

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

<b>Member State:</b>	<b>The Republic of Croatia</b>
<b>Organisation:</b>	<b>Ministry of Agriculture Directorate of Fisheries (MADF) and the Ministry of Finance Customs Administration (MFCA)</b>
<b>Date:</b>	29 April 2016
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<b>May the Commission provide a copy of this questionnaire to other Member States?</b>	
<b>Yes:</b>	NO
<b>Yes except for questions (list):</b>	NO
<b>No:</b>	Yes

### Section 1: Legal framework

Since the last reporting exercise in 2014, has your country modified national law or any administrative guides for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation)?

This is the first IUU QUESTIONNAIRE since Croatian accession to European Union on 1 July 2013 to today.

However on the basis of Croatian Marine Fisheries Act (OJ 81/2013, 14/2014, 152/2014) legal measures concerning IUU fishing have been harmonized with those under the EU regulations in view of the Croatian accession to the EU. Legal measures concerning IUU fishing include operational fishing fleet register, VMS and fishery monitoring centre (FMC), catch certification scheme & their verification, management plans for specific fishing fleet segments, the control of incoming fisheries consignments and import of fish products (customs, vets, port authorities, fisheries inspectors etc.).

If yes, please detail and provide copies.

## **Section 2: Administrative Organisation**

2.1 How has your country organised its services to deal with the implementation of the IUU Regulation (verification of catch certificates, validation of catch certificates for own vessels, etc.)?

In the Republic of Croatia the Ministry of Agriculture Directorate of Fisheries (MADF) and the Ministry of Finance Customs Administration (MFCA) are jointly responsible for implementation of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation). Internal agreement (2013) defines responsibility on implementation of IUU Regulation 1005/2008 between the Ministry of Finance (Customs Administration) and Ministry of Agriculture (Directorate of Fisheries).

Ministry of Finance Customs Administration is responsible:

- to transmit to the Commission no later than 15 January of each year a list of designated ports;
- for the checks and verifications of the catch certificates in accordance with Article 16 and paragraphs (1) to (6);.
- for the validation and the verification of the section 're-export' of catch certificates in accordance with the procedure defined in Article 15;
- for coordinating the collection and verification of information on activities of nationals referred to in this Chapter and for reporting to and cooperating with the Commission.

Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fishery is responsible:

- for the validation of the catch certificates for own vessels;.
- is responsible body in communication with the Third Country in verification process.

a) internal co-operation (between local/regional Fisheries authorities and head-quarter); Directorate of Fisheries (Ministry of Agriculture) is the designated body entrusted with control and management measures related to all fishing activities. DoF organisational structure is adequate to cover many of the issues related to the regulation and administration of the fisheries sector. Inspection, surveillance and control of the fisheries sector in Republic of Croatia is undertaken by several different services. The most important one is the Fisheries Inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture, which is the only strictly dedicated service for inspection, surveillance and control in fisheries.

- b) co-operation with other authorities and allocation of tasks for various authorities in the implementation of the IUU Regulation (Health, Customs, Coast Guard, Navy, etc.);

MFCA & MADF have a good communication and cooperation between themselves on the daily base. Also good communication is with other authorities as Veterinary inspection, Port Authorities in the implementation of the IUU Regulation which have given support to MFCA in the phase checking CC and importing fisheries products.

Considering the geographical characteristics of Croatia there are many landing places. To facilitate the on-the-spot control and increase coverage of the inspection activities Croatia has hence adopted an electronic system for detection of the discrepancies between data and potential irregularities. On-the-spot inspections are planned and implemented based on risk analysis and potential number of infringements in relation to landed quantities and/or number of vessels operations in a certain port. As mentioned above, given the length of the coast and different types of activities in the field of fisheries other state administration bodies beside Fisheries Inspection is authorized to perform these tasks as well:

**Maritime police** - Ministry of the Interior Affairs

**Port Authority inspectors** - Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure

**Coast Guard** – Ministry of Defence

All these state administration bodies cooperate through the “Government Cooperation for surveillance and control at sea”.

- c) how many persons are involved in the implementation of the catch certificate?

For the checks and verifications of the catch certificates and Annex IV are responsible 12 officials. There are three Single Liaison Officers on the central level (2 SLO in MADF and 1 SLO in MFCA). In the Ministry of Finance Customs Administration there are 9 customs officers in 4 the Regional Customs Office (RCO) those are competent for the checks and verifications of the catch certificates and Annex IV regarding IUU Regulation. Every catch certificate and every Annex IV processing statement were checked by authorized customs officers regarding IUU Regulation.

