



CATCH

The EU-wide database for seafood import catch documentation

**Webinar ClientEarth/IUU Coalition
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***DG MARE Unit B4 (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries Policy)
European Commission***



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INTRODUCTION

Fighting IUU fishing

- *IUU fishing is a **major global problem***
- *One of the **main threats to the sustainability of oceans***
- *Depletes fish stocks, destroys marine habitats, and puts honest fishermen in an unfair disadvantage position.*
- *Combatting IUU fishing worldwide must therefore be **a priority, now more than ever.***
- *SDG 14, European Green Deal, International Ocean Governance Communication*

Fighting IUU fishing – the role of the EU

zero tolerance towards IUU fishing

- *The EU is the largest importer of fishery products*
- *Key role as a market state in the fight against IUU fishing*
- *Fishery products enter international trade flows more than other commodities*
- *Impacts on developing countries*

Fighting IUU fishing – the role of the EU

EU IUU REGULATION

- *Does not introduce any new conservation and management measures*
 - Applies international rules: UNCLOS; UNFSA; FAO PSMA; FAO IPOA IUU; RFMOs
 - Aims at improving management and control of flag States over their vessels in line with international law

Transparent and non-discriminatory instrument

EU IUU POLICY

- ***EU IUU international cooperation***
 - Dialogues under IUU regulation: TH, VN, KH, PH
 - IUU Working Groups
 - Joint Statements on IUU fishing
 - Ocean Partnership
 - Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements
- ***Interaction with other stakeholders***
 - Exchange of information
 - Transparency
 - Investigations
- ***Concrete Results***
 - Upgrade/modernisation fisheries control and management system
 - Adherence to international instruments (ex. Port State Measures Agreement)
 - Scaling up the fight against IUU amongst national priorities
 - More info/tools available for governments and stakeholders



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IT CATCH

CATCH CERTIFICATION SCHEME

- *Tool to fight IUU fishing: certify the legality of the fish*
- *Required for all consignments of fishery products destined to EU market*
- *Based on traceability principles of marine fishery products traded with the EU*
- *Seeks that countries act responsibly and ensure compliance with their own conservation and management rules as well as with internationally agreed rules.*
- *BUT, it is a paper-based system:*
 - **potential risk of fraud**
 - **burdensome verifications for Member States' authorities**
 - **Risk of uneven level of implementation in Member States**

IT CATCH

➤ *Current Commission's project: move from paper-based system to an IT system (**CATCH**):*

- *One **single EU-wide** system*
- *To facilitate and support **harmonised** checks and verifications at EU borders*
- *To facilitate **cooperation among competent authorities**: better communication and sharing of information*
- *To avoid **abusive use of Catch certificates**: EU-wide **quantity management** in order to avoid overshooting of declared quantities*
- *To support **risk analysis***
- *To create a **level playing field for all operators***
- *To reduce **administrative burden** for Member States and other stakeholders*

CATCH – for who and when?

- *CATCH - developed to be used all through the supply chain to the end market i.e. EU (it does not intervene on the EU internal market itself)*
- *Launched in 2019: available to **EU IUU authorities and EU stakeholders on a voluntary basis***
- *Legal basis for **compulsory use** of CATCH by EU authorities and EU operators and customs single window integration: adoption foreseen in 2021, entry into force depending on outcome of the ordinary legislative procedure*

USE OF CATCH	Before the entry into force of the legal basis	After the entry into force of the legal basis
EU Member States (authorities)	Voluntary use	Mandatory use
EU importers/ stakeholders	Voluntary use	Mandatory use
Third countries authorities	Voluntary use	Voluntary use
Third countries stakeholders/ exporters	Voluntary use	Voluntary use

The more it will be used by third countries, the less burdensome it will be for all.

The more reliable information will be.



**Thank you for your
attention !**