

Greetings!

FishWise staff experienced most of April from behind the desk. We did however leave the office to participate in Surf Market's 1st annual Sustainable Seafood Festival in Gualala, CA, as well as attend a conference on Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) in Vancouver, B.C.

Also highlighted within this month's newsletter are two Traceability & IUU features from Mariah Boyle. The first focuses on traceability & IUU legislative updates while the latter provides an update on FDA acceptable market names for seafood products.

Enjoy!

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Traceability & IUU Feature: Legislative Updates**Traceability and IUU Policy**

Seafood traceability and illegal fishing have been hot topics so far in 2013. Stories regarding large numbers of boats fishing illegally have made the headlines while panels brainstorming ways to address these issues within supply chains make up a significant proportion of industry events. On Capitol Hill and at the United Nations, many have been discussing how policy can be used address these issues. Here we provide a summary of the introduced legislation on these topics and links to where you can read more on our website.

U.S. Legislation

The [Safety and Fraud Enforcement for Seafood Act](#), or SAFE Act, HR 1012, seeks to address seafood traceability and mislabeling in the U.S. market. It would require detailed information about the source of seafood products to be available to the customer and seeks to improve interagency collaboration, the [FDA Seafood List](#), and better track perpetrators of mislabeling.

The [Pirate Fishing Elimination Act](#) (PFEA; S. 267) seeks to implement the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) to help eliminate illegal fishing. This legislation would reinforce U.S. authority to prevent IUU vessels from entering U.S. ports and require foreign vessels to submit notice before entering American ports.

The [International Fisheries Stewardship and Enforcement Act](#) (IFSEA; S. 269) complements other legislation to help eliminate illegal fishing. This legislation would increase collaboration between agencies, improve enforcement protocols pertaining to international fisheries, establish an IUU vessel list and bring action against those vessels.

Global Efforts

The [Port State Measures Agreement](#), or PSMA, seeks to make it harder to land illegal

product. Countries that ratify the treaty must comply with several requirements such as designating ports through which foreign fishing vessels may enter and conducting dockside inspections following set standards. This treaty will go into effect once 25 countries have ratified the Agreement, currently 5 nations have ratified it (Sri Lanka, Myanmar (Burma), Norway, Chile and the EU).

Unique Vessel Identifiers (UVIs) are needed so vessels cannot simply repaint their name and reflag their vessel to avoid government regulations or enforcement, if fishing illegally. FishWise and EJF have created a [Briefing Document](#) on this topic that is available for download. Additionally, EJF has just released an excellent video summarizing the problem and how UVIs are an important part of the solution.



UNDER THE RADAR - THE NEED FOR A GLOBAL RECORD OF FISHING VESSELS AND UNIQUE VESSEL IDENTIFIERS

FishWise will continue to monitor the progress on all of these pieces of legislation, and will share opportunities to show support for these in order to make serious progress in the effort to combat illegal fishing.

Surf Market 1st Annual Sustainable Seafood Festival



FishWise was delighted to be invited by our independent retail partner, [Surf Market](#), to participate in their inaugural Sustainable Seafood Festival in Gualala, CA. If you have never had a chance to venture up Route 1 into northern California, then certainly put this Mendocino County spot on your bucket list. FishWise Project Managers Ethan Lucas and Scott Kennedy, along with Scott's new fiancé, spent a great afternoon providing sustainable seafood information to a busy line of Surf Market customers, as well as passers by that just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

Sustainable seafood coloring sheets were provided to the children while everyone was invited to play FishWise's educationally-themed game of "Cornhole" that was massively popular at last year's Outside Lands festival. Also available for the public were the newest Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch cards, FishWise & Safe Harbor Low Mercury cards and species-specific information cards on northern California sustainable seafood options for all to bring home and share with friends and family. The event was a huge success and we are very excited to see what is in store for next year's festival.

Many thanks to the owners & staff of Surf Market (Steve, Terri, Al, Kelly & Rich) for the wonderful after-festivities reception at St. Orres. We hope to see you all again very soon!

Traceability & IUU Feature: Acceptable Market Names Update



After FishWise summarized the recent [Oceana study](#) on seafood mislabeling, it prompted further discussion about what names can be used to market seafood.

For example, Oceana's study found mislabeling issues were due (in part) to using incorrect market names for fish - not always the substitution of vastly different species that we often think of when defining mislabeling. Fish in this category included snapper, tuna, toothfish, cod, halibut, sole and yellowtail.

It appears that changes to some species have been made in the [FDA Seafood List](#) recently, so we suggest taking a moment to search for the fish you sell to ensure you are selling them per the acceptable names on this list.

There is a mechanism to comment or suggest changes to the list. Follow this [link](#) to submit a comment to the FDA.

Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) Procedures Workshop



Photo courtesy of the Freshwater Institute

This past week, North American leaders in recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) convened in Vancouver, B.C. to discuss the latest developments in this exciting new industry. Land-based RAS facilities hold many advantages over traditional aquaculture operations that rely on net pens in open water. Typically indoor, RAS operations enable producers to achieve optimal growing conditions by controlling for factors like photoperiod, water temperature and dissolved oxygen. Fish grown in RAS systems therefore have the capacity to reach market size months sooner than fish exposed to uncontrolled environmental conditions. RAS facilities are also bio-secure, with fish at minimal risk to disease outbreaks from natural pathogens and parasites from the wild. Given the low risk of disease, RAS fish can be produced without relying on the use of antibiotics and treatments for sea lice.

An important environmental benefit of RAS production is that all farm wastes are accounted for, instead of being discharged untreated into the marine environment. Capturing fish waste from RAS tanks also provides an economic opportunity that is otherwise literally lost in open net pen systems. Indiana-based [Bell Aquaculture](#), for example, has utilized fish wastes from their RAS operations to launch a new line of natural fertilizer, FishRich, for the highly profitable home gardening market. These types of innovative products truly embrace the principles of sustainability as well as testify to the economic viability of responsible aquaculture.

Currently there are several RAS companies with products already available for North American retailers. In addition to their fertilizer, Bell Aquaculture raises yellow perch, the fish upon which the famous "Friday Night Fish Frys" were based. Washington states' [Sweet Spring](#), offers RAS Coho salmon and [Sustainable Blue](#), in Nova Scotia, sells Arctic char, Gilthead seabream and European seabass. Within the next year, many operations, including Sustainable Blue and the Namgis First Nation's project in Vancouver Island, will have RAS raised Atlantic salmon for sale. The research oriented [Freshwater Institute](#) in West Virginia has already successfully produced Atlantic salmon in 3 grow-out trials and has been instrumental in providing guidance to RAS producers for a variety of fish species.

Only a few years ago, RAS aquaculture was merely a concept championed by environmentalists. The industry has since quickly developed into a viable option for

responsibly raised fish. Stay tuned as FishWise continues to monitor the progress of both the existing and upcoming RAS producers.

In Case You Missed It...

Ronan, the UCSC sea lion in our backyard has been making news recently for being the first non-human mammal to be shown having the ability to keep a beat. Can you recognize her favorite song?



Beat Keeping in a California Sea Lion (Ronan)

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to contribute to the FishWise Newsletter please don't hesitate to contact me!

Sincerely,

Ethan Lucas
Project Manager
Office: 831.427.1707 ext. 119
Email: e.lucas@fishwise.org
www.fishwise.org