

United Kingdom & Fish Names

The sale of fish and aquaculture products* is covered by the Fish Labelling Regulations 2013 and the Fish Labelling (Wales) Regulations 2013. They must be labelled with the legal name of the fish / aquaculture product, the production method, the catch area, and treatments and additives that must be declared. There is a list of recognised legal names, which is maintained and updated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

[*Aquaculture products are aquatic organisms at any stage of their life cycle, and products produced from them. Aquaculture products include molluscs (such as oysters and mussels), crustaceans (such as shrimp and prawns) and aquatic plants (such as seaweed and microalgae).

There are additional labelling requirements for fish that has been irradiated, previously frozen, smoked and/or contain any genetically modified material.

This guidance relates to all sales of fish and aquaculture products, whether they are sold prepacked, prepacked for direct sale or non-prepacked. Please see '[Labelling of prepacked foods: general](#)', '[Labelling of prepacked-for-direct-sale foods](#)' and '[Labelling of non-prepacked foods](#)' for more information on the legal definitions and requirements.

Required labelling

Fish must be labelled with the following:

- commercial designation of the food (see full reference)
- scientific name (which may be provided on a separate poster)
- production method (caught at sea, caught in fresh water, farmed or cultivated)
- catch / production area (see full reference)
- category of fishing gear used
- whether or not the fish has been defrosted (see full reference)

There is an exemption from the first three of these requirements for fish worth less than 20 euros (approximately £18) that is sold direct to the consumer by those who caught it.

As fish is a specified allergen, the allergen-labelling requirement must also be complied with. See '[Food allergens and intolerance](#)' for more information.

References

1. <https://www.businesscompanion.info/en/quick-guides/food-and-drink/labelling-of-fish>