

# Fish and seafood

## FACT SHEET

2022



## Legislation

### **Model certificate has been changed for US seafood**

[Official Journal EU L 26 of 7 February 2022, p. 1](#)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/158 of 4 February 2022 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1641 on imports of live, chilled, frozen or processed bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods from the United States of America intended for human consumption.

### **Sodium and potassium carbonates are approved food additives in crustaceans and molluscs**

[Official Journal EU L 23 of 2 February 2022, p. 22](#)

Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/141 of 21 January 2022 amending Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the use of sodium carbonates (E 500) and potassium carbonates (E 501) in unprocessed cephalopods.

### **Import of certain products allowed**

[Official Journal EU L 8 of 13 January 2022, p. 1](#)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/34 of 22 December 2021 amending Annexes III, VIII, IX and XI to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/405 as regards the lists of third countries or regions thereof from which the entry into the Union of certain wild feathered game intended for human consumption, consignments of certain bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods, of certain fishery products and of frogs' legs and snails, and repealing Decision 2007/82/EC\

[Official Journal L 8 of 13 January 2022, p. 36](#)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/36 of 11 January 2022 amending the Annex III to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2235 as regards model certificates for the entry into the Union of consignments of certain live aquatic animals and products of animal origin.

### **Model certificate changed for US seafood**

[EU Official Journal L 26 of 7 February 2022, p. 1](#)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/158 of 4 February 2022 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1641 on imports of live, chilled, frozen or processed bivalve molluscs, echinoderms, tunicates and marine gastropods from the United States of America intended for human consumption.

### **Action limit and limit set for tetrodotoxin (TTX) in bivalve molluscs**

[Stcrt. 2022, 13082](#)

Policy Rule of the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport of 10 May 2022, 3357024-1028239-VGP, establishing an action limit and limit value for tetrodotoxin in live bivalve molluscs (Policy Rule Commodities Act TTX in live bivalve molluscs 2022).

## EFSA expresses concerns about methylmercury in fishery products

[EU Official Journal L 201 of 1 August 2022, p. 71](#)

Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/1342 of 28 July 2022 on the monitoring of mercury in fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

## Fraud

### Grey market and traceability documentation non-compliance in Italy

Almost 4.4 tons of sardines were seized by the authorities due to non-compliance with the traceability documents.

[Go news](#)

[ControRadio](#)

The authorities seized almost 1 ton of fish illegally fished in a protected area.

[Ansa](#)

[Euronews](#)

[Corrigere Romagna](#)

[Ravenna Today](#)

[Ravenna web tv](#)

[Ravenna Notizie](#)

[Giornale di Brescia](#)

[L' adige](#)

[Tiscali](#)

[Espansione tv](#)

[Nel Cuore](#)

[Ravenna24ore](#)

[Il resto del carlino](#)

In operation Tuna Market, the authorities seized 1.1 tons of tuna without traceability documentation.

[Ansa](#)

[Il metropolitano](#)

[Il centro](#)

[Il Pescara](#)

[Ekuo news](#)

[Notizie click](#)

[Il centro](#)

9.1 tons of seafood were seized by the authorities without traceability documentation, expired, or unhealthy.

[Bergamo news](#)

[Eco di Bergamo](#)

[Il Giorno](#)

[Il fatto alimentare](#)

[Il Gazzettino](#)

In the operation Senza Traccia, 104 tons of seafood expired, counterfeit, or without traceability documentation were seized by the Italian authorities.

[Ansa](#)

[Ansa](#)

[Agenparl](#)

[Alto adige](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

[Italia a tavola](#)

[Amalfi Notizie](#)

[Ambiente Ambienti](#)

[Brescia Today](#)

[Asknews](#)

[Ravenna Notizie](#)

[Tuscia Web](#)

[Ravenna web tv](#)

[Il faro online](#)

[Corriere romagna](#)

[Ravenna Today](#)

[Baraonda news](#)

[piunotizie](#)

[Civonline](#)

[Rimini Today](#)

[Cesena today](#)

[Alto Adige](#)

[Il Giunco](#)

[Notizieinunlick](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

[Quotidiano Molise](#)

[Tenews](#)

[Lucca in diretta](#)

[Primo numero](#)

[Ravenna24ore](#)

[Corriere Adriatico](#)

[Policamente Corretto](#)

[Ravenna Notizie](#)

[Il resto del carlino](#)

