



# Working Group 3: EU control and sanitary issues, consumer rules

BusinessEurope, Brussels

Thursday, 30 January 2020, 9.00-12.45 CET

# AGENDA

09:05 1. Adoption of the agenda and of the last meeting's minutes of 3 September 2019

09:10 2. Plastics Workshop

09:25 3. Certification Schemes

09:55 4. Scientific Denominations Changes

10:00 5. Contaminants

10:05 6. Caviar Labelling

*Coffee break 10:35 - 10:50*

10:50 7. Focus Group on Consumer Information

12:05 8. Labelling of vegetarian and vegan products that imitate seafood products

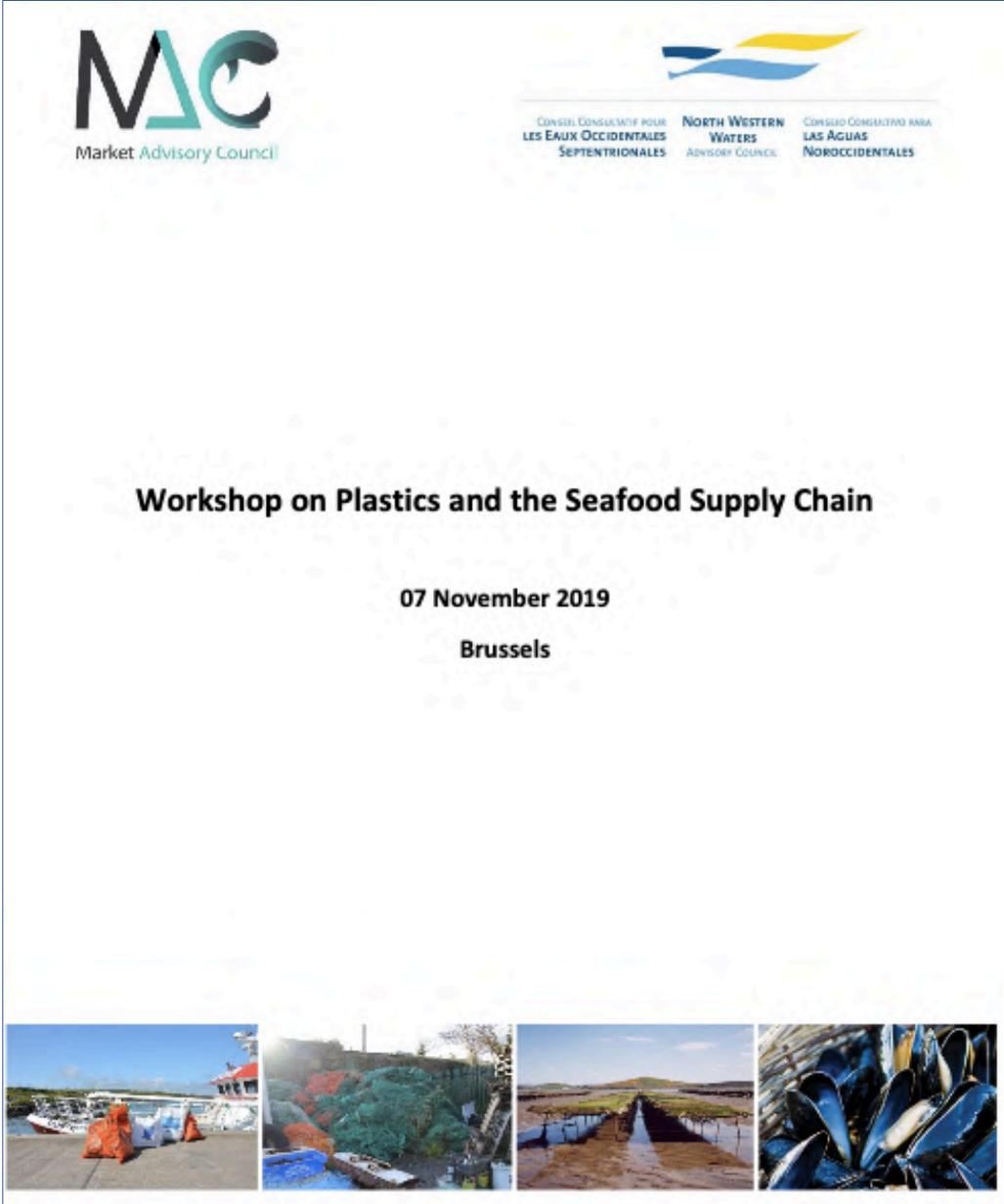
12:20 9. Nutritional Labelling, particularly "nutriscores"

