

Monthly Summary of Articles on Food Fraud and Adulteration

Retrieved mainly from the JRC tool Medisys (<http://medisys.newsbrief.eu>)



Food Fraud Cases

In 2020, the UK's Food Standards Agency (FSA) has discovered 37 cases where consumers of takeaways services paid high prices for cheap meat and fish, but mislabelled as premium products.

[Daily Star](#)



UK



Fish and fish products
Meat and meat products (other than poultry)
Poultry meat and poultry meat products



Mislabelling
Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal

According to the NGO Oceana, 44% of fish sold by fishmongers and restaurants is replaced with another species. Notably, the percentages are quite dramatic for specific species: 100% of merlin is replaced with mako shark (endangered species); 88% of red snapper; and 53% of curvina is mislabelled. Tilapia (produced in Mexico by aquaculture) is often used for substitution purposes.

[Milenio](#)

[Vanguardia](#)

[Noticieros](#)

[MVS Noticias](#)



Mexico



Fish and fish products



Mislabelling
Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal

A popular online journal analysed 44 recent studies, for a totality of 9 000 seafood samples in more than 30 countries, finding that 36% were mislabelled and replaced with another species.

[The Guardian \(1\)](#)

[The Guardian \(2\)](#)

[The Guardian \(3\)](#)

[The Guardian \(4\)](#)

[Yahoo! Style](#)

[Executive Digest](#)

[Green Me](#)

[ORF](#)

[Il Salvagente](#)

[Atlantico](#)

[Fanpage](#)

[The Irish Times](#)

[20 minutos](#)

[FIS](#)

[Retail Detail](#)

[Yahoo! Style](#)

[Inverse](#)

[Eat This](#)

[Stimson](#)

[Alimentare](#)

[Alimentare](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[The Fish Site](#)

[SeafoodSource](#)

[Food & Wine](#)

[Il Fatto](#)



World



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof
Cephalopods and products thereof
Crustaceans and products thereof



Fish and fish products
Gastropods
Mislabelling
Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal

The Brazilian authorities arrested a truck driver smuggling 7 tons of undeclared fish in order to avoid taxes.

[Correio do povo](#)



Brazil



Fish and fish products



Documents

Within the context of the operation “Nuova Nata”, the Italian authorities seized 7 tons of seafood products with no traceability documentation. The products were supposed to enter the market illegally.

[Reggio TV](#)



Italy



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof

Cephalopods and products thereof

Crustaceans and products thereof

Fish and fish products

Gastropods



Documents

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), as part of the enhanced fish species substitution surveillance (2019 to 2020), reported that only 8% of fish samples were mislabelled in the Canadian marketplace. Inspections focused on nice species: butterflyfish, cod, halibut, kingfish, sea bass, snapper (red and other), sole, tuna and yellowtail.

[Government of Canada](#)

[Report](#)

[Market Insider](#)

[Newswire](#)

[Food Authenticity](#)

[The Guardian](#)



Canada



Fish and fish products



Mislabelling

Replacement/ dilution/ addition/ removal

The Italian Coast Guard seized 560 kg of whitebait fished illegally. It is forbidden to fish such seafood products as a highly damaging practice for the marine ecosystems.

[Corriere di Taranto](#)

[La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno](#)



Italy



Fish and fish products



Documents

The Italian authorities seized other 600 kg of fish lacking any traceability documentation.

[La Sicilia web](#)

[Giornale di Sicilia](#)

Other interesting articles

Linking Covid-19 pandemic and food fraud cases

Several online articles discuss the connection between the Covid-19 pandemic and any related vulnerability in the food chains.

Most probably, *“the conditions created by the pandemic have increased food fraud vulnerability but that there was insufficient evidence of ‘dramatic’ increases in specific COVID-19-related food fraud incidents.”*

[Global Food Safety Resources](#)

[IFST](#)

[Mondaq](#)

[Walker Morris](#)



World



Food

Food fraud resilience self-assessment tool

The UK National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) has developed a self-assessment tool for businesses in order to decrease their vulnerability against food frauds.