[Roma today](#)

[CinqueQuotidiano](#)

[Il giornale di Pantelleria](#)

[Puglia press](#)

[La Sicilia web](#)

[Il giornale del Molise](#)

[Barletta live](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

[Catania today](#)

[Bari today](#)

[QdS](#)

[La gazzetta del mezzogiorno](#)

[Stato quotidiano](#)

[Puglia live](#)

[Nel cuore](#)

[Il Quotidiano Italiano](#)

[Live UniCT](#)

[Bari live](#)

[Quotidiano di Puglia](#)

[Italy news 24](#)

[AmbienteAmbienti](#)

[Napoli Village](#)

### **Illegally seafood fished in Italy**

The authorities seized 10.6 tons of seafood illegally fished or without traceability documentation.

[Venezia Today](#)

[Trieste Cafe](#)

[Dissapore](#)

[Blog Sicilia](#)

[Daily Italia News](#)

[Ansa](#)

[La Sicilia](#)

[Meridio News](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

[Politicamente corretto](#)

[Ekuo News](#)

[Riviera Oggi](#)

[Il pescara](#)

[QdS](#)

[Palermo Today](#)

[Blog Sicilia](#)

[La Sicilia](#)

[News Sicilia](#)

### **Mislabeled tuna cans in Italy**

The authorities seized 4.5 tons of tuna cans (22.000 cans) of generic tuna mislabelled as a more expensive variety of tuna fish.

[Ansa](#)

[La Stampa](#)

[Telenord](#)

[Il secolo xix](#)

### **Illegally caught fish in Colombia**

The authorities seized almost 1 ton of shark meat (mainly fins) illegally fished for the black market. In 2022, the authorities seized a total of 7.4 tons of shark meat from protected species.

[El Colombiano](#)

[GreenMe](#)

### **Smuggled fish in Panama**

The authorities seized 7.2 tons of fish (Cojinúa and horse mackerel) smuggled from Costa Rica (total value of 32 000 Euros).

[Critica](#)

### **Illegally fishing and lack of traceability documentation in Italy**

The authorities seized in total 13 tons of seafood illegally fished or lacking the required traceability documentation.

[QdS](#)

[La Sicilia Web](#)

[News Sicilia](#)

[Daily Italia News](#)

[Stamp toscana](#)

[Venti4ore](#)

[Go News](#)

[Livorno Today](#)

[Daily Italia News](#)

[Puglia press](#)

[Bari Today](#)

[La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno](#)

[Bari Live](#)

[Exit style](#)

[Canale7](#)

[Brindisi report](#)

[Lecce sette](#)

[Brindisi libera](#)

### **Seafood illegally fished in French Guiana**

The authorities seized 19 tons of seafood illegally fished.

[Blada](#)

### **Sardines without traceability documents in Spain**

[Europapress](#)

[Gente digital](#)

[La Opinion a Coruna](#)

[Galicia press](#)

[Cope](#)

### **Mislabelled seafood and lack of traceability documents in Brazil**

1.68 tons of seafood mislabeled as a more expensive species and/or lacking traceability documentation (e.g. on origin) were seized by the authorities in the operation 'Gato por Lebre'.

[Diario gaucho](#)

### **Smuggled mackerel in Zimbabwe**

The authorities seized 6 tons of mackerel smuggled from Mozambique (total value of almost 7 900 Euros).

[Manica Post](#)

### **Seafood illegally fished in Oman**

In August, the authorities seized more than 14 tons of seafood illegally fished.

[Muscat Daily](#)

### **Seafood products lacking traceability documents in Italy**

The authorities seized 1 ton of seafood without the required traceability documentation.

[Lucca in diretta](#)

[Stamp toscana](#)

### **Fish grey market in Spain**

The Civil Guard, in collaboration with Europol, seized 180 kg of critically endangered young European glass eels (total value of 270 000 Euros), ready to be smuggled.

[Uk Yahoo](#)

### **Illegal fishing in the European Union**

The European Court of Auditors (ECA) has published a Special Report on illegal fishing in the European Union. They conclude that the control systems in place to combat illegal fishing are partially effective.

[ECA](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[Le Monde](#)

[Yahoo](#)

### **Illegally prawns seized in Singapore**

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) seized 6 tons of prawns illegally imported from Malaysia and China.