12:35 AOBs

*12:45 End of meeting*

# PLASTICS WORKSHOP

- Organised by MAC and NWWAC
- Full-day workshop on 7 November 2019
- Keynote: Giuseppe Ferrandino (S&D),  
PECH vice-chair
- Ten speakers in total:  
academia, European Commission (DG ENV &  
MARE), retail sector, practitioners, NGO
- Report and individual presentations available  
online



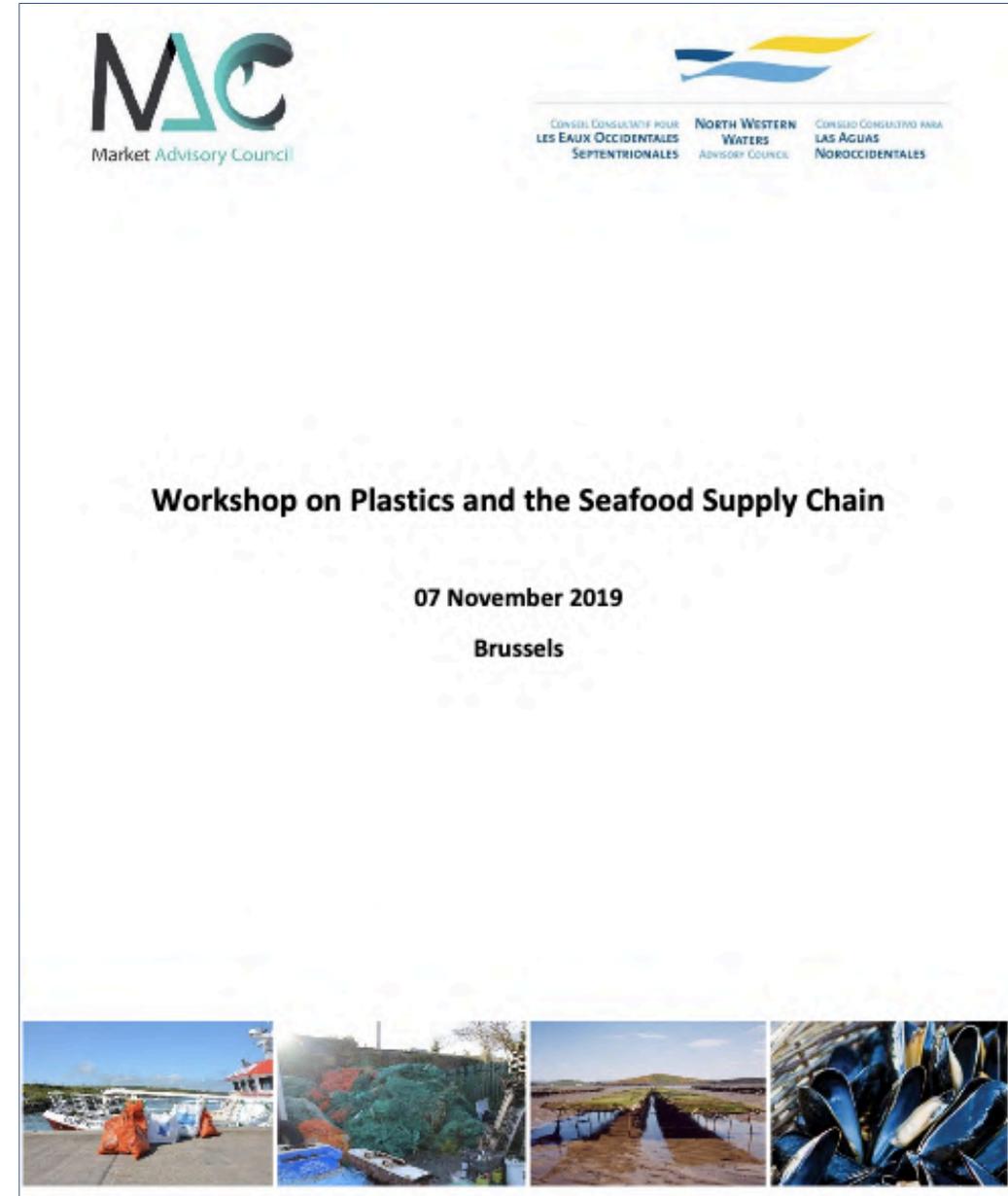
The poster features the MAC logo (Market Advisory Council) in the top left and the North Western Waters Advisory Council logo in the top right. The central text reads: "Workshop on Plastics and the Seafood Supply Chain", "07 November 2019", and "Brussels". At the bottom, there is a row of four small images: a boat with orange buoys, a large pile of blue and orange buoys, a long pier extending into the water, and a close-up of blue buoys.

