

Bord Iascaigh Mhara

# Getting more for your catch - Guide to food safety and direct sales



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag  
an Aontas Eorpach  
Co-funded by the  
European Union

  
**BIM** Ireland's  
Seafood  
Development  
Agency



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(Publication date: March 2025)

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this comprehensive guide on food safety and direct sales for fishers.

In Ireland we have some of the best quality seafood in the world. We believe that there are great opportunities for you to develop your seafood business and to do more with your catch, opening up new opportunities to generate more income.

This guide has been created to help you understand the food safety and legal requirements needed to sell your own catch to market.

It includes how-to guides on setting up a seafood truck and direct sales, providing you with guidance on the steps you need to take and the supports available to help you on your business journey.

The information is intended for guidance purposes only. The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is Ireland's competent authority for seafood safety and sea-fisheries protection. The SFPA carries out functions including protecting and conserving fisheries resources for long-term use, promoting compliance with sea-fisheries legislation and ensuring seafood safety. Please refer to the SFPA for final guidance for all current support and information.

Our team of local BIM Regional Officers are available to support you on your journey. You can also contact the Food Safety team by emailing [foodsafety@bim.ie](mailto:foodsafety@bim.ie)

Funding is available under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund 2021-2027 (EMFAF) with details of grant schemes included in this guide.

Whether you wish to sell your fish to local restaurants, sell directly to the public through a food truck or a mobile fishmonger, have a small processing business or develop new products or sell to a processor, BIM will continue to work with you to identify ways to improve the quality of the fish you sell, helping you to lower your operating costs and maximise the income you receive from your products.

Sincerely,

**Caroline Bocquel,**  
CEO, BIM  
March, 2025

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# 1

Supports from Bord  
Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

[bim.ie](http://bim.ie)

## 1.1 BIM Training



More information can be found on the [BIM website](#)

## 1.2 Funding support



More information can be found on the [BIM website](#)

## 1.3 Learning Hub



More information can be found on the [BIM website](#)

## 1.4 European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund Grant Aid Schemes

The European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) is a successor to the European Maritime, Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020. It supports the EU common fisheries policy (CFP), the EU maritime policy and the EU agenda for international ocean governance and provides support for developing innovative projects ensuring aquatic and maritime resources are used sustainably.

**Fleet Safety Scheme** – grant aid of 60% for <12m vessels and 40% for >12m LOA for the purchase and installation of safety items onboard Irish fishing vessels, including statutory lifesaving, firefighting, navigation and communication equipment.

60%

<12m  
vessels

40%

>12m  
LOA

**SSCF- Small Scale Coastal Fisheries Scheme** – 80% support for onshore and offshore investments made by eligible small scale coastal fishing vessel owners.

80%

onshore and offshore  
investments

**Sustainable Fisheries Scheme** – 50% support for onboard investments made by eligible non-small scale coastal fishing vessel owners to improve quality, energy efficiency and health and safety.

**50%** onboard investments

**V Notching Scheme** –100% support for eligible SSCF fishing vessels and 50% for non SSCF vessels <15m supporting conservation of lobster.

**100%** support for eligible SSCF fishing vessels

**50%** support for non-SSCF vessels

**Young Fishers Scheme** – funding towards purchase of first second-hand vessel. Grant aid of 40% of the cost of vessel acquisition, proportionate to the applicant’s shareholding in the vessel.

**40%** funding for first second-hand vessel

**Fisheries Local Action Group Scheme** - between 50% and 80% grant aid to applicants in coastal communities with projects which enable a sustainable blue economy in coastal, island and inland areas, and fostering the development of fishing and aquaculture area communities.

**50% - 80%** applicants in coastal communities



**Seafood Processing Capital Investment Scheme** – 50% for investments to add value to or fully utilise raw material and 30% for investments to optimise operations.

50%

add value to/fully  
utilise raw material

30%

optimise  
operations

**Seafood Training Scheme** – 100% support rate for Small Scale Coastal Fisheries (SSCF) vessel owners for courses deemed relevant for SSCF vessels, and 50% for all other eligible applicants, and all other courses which SSCF vessel owners might choose to attend.

100%

SSCF vessel  
owners

50%

Other eligible  
applicants

**Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme** – 50% support rate for eligible aquaculture operators for investments in sustainable aquaculture, product innovation development, energy efficiency measure, safety equipment, animal health and welfare, food quality and hygiene safety.

50%

SSCF vessel  
owners

**Marine Tourism Safety Scheme** – grant aid of up to 40% for the purchase and installation of safety equipment onboard marine tourism vessels including life rafts, life jackets, distress flares and bilge pumps.

40%

purchase and installation  
of safety equipment




# 2

The Sea-Fisheries  
Protection Authority  
(SFPA) information

Please note in all cases the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is Ireland's competent authority for seafood safety and sea-fisheries protection. The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority carries out several functions, including protecting and conserving fisheries resources for long-term use, promoting compliance with sea-fisheries legislation, and ensuring seafood safety. Please refer to the SFPA for final guidance for all up to date support and information. BIM thanks the SFPA for their input and advice in the compilation of this booklet.

## 2.1 Weighing of Fishery Products Guidelines

The Control Regulation allows for the weighing of fishery products at the place of landing, onboard a permitted fishing vessel or after transport. Please refer to SFPA guidance and website for current information.

