

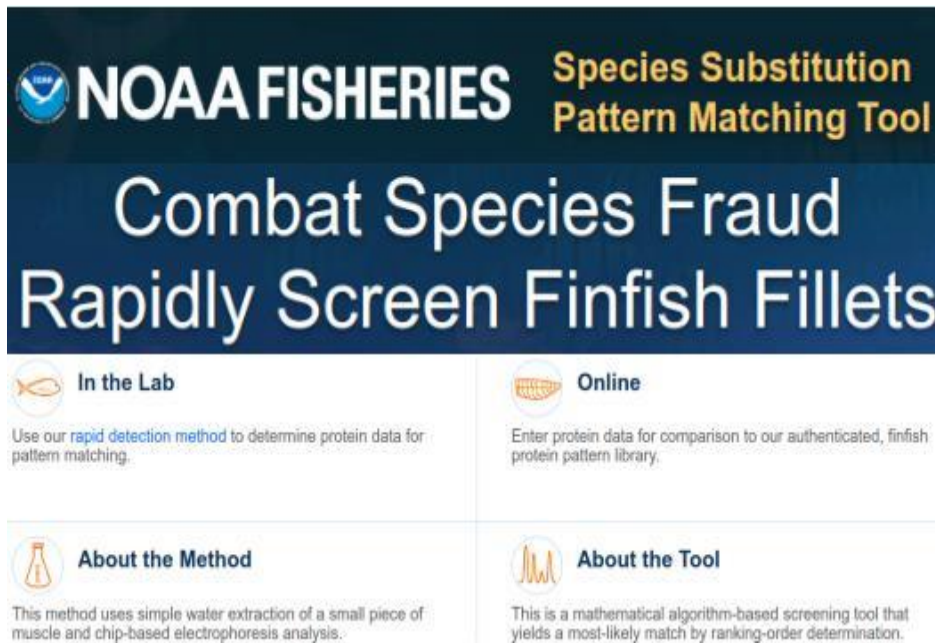
NOAA develops new tool to fight mislabelling

NOAA Fisheries has formally rolled out a web-based screening tool that can flag potentially mislabeled finfish fillets before they hit the seafood aisle.

Developed by the National Seafood Inspection Laboratory (NSIL), the "Species Substitution & Protein Pattern Matching Tool" could help the seafood industry address finfish substitution and fraud.





According to NOAA, finfish fillets can be incorrectly labeled at any one of the numerous links in the chain from the fishermen to retail markets or restaurants. And the reasons for mislabeling are almost as numerous—ranging from a simple mistake to intentional fraud aimed at selling cheaper products at a higher price point.

The federal entity highlights that for shoppers, mislabeled fillets thwart consumer choice and can introduce food safety risks. The practice also erodes consumer confidence in seafood and undermines the economic viability of U.S. fisheries, which are rigorously managed under 10 national standards of sustainability.



NOAA FISHERIES Species Substitution
Pattern Matching Tool

Combat Species Fraud Rapidly Screen Finfish Fillets

 In the Lab Use our rapid detection method to determine protein data for pattern matching.	 Online Enter protein data for comparison to our authenticated, finfish protein pattern library.
 About the Method This method uses simple water extraction of a small piece of muscle and chip-based electrophoresis analysis.	 About the Tool This is a mathematical algorithm-based screening tool that yields a most-likely match by ranking-order determination.

To help maintain the nation's safe, sustainable supply of seafood, researchers at NSIL developed a lab method and online screening





tool that lab technicians can employ to compare finfish muscle proteins against NSIL's Authenticated Finfish Species Library.

The tool quickly generates a list of species matches ranked from most to least likely—positioning it as a perfect precursor and complement to DNA testing programs.

Search the Library

To see if the species you are interested in is in our library, type the market name, common name or scientific name of your species.

(names are based on the [FDA Seafood List](#))

Market Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
e.g. snapper	e.g. red snapper	e.g. <i>Lutjanus campechanus</i>

Please specify the name

Please select the name category first by clicking one of the three options above

Can't find what you are looking for? [View List of Families and Species](#)

[Search Species](#)

Wholesale and other buyers typically send their fillet samples to third-party labs for DNA analysis when they suspect species substitution. By first screening their samples for common substitutions with the Species Substitution & Protein Pattern Matching Tool, however, these buyers can save time and money, reserving DNA testing for instances when a probable mislabeling needs to be verified.

The US Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory labs currently using DNA testing could also fold NSIL's tool into their procedures to screen a larger quantity of finfish fillets for common substitutions.

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