry in [the innovation issue of ShrimpTails](#), published in September 2018.

The organic seafood market requires certification for proof

The organic market for seafood is relatively stable. The largest markets are found in the United Kingdom and Germany, followed at a distance by France, Italy and Spain. Although we often predict that this market segment will grow rapidly, there is no clear evidence that it really happens and the consumption of organic seafood in Europe seems to be relatively flat. However, keeping health and sustainability trends in mind, we may indeed expect growth of the organic market in the long term.

Organic seafood can only be sourced from aquaculture because European Union organic regulations, with which all imported organic seafood must comply, does not allow wild-caught seafood to be certified as Organic seafood. The most common items to be found in the organic segment are species such as shrimp (black tiger shrimp and Pacific white shrimp), salmon and trout.

Important to realise is that organic seafood always needs to be a native species to the place where it is produced. While salmon is increasingly produced in closed indoor recirculation systems in Asia and Africa, this fish can therefore never be certified Organic according to the current European Union Regulation. It also means that organic Pacific white shrimp can only be sourced from the Americas, while organic black tiger shrimp can only be sourced from Africa or Asia.

The good thing is that if you can get your fish or seafood certified as Organic seafood, contrary to the market for sustainably certified seafood, your buyers will be willing to pay a significant premium. Organic fish and shrimp often sell at a 15% to 40% premium. Just to give you an example, at supermarket chain [Albert Heijn](#) in the Netherlands, Norwegian organic salmon costs €36 a kilogram, while Norwegian ASC-certified salmon costs €26 a kilogram; a 38% premium.

To sell organic seafood on the European market, the minimal requirement that you need to meet is the European Union Organic Seafood Regulation. This compliance will allow you to put the European Union green leaf on the package. Depending on the market to which you want to sell, your client may also require you to certify your facilities and the producers from which you source by [Naturland](#) (mainly asked for in Germany) or [AB](#) (mainly asked for in France).

Only farmed fish and seafood can be certified as Organic and the species must be native to the place where it is farmed. There are also restrictions on the inputs used (such as antibiotics or genetically modified organisms (GMO)), and controls on the use of feed and preservatives.

Tips:

Check out CBI's broader report [on the European Union organic seafood market](#).

The 2016 European Union Market Report of IFOAM (the European umbrella organisation for organic food and farming) provides [information about the organic market in Europe](#).


Read more about [the rules and regulations for organic aquaculture](#) and about the [rules and regulations for labelling organic products](#).

Use [Google Translate](#) if you are trying to access a company website linked to in this study and the website is not available in a language with which you are familiar. Companies in which you might be interested may only have their websites translated into the languages that they use the most often.


The study has been carried out on behalf of CBI by [Seafood Trade Intelligence Portal](#).

Please review our [market information disclaimer](#).

Follow us for the latest updates

(opens in a new tab)  Twitter

(opens in a new tab)  Facebook

(opens in a new tab)  LinkedIn



[RSS](#)