

# ADVANCING SEAFOOD TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE EU

Importance of robust data collection & management schemes in the fight against illegal, unreported & unregulated (IUU) fishing

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# The Control Regulation revision

- Ongoing revision process of the EU Fisheries Control Regulation (EC 1224/2009)
- Impact on the traceability of seafood
- Opportunity to fix gaps in the current system
- EU contribution to SDG 14.4 – in 2020



© OCEANA / LX Boxes with frozen bait from Japan. Harbour of Las Palmas, Canary islands, Spain. January 2008.

# Global fish import control schemes

- Evaluation best practices across market states and RFMOs
- Identify significant scope to improve seafood traceability in the EU and globally
- Risk that non-harmonised trade instruments won't prevent IUU fish from entering markets

**A comparative study of key data elements in import control schemes aimed at tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the top three seafood markets:**

**the European Union, the United States and Japan**

January 2020





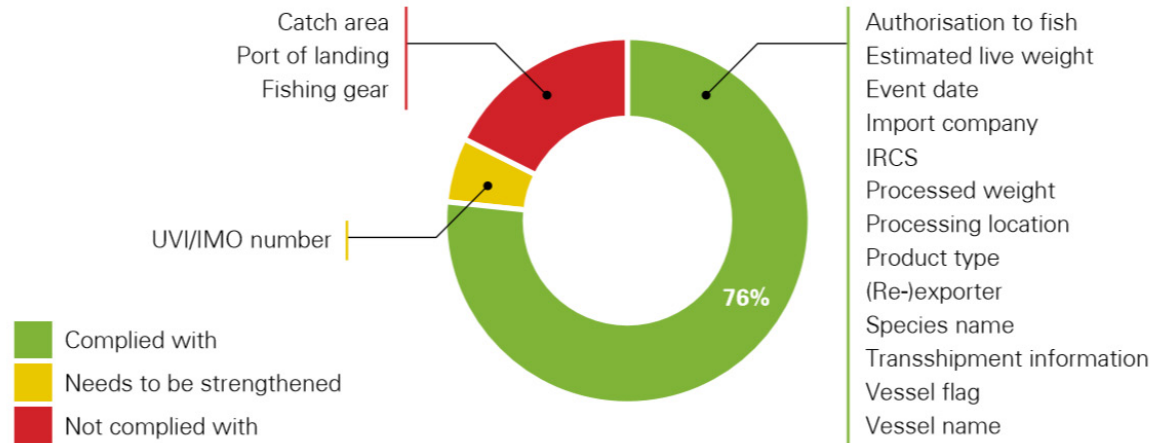
# Evaluation of market import controls

- Successfully tracing seafood products throughout the entire supply chain – who, what, where, when and how
- Three major markets: EU, USA & Japan (relying on RFMO CDS requirements)
- Approximately 64% of the total value of global fish imports
- Best Practice = 17 KDEs

