



Barent's Sea Cod

There is considerable industry concern concerning the possibility that illegally-caught Atlantic cod is being fished by Russian vessels from the Barents Sea and then entering the global supply chain.

In line with its wider drive for sustainability in seafood, Young's condemns unreservedly the practice of illegal and unregulated fishing. We will never knowingly purchase fish which has been caught, landed or farmed illegally and will deal only with suppliers that operate in an open and responsible manner and can demonstrate compliance with all the relevant national and international regulations. We have for many years made this clear in the written terms and conditions we agree with all our suppliers.

Young's has conducted a specific review of the provenance of all the cod it sources from the Barents Sea. This process included a meeting in Oslo in February 2006 at which Young's and its sister company, Findus AB, were briefed by the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate on the issue.

We are aware that there is indeed an industry problem of illegal (i.e. Over-quota) Atlantic cod in the Barents Sea supply chain. We regard this as an extremely serious issue which requires urgent attention and have implemented a number of recent additional actions intended to eradicate any possibility that such cod might enter our supply chain.

Our key points are as follows:-

- A large part of the problem related to illegally-caught cod is due to the transfer at sea to transport vessels under a flag of convenience (known as transshipment and illegal in both Norway and Russia since 2004). Young's will not take any fish traded by a flag of convenience transshipment vessel, or buy from any fishing boat involved in transshipments. Our policy in this area has been helped by the Norwegian authorities publication in January 2006 of a list of such vessels. Similarly, we will not deal with any vessels deemed 'prohibited' by their inclusion on the lists published by NAFO and NEAFC.
- We have initiated discussions with all our suppliers to review and tighten the overall audit process to ensure that full and detailed documentation is available for every shipment supplied to the Young's business. Where questions arise over the provenance of particular shipments, we will refuse them. Where we believe a supplier is failing in its duty to confirm the legitimacy of fish it supplies to our business, we will cease trading with them.
- We firmly believe that Governments have an absolutely essential role to play in ensuring that quotas are actively enforced and policed and that proper shipping and transport records are produced. We will continue to lobby regulatory bodies and exert our influence to increase the pressure for change where necessary. We do welcome the UK Government's recent announcement (March 3 2006) of new funding to help support international initiatives to deal with pirate fishing activities.



- We recognise that weak processes regarding the import of fishery products at ports of entry into the EU are a major contributory factor in the proliferation of illegal fishing and we support measures which add visibility to the movement of fish. To this end, we are currently investigating the potential of only using ports of entry which agree to report back landing information to the fishery authorities of the home fishing nations.
- We are actively supporting the proposal of the High Seas Task Force with respect to the greater use of port and import measures as a control measure. We believe that the problem must be dealt with at a government level and urge EU countries to adopt domestic legislation as proposed in the High Seas Task Force Model Port States Fisheries Enforcement Act.

In summary, Young's will continue to use its influence wherever possible and work cooperatively with all relevant bodies – trade partners, governments and concerned NGO's – to contribute to the elimination of illegal fishing practices. As we are a major purchaser of seafood from most of the world's principal fisheries, we will continue through our international network of suppliers to initiate, support and stimulate any projects, policies and actions that contribute towards long term sustainability.