# PLASTICS WORKSHOP

✓ Workshop + Report

→ Discussion on way forward

(Also in light of workshops/activities by other ACs)



## I. Scope of the workshop

*Clarification* of terms and the different forms of sustainability claims

- Sustainability claims on fisheries vs. seafood products
- Claims aimed at supply chain vs. end consumer
- Classifying different types of claims:
  - Fisheries advisory schemes (e.g. seafood guides)
  - Own claims (whether certified or not)
  - Independently verified claims (public or private)
  - Legal information (current framework)

## II. Sustainability claims

Definition of the *concept of sustainability* in relation to the seafood sector

Political: Guidelines by FAO (ecolabels) and EU (certifications)

Practical: Industry standards and benchmarks (GSSI)

## III. Evaluating sustainability claims

The *pros and cons* & the *costs and benefits* of sustainability claims, by addressing:

- Environmental benefits/impacts on fisheries
- Scope
- Transparency assurances
- Market benefits & market limitations
- Costs
- Consumer understanding

## IV. The future of sustainability – going beyond existing perspectives

- Environmental: Widening the focus to life-cycle assessments
- Social (and labour) dimension
- Scoping out other issues of concern to consumers, such as animal welfare

## V. Conclusion

## → III. Evaluating sustainability claims

Format – suggestion of a mix between 1 and 2:

- 1: Inviting relevant speakers
- 2: Holding panel discussion

Both options  
with the aim  
to represent:

1. fishing/catching sector/primary production
2. middle of chain operators (processors, suppliers, traders)
3. end of chain operators (retailers)
4. NGOs
5. Consumer organisation
6. public/regulatory authorities

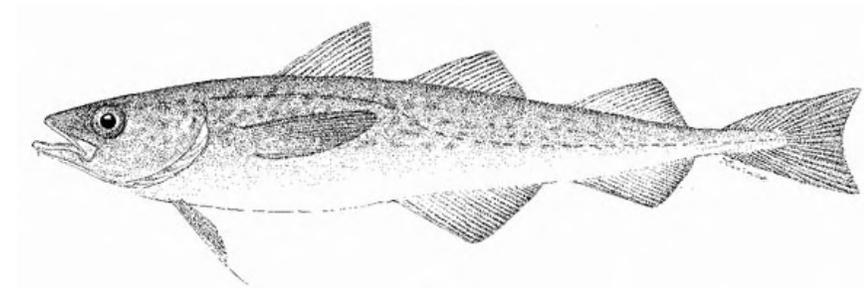
# ECOLABELS WORKSHOP - ToRs

Profile of speakers to be invited:

- Independent and neutral
  - Retailers and market researchers
  - Representative of a consumers' organisations
  - EU and FAO officials
  - Scientists, academics and possibly other Advisory Councils
- 
- Planned date: Q1 or early Q2 of 2020
  - Cooperation with other ACs? → Potentially all affected
  - Location: Brussels
  - Outcome #1: workshop report (similar to Plastics Workshop)

