

Ares(2022) 1499976 – 01.03.2022

**QUESTIONNAIRE to be used for biennial reporting
on the application of the IUU Regulation**

Reporting period 2020-2021 (deadline for submission 30 April 2022)

Member State:	België
Organisation:	Dienst Visserij- Departement Landbouw en Visserij- Vlaamse Overheid
Date:	13/05/2022
Name, position and contact details of responsible official:	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 300px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> @lv.vlaanderen.be

May the Commission provide a copy of this questionnaire to other Member States and the European Fisheries Control Agency?	
Yes:	Yes
Yes except for questions (list):	
No:	

<p>Please check if your notified authorities under the IUU Regulation (Articles 15.2, 17.8 and 21.3) correspond with the latest version of the Official Journal:</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0215(01)</p> <p>If not, please provide the updated notification to DG MARE through the Functional mailbox: MARE-NOTIFICATIONS-IUU-1005-2008@ec.europa.eu</p>

Please state your notified authorities under the IUU Regulation in accordance with Article 39.4 (nationals):

Vlaamse Overheid; Dienst Zeevisserij

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Section 1. Information on legal framework¹
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Please transmit your national law and/or any administrative guides for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation). If available, please provide the link to the official national database.

Section 2. Information on administrative organisation²
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2.1. Please provide information on your administrative organisation for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation), in particular as regards:

- port inspections (Chapter II);
- catch certification scheme (Chapter III).

If different authorities/services are involved in the implementation of the IUU Regulation, please distinguish between:

- *the control of direct landings of third country fishing vessels;*
- *validation of catch certificates upon exports;*
- *checks and verifications of catch certificates for imports under direct landing;*
- *checks and verifications of catch certificates for imports arriving by other means than fishing vessels (e.g. by containers, trucks);*
- *validation and verifications of re-exports.*

In addition (if different authorities/services are involved), please explain and describe:

- a) *vertical co-operation (between local/regional authorities and head-quarter);*
- b) *co-operation between different authorities and allocation of tasks for various authorities in the implementation of the IUU Regulation (Fisheries, Health, Customs, Coast Guard, Navy, etc.).*

The Belgian IUU authorities; the Belgian competent authority Departement Landbouw en Visserij, Dienst Zeevisserij has a collaboration by official protocol in place with the Belgian customs authority FOD Financiën AADA to combat IUU fisheries in accordance with the provisions in chapter III of IUU Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008.

- ***The competent authority (Departement Landbouw en Visserij)***
 - the control of direct landings of third country fishing vessels;*
 - *validation of catch certificates upon exports;*
 - *checks and verifications of catch certificates for imports under direct landing;*
 - *checks and verifications of catch certificates for imports arriving by other means than fishing vessels (e.g. by containers, trucks);*
 - *validation and verifications of re-exports*
- ***The customs authority***
 - checks and verifications of catch certificates for imports arriving by other means than fishing vessels (e.g. by containers, trucks)*
 - ***Documentary, Scan, physical, Risk Management, Risk Analysis***

¹ This section 1 is to be filled-in by all Member States i.e. coastal and landlocked Member State.

² This section 2 is to be filled-in by all Member States i.e. coastal and landlocked Member State.

2.2. How many officials are involved in the implementation of the catch certification scheme?

Please specify the number of officials expressed in Full Time Equivalent (FTE):

- *for checks and verifications in accordance with Articles 16 and 17;*

For checks and verifications is not only the department of Agriculture and Fisheries involved but also the Custom Agency and for physical Checks it's always a collaboration between the Custom Agency and the FASFC. Within the department of Agriculture and Fisheries there are 6 colleagues involved with checks and verifications in an agreed upon schedule with lead to 1.2 FTE. For Custom Agency and FASFC we don't have exact numbers.

- *for validation of catch certificates and re-export certificates in accordance with Articles 15.2 and 21.3.*

For validations is only the department of Agriculture and Fisheries involved. Within the department of Agriculture and Fisheries there are 6 colleagues involved with validations in an agreed upon schedule with lead to 1.2 FTE.....

