

PRESS RELEASE

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## **Boycott campaign challenges organic standards on salmon**

The Boycott Farmed Salmon's 2016 Christmas campaign has added the word 'ORGANIC' to its campaign's name after the Minister refused to enforce the EU Regulations which require that whenever chemical medicines are used on organic products 'treated stock shall be clearly identifiable'. [Note 1]

According to the 10 Irish environmental groups that support the campaign, the requirement is contained in the European Union regulations governing organic production. Deputy Eamon O'Cuiv raised the issue of chemical treatment in the Oireachtas last year when, referring to the chemical treatments, he said that he 'will not touch farmed salmon because it is a totally unnatural product.'

In 2015, the campaign published a pre-slaughter Department of Agriculture laboratory analysis that showed the presence of 10 chemicals, 6 approved by Marine Harvest, the Norwegian multi-national that produces almost all of Ireland's organic farmed salmon.

'However, the Minister for Agriculture claims that the regulation does not mean that the treated stock shall be clearly identified to the consumer. He claims that the identification required is solely for the benefit of the producers to ensure withdrawal periods are met', the campaign spokesman explained. [Note 2]

The Food Safety Authority initially told the groups that 'It is a fair point to make – that is treated stock are to be clearly identifiable.' [Note 3] But after consulting with Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and with the Marine

Institute, they advised the campaign and the Minister that this was ‘an issue of record keeping, not labelling of packaging. ‘Organic operators meet this requirement’ the Minister told the Oireachtas in a written parliamentary reply earlier this year, ‘by maintaining information at their premises’. [Note 2]

The campaign spokesman said this made no sense. ‘The Regulations state clearly that ‘treated stock shall be clearly identifiable’. Farmed salmon are treated with a range of chemicals which while approved by the regulatory authorities the consumer may not wish to ingest himself.’ [Note 3]

‘The purpose of organic regulations are so that consumers can differentiate chemically treated products from products that have not been chemically treated. We urge the public to boycott organic farmed salmon this Christmas if they have any respect for those who buy and sell organic products in a relationship of trust with the public.’

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Campaign Website: <http://wildfish.ie/>

#### EDITORS NOTES

[1] COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 710/2009 of 5 August 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, as regards laying down detailed rules on organic aquaculture animal and seaweed production.

Section 7, Article 25 t ‘Veterinary treatments’ (5) of Regulation 710/2009 states: ‘Treated stock shall be clearly identifiable.’

[2] Clare Daly, Dublin Fingal, United Left. Written answers, Tuesday, 28 June 2016. [17940/16]

[3] Medicines Positive List. Marine Harvest list chemical veterinary products approved for use in the production of farmed organic salmon.

<http://wildfish.ie/PosMedList.pdf>

Environmental Groups supporting the Boycott

An Taisce 087 2411995

Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea Trout Anglers (FISSTA) 074 9730300

Forest Friends 087 619 8265

Friends of the Earth 01-6394652

Friends of the Irish Environment 087 2176316

Galway Bay Against Salmon Cages 086 3511628

Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture 00 44 7771541826

Irish Federation of Seal Anglers 085 7339040

Irish Seal Sanctuary 01 8354487

No Salmon Farms at Sea 087 7673157

Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture 0044 7771 541826

Salmon Watch Ireland 086 826 9222

Save Bantry Bay 087 7949 227

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