



## Fishing boxes made of EPS - expanded polystyrene

### - ensures food quality

Fish boxes made of EPS - expanded polystyrene - consist of 98% air and only 2% polystyrene. The packaging is selected on the basis of a number of professional criteria, the most important of which is that the EPS fish boxes ensure that the cooling chain is maintained, and thereby guarantee a high food quality when the fresh fish reach the customer.

It is absolutely central to the Danish fishing industry that there can be no doubt about the quality of the fish boxes used. Therefore, on the part of the Danish Seafood Association, together with the Danish EPS industry (EPS-branchen), we want to ensure that the choice of EPS as packaging for fish is made on an informed basis.

The overriding reason for the choice of EPS, consisting of 98% air, is that it has unique insulating properties. It therefore provides a temperature-controlled packaging that can ensure an unbroken cooling chain.

In addition, EPS has the following properties, which make it ideal for packaging fish:

- With 98% air, the material is light. A fish box of EPS weighs approx. 2.8% of the weight of the fish transported. Alternative solutions typically weigh 3-5 times as much as EPS. It reduces the energy needs associated with transportation and reduces CO2 emissions.
- EPS has a high compressive strength and is moisture-repellent. Thus, the risk of stacks of fish boxes tipping over or collapsing is minimized.
- EPS is approved for direct food contact and does not nourish mold and mildew. This minimizes the risk of damage to the transported fish.

There are many strong professional arguments for using EPS as packaging in the fishing industry.

### - are 100% recyclable.

At the same time, fish boxes made of EPS are 100% recyclable. EPS is a so-called monomaterial. This means that the material consists of only one type of material that must be recycled, namely polystyrene. If a plastic liner has been used during transport, it can easily be completely separated from the EPS packaging. Alternatives to EPS will typically consist of several material types if they are to provide even close to the same performance as EPS when maintenance of food quality is imperative.. The more material types in the packaging, the more complex the recycling options.

EPS Fish boxes simply need to be compressed and then the used fish boxes become a valuable and much sought-after resource. If you do not already recycle EPS from your fish boxes, you can contact Chresten Heide-Anderson, Project Manager of the Danish EPS Industry (EPS-branchen) via email: [cha@eps-airpop.dk](mailto:cha@eps-airpop.dk), and he can guide you on to a nearby partner who can help with the proper handling of your used EPS fish boxes and ensure that they are recycled. The Danish EPS Industry also has EPS-recycling contacts worldwide and will therefore be able to guide you towards a EPS-recycling partner wherever there is a need.

When EPS is recycled, it also reduces CO2-emissions. When EPS is recycled back to new EPS, CO2 emissions are reduced by up to 70% compared to virgin raw materials.