2.3. Does your country have freezones/freeports³ in which activities relevant to importation/exportation/processing of fishery products are authorised?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please provide a list of such zones/ports.

Section 3. Information on access to ports, including for direct landings and transshipments of fishery products, by third country fishing vessels⁴ (and information on related port inspections and confirmed infringements)⁵

3.1. Does your country have designated ports for access to port services or direct landings or transshipment of fishery products by third country fishing vessels (Article 5 of the IUU Regulation⁶)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please check if your list of designated ports in accordance with Article 5.3 corresponds to the latest version of the Office Journal:

[EUR-Lex - 52021XC1201\(03\) - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/lexuri/ui.do?uri=CELEX:52021XC1201(03):EN:EUR-Lex)

If not, please provide the updated notification to DG MARE through the Functional mailbox: MARE-NOTIFICATIONS-IUU-1005-2008@ec.europa.eu

³ https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/customs-procedures/what-is-importation/free-zones_en

⁴ Fishing vessels as defined in article 2.5 of the IUU Regulation.

⁵ This section 3 refers to Chapter II (Articles 4 to 11) of the IUU Regulation and is applicable to coastal Member States. Landlocked Member States should not fill in this section.

⁶ Please note that ports designated under Regional Fisheries Management Organisations must also be designated under the IUU Regulation with restrictions if necessary (species, etc.).

3.2. In years 2020 and 2021 respectively, how many times have third country fishing vessels been granted authorisation to access designated ports in your country only for repair/maintenance/supply?⁷

1 (reason for entry was repair/maintenance, no landing has occurred)

3.3. How many landings and transshipments in designated ports by third country fishing vessels have been recorded by your country between 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021? How many inspections did your country carry out and how many infringements have been detected?

Please fill-in the table below (2020):

Inspections of third country vessels in Member States ports (2020)								
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2020)	Flag of the third country vessel(s) ⁸					
			Ex. NO					Total
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	100					0
		Number of inspections	10					0
		% of inspections / landings	10%					0
		Number of infringements	3					0
Transshipments	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transshipments in ports	2					0
		Number of inspections	0					0
		% of inspections / transshipments	0					0
		Number of infringements	0					0

⁷ It is reminded that provisions of Chapter II apply to third country fishing vessels aiming to access EU ports for port services, even in cases they do not carry fishery products on board and therefore no landing or transshipment operation is foreseen. Only designated ports in accordance with Article 5 can be used in this context.

⁸ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Please fill-in the table below (2021):

Inspections of third country vessels in Member States ports (2021)								
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2021)	Flag of the third country vessel(s) ⁹					
			Ex. NO					Total
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	100					0
		Number of inspections	10					0
		% of inspections / landings	10%					0
		Number of infringements	3					0
Transshipments	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transshipments in ports	2					0
		Number of inspections	2					0
		% of inspections / transshipments	100%					0
		Number of infringements	0					0

3.4. From the figures above, in the cases where your country detected infringements concerning third country vessels, please specify for each infringement the flag, the vessel's name, the type of infringement and the measures taken / sanction imposed (Article 11 of the IUU Regulation).

Please fill-in the table below (2020):

Flag of the third country vessel ¹⁰	Name of the third country fishing vessel	Type of infringements	Measures taken
FS1			
FS2			
...			
FSx			

Please fill-in the table below (2021):

Flag of the third country vessel ¹¹	Name of the third country fishing vessel	Type of infringements	Measures taken
FS1			

⁹ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹⁰ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹¹ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

FS2			
...			
FSx			

3.5. Please provide:

- the quantities of fish landed by third countries' fishing vessels in your designated ports in 2020 and 2021, respectively (by species and flag of the vessels);
- the quantities of fish transhipped from third countries' fishing donor vessels (to third countries or EU fishing receiving vessels) in your designated ports in 2020 and 2021, respectively (by species and flag of the vessels):

Please fill-in the table below (landings):

Landings in 2020		Landings in 2021	
Flag of the third country vessel ¹²	Landed quantities by species	Flag of the third country vessel ¹³	Landed quantities by species
FS1	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:	FS1	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:
FS2	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:	FS2	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:
...
FSx	...	FSx	...