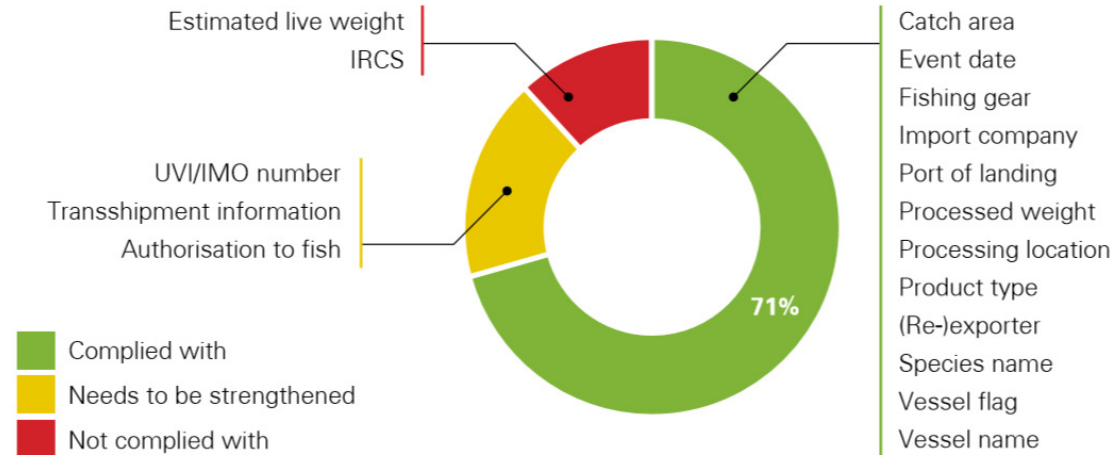


# Comparison between EU / US import requirements

EU



US



- EU is missing critical data on catch area, fishing gear & port of landing

# Comparison of different import control schemes

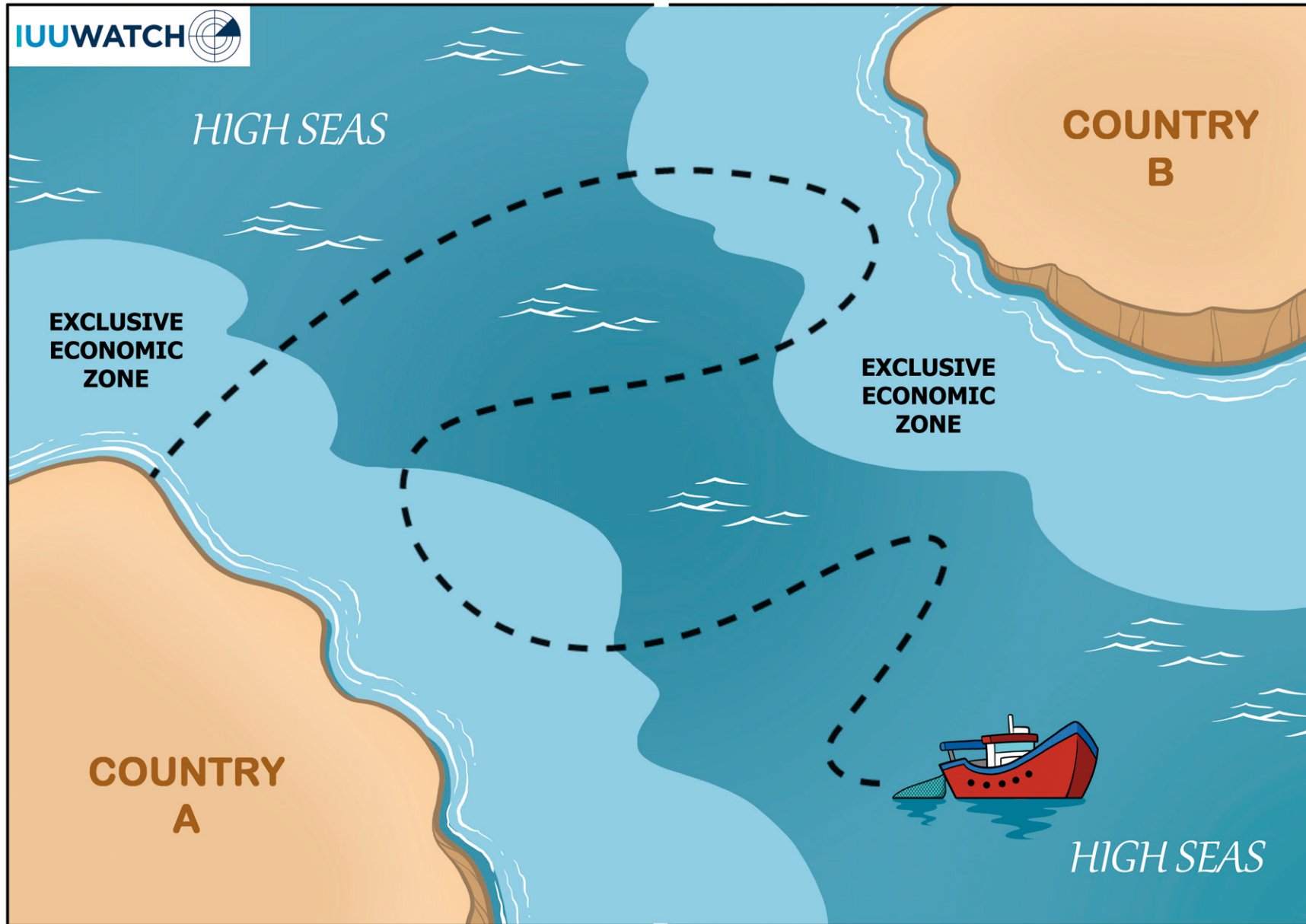
	Key data element (KDE)	European Union	United States	RFMO & CCAMLR Catch Documentation Schemes				Additional Information
				ICCAT	CCSBT	CCAMLR	IOTC* (Statistical Document)	
WHO	Vessel name	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
	Unique vessel identifier (IMO number)	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	EU: IMO number is required "if issued" by the flag State. US: requests a UVI when available. CCAMLR: the option to provide an IMO number is provided, but not mandatory.
	Vessel flag	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
	International Radio Call Sign (IRCS)	Green	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	
	Information on exporter / re-exporter	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	ICCAT: only requests company name.
	Identity of import company	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
WHERE	Product type	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	
	Species name – ASFIS 3-Alpha Code	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
	Estimated live weight (kg)	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	ICCAT: "weight" is requested without specification. CCSBT: requests the net weight. IOTC requests the net weight.
	Catch area (better defined with a clear distinction between the EEZ and the high seas)	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green	Red	CCSBT, ICCAT and IOTC: require the name of their own catch areas, which does not always distinguish between the EEZ and the high seas.
	Authorisation to fish	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Green	Red	US: required if available.
	Port of landing	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green	Red	
	Processing location	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	
HOW	Fishing gear type or catching method	Red	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	

# Market state alignment is essential

Statement by DG Mesak Pakdeekong, Department of Fisheries, The Royal Thai Government:

“Thailand believes that the ultimate goal for all nations should be to secure an ethical, legal, and sustainable global seafood industry. This goal can only be accomplished with strong commitments and international cooperation to promote greater transparency and traceability, including through aligned CDS.”

# Vital missing information: Catch area





# Fishing gear & catching method are essential information requirements



Photo: Thanh Nguyen Quang | TNC

# Summary & Recommendations

- **Import control schemes are essential** to improve traceability to **prevent IUU seafood from entering markets**
- Challenges remain in both global and European seafood traceability
- **Global alignment** of KDEs between major markets is an effective way to ensure seafood traceability and prevent IUU fish entering the market
- **Control Regulation will be instrumental to ensure seafood traceability in Europe** and best-practice for other markets, but needs strengthening
- **European Parliament** have a **vital role to improve the proposal on Control Regulation** revision and **deliver SDG 14.4**



# THANK YOU

For more information:

[www.iuuwatch.eu](http://www.iuuwatch.eu)