 Full details on the weighing fish and calibrated scales information is available at weighing on landing <https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Sea-Fisheries-Information/Weighing-of-Fishery-Products>

## 2.2 Sales Notes

**Reference Source** - *Fisheries Information Notice 05-2024 Sales Notes*

### What Are Sales Notes

A document that details the purchase of first sale fisheries products. First sale is considered to have taken place upon completion of the first transfer of ownership of the fisheries products from a commercial fishing vessel to a buyer for sale.

The buyer of first sale sea fisheries products is required to seek registration from the SFPA via <http://fishingnet.ie/>

They must submit an electronic sales note for each first sale transaction on Fishing.NET

First sale fishery products are fishery products offered for sale for the first time. This includes fish below the minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) landed under the landing obligation.

### A Registered fish buyer can be

- Any individual or business that purchases fisheries products directly from a fishing vessel
- The vessel owner if he sells his own catch directly to the public, restaurants and retail shops etc.
- The agent who buys and transports the fish or auction site
- A restaurant or shop owner who buys the fish from the vessel.

### Responsibilities of a Buyer

- Ensure fish is weighed prior to first sale and weigh records are maintained
- Complete and submit information on each sale in the form of a sales notes
- Complete and submit sales notes electronically for each transaction
- Ensure the sales note information is accurate
- Keep a record of each sale of fish
- Make records available for inspection as requested
- Comply with requirements for the transport, weighing, labelling and traceability of fishery products keep records for at least three years.


**Exemptions exist** for buyer registration and the requirement to submit sales notes of fisheries products when.

- The fish is for personal consumption only

**and**

- A buyer does not purchase more than 30kg of whole/gutted fishery products (subject to change in 2026).

## Example of Sales Note



AN t-ÚDARÁS UM  
CHOSAINT  
IASCAIGH MHARA

|

SEA-FISHERIES  
PROTECTION  
AUTHORITY

**SALES NOTE  
SAMPLE**

**Sales Note ID:** XXX-XX-XXXXXX

---

**1 Fish Buyer Name:** Name Here

---

**Fish Buyer Number:** XXXXXXXX

---

**2 Place of Sale:** Sale Location Address

---

**Sales Date Time:** DAY-MONTH-YEAR  
TIME: XX:XX

---

**3 Landing Port:** Port Name Here

---

**Landing Date Time:** DAY-MONTH-YEAR  
TIME: XX:XX

---

**Submitted Date Time:** DAY-MONTH-YEAR  
TIME: XX:XX

---

**Vessel Name:** Name Here

---

**4 Port Reg. Number:** XX XXXXX

---

**Vessel Nationality:** Country

---

**Logsheet Number  
/ERS Trip ID:** XXX-XXX-XXX

---

**Vessel Owner:** Name Here

---

**5 Vessel Master:** Name Here

---

Species	Weight (KG)	Size Class	Size Category	ICES Area	Presentation	Preservation	Freshness	Usage	Value
COD	200	LSC	1	27.4a	WHL	FRO	A	HCN	€300



**Important to note** that ‘Evidence of Fishing Activity’ required to access grant aid for vessels less than 10m in length overall (LOA) is validated by ensuring Sales Notes to the value of at least €1,000 have been registered with the SFPA in each of the two preceding calendar years. For vessel owners selling small quantities of catch directly to consumers it is your responsibility to register this activity with the SFPA so that you may be eligible for grant aid schemes.

Reference source <https://www.sfpa.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=KjIDz3LiJEW%3d&portalid=0&resourceView=1>

## 2.3 Traceability



To Register as an approved business, please see SFPA website <https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Seafood-Safety/Registration-Approval-of-Businesses/Registration-Approval-Application-Forms>

As an existing approved establishment there will be a traceability system in place. In general, the following applies:

- Records must be maintained
- All fishery products must be placed into 'lots' before first sale and should be traceable back to the harvesting/catching stage
- There are general requirements for traceability one-step back and one-step forward traceability, however one-step forward traceability is not required for retail sale to the final consumer i.e. names and addresses of final consumer are not necessary to retain.

## 2.4 Labelling



For complete information on labelling requirements please see: [Fishery Information Notices | Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority](#)

There is specific fishery product labelling requirements for certain fishery products (essentially raw product with no added ingredients) where certain information needs to be provided to consumers:

- species (common and scientific name)
- catch area
- method of production
- fishing gear
- whether defrosted

For sales of non-prepacked foods to the final consumer, compliance may be achieved through billboards/notices/signs at the point of sale as opposed to a label applied.





## 2.5 Transport Document

### Reference source *FFSU-FC-FIN-OC-10-22 Transport of Fishery Products*

Fishery products that are landed into an Irish port (either processed or unprocessed) and transported from the place of landing must be accompanied by a transport document, unless either a sales note or a take-over declaration has been submitted.