Please fill-in the table below (transhipments):

Transhipments in 2020		Transhipments in 2021	
Flag of the third country vessel ¹⁴	Transhipped quantities by species	Flag of the third country vessel ¹⁵	Transhipped quantities by species
FS1	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:	FS1	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:

¹² ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹³ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹⁴ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹⁵ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

FS2	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:	FS2	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:
...
FSx	...	FSx	...

3.6. Has your country recorded any case of non-compliance by third country fishing vessels with the provisions of Articles 6 (prior notice) and 7 (authorisation) of the IUU Regulation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please detail the nature of the infringement and the measures taken / sanctions applied:

In 2020:

In 2021:

3.7. Since January 2020, has your country denied access to its ports to a fishing vessel for port services, landing or transhipment of fishery products based on the conditions of the IUU Regulation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please describe the case for each vessel concerned (please include the flag of the vessel and its name) and detail the reasons for the denial:

In 2020:

In 2021:

3.8. Do you have cases of third country fishing vessels landing in your ports with the landed products destined to another Member State? [Article 19.3 of the IUU Regulation]

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please indicate the number of landings meant for transit:

In 2020:

In 2021:

3.9. In order to identify the vessels to be subject to port inspection, do you use risk assessment criteria [cf. benchmarks for port inspections, Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No1010/2009]?

☐ Yes ☐ No

☒ *Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of landings/transhipments from third countries)*

If yes, please detail, in order to reach the objective of 5% of landing and transhipment operations as set in Article 9.1 of the IUU Regulation, which benchmarks you use and rank them:

.....

Section 4. Information on catch certification scheme for <u>importation</u> for the purpose of the IUU Regulation¹⁶

4.1. How many catch certificates¹⁷ from non-EU countries were submitted to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021? Please complete the following table by flag State validating the catch certificates, including in cases catch certificates are accompanied by processing statements.¹⁸ Please only provide information on catch certificates accompanying the consignments to be imported in your country; for consignments meant for transit to another Member State (Article 19.1 of the IUU Regulation), please see the question 4.7. of this questionnaire.

¹⁶ Section to be filled-in by all Member States.

¹⁷ Please provide only the number of catch certificates i.e. not the number of all transactions (imports/declarations) where the same certificates have been (re)used.

¹⁸ If catch certificates are submitted only for transshipment purposes, please specify.

Flag State (non-EU)¹⁹	2020	2021
Argentinië	49	42
Australië	0	7
Bahamas	25	23
Bangladesh	0	0
Belize	0	0
Brazilië	0	0
Canada	100	175
Chili	129	127
China	386	381
Colombia	0	0
Costa Rica	0	0
Cuba	1	1
Curaçao	0	0
Ecuador	75	71
Egypte	1	0
El Salvador	0	0
Filippijnen	51	58
Frans-Polynesië	0	14
Frankrijk	71	10
Gambia	0	1
Ghana	18	18
Guyana	12	3
IJsland	0	0
India	440	554
Indonesië	164	163
Ivoorkust	2	17
Kenia	0	0
Korea	32	25
Madagascar	16	19
Malediven	0	0
Maleisië	0	0
Marokko	108	66
Mauritanië	2	2
Mauritius	31	11
Mexico	26	9
Myanmar	6	15
Namibië	25	23

Nederland	0	0
Nicaragua	0	0
Nieuw-Zeeland	7	21
Nigeria	21	19
Noorwegen	0	0
Oman	4	2
Pakistan	47	36
Panama	5	3
Papoea-Nieuw-Guinea	2	5
Peru	23	19
Rusland	30	11
Senegal	166	125
Seychellen	1	0
Solomon Eilanden	0	0
Spanje	0	0
Sri Lanka	6	9
Suriname	33	61
Tahiti	1	0
Taiwan	8	0
Tanzania	0	3
Thailand	15	22
Turkije	1	0
Uruguay	6	5
USA	88	70
Venezuela	0	0
VAE	0	0
Verenigd Koninkrijk	0	57
Vietnam	182	149
Yemen	119	141
Zuid-Afrika	0	5
Totals	2535	2598

