

Seafood Mislabeling

May 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

Why You Should Avoid Buying or Selling Mislabelled Seafood:

It's illegal. Mislabeling or substituting seafood is a violation of California Health and Safety Code, Section 114087. Environmental Health conducts special inspections to protect consumers from the sale of adulterated, misrepresented and/or mislabeled seafood.

Deliberate violations of the law will be addressed during inspections. Violations include failure to disclose accurate information about a seafood species, country of origin, weight portions, and/or size.

Mislabeling or Substituting Seafood May Pose a Health Risk to Some Customers

Escolar, is sometimes mislabeled and sold as, **“white tuna”**. *White tuna* is not a real species.

Escolar can cause gastrointestinal illness or other health problems for some customers. It is important to sell and offer honestly presented seafood to protect customer's health.



Escolar

Tips for Buying or Selling Safe Seafood:

Compare the label on the food container or packaging with the invoice or receipt to make sure it matches what you ordered.

Remember, **white tuna does not exist**. If your invoice says **white tuna** or it is missing information such as species or country of origin, do not accept delivery. Return the product to the supplier or distributor and ask for more information or contact your Health Inspector for advice.

Seafood Offered	Actual Species or Less Expensive Substitutes
• White Tuna – does not exist	• Escolar
• Snapper • Red Snapper	• Rockfish • Tilapia • Pollock • Tai Seabream • Ocean Perch • Cod
• Orange Roughy	• Swai
• Halibut	• Striped Bass • Turbot • Flounder • Fluke • Seabass
• Wild – Caught Salmon	• Farm-Raised Salmon

Examples of properly labelled Fish



Tilapia Fillet



Tilapia Fish

Questions? We're Here to Help

If you suspect seafood mislabeling or substitution, contact Environmental Health at **(888) 700-9995** during business hours, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday; or e-mail ehmail@ph.lacounty.gov.

Environmental Health Division

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