### Example of a Transport Document

<b>Fisheries Information Notice 10-2022</b>						
<b>Transport of Fishery Products</b>						
<b>Annex 1</b>						
<b>Example of TRANSPORT DOCUMENT</b>						
<small>In line with Article 68(5) and 61(1) of <a href="#">Council Regulation (EC) No 1185/2005</a>, this document is required to be completed accurately by transporter. Transport Documents should be submitted (electronically or paper format) to the local SFPA office within 48 hours following the loading of fishery products.</small>						
Fishing Vessel Name:						
Vessel Registration Number:						
Port of Landing:						
Logsheet Number:						
Date of loading:						
Time of loading:						
Nature of Transport:		Fisheries Products to be Weighed After Transport Yes / No				
Vehicle Registration	Weighed on Landing (Yes/No)	Weigh After Transport (Yes/No)	Approved Weigh System Used: (Yes/No)	Permit Number of Registered Buyer permitted to weigh after Transport	Name and Address of Consignor/ Receiving Premises	Estimated Date & Time of Arrival
<small>IF YES to weighing after transport, then the estimated weight (kg) will be based on operational lookup table, when the entry landing a one transport consignment and the individual transport capacity estimate shall be used to complete the transport document.</small>						
Species FAO Code	Geographical Area in which catch was taken	Quantity (Kg)	Tick if below MOCS	Presentation		
Serial Numbers of Seals		Serial Numbers of New Seals (Only applicable if Competent Authority removed original seals and affixed new seals during inspection)				
Signature of Transporter: _____		Date: _____				
Name in BLOCK LETTERS: _____						
<small>Disclaimer: The contents of these pages are provided as a guide only. They are intended to enhance access to information. Whilst every effort is made in preparing material for publication no responsibility is accepted or on behalf of the SFPA for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages.</small>						
FC F 19		V.2 16/06/2021		Page 1 of 1		
<small>The purpose of this document is to provide information upon Transport of Fishery Products. For the avoidance of doubt, this information does not constitute legal advice or analysis and should not be relied upon as such. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accurate and relevant material is published, no responsibility is accepted by, or on behalf of the SFPA, for any errors, omissions or misleading statements on these pages.</small>						
Doc Ref: FFSU-FC-FIN-OC-10-22		Version: 1		Effective date: 23/12/2022		
Page 5 of 6						

Source <https://www.sfp.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1SNF49y8xSQ%3d&portalid=0&resourceView=1>

## Requirements

- The transport document (paper or electronic format) must be completed by the transporter
- The transport document must accompany the fishery products until the first sale has taken place
- The transporter is responsible for the completion and accuracy of the transport document
- The transporter is responsible for the completion and accuracy of the transport document. Transporters must ensure compliance with all transport requirements, including the Irish Sampling Plan, Irish Control Plan and Common Control Plans with other Member States.

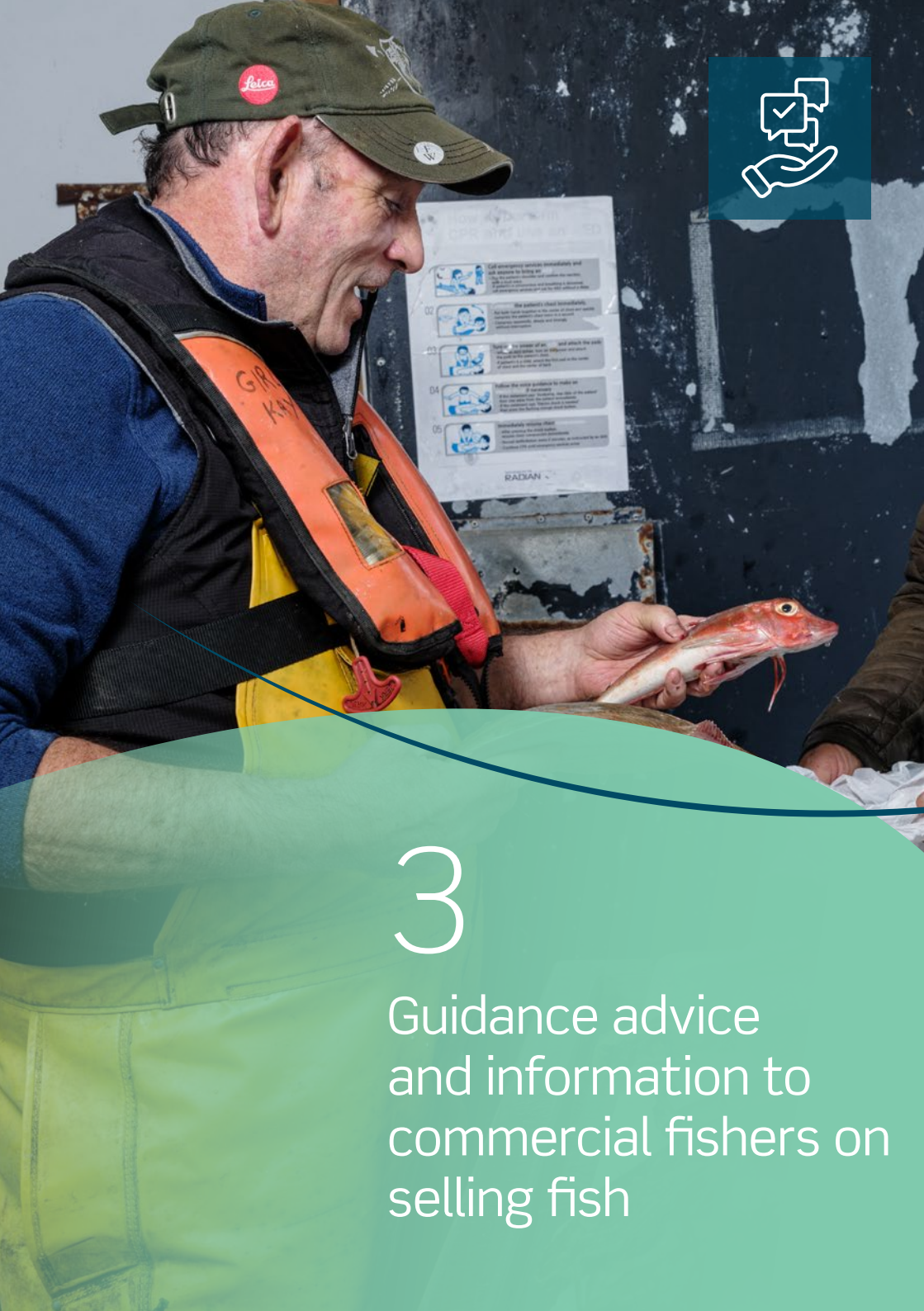
## Exemptions from the requirement of Transport Document accompanying the fishery products