4.2. From the number above, how many recognised RFMO catch certificates (Annex V to Commission Regulation 1010/2009) accompanied consignments destined to your country? *Please detail per RFMO certificate and year.*

¹⁹ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

RFMO document	2020	2021
<i>ICCAT (electronic)-bluefin tuna catch document</i>	0	0
<i>Dissostichus spp. DCD (CCAMLR)</i>	0	2
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>	0	0
<i>XIPHIAS GLADIUS SD</i>	0	4
<i>THUNNUS OBESUS SD</i>	0	1
Total	0	7

4.3. How many catch certificates from EU Member States (including from your country) were presented to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021?

None

4.4. From the number above, how many recognised RFMO catch certificates from EU Member States accompanied imports into your country? *Please detail per RFMO certificate and year.*

RFMO document	2020	2021
<i>ICCAT (electronic)-bluefin tuna catch document</i>	0	0
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>	0	0
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>	0	0
Total	0	0

4.5. How many processing statements (Article 14.2) were submitted to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021? Please provide details per year and per processing country.

Processing non-EU State²⁰	2020	2021
Argentinië	0	1
Australië	0	0
Bahamas	0	0
Bangladesh	0	0
Belize	0	0
Brazilië	0	0
Canada	4	26
Chili	0	0
China	526	419
Colombia	0	0
Costa Rica	1	0
Cuba	0	0
Curaçao	0	0
Ecuador	40	33
Egypte	0	0
El Salvador	0	0
Filippijnen	0	9
Frans-Polynesië	0	0
Frankrijk	0	0
Gambia	0	0
Ghana	1	3
Guyana	0	0
IJsland	0	0
India	1	0
Indonesië	18	10
Ivoorkust	24	21
Kenia	0	0
Korea	0	0
Madagascar	23	0
Malediven	0	0
Maleisië	0	19
Marokko	0	0
Mauritanië	0	0
Mauritius	38	9
Mexico	0	0

Myanmar	0	0
Namibië	4	1
Nederland	0	0
Nicaragua	0	0
Nieuw- Zeeland	0	0
Nigeria	0	0
Noorwegen	0	0
Oman	0	0
Pakistan	1	1
Panama	0	1
Papoea- Nieuw- Guinea	6	17
Peru	2	2
Rusland	0	0
Senegal	0	0
Seychellen	6	1
Solomon Eilanden	0	0
Spanje	0	0
Sri Lanka	2	0
Suriname	0	0
Tahiti	0	0
Taiwan	0	1
Tanzania	0	0
Thailand	35	25
Turkije	1	0
Uruguay	0	0
USA	3	0
Venezuela	1	0
VAE	0	1
Verenigd Koninkrijk	0	2
Vietnam	56	40
Yemen	0	0
Zuid-Afrika	0	0
Totals	793	642

²⁰ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

4.6. Please indicate if you retain and record the information contained in processing statements referring to the corresponding catch certificates (quantity management):

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of processing statements received from non-EU countries in 2020-2021)

4.7. Do you have cases where third country fishery products arriving to your country (entry point) were destined to another Member State? [Article 19.1 of the IUU Regulation]

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please indicate the number consignments meant for transit:

In 2020:

In 2021:

4.8. Has your country received requests to authorise APEOs²¹ in 2020-2021?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, how many requests has your country received and how many APEOs have been authorised?

.....

4.9. Has your country adopted administrative rules referring to the management and control of APEOs in 2020-2021?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☒ Not applicable (e.g. absence of APEO request)

If yes, please detail:

.....

