

Fish labelling rules

A quick guide



Legislation now requires certain fish sold at retail to be labelled with all of the following information:

Commercial name of the fish species

Labels have to show the commercial name of the fish. Some common examples of these, together with their Latin names, are printed overleaf. Providing consumers with the scientific (Latin) name is optional at retail sale;

Method of production

Labels have to say whether the fish was caught at sea, in inland waters or was farmed; and,

Catch area

Labels have to say where the fish was caught (you should use the 12 areas shown in the table below) or include the Country of production (that is, the EU Member State or third country).

SPECIFIED CATCH AREAS

North-West Atlantic	Central-Eastern Atlantic	Baltic Sea	Indian Ocean
North-East Atlantic	South-West Atlantic	Mediterranean Sea	Pacific Ocean
Central-Western Atlantic	South-East Atlantic	Black Sea	Antarctic

- Traceability rules require that the above information is passed down the marketing chain when ownership of the product changes hands between businesses. In addition, the scientific (Latin) name of the fish species must be included.
- The rules apply to the following categories of fish, whether sold loose or pre-packed: live, fresh, chilled or frozen fish; fish fillets and other fish meat; smoked, dried, salted or brined fish; crustaceans and molluscs.
- The rules do not apply to processed fish products (for example, canned fish), or to fish products sold by caterers which are ready for consumption without further preparation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Agency Guidance on the fish labelling regulations is available at: www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/fish_lab_reg2003gn.pdf
- Full Regulations are available from: www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/index.htm
England: SI 2003 No.461, SI 2006 No.506
Scotland: SSI 2003 No.145, SSI 2006 105
Wales: SI 2003 No.1635 (W.177), SI 2006 No.1339 (W.131)
Northern Ireland: 2003 No.160, 2006 No.116

Examples of some legal fish names

Commercial designation	Species of fish
Bass or Sea bass	<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> (L.)
Brill	<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i> (L.)
Cockle	All species of <i>Cerastoderma</i>
Cod or Codling	<i>Gadus morhua</i>
Pacific cod or Cod	<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>
Greenland cod or Cod	<i>Gadus ogac</i>
Coley or Saithe or Coalfish	<i>Pollachius virens</i> (L.)
Crab	All species of the order <i>Brachyura</i> , All species of the family <i>Lithodidae</i>
Dory or John Dory or St Peter's fish	<i>Zeus faber</i> (L.)
Dogfish or Flake or Huss or Rigg or Rock Salmon or Rock Eel	All species of <i>Galeorhinus</i> , All species of <i>Mustelus</i> , All species of <i>Scyliorhinus</i> , <i>Galeus melastomus</i> , <i>Squalus acanthias</i> (L.)
Freshwater bream	<i>Abramis brama</i>
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> (L.)
Hake	All species of <i>Merluccius</i> Alternatively, the following may be used:
Cape hake	<i>Merluccius capensis</i> , <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>
Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i> (L.)
Hoki	<i>Macruronus novaezelandiae</i>
Lobster	All species of <i>Homarus</i>
Mackerel	All species of <i>Scomber</i>
Megrim	All species of <i>Lepidorhombus</i>
Monk(fish) or Angler(fish)	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i> (L.), <i>Lophius americanus</i> , <i>Lophiodes caulinaris</i> , <i>Lophius budegassa</i>
Mussel	All species of the family <i>Mytilidae</i>
Oyster	All species of <i>Crassostrea</i> , All species of <i>Ostrea</i>
Oyster or Pacific oyster or Rock oyster	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i> (Thunberg)
Oyster or Native oyster	<i>Ostrea edulis</i> (L.)
Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> (L.)
Rainbow trout or Steelhead trout or trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Salmon or Atlantic Salmon	<i>Salmo salar</i> (L.)
Scallop or King scallop	<i>Pecten maximus</i>
Atlantic scallop or Scallop	<i>Placopecten magellanicus</i>
Queen scallop or Queen or Scallop	<i>Chlamys (Aequipecten) opercularis</i>
Scallop or Common scallop	All species of the family <i>Pectinidae</i>
Scampi or Norway lobster or Dublin Bay prawn or Langoustine	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> (L.)
Shrimp or Brown shrimp	All species of <i>Crangon</i>
Skate or Ray	All species of the family <i>Rajidae</i>
Sole or Dover sole	<i>Solea solea</i> (L.)
Lemon sole	<i>Microstomus kitt</i> (Walbaum)
Tiger prawn	<i>Penaeus monodon</i> , <i>Penaeus semisulcatus</i> , <i>Penaeus esculentus</i> , <i>Penaeus kerathurus</i> , <i>Penaeus japonicus</i> , <i>Parapenaeopsis hardwickii</i> , <i>Parapenaeopsis sculptilis</i>
Tilapia	All species of <i>Tilapia</i> , All species of <i>Oreochromis</i>
Torbay sole or Witch	<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i> (L.)
Tuna or Tunny	All species of <i>Thunnus</i>
Skipjack tuna (or tuna)	<i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>
Yellowfin tuna (or tuna)	<i>Thunnus albacares</i>
Turbot	<i>Psetta maxima</i>
Whelk	All species of <i>Buccinum</i>

A full list of legal names, and an excel spreadsheet for searching for fish names, can be found on the Food Standards Agency's website at:

www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/labelregsguidance/updatednamesfish