

## **Statutes of the fair-fish.net association**

### **Art. 1: Name, headquarters**

«fair-fish.net» is the name of an association in accordance with art. 60 ff. of the Swiss Civil Code. The Association's headquarters is at the domicile of the administrative office.

### **Art. 2: Purpose**

The Association aims to gain international acceptance for animal protection in the case of fish, in particular food fish. At the same time it takes the criteria of sustainability and fair trade into account.

The Association is the proprietor of the fair-fish name and brand. It stipulates guidelines that authorize the use of the fair-fish label.

The Association provides information to the public and cooperates with interested experts, marketers and organizations with a related objective, in particular with national fair-fish associations.

The Association pursues neither profit-making nor self-help purposes.

#### 2.1. The Association's tasks

- Developing guidelines for fishing and fish-farming
- Concluding licensing agreements
- Mandating certification and control agencies
- Publicizing and protecting the fair-fish name and brand within the scope of the means available
- Laying the groundwork, in terms of content, for the activity of fair-fish associations in the context of defined projects and relieving these associations by taking on individual tasks within the scope of the means available.

### **Art. 3: Means**

The Association finances itself from the fees paid by its members, from further gifts and grants, from contributions towards costs for services that it renders for its account and for its benefit, as well as from any possible income from interest. The financial year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year.

### **Art. 4: Membership, membership fee, resignation, exclusion**

There are three categories of members, one for natural persons and two for juridical persons:

4.1. Individual members (natural persons) include the founding members as well as individual members subsequently admitted by them. A new individual member may be admitted:

- if the majority of members in accordance with 4.1. argue in favor of this, and
- if no member in accordance with 4.1. speaks against this, and
- if the number of individual members does not, as a result, exceed the number of other members.

The annual membership fee of EUR 100 (one hundred euros) is due at the beginning of a new financial year, on July 1 in each case. The founding members are exempt from the duty to pay fees.

#### 4.2. National fair-fish associations

One organization per country can attain the status of a fair-fish association. The prerequisites are stipulated in the licensing agreement for national fair-fish associations.

This agreement, meaning admission as a member and the entitlement to use the fair-fish name and brand, is valid:

- if the majority of members in accordance with 4.1. and 4.2. argue in favor of this, and
- if no member in accordance with 4.1. or 4.2. speaks against this.

The annual membership fee of a national fair-fish association amounts to five percent of the sum total of the fees paid by its own members, but at least EUR 500.00.

It is due at the beginning of a new financial year, on July 1 in each case.

#### 4.3. Further organizations

On application of a member, further organizations may be admitted to membership:

- if the majority of members in accordance with 4.1. and 4.2. and 4.3. argue in favor of this, and
- if no member in accordance with 4.1. or 4.2. or 4.3. speaks against this.

The annual membership fee of these organizations is jointly agreed, but amounts to at least EUR 500.00. The agreed fee is to be recorded in the minutes of the members' meeting at which the new member is admitted. It is due at the beginning of a new financial year, on July 1 in each case.

#### 4.4. Resignation

Every member may resign at the end of a financial year by sending a declaration in writing to the headquarters of the Association before April 1.

Any commitments entered into during the period of membership remain to be fulfilled.

#### 4.5. Exclusion

A member may be excluded under the following conditions:

- if postal consignments or e-mail messages from the Association to the member are returned as undeliverable at least twice;
- if it does not pay its annual membership fee for longer than six months, despite being reminded twice;
- if it acts or behaves against the purpose of the Association.
- In addition, a national fair-fish association may be excluded if it no longer fulfills the prerequisites for membership in accordance with the licensing agreement even after it has been reminded once.

The decision to exclude a member is taken by the executive committee, with immediate suspension of the member's voting right and its authorization to use the fair-fish name and brand.

Rejected or excluded members have the right of complaint to the members' meeting, which decides conclusively.

## **Art. 5: Voting right**

Every member has one vote.

The right to vote and table a motion at the members' meeting presupposes that membership was applied for before April 1 preceding the next ordinary members' meeting, that the application was not rejected or the member excluded by the executive committee, and that the membership fee for the current financial year has been paid.

## **Art. 6: Liability**

Liability for the Association's payables does not extend beyond its assets.

Any further-reaching liability of members is excluded.

## **Art. 7: Organs**

### 7.1. The members' meeting

- The ordinary members' meeting is convened once a year in the fourth quarter.
- An extraordinary members' meeting is convened at the latest on the 90th day after receipt of a request to this effect made by at least three members. It is convoked by the executive committee at least 30 days in advance.
- Motions tabled by members are put on the agenda if they are received in writing, and giving reasons, at the headquarters of the Association before August 1 preceding the next ordinary members' meeting, or together with the request for an extraordinary members' meeting.
- Resolutions are valid if at least half of the members have expressed their views.
- Deliberations and resolutions by way of correspondence (letter, e-mail) are permissible.

### 7.2. The executive committee

- The executive committee consists of at least three persons who are individual members or have been proposed by a collective member for a period of office.
- It constitutes itself and fulfills all the responsibilities that are not reserved for another organ either by law or by the statutes.
- It stipulates the annual plan and budget and outlines its work in rules of procedure.
- It instructs and supervises the administrative office.
- It elects a guidelines committee and an advisory board.
- It can give mandates in the sense of the Association's purpose that are to be recompensed fairly.
- The members of the executive committee and the advisory board act in an honorary capacity and are, in principle, only entitled to reimbursement of their actual expenses and cash disbursements. For special services rendered by individual members of the executive committee or the advisory board that exceed the normal tasks of a member of the executive committee or the advisory board, the executive committee can pay a fair compensation in accordance with the rules of procedure.
- Resolutions are valid if all the members of the executive committee have expressed their views.
- Deliberations and resolutions by way of correspondence (letter, e-mail) are permissible.

7.3. The auditing firm is elected by the members' meeting. It audits the Association's book-keeping and activity and submits a report annually to the members' meeting.

**Art. 8: Amendments of the statutes; dissolution**

Amendments of the statutes as well as the dissolution of the Association require the approval of two thirds of the members' votes cast.

In the case of a dissolution, the executive committee is responsible for the orderly liquidation, in particular for handing over the remaining assets, as well as the groundwork laid and contacts established to a tax-exempt institution that pursues the same or related aims. A distribution of the funds among the members is excluded.

Adopted by the founding members on August 16, 2010, and amended by the members' meeting on February 20, 2014.