



 ONE MONTH LATER



Increasing the traceability and legality of imported seafood by only allowing imports from vessels with an IMO number

The EU's system of fisheries control is currently being revised. During the revision process, changes will be made to the form which accompanies imported seafood arriving at EU borders – the catch certificate. To allow for better traceability and an improved ability to detect illegally caught seafood, it is important that the information required on the catch certificate be expanded to contain certain essential information.

Requiring that an International Maritime Organization (IMO) number or other unique vessel identification (if an IMO number is not applicable) is recorded on catch certificates will enable accurate and efficient tracing of imported seafood back to the vessel it was caught by.

This is important because it can be difficult to trace a seafood shipment back to a vessel if it has changed its name or flag – a tactic often used by those that engage in illegal fishing. An IMO number stays with a vessel throughout its lifetime, regardless of changes in name, flag or ownership. Having an IMO number is mandatory for EU vessels over 15 metres that fish outside EU waters. This requirement should be expanded to all eligible vessels (EU and non-EU flagged over 12 metres). This would help create a level playing field for all operators accessing the EU market. In addition, it would guarantee IMO alignment and compliance with Regional Fisheries Management Organisation measures that require IMO numbers for vessels fishing within the areas they govern.

For more news, updates and documents supporting the EU to end IUU fishing, visit www.iuuwatch.eu

