

## LABELS ON SEAFOOD PRODUCTS IN DIFFERENT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THEIR COMPLIANCE TO EU LEGISLATION

Simona Paolacci<sup>1,2</sup>, Rogério Mendes<sup>3</sup>, Regina Klapper<sup>4</sup>, Amaya Velasco<sup>5</sup>, Graciela Ramilo-Fernandez<sup>5</sup>, Marta Muñoz-Colmenero<sup>5</sup>, Tavis Potts<sup>6</sup>, Sandra Martins<sup>7</sup>, Solene Avignon<sup>9</sup>, Julie Maguire<sup>1,2</sup>, Enrique De Paz<sup>1,2</sup>, Martin Johnson<sup>1,8</sup>, Francoise Denis<sup>9</sup>, Miguel A. Pardo<sup>10</sup>, Dee McElligott<sup>1,2</sup>, Carmen Gonzalez Sotelo<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bantry Marine Research Station, Ireland

<sup>2</sup> Indigo Rock Marine Research Station

<sup>3</sup> Portuguese Institute for the Sea and the Atmosphere, IPMA I.P.

<sup>4</sup> Max Rubner-Institut, Federal Research Institute of Nutrition and Food, Department of Safety and Quality of Milk and Fish products, Palmaille 9, 22767 Hamburg, Germany

<sup>5</sup> Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas (CSIC), Eduardo Cabello 6, 36208 Vigo, Spain

<sup>6</sup> University of Aberdeen

<sup>7</sup> Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera, I. P. (IPMA, I. P.)

<sup>8</sup> AquaTT Ireland

<sup>9</sup> Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Station Marine de Concarneau, France

<sup>10</sup> AZTI Food Research, Basque Research and Technology (BRTA), Spain

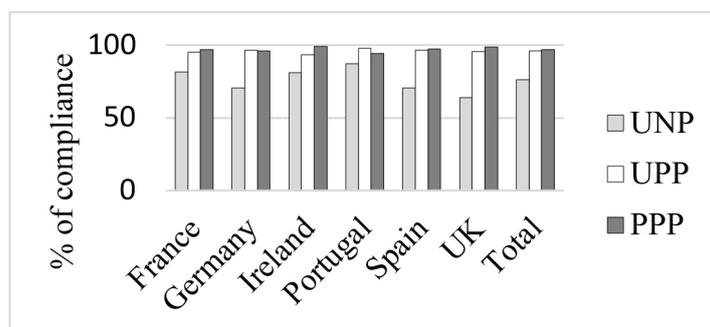
Email corresponding author: spaolacci@bmrs.ie

### Introduction

The increasing consumption of seafood products raised concerns over their sustainability and the conservation of marine resources. Seafood traceability, enabled by a regulated labelling system, is important to prevent overexploitation of these resources. Detailed seafood labels also help consumers to make informed choices about the products they purchase, enabling them to play a role in the conservation of marine resources. The regulations (EU) No.1169/2011 and (EU) No 1379/2013 are the European legislative tools that specify the mandatory information that must be present on seafood labels. The present study analysed the labels of seafood products found in fishmonger's shops and supermarkets of different European countries in order to verify the presence of mandatory information required by the EU regulations currently in place.

### Material and Methods

The data were collected in 42 cities from 6 European countries: Portugal (PT), Spain (ES), France (FR), Germany (DE), United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland (IE). For each country, samples were collected in cities, in 3 supermarkets and 3 fishmongers' shops. Three groups of products were analysed (unprocessed non-prepacked, unprocessed prepacked and processed prepacked).

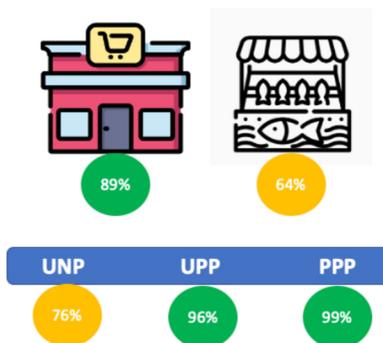


**Figure 1.** Compliance to labelling legislation for each country and for the three different groups of product assessed: Unprocessed Non-Prepacked (UNP), Unprocessed Prepacked (UPP) and Processed Prepacked (PPP).

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**Results**

The results show that there is a difference in compliance among groups of products and among countries. The country with the lowest level of compliance was United Kingdom (still part of EU in 2019, when the study was carried out), with an overall compliance of 63.7% (Fig. 1). The country with the highest level of compliance was Portugal (87.2 of compliance). Across all the countries analysed, supermarkets resulted more compliant than fishmonger’s shops and processed prepacked products resulted more compliant, to the EU labelling legislation, than unprocessed non-prepacked products (Fig. 2).



**Figure 2.** Compliance to the EU food labelling regulation in supermarkets and fishmonger’s shops and in the three categories of product analysed.