

Fish Authenticity Checks in Ireland – 2017

Each year fish or foods containing fish are sampled and analysed to determine compliance with Regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers (S.I. No 556 of 2014) in that the species of fish declared on the label is detected.

In 2017, 29 products at the product marketing stage were sampled on a random basis by Environmental Health Officers of the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) and by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). Sample analysis was coordinated by the Public Analyst Laboratory in Cork.

Table 1 shows that all samples but one were compliant in that the species of fish declared on the label was detected. The non-compliant sample corresponded to a haddock labelled as cod.

Table 1: Results for the fish authenticity checks in 2017.

Sampling Agency	Number of samples tested	Sample description at the point of sampling	Number of compliant samples
HSE	18	15 Atlantic Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) 2 Pacific Cod (<i>G. macrocephalus</i>) 1 Haddock	17*
SFPA	7	3 Pacific Cod (<i>G. macrocephalus</i>) 1 Haddock 1 Hake 1 Pollock 1 Whiting	7
DAFM	4	4 Tuna	4
TOTAL	29	-	28

* One haddock sample was not compliant as it was labelled as cod, which was not detected.