# SCIENTIFIC DENOMINATION CHANGES

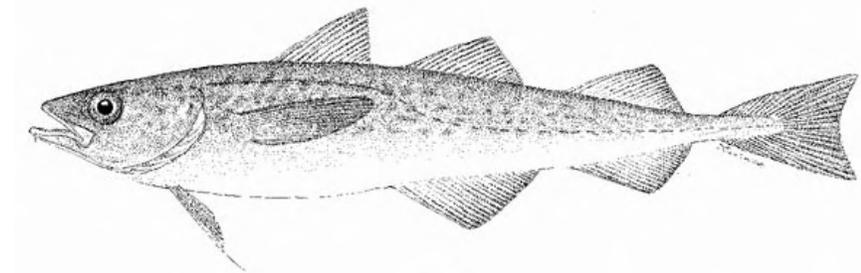
- New denominations used in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries
- World Customs Organisation's Harmonized System (HS) + the EU's Combined Nomenclature (CN) continue to refer to the previous names
- constraints in trade operations & creates confusion along seafood value chain
  
- MAC letter sent 3 October 2019
- COM response on 25 October 2019



# SCIENTIFIC DENOMINATION CHANGES

Commission's response:

- Aware of problem for operators
- Modifications to EU Combined Nomenclature depend on prior changes to Harmonized System
- Next amendment of Harmonized System: enters into force in 2022
- Work on amendments concluded in March 2019
- Requested update to Latin name of Alaska pollock (*Gadus Chalcogramma*) → rejected



# CONTAMINANTS

- Analysis for presence of dioxins and dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in fish oil batches under Regulation (EC) No 183/2005
  - Letter sent on 22 November 2019
  
- Testing for Cadmium levels in Brown Crab exported to People's Republic of China
  - Letter sent on 16 December 2019
  
- Both letters are currently under review by the Commission

# CAVIAR LABELLING – AAC ADVICE

## AAC recommendation – September 2018

- Include caviar under Art. 35 of CMO Regulation
- Additional consumer information on front and back of caviar products (not just CITES string)
- Commission response (Oct 2018): difficulty of amending CMO for including single product



## Endocrine disruptors

- Chemicals which may interfere with the hormonal system and, as a result of that, produce harmful effects in both humans and wildlife
- A wide range of chemicals, both natural and man-made, may cause endocrine disruption

## Fitness check

- Stakeholder consultation (ends: 31 January 2020)
- Public consultation (ends: 9 March 2020)
- Fitness check to be finalised in 2020

# CONSUMER INFORMATION – FOCUS GROUP DRAFT

– Two meetings since last WG update:

October 2019 and

January 2020

– Key part (“Recommendations”) jointly agreed



## **DRAFT** **CONSUMER INFORMATION**

### **1. Introduction**

Information to the consumer on products, both from aquaculture and fisheries, are governed in the EU by a number of rules and regulations. This legislative framework, while not exhaustive, includes the following provisions which feature in this document:

- Regulation on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products (No 1379/2013) (often referred to as the CMO Regulation)
- Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers (No 1169/2011) (often referred to as the FIC regulation)
- Regulation laying down the Union Customs Code ((EU) No 952/2013), based on Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/775 laying down rules for indicating the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient of a food, which is set to enter into force on 1 April 2020
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 2136/89 of 21 June 1989 laying down common marketing standards for preserved sardines and trade descriptions for preserved sardines and sardine-type products;
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1536/92 of 9 June 1992 laying down common marketing standards for preserved tuna and bonito;
- Council Regulation (EC) No 2406/96 of 26 November 1996 laying down common marketing standards for certain fishery products;
- Regulation (EC) 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and Regulation (EC) 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption
- Regulation 104/2000 and Regulation 2065/2001 (replaced by Regulation 1379/2013)
- Various national guidance documents, voluntary standards from national standardisation bodies and private industry standards, e.g. the German Food Book Commission's *Leitsätze für Fische, Krebs- und Weichtiere des Deutschen Lebensmittelbuches*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 'Leitsätze für Fische, Krebs- und Weichtiere und Erzeugnisse daraus', [https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Ernaehrung/Lebensmittelbuch/LeitsatzeFische.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile](https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Ernaehrung/Lebensmittelbuch/LeitsatzeFische.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

# CONSUMER INFORMATION – FOCUS GROUP DRAFT

Updated structure:

1. Introduction
2. Review of consumer surveys and behaviour
3. Consumer labelling impact
  1. Scientific names on labels
  2. Date of Catch/Harvest on labels
  3. Repacking
  4. Fishing industry considerations
    1. Preliminary aspects
    2. Origin labelling impact relating to differences between fresh & processed products
  5. Use of existing data
4. Recommendations



