

Lars Birger Nielsen, owner of the fish farm Bisserup Dambrug.



CERTIFIED ACCORDING TO EU'S ORGANIC RULES

Danish organic fish are farmed in accordance with the EU rules for organic farming of fish and shellfish. Inspectors from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (Fødevarestyrelsen) under the Danish Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, keep a close eye on compliance with the rules.

As with all other certified organic food in the EU, the organic fish also carry the EU's green organic logo.

They can also bear the special Danish organic logo, called the red Ø. Only organic products that are controlled by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration are allowed to use the red Ø.



ONLY FARMED FISH CAN BE ORGANIC

Wild fish from the sea, rivers and lakes cannot be sold as organic fish. The reason is that it is impossible to check and control the living conditions of the fish – for example whether the fish have been living in an area with adverse environmental conditions.

Only when fish have been farmed in fish farms or marine farms is it possible to be certain they comply with the high level of organic requirements.

FISH WITHOUT STRESS AND VETERINARY DRUGS

"My fish do not suffer from stress and therefore they have never needed any veterinary drugs or other chemical additives. The reason is that I use extensive fish farming methods. This means I have relatively few fish in the ponds and I never feed them so much that they grow too fast. I buy my restocking fish (small fish that are ready for life in the sea) from organic freshwater fish farms who, like myself, produce in accordance with the organic rules".
Lars Birger Nielsen, owner of the fish farm, Bisserup Dambrug, which was the first in Denmark to convert to organic operation in 2010.

MORE INFORMATION

If you want to find out more about organic farming of fish and shellfish in Denmark, or if you have information about producers and suppliers, please feel free to contact

Senior Consultant Villy J. Larsen • Danish Aquaculture
Email: villy@danskakvakultur.dk • Mobile: (+45) 4088 5866

You can also find more information on the website www.okofisk.dk. The language on the website is Danish – consider using translate.google.com or another translation service.

This folder is published by Danish Aquaculture with the support of The Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and the EU. Editing and project management: Senior Consultant Villy J. Larsen. The Danish Aquaculture Centre, 1000 Copenhagen N, Denmark. Tel: +45 4088 5866. Email: villy@danskakvakultur.dk. Web: www.okofisk.dk. Photo: Peter Steinhilber. www.petersteinhaber.dk. Layout: Villy J. Larsen. Layout: Peter Steinhilber. www.petersteinhaber.dk. This edition closed for contributions in November 2016.

DANISH ORGANIC FISH FARMING

From fish farms
and marine farms
for nature
for the fish
for you



Vi investerer i hav og fisk

Link til Den Europæiske Hav- og fiskerifond: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index_da.htm



Wild fish must always be able to swim unhindered past fish farms that are built on natural waterways.

FISH FROM CLEAN DANISH WATER

Denmark is surrounded by a clean sea, while strict environmental requirements make sure that the country's watercourses and lakes are good habitats for plants and animals. Nature protection and environmental restrictions are particularly high in locations where fish farming takes place in accordance with the common European rules for organic fish farming and marine farming.

The organic rules state that:

- Wild fish must always be able to swim unhindered past fish farms that are built on natural waterways.
- The water that comes out of the fish farm should always contain so few nutrients and so much oxygen (at least 60 percent) that the wild nature in the stream or brook is not affected.
- Biocides to fight algae on nets and service boats must not be used in fish farms.
- The environment around the fish farm or marine farm must comply fully with the requirements of the authorities.
- Predators, such as herons and other fish-eating birds, must be kept away by fences or other peaceful means.
- Only a few specially approved organic products may be used for e.g. cleaning the water, nets and equipment.

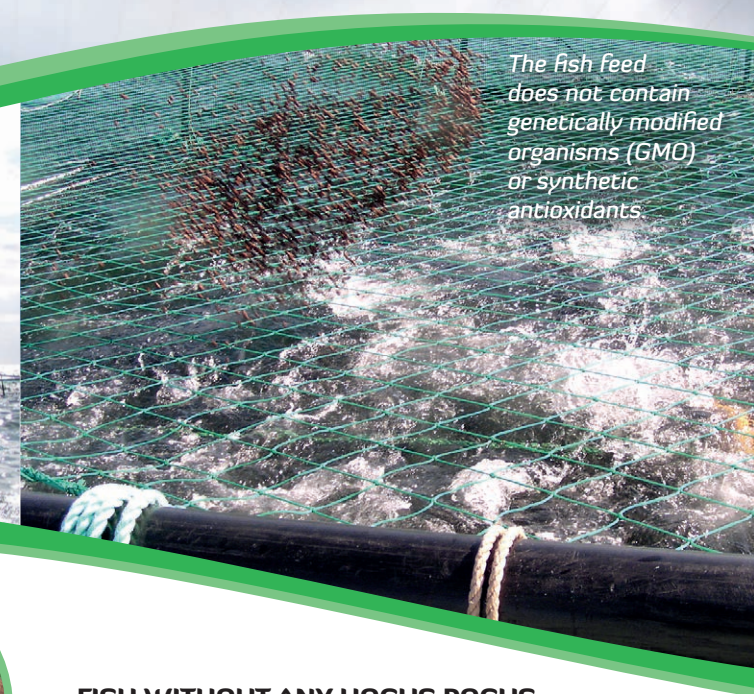


Special rules for careful handling of the organically farmed fish helps to reduce their stress levels.

NO TO STRESS

Healthy animals are animals without stress, and healthy animals provide the best basis for the food we eat. One of the purposes of the organic rules is therefore to prevent the fish becoming stressed. This means that:

- Organic fish must live in conditions similar to those in nature with flowing water. The water in fish farms must contain at least 60 percent oxygen.
- The fish must have access to sufficient quantities of feed with natural ingredients.
- Clear limits on the amount of fish per cubic metre of water ensures that they can move around in a natural way and that they do not harm each other.
- Predators such as otters and herons must be kept out of the fish farm. If an otter or heron gets access to the fish, this would not only harm the fish caught by the otter or heron, but would also severely stress the other fish.
- Special rules for careful handling of the organically farmed fish helps to reduce their stress levels.



The fish feed does not contain genetically modified organisms (GMO) or synthetic antioxidants.

FISH WITHOUT ANY HOCUS POCUS

When you eat organic fish, you can be sure that:

- The fish feed is made from organically grown crops and from fishmeal and oil from sustainable stocks of wild fish.
- The fish feed does not contain genetically modified organisms (GMO) or synthetic antioxidants.
- It is very rare for organic fish to need veterinary drugs. But if they are given veterinary drugs, they must be allowed twice as long as other farmed fish before they can be caught and slaughtered. This gives you extra assurance that you are not also getting any veterinary drug residues when you eat a delicious organic fish.
- The only colorant permitted in the feed is the natural Astaxanthin, which comes from e.g. shrimp or algae. In the fish processing only additives that are included in the list of permitted substances in organic production may be used.