[Food Gov UK](#)



UK



Food

Chinese guidance against counterfeit seeds



China

The Chinese Agriculture Ministry has released a guidance document, directed to law enforcement personnel, about identifying substandard or counterfeit seeds. Falsification of seeds causes several problems for farmers around the world.

[Securing Industry](#)



Nuts, nut products and seeds

EU fisheries control system under revision

In March, the EU Parliament voted the EU Commission's proposal to revise the fisheries control system. The proposal aims at improving the traceability of seafood products along the food chain, as well as fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

[European Parliament Research Service](#)

[DNR](#)

[Seafood Source](#)



EU



Bivalve molluscs and products thereof
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Gastropods

Spotlight on honey adulteration

An online magazine discusses the global situation in the honey sector, with a reference to fraudulent activities taking place in China.

[Daily Mail](#)



World



Honey and royal jelly

A similar narrative is found in other online articles.

[Apicoltore Moderno](#)

[News Medicalnet](#)

[Italia News](#)

70% of milk in Pakistan adulterated

According to a report produced by national institutions, it seems that 70% of milk produced in Pakistan is adulterated with hazardous chemicals, threatening consumer health.

[The Nation](#)



Pakistan



Milk and milk products

Honey sector affected by adulteration in Rwanda

Sugar syrup and crushed yellow bananas are just two examples of adulteration practices affecting the honey sector in Rwanda, raising concerns from national authorities and health practitioners.

[The New Times](#)

[The New Times](#)



Rwanda



Honey and royal jelly

Geographical Indications more protected in EU and China

A bilateral agreement between the European Union and China has recently entered into force. Hundreds of Geographical Indications (GIs) from both regions will be protected in their territories, providing mutual commercial benefits.

[European Union website](#)

[Diario de Jerez](#)

[Fresh Plaza](#)

[oriGIn](#)



EU-China



Food

Second JRC study on dual food quality

The Joint Research Centre published the results of the second part of an EU-wide quality comparison of food products marketed under the same branding. The first 2019 study focused on differences in composition, whereas this second study investigated if such differences can be perceived by human senses.

[Commission press release](#)

[JRC study](#)

[Gandul](#)

[Capital](#)

[G4 media](#)

[Stirile TV](#)

[Ziare](#)

[Euractiv](#)

[Ziar](#)

[DC News](#)

[Economica](#)

[Bursa](#)

[Financial Intelligence](#)

[Europost](#)

[EU Monitor](#)

[The European Sting](#)

[Europa Nu](#)

[Pub Affairs Bruxelles](#)

[Aquiueuropa](#)

[Business AM](#)

[Euractiv](#)

[Capital](#)

[Do rzeczy](#)

[Radio Zet](#)



EU



Food

Published initiative on wine fraud

The European Commission opened the feedback period for the published initiative “Wine fraud – EU database for chemical analysis to protect the identity, origin and quality of wines”.

[Have your say website](#) [EU News](#) [Wine News](#) [Sicilia Notizie Oggi](#)



EU



Wine

Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence (ED-XRF) spectroscopy suitable to fight food frauds, JRC says

The JRC has demonstrated the feasibility of using a combination of Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence (ED-XRF) spectroscopy and pattern recognition techniques to support the fight against food fraud. The elemental fingerprint of food changes according to its geographical as well as botanical origin, manufacturing processes and agricultural production system (organic or conventional).

[EU Science Hub](#) [Securing Industry](#)



EU



Food

Beverage sector widely affected by food fraud

According to the Lloyd's Register survey, 97% of senior executives in the beverage sector reported that their businesses have been affected by food frauds during the last year. 80% of them also agree that food fraud is a growing concern.

[New Food Magazine](#) [Food and Drink Business](#)



World



Non-alcoholic beverages

FAO booklet on food fraud

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific published the booklet “Food Fraud – intention, detection and management”.

[FAO website](#)



World



Food

Disclaimer: The presentation 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 specific food product. The European Commission does not take any responsibility for the validity of the information extracted from the media channels scanned. The views expressed shall not be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission.

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