- If a sales note or take-over declaration have been submitted electronically via Fishing Net before the transport has begun, a copy of the landing declaration or equivalent document containing the same level of information as Transport Document, accompanies the fishery product until the first sale has taken place
- Where fishery products are declared to have been sold, the transporter must be able to prove with a document that a sales transaction has taken place e.g. Invoice, Sales docket etc.

## Irish Transport Document Exemptions which may be granted

The SFPA may grant exemptions from the obligation to use, and transmit to the authorities, a transport document for non-pelagic fishery products such as demersal species, crustaceans, or molluscs (under Article 68(6) of 1224/2009) providing all specific conditions are met as follows:

- Transport must begin at point of landing in Irish State
- Fishery products must be landed and transported in boxes with standardised weight and separated by species
- Transport must be to destination(s) within 20km radius of the landing point, and within the Irish state
- All individual transport consignments must be less than 5 tonnes.



# 3

Guidance advice and information to commercial fishers on selling fish

## 3.1 Scenario - How to sell fish directly from your boat (whole or gutted)

Sales up to 30 kg per week without registration or up to €50 per day as detailed below without labelling

A licensed commercial fishing vessel operator can sell Primary Fishery Product direct to the final consumer from their vessel subject to all the following:

- Products are sold directly from the fishing vessel to the final consumer for their own personal consumption
- Maximum quantities of up to 30kg per week per final consumer
- Maximum value of fishery products is €50 per day.

### Fisheries Information Notice 08-2024

Commercial Vessel Operators or Aquaculture Producers Selling Fishery Products Directly to the Final Consumer.<sup>1</sup>

### Weighing on landing

The Control Regulation requires the weighing of fishery products at the place of landing.<sup>2</sup>

### Labelling transport and traceability of fishery products

Make sure to label all fish appropriately and maintain traceability.

**Note:** *Up to €50 in value per day for consumers is exempt from labelling for products sold direct to final consumer.*

### Transport guidance

Transport exemptions exist if the destination is less than 20km from point of landing within an Irish port.<sup>3</sup>

### Traceability guidance

Traceability requirements for starting a Food Business.<sup>4</sup>

### Training required

Basic Food Hygiene requirements<sup>5</sup> Contact: [foodsafety@bim.ie](mailto:foodsafety@bim.ie)

*References and links cited on this page are available on pages 29 and 30.*



**Important to note** that 'Evidence of Fishing Activity' required to access grant aid for vessels less than 10m in length overall (LOA) is validated by ensuring Sales Notes to the value of at least €1,000 have been registered with the SFPA in each of the two preceding calendar years. For vessel owners selling small quantities of catch directly to consumers it is your responsibility to register this activity with the SFPA so that you may be eligible for grant aid schemes.



## 3.2 Scenario - How to sell fish directly from your boat over 30kg/ €50 first point of sale fish

First point of sale of whole fish or gutted fish over 30kg in weight or €50 in value can be made on the pier subject to the below requirements:

- Ensure your vessel is registered and appropriately licensed for commercial use with The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

### Weighing on landing

The Control Regulation requires the weighing of fishery products at the place of landing.<sup>2</sup>

### Register as a buyer OR Sell to a registered buyer

Fishers selling more than 30kg must sell to registered buyers or register as a fish buyer themselves with Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA).

### Register as a Fish Buyer on Fishing NET Register for Sales Note<sup>6</sup>

#### Sales Notes

For all vessels the Registered Fish Buyer has the responsibility of recording Sales Notes and uploading the data to [www.FishingNet](http://www.FishingNet).

### Labelling transport and traceability of fishery products

Make sure to label all fish appropriately and maintain traceability.

**Note:** *Up to €50 in value per day is exempt from labelling when sold direct to final consumers.*

### Transport guidance

Transport document exemptions exist if the destination is less than 20km from point of landing within an Irish port.<sup>3</sup>

### Traceability guidance

Traceability requirements for starting a Food Business.<sup>4</sup>

### BIM training available

An Introduction to Fish Handling and Fish Filleting.<sup>7</sup>

Starting a Food Business, Food Safety and Hygiene.<sup>8</sup>

*References and links cited on this page are available on pages 29 and 30.*



### 3.3 Scenario - How can I sell fish directly from my boat to a local restaurant or retail shop?

If you sell fish to a local shop or restaurant or any other business, then you must be registered as a buyer and you must record these sales on sales notes.