## **DRAFT** **CONSUMER INFORMATION**

### **1. Introduction**

Information to the consumer on products, both from aquaculture and fisheries, are governed in the EU by a number of rules and regulations. This legislative framework, while not exhaustive, includes the following provisions which feature in this document:

- Regulation on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products (No 1379/2013) (often referred to as the CMO Regulation)
- Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers (No 1169/2011) (often referred to as the FIC regulation)
- Regulation laying down the Union Customs Code ((EU) No 952/2013), based on Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/775 laying down rules for indicating the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient of a food, which is set to enter into force on 1 April 2020
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 2136/89 of 21 June 1989 laying down common marketing standards for preserved sardines and trade descriptions for preserved sardines and sardine-type products;
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1536/92 of 9 June 1992 laying down common marketing standards for preserved tuna and bonito;
- Council Regulation (EC) No 2406/96 of 26 November 1996 laying down common marketing standards for certain fishery products;
- Regulation (EC) 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and Regulation (EC) 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption
- Regulation 104/2000 and Regulation 2065/2001 (replaced by Regulation 1379/2013)
- Various national guidance documents, voluntary standards from national standardisation bodies and private industry standards, e.g. the German Food Book Commission's *Leitsätze für Fische, Krebs- und Weichtiere des Deutschen Lebensmittelbuches*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 'Leitsätze für Fische, Krebs- und Weichtiere und Erzeugnisse daraus', [https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Ernaehrung/Lebensmittelbuch/LeitsaetzeFische.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile](https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Ernaehrung/Lebensmittelbuch/LeitsaetzeFische.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

## Going through the draft document



### **DRAFT** **CONSUMER INFORMATION**

#### **1. Introduction**

Information to the consumer on products, both from aquaculture and fisheries, are governed in the EU by a number of rules and regulations. This legislative framework, while not exhaustive, includes the following provisions which feature in this document:

- Regulation on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products (No 1379/2013) (often referred to as the CMO Regulation)
- Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers (No 1169/2011) (often referred to as the FIC regulation)
- Regulation laying down the Union Customs Code ((EU) No 952/2013), based on Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/775 laying down rules for indicating the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient of a food, which is set to enter into force on 1 April 2020
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 2136/89 of 21 June 1989 laying down common marketing standards for preserved sardines and trade descriptions for preserved sardines and sardine-type products;
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1536/92 of 9 June 1992 laying down common marketing standards for preserved tuna and bonito;
- Council Regulation (EC) No 2406/96 of 26 November 1996 laying down common marketing standards for certain fishery products;
- Regulation (EC) 853/2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin and Regulation (EC) 854/2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption
- Regulation 104/2000 and Regulation 2065/2001 (replaced by Regulation 1379/2013)
- Various national guidance documents, voluntary standards from national standardisation bodies and private industry standards, e.g. the German Food Book Commission's *Leitsätze für Fische, Krebs- und Weichtiere des Deutschen Lebensmittelbuches*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, 'Leitsätze für Fische, Krebs- und Weichtiere und Erzeugnisse daraus', [https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Ernaehrung/Lebensmittelbuch/LeitsatzeFische.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile](https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/Ernaehrung/Lebensmittelbuch/LeitsatzeFische.pdf?__blob=publicationFile).

# LABELLING OF VEGETARIAN AND VEGAN PRODUCTS – IMITATIONS OF SEAFOOD PRODUCTS

- Vegetarian and vegan products imitating other food products
- At first:  
Primarily *meat* alternatives
- Recently:  
Increasing number imitating *seafood* products

Not addressed due to time reasons



# NUTRITIONAL LABELLING – “NUTRISCORES”

- Intended to help consumers compare between foods & drinks
- Front-of-pack nutritional label
- Converts nutritional value of food and beverages —salt, sugar, fat content etc.—into an overall score
- Based on a scale of 5 colours and letters:
  - **green A:** *best* nutritional quality
  - **dark orange E:** *lowest* nutritional quality

Not addressed due to time reasons



# AOBs & END OF MEETING

– Any other business?

– End of meeting

*Lunch*