

REQUIREMENTS TO EXPORT FISH TO ITALY**ADDITIVES**

Italian legislation permits only very limited use of chemical preservatives or colouring. Any additives utilized should be checked ahead of time with the importer to determine whether they are permitted by Italian law, and must be indicated on the label according to type (e.g. colouring, preservative, anti-oxidant, emulsifier, etc.) as well as according to specific name or registration number.

LABELLING REQUIREMENT

Fish products, like all food products imported or sold in Italy, must be labelled in accordance with dispositions of Presidential Decree n. 322 of 18 May 1982. The following items refer to food products in general, and do not cover specific cases where further information may be required or must be reported in a specific manner.

It is absolutely essential that the prospective exporters obtain from their Italian buyer precise instructions concerning these specific product requirements. According to the Decree, the following information must be provided on the labels, written in Italian:

- a) name under which the product is sold;
- b) list of ingredients (in descending order of weight);
- c) net quantity (canned products must show net drained weight);
- d) information regarding shelf life ("to be consumed prior to...")
- e) special storage conditions and conditions for use, where necessary;
- f) instructions for use;
- g) place of origin;
- h) name of business on registered trademark and address of manufacturer or packer or of seller established in the European Community;
- i) Address of manufacturing or packing plant for products manufactured or packed in Italy for sale in national territory.