

Poster 19

LABELFISH – “The Atlantic network on genetic control of fish and seafood labelling and traceability”

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Globalization has led to a rapid increase in the variety of fish species found on European markets, which makes it difficult for control bodies to verify the labelling of fishery products. Nevertheless, species authentication is indispensable to protect consumers against fraudulent substitution and regional companies against distortion of competition.

Substantial efforts have been undertaken during the last years to develop DNA-based systems for the identification of fish species in fish food. However, there are no standardized methods harmonized across the European states.

LABELFISH is a project funded by the Atlantic Area Programme and includes participants from six countries in Europe (France, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and UK), which are characterized by an intense economic and social relationship with marine resources. LABELFISH aims to analyse the current situation of fish food labelling and traceability in six European countries, to propose and harmonize European standard genetic methods for fish species authentication and to create a permanent network for authentication of fish and seafood products.

Results concerning the mislabelling rate of cod and tuna samples purchased in markets of the different European countries will be presented. Moreover it will be shown that sole (*Solea solea*) is often found to be substituted by less valuable fish species in German restaurants. In this context, different aspects of fishery product labelling and surveillance will be discussed.