

JRC Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

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Food Fraud Cases

02/09/16 - Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish without labelling discovered in Monfalcone, Italy

700 kg of Bluefin Tuna and Swordfish coming supposedly from Sicilia were discovered without any label of origin in Monfalcone in Northern Italy. The products were in bad shape and to be commercialized on the markets of the Friul Venezia Julia region.

[ANSA](#)



03/09/16 - Eight brands of olive oil failed quality tests in Brazil

Out of 20 brands tested by Proteste (a consumer association), 8 did not meet the quality standards. Four of them contained other vegetable oils (substitution) and another four failed the sensory tests for extra virgin olive oil (mislabelling). The organisation requests the withdrawal of the fraudulent products from the market.

[Proteste official website](#)

[Estado de Minas \(em.com.br\)](#)



10/09/16 - 1176 bottles and 29 000 litres of unlabelled wine seized around Naples

The local fraud brigades closed an entire beverage facility following poor hygienic conditions and blatant lack of documentation. Particularly 29 000 litres of bulk wine were lacking any traceability. The value of the whole structure is estimated to 1 million EUR.

[Otto Pagine \(Napoli\)](#)



16/09/16 - 700 kg of seafood without traceability in Sardinia

700 kg of fish and seafood were seized in a port of Sardinia, lacking any documentation on the origin. The incriminated company, based in Naples, was fined 4500 EUR.

[La Nuova Sardegna](#)



20/09/16 - 20 000 litres of concentrated grape must seized in Italy

A truck transporting 20 000 litres of grape must was stopped on its way from southern Italy to Slovakia. After producing false documents, the Czech driver admitted running a fraudulent activity and was fined 4000 EUR.

[Messaggero Veneto \(Udine\)](#)



30/09/16 - Two tons of "anonymous" fish seized in a truck around Rome

A freezer truck was arrested not far from the Rome airport. It contained two tons of fish stored in 240 unlabelled boxes. The goods, probably destined to Southern Italy, were seized and given to charity

[Libero Quotidiano](#)



Other interesting articles

07/09/16 - 1 on 5 seafood samples mislabelled worldwide (Oceana)

A new report from Oceana suggests that 1 on 5 seafood products may be mislabelled with another type of species. The report highlights the fact that 58% of the samples substituted for other seafood were a species that pose a health risk to consumers. 65% of the cases include clear evidence of an economic motivation for the seafood mislabelling. Finally, Asian catfish, hake and escolar were the three types of fish most commonly substituted worldwide. Specifically, Asian catfish was sold as 18 different types of higher-value fish.

[Oceana official press release](#)

Full report (pdf): [report.pdf](#)

[The New York Times \(article\)](#)

(update 27/09/16) As a reaction, this report raised awareness among the population about the problems of labelling and traceability. More than 80% of Americans want new safeguards in the fish industry.

[Miami Herald](#)

12/09/16 - Shortage of pineapple could attract fraudsters

Professor Elliott, the director of the Institute of Food Safety at Queen's University in Belfast warns that processed pineapple products are increasingly vulnerable to fraud with criminals diluting or marring supplies.

[Express \(UK\)](#)

12/09/16 - Wine below 1 euro: Spanish viticulturists ask for more controls

An association of Spanish viticulturists asks for more controls in the wine sector since cheap wines (sometimes below one euro per bottle) are putting pressure on the prices. They suspect selling below production cost or fraud on the product that, in the end of the process, cast suspicion on the Spanish wines. They also advocate for reinforcing the added value of PDO wines.

[La Cerca](#)

27/09/16 - Manuka honey and lamb are the food most at risk of fraud

The Dutch consumer protection association Consumentenbond released a report screening 150 fraud-sensitive food products. 20% did not meet the standards with a particular stress on Manuka honey, lamb meat and extra virgin olive oil.

[Official press release by Consumentenbond](#)

[Dutch News](#)



World



Fish



UK



Pineapple



Spain



Wine



Netherlands



All

Disclaimer: the selection of articles reflects their media coverage. In any case, it does not reflect the frequency of food fraud in a particular country and/or concerning a particular food product.

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E-mail:

jrc-gee-info@ec.europa.eu

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