Recording of fish landings is compliant with vessel size and EU Fishing Logbook Requirements<sup>9</sup>

- Vessels <10m - The Registered Fish Buyer has the responsibility of recording Sales Notes and uploading the data to the SFPA website
- Vessels Greater than or equal to 10m and up to 12m Skipper records landings data in paper logbook which is sent to the SFPA
- Vessels Greater than or equal to 12m Electronic logbook - EU Fishing Logbook Requirements

#### Weighing on landing

The Control Regulation requires the weighing of fishery products at the place of landing.<sup>2</sup>

#### Register as a buyer OR Sell to a registered buyer

Fishers selling more than 30kg to final consumers must sell to registered buyers, this includes restaurants or retail OR Fishers can register as fish buyers themselves even if they are selling fish that they have caught on their own vessel. Registration is with Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA).

#### Register as a Fish Buyer on Fishing NET

Sales Notes<sup>6</sup>

For all vessels the Registered Fish Buyer has the responsibility of recording Sales Notes and uploading the data to [www.FishingNet](http://www.FishingNet).

#### Labelling transport and traceability of fishery products

- Make sure to label all fish appropriately and maintain traceability.

**Note:** Up to €50 in value per day is exempt from labelling when sold direct to final consumers.



### Transport guidance

Transport exemptions exist if the destination is less than 20km from point of landing within an Irish port.<sup>3</sup>

The refrigerated vehicle must be registered with the HSE as a food business for transporting fish.

### Traceability guidance

Traceability requirements for starting a Food Business.<sup>4</sup>

### BIM training available

An Introduction to Fish Handling and Fish Filleting.<sup>7</sup>

Starting a Food Business, Food Safety and Hygiene.<sup>8</sup>

*References and links cited on this page are available on pages 29 and 30.*



### 3.4 Scenario - How to be a fish agent/ buyer and source my fish directly from boats including my own (first sale fish)?

First point of sale of fish is considered to have taken place upon completion of the first transfer of ownership of the fisheries products to a buyer.

#### Agent / Buyer Approval and Registration

As a buyer of first sale fish you must register with Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA).<sup>10</sup>

Register as a fish buyer with the SFPA - Buyers must be registered as a fish buyer with SFPA.<sup>6</sup>

#### Responsibilities of a Buyer

- Ensure fish is **weighed** prior to first sale and weigh records are maintained
- Complete and submit information on each sale in the form of a **sales notes** via Fishing.net
- Ensure the sales note information is accurate
- Comply with requirements for the **transport, weighing, labelling and traceability** of fishery products, and **keep records** for 3 years.

For complete information on the responsibility of a buyer completing sales notes please see SFPA FIN, Sales Notes.<sup>11</sup>

Vehicle will need to be registered with the HSE as a Food Business Operator.

 Register Food Business with Health Service Executive (HSE) email: [foodbusinessnotification@hse.ie](mailto:foodbusinessnotification@hse.ie)

#### Weighing on landing

The Control Regulation requires the weighing of fishery products at the place of landing.<sup>2</sup>

#### Labelling transport and traceability of fishery products

Make sure to label all fish appropriately and maintain traceability.

#### Traceability guidance

Traceability requirements for starting a Food Business.<sup>4</sup>

...



...

### Transport of fishery product

See Fisheries Information Notice 10-2022 Transport of Fishery Products.<sup>12</sup>

### Training available

Starting a Food Business, Food Safety and Hygiene.<sup>8</sup>

Contact: [foodsafety@bim.ie](mailto:foodsafety@bim.ie)

*References and links cited on this page are available on pages 29 and 30.*

## 3.5 Scenario - I want to purchase a van and sell my own caught fish door to door

### EU Fishing Logbook Requirements

See SFPA FIN EU Fishing Logbook.<sup>13</sup>

### Register as a fish buyer with the SFPA

Buyers must be registered as a fish buyer with SFPA.<sup>6</sup>

### Register as a food business operator

Requirement to register as a food business operator (FBO) with the Health Service Executive (HSE).



Register Food Business with Health Service Executive (HSE) email: [foodbusinessnotification@hse.ie](mailto:foodbusinessnotification@hse.ie)

The HSE will want to check that your van can transport fish at the appropriate temperatures, ensure refrigeration is working, that you are monitoring and recording fish temperature, temperature record sheets, and traceability and labelling of fish is as required.

#### Weighing on landing

The Control Regulation requires the weighing of fishery products at the place of landing.<sup>2</sup>

#### Labelling transport and traceability of fishery products

Make sure to label all fish appropriately and maintain traceability .

Note: Exempt from transport document if transported within 20km of the landing point.

**Note:** *Up to €50 per day value is exempt from labelling when sold direct to final consumers.*

#### Traceability guidance

Traceability requirements for starting a Food Business.<sup>4</sup>

#### Transport of fishery product

See Fisheries Information Notice 10-2022 Transport of Fishery Products.<sup>12</sup>

#### Labelling

See FSAI Fish and Fishery Product Labelling requirements.<sup>14</sup>





### Home business, food truck or food stall

See FSAI business advice for starting a food truck or food stall.<sup>15</sup>

### BIM training available

Starting a Food Business, Food Safety and Hygiene.<sup>8</sup>



Please visit the [BIM website](#) for more information on available courses.