[The Straits Times](#)

[Tnp](#)

### **Frozen horse mackerel seized in Angola**

The authorities seized 800 tons of frozen horse mackerel (total value of 1.18 million Euros) suspected of being fished in areas where catching is not allowed.

[Informante](#)

### **Seafood without traceability papers**

1 ton of seafood was seized by the authorities in Italy without any traceability documentation.

[Ansa](#)

[Calabria7](#)

[Zoom24](#)

[Info oggi](#)

### **Contraband catfish in the USA**

The authorities seized almost 19 tons of contraband catfish.

[Public now](#)

### **Lack of the required traceability in Italy**

The officials seized 3.8 tons of red tuna that lacked the necessary traceability papers.

[Ansa](#)

[Sardinia post](#)

[La Nuova Sardegna](#)

[Sardegna live](#)

[Tp24](#)

[Giornale L'ora](#)

[Itaca notizie](#)

[Blog Sicilia](#)

[Stretto Web](#)

The authorities seized 2.5 tons of seafood with no traceability documents during the "Spring Fish" operation.

[Ansa](#)

[Blog Sicilia](#)

[La Sicilia](#)

[NewSicilia](#)

[Gradangolo Agrigento](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

[Gazzetta del Sud](#)

[Agrigento Oggi](#)

[Sicilia 24h](#)

The authorities seized 7 tons of tuna hidden from the official fishing registry.

[Bari Today](#)

[Quotidiano di Puglia](#)

### **Contraband products in French Guiana**

The 32 tons of illegal fish were captured (total value of 275.000 Euros).

[Blada](#)

### **Red tuna lacking the required traceability documentation in Italy**

The authorities seized in total 11.7 tons of red tuna lacking the required traceability documentation or without the Bluefin Tuna Catch Document.

[La Sicilia web](#)

[Palermo Today](#)



[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

[Ansa](#)

[Il Dispaccio](#)

### **Bivalves with fake packing dates**

In the operation "Beluga", the authorities seized almost 1 ton of bivalves with fake packing dates or without traceability documentation.

[Il Gazzettino](#)

[L'Adige](#)

[Trento Today](#)

[Giornale Trentino](#)

[il Dolomiti](#)

[La Voce del Trentino](#)

[Oggi Treviso](#)

### **11 tons of seafood seized without traceability documentation in Italy**

In operation "Illegal Gear", the authorities seized 11 tons of seafood (including some red tuna, as mentioned in the above news) lacking the required traceability documentation.

[Blog Sicilia](#)

[Grandamolo Agrigento](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

[Palermo Today](#)

### **Tuna and sea urchins without traceability in Italy**

In the operation "BFT Connect", the authorities seized 1.5 tons of tuna and sea urchins without traceability documentation.

[La Sicilia Web](#)

[News Sicilia](#)

[QdS](#)

[Blog Sicilia](#)

[MeridioNews](#)

[Gazzetta del Sud](#)

[Ragusa News](#)

[Catania Today](#)

[NoveTV](#)

[Radio RTM](#)

[Corriere di Ragusa](#)

### **Illegal fishing in Italy**

In the operation "Controcorrente", the authorities dismantled a criminal organization illegally fishing carp and catfishes by using banned methodologies (like electricity). The fish were then smuggled to Romania with fake documents.

[Ravenna Today](#)

### **In Bolivia smugglers attacked officials in order to recover 16 tons of fish**

A group of smugglers attacked some officials of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service (Senasag) in order to recover 16 tons of contraband fish (total value between 38 000 and 47 500 Euros).

[Senasag](#)

[El Pais](#)

[Eju](#)

[Reduno](#)

[Pagina siete](#)

### **Half of the seafood in Mexico is illegally fished**

According to the organization Oceana, 50% of products of fishery origin in Mexico are illegal and 40% of fishing seas are overfished.

[Oceana](#)

[Vanquardia](#)

### **European eels smuggled out of Europe and sold in America**

The authorities dismantled a criminal organization involving the largest U.S. importer and wholesale distributor of eel meat. Large quantities of European eels have been smuggled out of Europe and processed in China, ultimately imported into the USA mislabelled as “American eels” for sushi. The market value of such fraud has been valued at around 152 million euros over a four-year period. European eels are protected under the CITES Convention.

[Seafood source](#)

[Yahoo](#)

[Ni](#)

### **Smoked salmon products with falsified country of origin claims**

A UK-based company is under investigation by the FSA’s National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) for having falsified the country of origin claims on some of their smoked salmon products.

