

Labelling of Caviar

Pier Antonio Salvador



MAC WG 3 -
Brussels 18th October 2018



Current situation and open issues

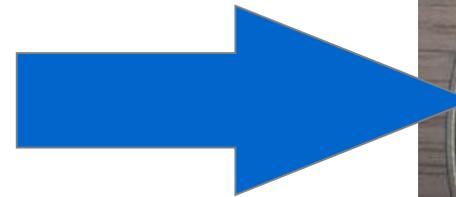
EU aquaculture is the world leader in sturgeon farming and caviar production.

Currently caviar labeling is mainly related to the compliance with CITES rules.

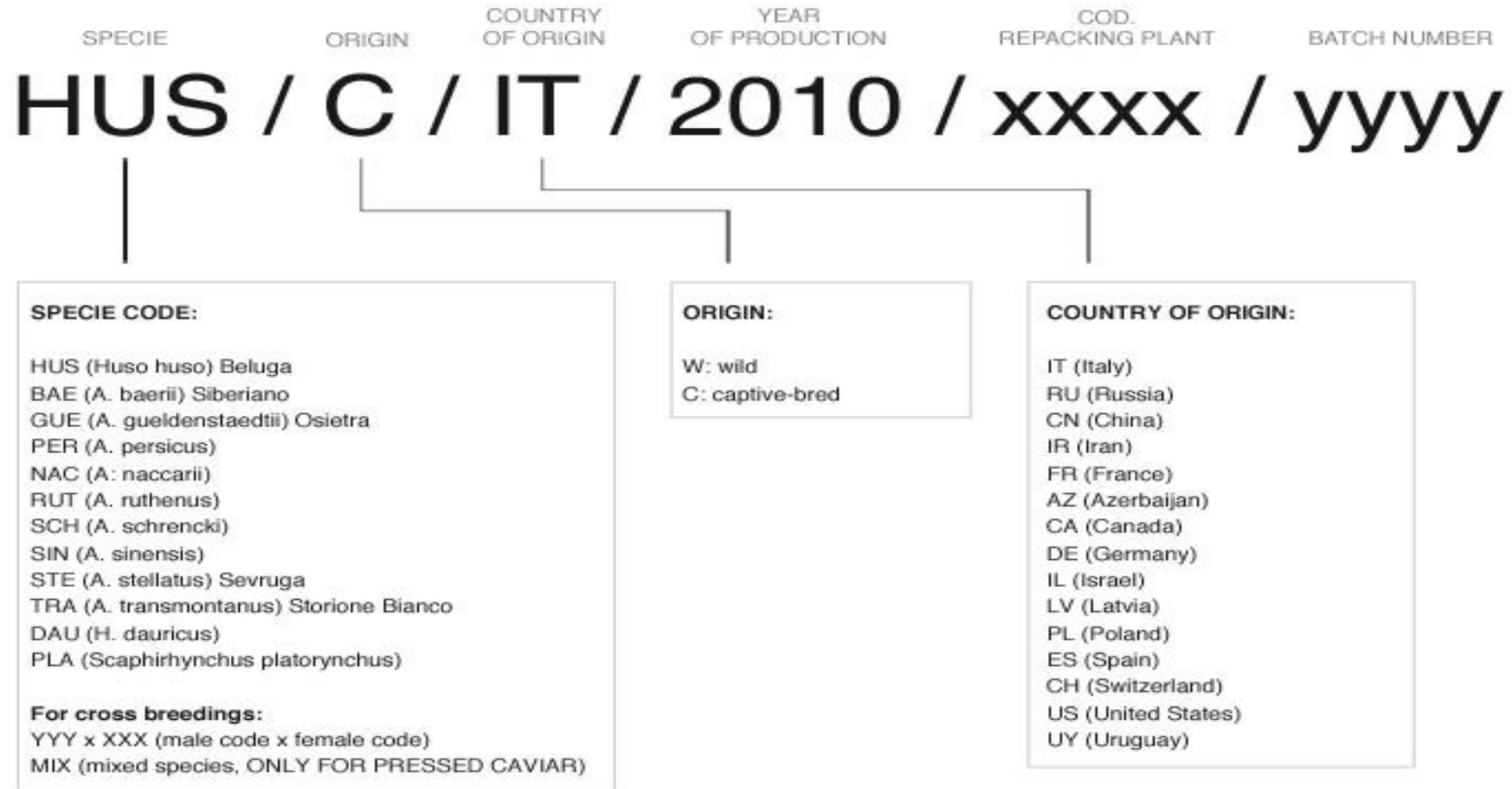
CITES string on caviar label allow control by authorities

but do not allow consumer to obtain a clear and complete information about the origin of caviar:

traceability under the CITES legislation is fulfilled but correct information to the consumer is lacking.



How to read the “Caviar CITES String”



Consumer information rules and Caviar - 1

Regulation (EU) N. 1379/2013 in the Common Organization of the Markets for Fisheries and Aquaculture products among the fundamental precepts specifies:

In order to enable consumers to make informed choices, it is necessary for them to be provided with clear and comprehensive information on, inter alia, the origin and the method of production of the products. (recital 21)

The same regulation (Article 35) establishes that the following mandatory information must be provided to consumers, among others:

- (a) the commercial designation of the species and its scientific name;
- (b) the production method, in particular by the following words "... caught ..." or "... caught in freshwater ..." or "... farmed ...";
- (c) the area where the product was caught or farmed, and the category of fishing gear used in capture of fisheries

Currently, caviar is not covered by the consumer information requirements established by Regulation (EU) 1379/2013. The inclusion of this aquaculture product within the scope of the regulation is required.

Consumer information rules and Caviar - 2

Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 requires the country of origin or place of provenance of the food to be indicated where the failure to indicate such information could mislead consumers as to its origin or place of provenance.

The regulation does not specify the exact wording to be used when providing information on the country of origin or place of provenance of foods. Such specifications may be imposed by member states in accordance with national law.



Conclusions

We stress the importance of AAC/MAC representing to all EU institutions this problem for producers and the repercussions regarding the traceability of caviar.

This is increasingly stringent considering the large amount of caviar produced by sturgeons farmers in Third Countries, repackaged in EU in European plants and placed on the market without providing clear indications to the consumer about its true origin.

To protect EU aquaculture products, such as caviar, specific measures must be adopted to guarantee correct information on all types of food, including this aquaculture product, through the implementation of the aforementioned regulations in all the EU member states.