*References and links cited on this page are available on pages 29 and 30.*





## 3.6 Scenario - How can I set up a mobile fish shop or market stall to sell my own caught fish?

If you want to sell fish in larger quantities, it is more than likely that you will have to fillet the fish for sale at a farmers' market or to sell door to door. The premises where you fillet the fish is now considered a food business operation and must be registered with the HSE and with the SFPA.

### Register as a food business operator with the Health Service Executive (HSE)



Register food business with HSE email: [foodbusinessnotification@hse.ie](mailto:foodbusinessnotification@hse.ie)

### Register as a fish buyer with SFPA

Buyers must be registered as a fish buyer with SFPA.<sup>6</sup>

#### Weighing on landing

The Control Regulation requires the weighing of fishery products at the place of landing.<sup>2</sup>

#### Labelling transport and traceability of fishery products

Make sure to label all fish appropriately and maintain traceability one step forward, one step back.

#### Traceability guidance

Traceability requirements for starting a food business.<sup>4</sup>

#### Transport of fishery product

See Fisheries Information Notice 10-2022 Transport of Fishery Products.<sup>12</sup>

#### Labelling

See FSAI Fish and Fishery Product Labelling requirements.<sup>14</sup>

#### Home business, food truck or food stall

See FSAI business advice for starting a food truck or food stall.<sup>15</sup>

#### BIM training

Complete the [BIM Two Day Seafood HACCP workshop](#). This workshop provides the knowledge and competence to develop or update a food safety management system based on HACCP principles in a seafood business.



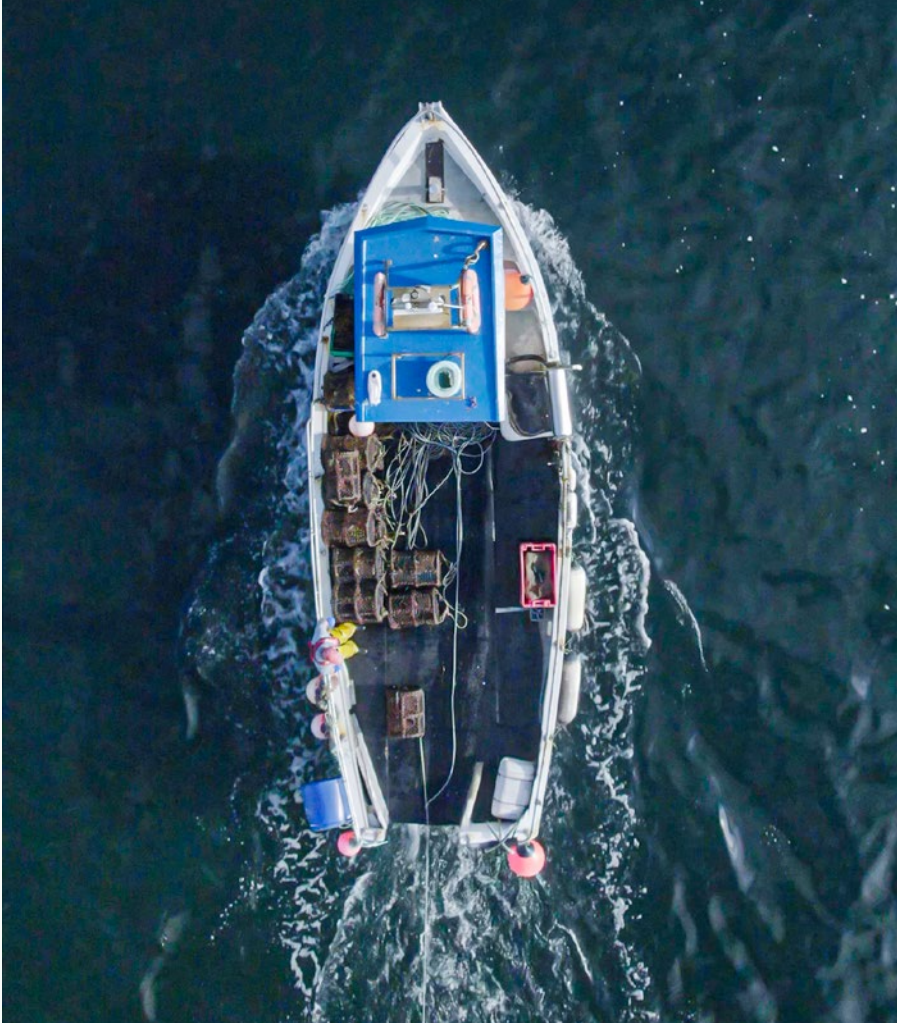


An Introduction to Fish Handling and Fish Filleting.<sup>7</sup>



Please visit the [BIM website](#) for more information on available courses or contact [foodsafety@bim.ie](mailto:foodsafety@bim.ie).

*References and links cited on this page are available on pages 29 and 30.*




## 3.7 Scenario - I want to buy a food truck to cook and sell my own caught fish and/or purchased fish

If your operation is now cooking fish/shellfish or any seafood for sale to the final consumer you are now a food business operation and come under the regulation of the HSE for food storage, food labelling, food hygiene, food handling, HACCP regulations, and food traceability. The SFPA will still have some regulatory inspections obligations also.

### Home Business, Food Truck or Food Stall

See FSAI business advice for starting a food truck or food stall<sup>15</sup>

### Register as a food business operator

 Requirement to register as a food business operator (FBO) with the Health Service Executive (HSE) email: [foodbusinessnotification@hse.ie](mailto:foodbusinessnotification@hse.ie)

**If you are cooking your own caught fish or buying directly from other vessels,** ensure sales transactions are documented and submitted with official sales notes for fishery products being sold/marketed for the first time (when buying directly from vessels).