[The grocer](#)

[Intrafish](#)

### **Untraceable clams seized in Italy**

The authorities seized 3.7 tons of clams without the required traceability documentation (total value of 56 000 Euros).

[Il Pescara](#)

### **Illegal tuna sold in Italy**

The authorities seized 6.8 tons of tuna without any traceability documentation or illegally fished.

[Dispaccio del nord](#)

[Blog Sicilia](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

[Palermo Today](#)

### **Illegally fished sea urchins**

From the end of 2021 until May 2022, the authorities seized 20 000 sea urchins illegally fished.

[Il giunco](#)

[La Nazione](#)

### **More sea urchins illegally fished**

The authorities seized in total 4 000 sea urchins illegally fished and without any traceability documentation.

[Agenzia nova](#)

[Agen pari](#)

[Il Tirreno](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

### **In India the authorities seized 6.2 tons of rotten fish**

The authorities seized 6.2 tons of rotten fish adulterated with chemicals.

[Hindustan Times](#)

[Times of India](#)

[Food World](#)

### **Pearl mullets illegally fished in Turkey**

The Turkish Coast Guard seized 1.5 tons of pearl mullets illegally fished.

[Hurry et daily news](#)

### **Food poisoning by adulterated tuna in Italy**

Tens of people got poisoned after consuming adulterated tuna. The authorities discovered a company defrosting and adulterating the fish with unsafe substances to enhance the colour.

[Ansa](#)

[TGcom24](#)

[Repubblica](#)

[Foggia Today](#)

### **Fish without traceability documentation**

The authorities seized 1 ton of fish juveniles and 1.8 tons of fishes without traceability documentation.

[Corriere di Taranto](#)

[Il secolo xix](#)

In another operation, more than 1 ton of contraband fish was seized.

[Ansa](#)

[Qui Cosenza](#)

[Zoom24](#)

[Calabria 7](#)

[Nuova Cosenza](#)

900 kg of fish illegally caught or without traceability documentation have been seized as well.

[Grandanqolo Agrigento](#)

[La Sicilia](#)

[Aqriqento Oqqi](#)

[Il fatto nisseno](#)

### **Fish in Mexico often misplaced**

Oceana Mexico reported that dogfish and cod products are often replaced with other species. The substitution rate was on average 31% (43% for fishmongers and 17% for supermarkets).

[Quadratin](#)

[La Silla rota](#)

### **Wrong labeling of fish products in Germany**

In 2021, German authorities discovered that in 23 out of 230 (10%), seafood samples analyzed the species was incorrectly labeled. Samples were taken at all stages of the food chain (manufacturer, wholesale, retail, catering).

[UA-BW](#)

[Il Salvaqente](#)

### **Contraband seafood seized in Bolivia**

The National Customs and Senasag seized more than 16 tons of contraband seafood from Argentina (total value of 35 500 Euros).

[Erbol](#)

[Los Tiempos](#)

[Paqina Siete](#)

[El deber](#)

### **25 tons of contraband tuna seized in Tunisia**

The authorities seized 25 tons of contraband tuna, for a total value of around 115 500 Euros.

[Kapitalis](#)

[African Manager](#)

### **Fish with contaminants seized in India**

As part of "Operation Matsya", the authorities seized 5.6 tons of stale and chemically contaminated fish. Contaminants included ammonia and formalin.

[Morning Express](#)

[The Hindu](#)

[Onmanorama](#)

[The Hindu](#)

### **Contraband seafood smuggled from Venezuela**

The authorities seized 6 tons of contraband seafood illegally smuggled from Venezuela (total value of 25400 euros).

[El Heraldo](#)

### **Frozen seafood smuggled into China**

The General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has uncovered a criminal network smuggling 183 700 metric tons of frozen seafood (total value of 354 million Euros).

[Undercurrent news](#)

### **27 tons of seafood products seized**

The Coast Guard seized in total around 27 tons of seafood products illegally fished or without the necessary traceability documentation, sometimes even expired.

[Ok! Mugello](#)

[La discussione](#)

[Msn](#)

[Giornale Partite Iva](#)

[L'Eco del Sud](#)

[Ital press](#)

[Gazzetta del Sud](#)

In another operation, the authorities seized 30 longfin tunas (or albacore) with no traceability documentation.

