DON’T BE CAUGHT OUT
A guide to the regulations on buying and selling fish

PLEASE REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS
Contact Crimestoppers anonymously. Cash awards may be available.
PURCHASING FISH

Do you buy fish for your business?

- If you purchase “first sale” which is fish bought directly from a fishing vessel in the UK then you must register under the buyers and sellers scheme and submit sales notes. Only licensed fishing vessels, and unpowered under-10m vessels are authorised to directly sell their catch. You can check to see if the vessel you are purchasing first sale sea fish from is registered and licensed on the internet at: www.fishregister.gov.uk.
- You don’t need to register if buying from a wholesaler, merchant or other supplier where the fish is “second sale”.

REMEMBER: DON’T BE CAUGHT OUT

Only buy first sale fish from a legitimate source. If you buy directly from a vessel you must register under the buyers and sellers scheme.

REGISTERING AS A BUYER

If you buy directly from a fishing vessel in the UK then you must register under the buyers and sellers scheme.

The Registered Buyers and Sellers Scheme is part of a system designed to help ensure that fish is traceable from net to plate and to monitor and protect fish stocks. Buyers of fish directly from fishing vessels are required to register with the MMO (or other UK fisheries administration) and provide details of each transaction in the form of a sales note.

You do not need to register as a buyer if you purchase fish caught from the shore. However, the sale of fish from recreational fisheries is illegal.

REMEMBER: BUYING FROM UNLICENSED VESSELS IS ILLEGAL

It is illegal to buy fish from an unlicensed fishing vessel. If you do, you may be committing a criminal offence. Certain conditions apply to allow the sale of fish from unpowered vessels of not more than 10 metres in length so if in doubt please check with your local MMO office or see the guidance at GOV.uk.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

If you want to register, or you’re unsure if you need to register, get in touch with us. Our contact details are on the back page.
HOW TO REPORT ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

Illegally caught fish is untraceable, unsustainable and can harm businesses which abide by the rules. Please help us tackle this problem and report any suspicious selling. Your information will be treated in strict confidence, unless you tell us otherwise.

What you need to tell us
Please include these details when you get in touch:
● Who you think is operating illegally?
● What are they doing?
● When are they doing it?
● How are they doing it?
● Why you think it’s illegal?
● Where is it happening?

About you
Please also tell us a bit more about yourself, such as:
● Your name, date of birth, address and phone number – let us know if it’s ok to call you (you can remain anonymous if you prefer).
● How you know the information, who else knows about it and what connection you have, if any, to the seller. This helps us get a better understanding of the nature of the report and how to handle it.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

To report suspected illegal activity contact Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111
If you have a query contact the MMO at info@marinemanagement.org.uk or call us on 0300 123 1032