4.10. Has your country validated re-export certificates for products imported from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, how many re-export certificates? Please detail per year and, if possible, per destination country:

Destination country (non-EU) ²²	2020	2021
<i>United Kingdom</i>	0	51
Total	0	51

²¹ Approved Economic Operators – IUU Regulation, Article 16 and Implementing Regulation (EC) 1010/2009, Chapter II

²² ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

4.11. Does your country monitor if the catches for which your country has validated a re-export certificate actually leave the EU?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of validation of re-export certificates in 2020-2021)

If yes, please detail:

... Our Customs authority FOD AADA is in Belgium the authority that checks if the commodities are being transported and stored in accordance to the Union Customs Code. Our authority has a collaboration by agreed protocol, that when we have any information regarding non-compliance regarding the provisions as available in the IUU Council regulation No 1005/2008, that we contact our customs authority to verify if this in accordance with the information as received by the customs representative or the concerned exporter

4.12. Has your country established any IT tools to monitor the catch certificates and processing statements accompanying imports?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, does it include a module for re-exportation of imported catches?

☐ Yes

☒ No

4.13. Does your country implement the provisions regarding transit under Article 19.2 at the point of entry or the place of destination?

☒ At the point of entry

☐ At the place of destination

☐ Not implemented

Section 5. Information on catch certification scheme for exportation²³

5.1. Have you established a procedure for validation of catch certificates for exportation of catches from own vessels in accordance with Article 15?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of validation of catch certificates for exportation in 2020-2021)

If yes, please explain briefly the established procedure and answer questions 5.2 to 5.5.

...As we have scenarios of outward processing customs to Morocco and export to the UK, that has implemented his own national IUU legislation.....

5.2. Have you validated catch certificates for exportation in 2020-2021 in accordance with Article 15?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, how many catch certificates did you validate from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021? Please provide details per requesting third country/country of destination in the following table:

Destination State ^{24, 25}	Year	
	2020	2021
Morocco	230	148
UK	0	64
Total	230	212

5.3. Have you established any IT tool to monitor the catch certificates you have validated for fish caught by your own vessels?

☐ Yes

☒ No

5.4. Do you monitor that the catches for which you have validated catch certificates actually leave the EU?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of validation of catch certificates for exportation in 2020-2021)

5.5. Has your country refused the validation of a catch certificate between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of request for validation of catch certificates for exportation in 2020-2021)

²³ Section to be filled-in by flag Member States.

²⁴ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

²⁵ It is recommended that the validation of a catch certificate for exportation takes place when the country of destination is known.

If yes, please detail:

Number (per year):

Reason:

Follow-up:

Section 6. Information on checks and verifications of catch certificates and related documents according to Articles 16.1 and 17.1-5 of IUU Regulation²⁶
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6.1. Has your country established a procedure for checks of catch certificates in accordance with Article 16.1?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please detail:

Our authority completes documentary checks on the catch certificates and when applicable in the annex IV certificate in accordance with the provisions as available in article 16 and with focus on the third country (list overview of IUU procedures), the species and more specific on the details of the CN code and the amounts available by crosschecking multiple documents. We systematically ask importers to submit the B/L and the HC in order to allow us to do crosschecks on the quantities reported. Basically the number of checks correspond to the figures in section 4. When after our inspector has completed his checks without any doubts of any non-compliance he sign the CC or the annex IV. When there is a suspected infringement a more thorough verification will be initiated by the concerned inspector, by using all applicable tools as CIRCABC, MAR between MS, IUU Vessel list, MAR to the validating authority, Positive vessel list RFMO Websites, EFCA IMS/Vesselfinder, list of validating authorities, ...

All this occurs within the provisions as available in articles 16, 17 and 18 of the IUU Council regulation No 1005/2008, with focus on the determination of risks by checking the commercial value of the species, focussing on new trade patterns and new importers or customs representatives, information received by other MS concerning refusals and inconsistencies in the information as available in the different documents.

In-depth verifications is done by our authority and also by our customs authority that completes documentary checks and verifications, and also physical inspections when this is necessary after risk analyses by their own risk management or in the case our authority requests for such on additional inspection.

