



Press Release

Commitment to sustainable consumption

EROSKI INCREASES CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE FISH PURCHASES BY 24% TO OVER ONE MILLION KILOS

- It is the first retail distribution chain in Spain to pass the audits for both MSC and GLOBALG.A.P. certifications for the sale of sustainable fresh fish
- With their Sustainable Fisheries Policy, the cooperative supports the development of marine eco-friendly fisheries
- The promotion of a more sustainable activity is the purpose of their *Health and Sustainability Commitments, which were presented last April*

Elorrio, 10 September 2018.- [EROSKI](#) is moving forward in their commitment to a more sustainable food model with an over 24% increase in their purchases of MSC- and GLOBALG.A.P.-certified sustainable fish sold under their own fresh food brand, EROSKI Natur, to over one million kilos in the first half of the year.

Thus, they have taken a further step in the consolidation of their leadership in fresh products as well as the sale of more responsible foods as the basis for a healthy and sustainable diet, one of the basic tenets of their "with you" business model. The cooperative has pioneered in Spain the 'MSC' and 'GGN' (GLOBALG.A.P.) eco-labels for the sale of fresh fish, a commitment which is essential for the fishing sector which is going for sustainability.

"Certified sustainable fish is gaining space on our fish counters. Thus we guarantee consumers that the eco-labelled fresh fish which can be found on our counters comes from sustainable fisheries and productions. At EROSKI we ensure that all processes, from production origin to operations in the store, are as responsible as possible. The promotion of a more sustainable diet is the aim of our [Health and Sustainability Commitments](#), which have been renewed this year", EROSKI's Health and Sustainability Manager, Alejandro Martínez Berriochoa, has said.

A pioneer in the sustainability accreditation of fish counters

Just over a year ago EROSKI became the first and only retail distribution chain in Spain to pass the audit of the international organization [Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\)](#) for the certification of the chain of custody of fresh fish from sustainable fisheries. The certification of EROSKI's fish counters has been gradual and at present includes 348 fresh fish counters as well as six logistics platforms of the EROSKI group from which they deliver fresh fish to their entire store network.

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In the first six months of this year, during the second campaign since they were awarded the certification, the cooperative sold more than 900 tonnes of fish with the blue 'MSC' sustainable fishing label, including species such as Skrei codfish, anchovy, albacore, lobster, desalted codfish and surimi. The 'MSC' accreditation audits the fishery as well as the companies involved in the entire fish handling process, so that traceability and good practices are guaranteed throughout the whole chain of custody for the products which bear the blue MSC label. The factors taken into account by 'MSC' to award a sustainable fishery certification are the status of the fish stock, the impact of the fishing gear on the habitat and the management of the fishery.

"EROSKI is taking firm and important steps with the gradual certification of their fish counters and the incorporation of new species to provide an increasing range of fresh fish with the blue MSC label. Their commitment to ocean health and to local produce is clear, as can be seen in their support for tuna and anchovy from the certified Basque fleet and the incorporation of an increasingly large number of product categories with our label. We would like to congratulate EROSKI for their great work in promoting sustainable fisheries and raising consumers' awareness in Spain. EROSKI is undoubtedly a responsible cooperative committed to the future of marine resources", MSC director for Spain and Portugal, Laura Rodríguez, has said.

Likewise, less than three months ago EROSKI also became the first distribution chain in Spain to pass the audit for the [GLOBALG.A.P.](#) aquaculture chain of custody certification, which certifies that the farmed species sold on their fish counters have been produced in a safe and sustainable manner. Since then, EROSKI has bought 60,000 kilos of sea bream, meagre, sea bass, turbot and salmon with the [GGN](#) (GLOBALG.A.P. Number) label.

"The number of consumers who seek trustworthy information when they buy fish and seafood keeps increasing. The issues regarding the origin and the production methods, as well as the social and ecological conditions, play an increasingly important role to strengthen their trust and determine purchase decisions. With the GLOBALG.A.P. certification, EROSKI is responding, in a pioneering manner as regards distribution in Spain, to the growing demand by consumers for a guarantee that the food is safe and sustainable", GLOBALG.A.P.'s Vice-President for Business Development, Flavio Alzueta, has stated.

The requirements of the GLOBALG.A.P. certification include, amongst others, the analysis of environmental impact, the regular control of food safety, water quality monitoring, traceability and animal welfare. Likewise, it certifies appropriate feed consumption, which results in taking better care of the sea bottom and making a better use of fishery resources; leak control, thus limiting the proliferation of

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invasive species; the guarantee of adequate working conditions and the establishment of quality management systems, amongst others.

About Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

It is a non-profit international organization which was established to help transform the seafood market to a sustainable basis. MSC operates the only eco-labelling programme for wild-capture fisheries consistent with the [ISEAL Code of Good Practice](#) for Setting Social and Environmental Standards. These guidelines are based on the [FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries](#).

About GLOBALG.A.P.

GLOBALG.A.P. is an internationally recognized standard for farm production. It is present in more than 125 countries in all the continents; it aims at safe and sustainable production so as to benefit producers, retailers and consumers everywhere in the world. With more than 600 products and more than 188,000 certified producers, GLOBALG.A.P. promotes food safety and traceability; the environment (including biodiversity); workers' health, safety and welfare; animal welfare and the establishment of quality control systems, amongst others.

About EROSKI

EROSKI is the first distribution group of the cooperative type in Spain and a leading operator in the regions of Galicia, Basque Country, Navarre, Catalonia and the Balearic Islands. It has a network of 1,651 shops, including supermarkets, hypermarkets and cash&carry, as well as petrol stations, optical shops, travel agencies, perfume shops and sport shops. From the beginning, EROSKI has carried out numerous social action initiatives mainly aimed at the promotion of healthy life habits, consumer training, environmental defence and solidarity.

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