

Greenpeace demands on seafood traceability

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Tracing seafood products all the way down the product chain from the ship that caught them to the supermarket shelf is essential to ensure that the fish has been legally and sustainably caught. Retailers, processors and traders must take account of the following issues for all seafood products that they buy:

1. Not to buy fish from any **blacklisted vessels or company** listed at <http://blacklist.greenpeace.org/>.
2. Not to buy fish from **transhipments** at sea. Transhipments must only take place in preapproved transshipment ports after timely notification to relevant authorities, and under the surveillance of enforcement personnel. All such transhipments must be documented and available on the respective [quota] registry.
3. Only to buy fish that has been delivered to **preapproved ports/harbours**. In these ports systems must be in place to ensure that all landings are:
 - a. recorded on the respective [quota] registry database and catch document
 - b. reported in a systematic and coherent way to the authorities in charge
 - c. verified between port and flag states through full exchange of all catch data

Ensuring traceability for large scale fisheries - monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)

For large scale fisheries traceability can only be ensured when fully functioning MCS measures are in place. A functioning MCS system includes:

1. **tamper-proof satellite vessel monitoring systems (VMS)** reporting in real time to a centralised, common and independently held database available to all relevant authorities
2. **automatic electronic catch diaries** to shut down the possibility of double bookkeeping
3. **electronic catch documentation** accompanying the catch or any part of it
4. **authorisation** of the electronic catch documentation at each step by relevant authorities
5. a **catch document** that contains:
 - a. information on the vessel
 - b. area in which the fish has been caught
 - c. fishing technique used
 - d. name of the Captain and Fishing Master

The full catch document must accompany the catch or any part of it throughout the chain of custody and be provided to relevant authorities at least 24 hours in advance of the catch entering a port/shipping facility. It must be signed by the competent authority at each point in the chain.

Small-scale fisheries and traceability

As MCS systems can pose a significant problem to small-scale fishing communities due to the high costs involved in installing MCS systems, a specific approach needs to be defined for small-scale fishermen. The development of such a model needs to be undertaken with the involvement of small-scale fishing sector stakeholders. Training of onboard as well as land-based fisheries inspection staff, providing them with an adequate status and salary, will be key.

Whatever the result of such a process to develop the appropriate technical framework for small-scale fishermen would be, it needs to make it possible that the required information is available for labelling of the end product.

For more information on *seafood labelling*, see the 'Greenpeace demands on seafood labelling'.