Sales notes for second sales are not required.

### Register for Sales Note

Sales Notes<sup>6</sup>

#### BIM training

Complete the [BIM Two Day Seafood HACCP workshop](#). This workshop provides the knowledge and competence to develop or update a food safety management system based on HACCP principles in a seafood business.

*References and links cited on this page are available on pages 29 and 30.*

## 3.8 Scenario - I want to cook my own crab and/or lobster to sell

Processing or cooking shellfish requires you to register and seek approval from the SFPA before you begin your operation. The SFPA will give full guidance to you directly.

### Registration/Approval

Primary producers must register as a food business operator (FBO) with the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA).

SFPA Registration Approval Application Form.<sup>16</sup>

**If you are cooking your own caught fish /shellfish or buying directly from other vessels** Ensure sales transactions are documented and submitted with official sales notes for fishery products being sold/marketed for the first time(when buying directly from vessels).

Sales notes for second sales are not required.

### Register for Sales Note

Sales Notes<sup>6</sup>

#### Weighing on landing

The Control Regulation requires the weighing of fishery products at the place of landing.<sup>2</sup>

#### Labelling transport and traceability of fishery products

Make sure to label all fish appropriately and maintain traceability one step forward, one step back.

#### Traceability guidance

Traceability requirements for starting a Food Business.<sup>4</sup>

#### BIM training

Complete the [BIM Two Day Seafood HACCP workshop](#). This workshop provides the knowledge and competence to develop or update a food safety management system based on HACCP principles in a seafood business.

*References and links cited on this page are available on pages 29 and 30.*

## 3.9 Scenario - How do I handle and store fish in a land-based facility (freezer storage or filleting)?

### Registration/Approval

As a food business operator (FBO) conducting frozen storage or filleting you must be approved by the SFPA.

### Register as a fish buyer with the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA)<sup>6</sup>

#### Register for sales notes

Ensure sales transactions are documented and submitted with official sales notes.

**Note:** *Only for the first sale products (when buying directly from vessels)*

No need for a sales note for second sales

To register for Sales Notes<sup>6</sup>

#### Weighing on landing

The Control Regulation requires the weighing of fishery products at the place of landing.<sup>2</sup>

#### Labelling transport and traceability of fishery products

Make sure to label all fish appropriately and maintain traceability one step forward, one step back.

#### Traceability guidance

Traceability requirements for starting a Food Business.<sup>4</sup>

#### BIM training

Complete the [BIM Two Day Seafood HACCP workshop](#). This workshop provides the knowledge and competence to develop or update a food safety management system based on HACCP principles in a seafood business.

*References and links cited on this page are available on pages 29 and 30.*



# 4

## References and links



1. SFPA Fisheries Information Notice 08-2024 - Commercial Vessel Operators or Aquaculture Producers Selling Fishery Products Directly to the Final Consumer <https://www.sfpa.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=0LqtwaLW2WA%3d&portalid=0&resourceView=1>
2. Weighing on landing <https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Sea-Fisheries-Information/Weighing-of-Fishery-Products>
3. Transport of Fisheries Products and Exemptions <https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Sea-Fisheries-Information/Transport-of-Fisheries-Products->
4. Traceability requirements for starting a Food Business <https://www.fsai.ie/business-advice/starting-a-food-business/traceability>
5. Basic Food Hygiene requirements <https://www.fsai.ie/business-advice/starting-a-food-business/food-safety-and-hygiene>
6. Register as a Fish Buyer on Fishing NET Register for Sales Note <http://www.fishingnet.ie/salesnotes/>
7. An Introduction to Fish Handling and Fish Filleting <https://bim.ie/seafood-processing/training/an-introduction-to-fish-handling-and-filleting/>
8. Starting a Food Business, Food Safety and Hygiene <https://www.fsai.ie/business-advice/starting-a-food-business/food-safety-and-hygiene>
9. Recording of fish landings is compliant with vessel size and EU Fishing Logbook Requirements <https://www.sfpa.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=6lhUBJmMiGs%3d&portalid=0&resourceView=1>
10. Register as a Fish Agent <https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Seafood-Safety/Registration-Approval-of-Businesses>



11. Sales Notes Information SFPA Fisheries Information Notice, <https://www.sfpa.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=KjIDz3LiJEw%3d&portalid=0&resourceView=1>
12. SFPA Fisheries Information Notice 10-2022 Transport of Fishery Products <https://www.sfpa.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=1SNF49y8xSQ%3d&portalid=0&resourceView=1>
13. SFPA Fisheries Information Notice Fishing Logbook <https://www.sfpa.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=6lhUBJMmiGs%3d&portalid=0&resourceView=1>
14. FSAI Fish & Fishery Product Labelling requirements <https://www.fsai.ie/enforcement-and-legislation/legislation/food-legislation/fish-and-fishery-products/labelling-of-fishery-and-aquaculture-products>
15. FSAI business advice for starting a food truck or food stall <https://www.fsai.ie/business-advice/starting-a-food-business/home-business-food-truck-or-food-stall>
16. SFPA Registration Approval Application Form <https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Seafood-Safety/Registration-Approval-of-Businesses/Registration-Approval-Application-Forms>



# 5

The Sea-Fisheries  
Protection Authority  
(SFPA) and useful  
links

U CAIRN 1A9L 1CU  
DINGLE, IRELAND  
TEL. 00353 669151322

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is Ireland's competent authority for seafood safety and sea-fisheries protection. The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority carries out several functions, including protecting and conserving fisheries resources for long-term use, promoting compliance with sea-fisheries legislation, and ensuring seafood safety.