6.2. Do you check all catch certificates in light of the information provided in the notifications received from the flag States in accordance with Article 20 (i.e. if all required data are provided in a catch certificate and if these data correspond to the notification from the flag State in question)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If no, please provide the following:

- risks identified in 2020 and 2021 on the basis of risk management used (i.e. for risk-based targeting of catch certificates to be checked); and
- number of catch certificates checked, respectively:

Please fill-in the table below:

	2020	2021

²⁶ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

Flag State (EU or non-EU) ²⁷	Overall number of catch certificates received	Number of catch certificates <u>checked</u>	Overall number of catch certificates received	Number of catch certificates <u>checked</u>
<i>Country 1</i>				
<i>Country 2</i>				
...				
<i>Country x</i>				
Total				

What do you check in catch certificates in accordance with Article 16.1? Please describe:

6.3. Has your country established a procedure for verification of catch certificates for importation in accordance with Article 17.2?

☒ *Yes* ☐ *No*

If yes, please detail: When there is a suspected infringement or suspected non-compliance, a new trade pattern, at random, information through other MS, list of overview of IUU procedures concerning third countries, a more thorough verification will be initiated by the concerned inspector, all information in the boxes regarding the validating authority, exporter, master of the F/V and the importer will be verified. During this our inspectors use all applicable tools such as CIRCABC, list of validating authorities, IUU vessel list, TARBEL (TARIC), RFMO positive list (tuna), MAR between MS, MAR to the validating authority, EFCA IMS/Vesselfinder, RFMO websites, ...

All this occurs within the provisions as available in articles 16, 17 and 18 of the IUU Council regulation No 1005/2008, with focus on the determination of risks by checking the commercial value of the species, focussing on new trade patterns and new importers of customs representatives, information received by other MS concerning refusals and inconsistencies in the information as available in the different documents.

In-depth verifications are done by our authority and also by our customs authority that completes documentary checks and verifications, and also physical inspections when this is necessary after risk analyses by their own risk management or in the case our authority requests for such an additional inspection.

6.4. Do you verify all catch certificates linked to consignments of fishery products intended for importation into the EU or do you verify only part of the catch certificates by applying (or not) risk management?

☐ *All* ☒ *Only part by applying risk management*
☐ *Only part without applying risk management* ☐ *No verifications*

6.5. If you apply risk management to verifications (Article 17.3), do you use Union (Article 31 of Commission Regulation (EC) 1010/2009) or national criteria for identification of risks on which verifications shall focus?

☒ *Union criteria* ☐ *National criteria*

²⁷ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

If you apply Union criteria, please detail the methodology used (and which criteria are used always/regularly, often, occasionally, never):

..... Our inspectors are being trained to focus on the determination of risks by checking the status (listed, delisted, yellow card, ...) of the third country (often), the commercial value of the species when they believe this is necessary (occasionally), focussing on new trade patterns (often) and new importers or customs representatives (often), information received by other MS concerning refusals (regularly) and inconsistencies (often) in the information as available in the different documents.....

If you apply national criteria, please detail them and the methodology used:

.....

6.6. Please provide information on the risks identified in 2020 and 2021 respectively (Article 32 of Commission Regulation (EC) 1010/2009) on the basis of the criteria used. Please also provide information on whether all consignments identified as risky have been covered by verifications. If this is not the case, please specify the percentage of consignments identified as risky that have been covered by verifications and the reasons of such situation.

We don't have the percentages available, we believe that 50% verification hasn't been reached as this is at the current moment impossible for our inspectorate. Our focus is in the high risks, but is also flexible as the determined high risks can change due to new information. These high risks are always in accordance with the identified risks as included in the IUU Council regulation No 1005/2008 and is in depended to the risk management from our customs authority, we believe that these two different approaches of the two different BE authorities create on additional effectiveness in our task to combat IUU fisheries. As we don't have the exact numbers, we can't complete 6.7

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6.7. How many catch certificates have been verified by your administration from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021? Please specify, separately for each year:

Flag State (EU or non-EU) ²⁸	2020		2021	
	Overall number of catch certificates received	Number of catch certificates <u>verified</u>	Overall number of catch certificates received	Number of catch certificates <u>verified</u>
<i>Country 1</i>				
<i>Country 2</i>				
...				
<i>Country x</i>				
Total				

Please reply to the following questions:

- How many catch certificates have you verified in the context of the application of Article 17.4?