[News Sicilia](#)

### **Illegal fish seized in France**

Antilles-French Guiana patrol boats seized 4.5 tons of illegal fish, including protected species (such as sharks and rays).

[Blada](#)

### **In Bolivia smuggled fish**

The National Service of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (Senasag) seized 2 tons of shad fish smuggled from Argentina into Bolivia.

[Senasag](#)

[Bolivia en tus manos](#)

[El Pais](#)

[Eju](#)

5.5 tons of expired seafood seized in Italy

The Financial Guard seized 5.5 tons of expired seafood (total value of 100 000 Euros) kept without respecting the hygiene conditions and lacking the required traceability documentation.

[Salerno Notizie](#)

[RadioAlfa](#)

[Otto pagine](#)

[Fanpage](#)

[Meteo Week](#)

### **10 tons of fish seized in Italy**

In Operation "Sirio" the Coast Guard seized additional 10 tons of fish (including red tuna) with no traceability documentation.

[Meridio News](#)

[Catania Today](#)

[La Sicilia](#)

[NewSicilia](#)

### **The Italian authorities seized 1.8 tons of seafood**

In the Operation “Phoenix” the authorities seized 1.8 tons of seafood illicitly sold or stored.

[Palermo Today](#)

[ilSicilia](#)

[Grandangolo](#)

[Blog Sicilia](#)

### **In Mozambique 4 tons of fish illegally caught**

The Fisheries Inspection Authority seized 4 tons of fish (a total value of almost 14 000 euros) illegally caught during the closed fishing season. The consignment documents were falsified, stating the wrong fishing areas.

[Club of Mozambique](#)

### **Expired fish sold in Italy**

The Coast Guard seized 7 tons of fish (salmon, blue shark, and cod) already expired, but with falsified expiry labels in order to be sold on the market.

[Vicenza Today](#)

### **Rancid oils sold by 10% of best-selling brands**

A US organization has tested 3 254 fish oil supplements from 54 best-selling brands for total omega-3s, EPA and DHA, vitamin D, and CLA content, methylmercury concentration, and total oxidation values. Around 10% of products contained oxidized rancid oils masked by flavorings.

[Labdoor](#)

[Il Fatto Alimentare](#)

[The Guardian](#)

### **Illegally imported products from Korea**

Singapore Food Agency (SFA) seized around 4.6 tons of meat and seafood products (e.g. meat dumplings, frozen beef and processed squid) in an unlicensed cold store. Meat products were illegally imported from Korea.

[Sfa.gov](#)

### **Fish fillet products often mislabelled**

A scientific article reports a mislabelling rate of 33% (18/ 54 samples) on fish fillet products from supermarkets in Thailand, by using DNA barcoding. Atlantic salmon-labeled products were frequently mislabelled.

[Food Control](#)

### **Fish smuggled from Kenya to China**

The authorities seized 5.5 tons of fish (total value of around 275 000 Euros), in transit to China without the proper export permit from the fisheries department.

[Nation](#)

### **In Malaysia, a lot of frozen fish fillets were mislabelled**

A scientific article reports a mislabelling rate of 10.6% (5/ 47 samples) on commercial frozen fish fillets from seven supermarkets in Malaysia, by using DNA barcoding. Catfish was mostly used to substitute the mislabelled species.

[Journal of Consumer Protection and Food Safety](#)

### **More than a quarter of fish samples mislabelled in Singapore**

According to a scientific paper recently published, 26% of the 96 fish samples collected from 19 locations in Singapore (mostly supermarkets) were mislabelled.

### **Contraband fish seized in India**

The Border Security Force seized 1 375 kg of contraband fish.

[Latestly](#)

[AniNews](#)

[Cambodian Times](#)

[Northern Ireland News](#)

[Long beach star](#)

### **Hong Kong's consumer watchdog discovered that:**

- 100% (10 out of 10) of lobster balls analyzed did not contain any crustacean DNA. Real ingredients are not known.
- 70% (14 out of 20) of beef and beef tendon meatballs analyzed were partially adulterated with pork and chicken meat.

[France24](#)

[HKFP](#)

[SCMP](#)

[Head Topics](#)

### **Products with fake documentation seized in Italy**

The Italian authorities seized 1 ton of dried fish, pulses and spices (total value of 250 000 Euros) having fake origin documentation/ labels and not compliant with the hygiene requirements.

[Gdf](#)

[SkyTg24](#)

[Torino Oggi](#)

[La Repubblica](#)