**Please refer to the SFPA for final guidance on all current legislation**

**Fishery Information Notices** | Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (sfpa.ie)  
<https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Sea-Fisheries-Information/Fishery-Information-Notices>

**Weighing of fishery products**  
<https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Sea-Fisheries-Information/Weighing-of-Fishery-Products>

**EU Fishing logbook requirements** Fisheries Information Notice 07-2023  
<https://www.sfpa.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=6lhUBJMmiGs%3d&portalid=0&resourceView=1>

**Register as a Fish Buyer on Fishing NET**

**Register for Sales Note**

**Complete and submit sales notes**  
<http://www.fishingnet.ie/salesnotes/>

**For complete information on sales notes**  
<https://www.sfpa.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=KjlDz3LiJEw%3d&portalid=0&resourceView=1>

**Fish buyer legal obligations**  
[https://www.sfpa.ie/Portals/0/Press%20Release\\_FIN%20on%20Sales%20Notes.pdf](https://www.sfpa.ie/Portals/0/Press%20Release_FIN%20on%20Sales%20Notes.pdf)

**Transport guidance**  
<https://www.sfpa.ie/What-We-Do/Sea-Fisheries-Information/Transport-of-Fisheries-Products->



# 6

Food Safety  
Authority of Ireland  
(FSAI) and useful links

**Reference Source** [www.fsai.ie](http://www.fsai.ie)

## Starting a seafood business

If you are thinking of starting a food business you will find everything you need to know at <https://www.fsai.ie/business-advice/starting-a-food-business> even if you will operate from home, from a food truck or from a farmers' market.

### Before starting a food business, you must:

- **Register** your food business with the SPPA for seafood/fish businesses
- **Approval** - your business may also need approval from either the SPPA or the HSE to operate a seafood business. Approval considers plans, premises design and layout, waste management, processes, HACCP procedures, products and throughput, among other things
- **Food hygiene** - understand the basics of food hygiene and have appropriate food hygiene training
- **Traceability** - have a traceability system You must be able to trace your food one step back and, if you supply another food business, one step forward
- **HACCP** - develop a food safety management system (HACCP) *Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point* HACCP is a legal requirement but will also benefit your business. HACCP-based procedures provide businesses with a cost-effective system for control of food safety, from ingredients right through to production, storage and distribution to sale and service of the final consumer. The preventive approach of HACCP-based procedures not only improves food safety management but also complements other quality management systems
- **Where are you operating from** - consider what is required when operating from home, a food truck or selling at farmers' markets <https://www.fsai.ie/business-advice/starting-a-food-business/home-business-food-truck-or-food-stall>

...

- **Food allergens**, declare the presence of food allergens used as ingredients <https://www.fsai.ie/>
- **Register as a food business operator**  
Requirement to register as a food business operator (FBO) with the Health Service Executive (HSE) [foodbusinessnotification@hse.ie](mailto:foodbusinessnotification@hse.ie)
- **Traceability guidance**  
<https://www.fsai.ie/business-advice/starting-a-food-business/traceability>
- **Home business, food truck or food stall**  
<https://www.fsai.ie/business-advice/starting-a-food-business/home-business-food-truck-or-food-stall>
- **Food safety and hygiene**  
<https://www.fsai.ie/business-advice/starting-a-food-business/food-safety-and-hygiene>





# 7

Sample record  
sheet

## 7.1 Cleaning food safety records


Equipment /Area	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Time & Initials	Time & Initials	Time & Initials	Time & Initials	Time & Initials	Time & Initials	Time & Initials

## 7.2 Cleaning schedule

Item/ Equipment List	Cleaning Frequency	PPE Needed	Chemicals Used	Mandatory Precautions	Cleaning Method	Completed by Whom / When
	End of Shift/ Hourly/ Daily Weekly	Gloves Goggles Face Mask	Abrasive Corrosive Food Use Area	Wear Mask Eye Goggles and Gloves	Soak, Spray Scrub	

### 7.3 Goods inwards record

Date	Time	Supplier	Product Name	Quantity	Temperature on Arrival	Storage Location	Batch No.

 For all queries contact [foodsafety@bim.ie](mailto:foodsafety@bim.ie) or your local BIM Regional Officer. For additional information visit the [BIM website](http://www.bim.ie).

# 8

## Disclaimer

### Please read

Please note, this booklet, ***Getting more for your catch - Guide to food safety and direct sales***, is made available for general information purposes only by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM). This information booklet does not constitute legal or regulatory advice and is not intended to be relied upon. While efforts have been made to ensure the information contained within this information booklet is accurate as at the date of the Information Booklet, please do note that it is your responsibility to ensure that you comply with your legal and regulatory obligations. BIM expressly disclaims any liability for any loss or damages you or any third party may suffer arising out of, or in connection with, your reliance on the information contained herein or in respect of any inaccuracies, errors or omission contained within this information booklet.

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# Notes



# Notes





Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag  
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