²⁸ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

- How many catch certificates have you verified on the basis of risk identified in accordance with Article 17.3?
- How many catch certificates have been verified at random (Article 17.5)?

6.8. Does your country also physically verify the consignments?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please detail:

This is being completed by our customs authority and they work together with our health authority
Number (per year) and percentage in relation to all verifications made: ...Our authority doesn't have the exact numbers available as this is being completed by our customs authority.....

Method of selection:The method of selection from the customs authority is by an automated risk based analysis, I can't share this method as our customs authority believes this is classified information. An additional method of selection done by our Customs authority is based on the information as received by our authority.

Section 7. Assistance requests to third countries²⁹

7.1. Have you sent assistance requests for verifications under Article 17.6 of the IUU Regulation to other flag States' authorities in 2020-2021?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, how many assistance requests for verifications? *Note: please provide separate data for 2020 and 2021:*

Flag States ³⁰	No of assistance requests for verifications 2020	Justification	No of assistance requests for verifications 2021	Justification
<i>Seychelles</i>	1		United Kingdom	1
<i>Russia</i>	4			
Total	5			

7.2. How many assistance requests for verification were not replied to by the other flag States' authorities within the deadline provided in Article 17.6 of the IUU Regulation? In these cases, do you send a reminder to the authorities of the country in question? Could you please specify when the assistance request, despite reminder(s), remained unanswered? What measures have you taken in that case (i.e. denial of importation) [Please provide separate data for 2020 and 2021]

20201 from Russia, we have send multiple reminders. We have reported this to the EC. We didn't initiate a refusal for importation, as we weren't 100% sure if there was non-compliance from the exporter and importer as our information as shared the Russian authorities, didn't result as if the was a falsified CC.

²⁹ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

³⁰ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

20210.....

- 7.3. Was the quality of the answers provided overall sufficient to satisfy the assistance request? If no, please explain why the quality was not sufficient, and the measures you have taken in such case(s).

Yes

- 7.4. Have you sent assistance requests to other countries than the flag State? If yes, please specify the number, the reasons and the countries concerned, and the quality of the feedback provided.

Yes, to other MS and DGMARE.

2020 Netherlands (3)

2021 Netherlands (2) , France (1), DG MARE (1)

- 7.5. Have you been using IT systems developed by third countries allowing for a full or partial verification of catch certificates and how many verifications were made through these systems (approximately)?

Yes (5)

Section 8. Information on refusal of importations (Article 18 of the IUU Regulation)³¹

8.1. Has your country refused any imports from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021? *Note: please only consider refusals based on the IUU Regulation, not for other reasons e.g. Food Safety legislation, Customs legislation, etc.*

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, please provide details in the table below:

Reason for refusal of importation	2020		2021	
	Flag State ³²	No.	Flag State ³³	No.
Non-submission of a catch certificate for products to be imported.				
The products intended for importation are not the same as those mentioned in the catch certificate.				
The catch certificate is not validated by the notified public authority of the flag State				
The catch certificate does not indicate all the required information.				
The importer is not in a position to prove that the fishery products comply with the conditions of Article 14.1 or 2.				
A fishing vessel figuring on the catch certificate as vessel of origin of the catches is included in the EU IUU vessel list or in the IUU vessel lists referred to in Article 30.				
The catch certificate has been validated by the authorities of a flag State identified as a non-cooperating State in accordance with Article 31				
Further to the request for verification (Article 18.2)				

8.2. If the answer to 8.1 is yes, what measures were taken by your authorities in relation to the consignments refused (Article 18.3)?

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³¹ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

³² ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

³³ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

.....

8.3. In case of refusal of importation, did any operator contest the decision of the authorities of your country?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please detail:

Section 9. Information on trade flows³⁴

Please provide information, based on your statistical data, concerning any important change of trade patterns in imports of fishery products into your country since the last reporting period covering 2018-2019:

The most important change is due to the fact that the UK has left the EU. We have also determined other patterns for example processing of Russian catches in North Korea, etc.....

