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8 December 2014

Dear Madam,

[Re: REGULATION \(EU\) No 1379/2013 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products](#)

The Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture (GAAIA) applauds the European Commission for implementing [REGULATION \(EU\) No 1379/2013 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products](#).

However, GAAIA recommends that the European Commission go further than "voluntary" labelling and introduce mandatory labelling. The European Commission's recent publication - "[A pocket guide to the EU's new fish and aquaculture consumer labels](#)" - details 'voluntary information':

## 2. Voluntary information

In addition to the mandatory information required, the following information can be provided if it is clear, unambiguous and verifiable, and does not mislead the consumer.

Voluntary information must not be displayed to the detriment of the space available for mandatory information.

### Date of catch / harvest:

→ As per the appropriate documentation.

### Date of landing:

→ As per the appropriate documentation

### Port of landing of fishery products:

→ Name of the port where the fish was first landed

### More detailed fishing gear:

→ As per the appropriate documentation.

→ In addition to the seven mandatory fishing gear categories listed in section 1, more detailed information can be added, such as the gears listed in columns 2 and/or 3 of Annex III of the CMO Regulation. You can find more information on the CMO Regulation at the end of this guide.

→ If the fish was caught by other **fishing techniques** not listed (e.g. by hand or diving) this can be indicated voluntarily.

### Vessel's flag state:

→ As per the appropriate documentation.

### Environmental, ethical or social information:

→ As per the appropriate documentation.

### Production techniques and practices:

→ As per the appropriate documentation.

### Nutritional content / Nutrition declaration:

→ Food business operators are encouraged to provide the nutrition declaration voluntarily in the following cases:

- until it becomes mandatory on 13 December 2016;
- for products covered by one of the exemptions from providing the mandatory nutrition declaration in Annex V of the FIC Regulation. You can find the Regulation on the European Commission website listed on the back cover.

→ From 13 December 2014, this voluntary information follows the same rules of expression and presentation as the mandatory nutrition declaration.

### Other:

→ Any other information that the food business operator considers useful for the consumer, provided it is clear, unambiguous and verifiable.

For example, consumers surely deserve to be fully informed about the cocktail of [cancer-causing contaminants](#), [toxic chemicals](#) and [artificial colourings](#) (as is already the case in the [United States with 'Color Added' labels on farmed salmon](#) fed on Canthaxanthin (E161g) and Astaxanthin) in farmed salmon?

Surely it should be mandatory not voluntary for consumers to know which toxic chemicals are used and what levels of lice-infestation occur on salmon farms?

GAAIA believes that salmon farming is morally, ethically and environmentally bankrupt. For more details read my presentation - "[The Five Fundamental Flaws of Salmon Farming](#)" - to the European Economic & Social Committee in February earlier this year.

For more details on our new campaign - "[Shopped: Fishy Salmon Labelling](#)" - please visit online via <http://salmonfarmingkills.com/shopped>



Yours sincerely,

Don Staniford

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