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SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

Press Release

Issued by the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority's Press Office

13th November 2025

SFPA Issues Information Notice to Industry on New USA Import Restrictions for Salmonids and Spiny Lobster

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) recently issued an Information Notice to industry on new USA import restrictions for salmonids and spiny lobster. The Information Notice was issued in relation to technical requirements for Irish companies trading with the USA in an evolving third country regulatory environment.

The USA Authorities have informed the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM), and the SFPA, that from the 1st of January 2026, salmon from an aquaculture source, and spiny lobster, cannot be exported from Ireland to the USA. This is due to a determination made by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), following a comparability finding conducted by them on legislation of harvesting nations who export fishery products to the USA. In Ireland's case, the required equivalence has been deemed by NOAA not to be present due to a provision in the Wildlife Act, which does not conform with the relevant US legislation in this area.

Exports of these products to the USA will need to cease from the 1st of January 2026. In addition, NOAA are implementing a requirement for export consignments of similar products covered by certain Combined Nomenclature codes to be accompanied by documentation essentially attesting that the consignments do not contain salmon of aquaculture origin or common spiny lobster. This document is called a Certificate of Admissibility (COA). These COAs will be required from 1st of January 2026 and will be provided by the SFPA on request. A full list of the commodity codes requiring one of these COAs can be found in the Information Notice.

All trade in all other products not mentioned above or found in the commodity code list can continue after 1st of January 2026 as it currently does now. Exporters are advised to plan for the implementation of these changes as outlined above. Irish exporters will be advised if, and when any developments to these restrictions arise.

Queries regarding this information notice may be addressed to:

SFPATradeandAudit@sfpa.ie

Ends

Note to Editor

The Commodity Code list can be accessed in the Information Notice [here](#).

About the SFPA

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is the independent statutory body responsible for the regulation of the sea-fisheries and the sea-food production sectors. It promotes compliance with the EU Common Fisheries Policy, sea-fisheries law and food safety law relating to fish and fish products, verifies compliance and, where necessary, enforces it. Its mandate covers all fishing vessels operating within Ireland's 200-mile limit, over 2,000 Irish registered fishing vessels wherever they operate, and all seafood produced in Ireland's seafood processing companies. The SFPA operates through a network of regional port offices situated at Ireland's main fishery harbours. For further information visit: www.sfpa.ie