Section 10. Information on mutual assistance³⁵

10.1. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2018-2019, how many mutual assistance messages of the Commission (DG MARE B4) has your country replied to?³⁶

Please provide separate data for 2020 and 2021 (if any)

2020.....12.....

2021.....10.....

10.2. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2018-2019, has your country sent any mutual assistance message to the Commission/other Member States?

Please provide separate data for 2020 and 2021 (if any)

2020.....5.....

2021.....10.....

³⁴ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

³⁵ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

³⁶ Please provide the number of all replies, regardless of their content i.e. including replies which, for example, only confirmed that the request was not relevant for your country. Then please specify the number of cases where you took action and describe the actions taken.

Section 11. Information on cooperation with third countries³⁷

Apart from assistance requests in the context of verifications of catch certificates and accompanying documents foreseen under the catch certification scheme (Article 17.6), has your country had other exchanges with third countries on issues related to the implementation of the IUU Regulation, such as follow-up of cases concerning nationals, trade flows, operators, private fishing licencing, re-flagging operations, investigations of cases of IUU fishing (Article 42) and investigations of criminal activities associated to IUU fishing?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please detail (please provide separate data for 2020 and 2021, if any).

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Section 12. Information on nationals³⁸

For the reporting period in question, a separate call for information on nationals supporting/engaging in IUU fishing activities has been sent to the Single Liaison Offices of Member States and EFCA as part of a study on the implementation of Articles 39 and 40 of the IUU Regulation. As a result, this section of the biennial reports will be replaced for this reporting period by the more specialised call for data for the abovementioned study.

Member States are kindly asked to provide their input to the external consultant in charge of the study. The Commission will evaluate the responses of Member States and include them in its overall assessment of the biennial reports.

Section 13. Infractions (Chapter IX of the IUU Regulation) and Sightings (Chapter X of the IUU Regulation)³⁹

13.1. Has your country detected serious infringements as defined in Article 42 of the IUU Regulation from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please detail separately for each year the number of serious infringements, nature and sanctions applied:

Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁴⁰	Serious infringements detected in 2020:			Serious infringements detected in 2021:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
<i>Country 1</i>						
<i>Country 2</i>						

³⁷ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

³⁸ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

³⁹ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

⁴⁰ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁴⁰	Serious infringements detected in 2020:			Serious infringements detected in 2021:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
...						
<i>Country x</i>						
<i>Total</i>						

13.2. Has your country applied or adapted its levels of administrative sanctions in accordance with Article 44?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please detail: ...*By national legislation we implemented rules regarding serious infringements*

Have you used criminal sanctions? If yes, please specify if in addition to or in replacement of administrative sanctions:*No*

13.3. Has your country issued sighting reports from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, how many sighting reports were issued by your country from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021?

Flag State of the sighted vessel (EU and non-EU) ⁴¹	No of sighting reports issued in 2020	No of sighting reports issued in 2021
<i>Country 1</i>		
<i>Country 2</i>		
...		
<i>Country x</i>		
<i>Total</i>		

13.4. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2018-2019, has your country received any sighting reports for vessels flying its own flag from other competent authorities?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please detail follow-up (in accordance with Article 50 of the IUU Regulation).

⁴¹ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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Section 14. General

14.1. During the reporting period 2020-2021, what have been the main difficulties that your country has encountered in implementing the IUU Regulation, including the catch certification scheme?

.....During the reporting period no different or additional problems were encountered compared to previous reporting periods.

The format of the CC do not allow for a non-manipulation of the data, the same document can be introduced more than once and parts of the documents can be used separately. We are expecting great progress with the launching of an electronic catch registration system which will allow for a systematic follow-up of the quantities of fish products for which a certificate was issued.

We believe that the FAQ has increased the harmonization between member states, but we believe that are still some differences within the different member states regarding the implementation of the catch certification scheme.

Section 15. Any other comment
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..... Our IUU SLO tasks has increased since that the UK has left the EU.....

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