If different, please distinguish between direct landings of 3<sup>rd</sup> country fishing vessels and other imports (processed products)

2.2 Do the authorities of your country have the possibility to audit/verify a company for the purposes laid down in the IUU Regulation? If yes, which audits/verifications have they undertaken since the last reporting exercise in 2014? Please detail.

Not applicable

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

Croatia does not issue any authorization for customs procedures (importation /exportation/ processing) of fishery products in free zones /free ports.

**Section 3: Direct landings of third country fishing vessels** (only applicable if designated ports)

*Please list your country's designated ports.*

Croatia has not yet notified to the Commission its list of designated ports or place of shore, where landings or transshipment operations of fishery products and port services referred to in Article 4(2) of IUU Regulation are permitted.

3.1 How many landings and transshipments of third country vessels have been recorded by your country between 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015?

Port name*	No. of landings	Comments	No. of transshipments	Comments
ZADAR–HRGNA( ICCAT)			1	BFT
<b>Total</b>		--		--

*\* If the port is designated also for an RFMO, please indicate which RFMO in brackets.*

3.2 Approximately, what percentage of the third country fishing vessel landings arrives in transit in your country?

Croatia didn't have any landings in transit from the third country fishing vessel.

3.3 Has your country had any problems with third country fishing vessels when implementing Articles 6 (prior notice) and 7 (authorisation) of the IUU Regulation?

Croatia didn't have any problems with third country fishing vessels when implementing Articles 6 (prior notice) and 7 (authorisation) of the IUU Regulation.

If yes, please detail:

- a) in which ports;
- b) the nature of problem;

c) vessel details (name, flag, master, etc.).

3.4 Since January 2014, has your country refused access to its port services to a fishing vessel for activities of landing or transshipment of fishery products? Was this refusal based on the conditions of the IUU Regulation?

Croatia didn't refuse access to its port services to a fishing vessel for activities of landing or transshipment of fishery products.

If yes, please detail:

- a) in which ports;
- b) the nature of problem;
- c) vessel details (name, flag, master, etc.).

3.5 Do third country fishing vessels accessing your country's ports use the templates for prior notifications and pre-landing/pre-transshipment provided by the Implementing Regulation 1010/2009 or those used in RFMOs? Please detail, when RFMO forms are used.

For monitoring purposes of landings, and within the scope of RFMOs recommendations and EU legislation, there are certain designated fishing ports, including for landings and transshipments by third country vessels in case of BFT.

Designated ports, period, type of Authorisation, Contact points for Foreign Fishing Vessels and Notification are included in templates for prior notifications of the competent authority when a third country fishing vessel accessing Croatian designated ports.

#### **Section 4: Port inspections in accordance with Section 2 of the IUU Regulation**

Croatia has not yet notified to the Commission its list of designated ports regarding IUU Regulation 1005/2008, but in case of BFT landing and transshipment Croatia notified to the Commission its list of designated ports.

4.1 Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015, how many fishing vessels of third countries had access to the designated ports for landing or transshipment of fishery products?

Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015 one fishing vessel of third country in case of BFT had access to the designated Croatian port.

4.2 How many fishing vessels were inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015?

One fishing vessel was inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015.

Reason for inspection :	Flag State
Sighted at sea in activities that may be considered illegal, unreported and unregulated	
Based on the EU IUU vessel list	
Other (please detail)	

4.3 In accordance with Article 9.1, has your country carried out inspections in its designated ports of at least 5% of landing and transshipment operations by third country fishing vessels each year?

In the period between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015 Croatia had one transshipment and it was inspected by the competent authority.

If yes, please detail.

If no, please explain.

4.4 Does your country use risk assessment criteria for the port inspections?

If yes, please detail.

4.5 Has your country detected any infringements between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015? If yes,

- how many and of what nature? Please specify.
- did your country apply the procedure in case of infringements as foreseen in Article 11?

## **Section 5: Catch certification scheme for importation for the purpose of the IUU Regulation<sup>1</sup>**

*Please state your country's notified authorities under Articles 17.8 and 21.3.*

Ministry of Finance Customs Administration is competent authorities for the checks and verifications of the catch certificates in accordance with Article 16 and paragraphs (1) to (6) of this Article. (Article 17(8))

Also, Ministry of Finance Customs Administration is competent authorities for the validation and the verification of the section're-export' of catch certificates in accordance with the procedure defined in Article 15. (Article 21(3)).

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<sup>1</sup> Article 2.11 of the IUU Regulation – "importation means the introduction of fishery products into the territory of the Union, including for transshipment purposes at ports in its territory"

5.1 How many catch certificates were presented to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015?

In 2014 were presented to checks 729 and 2015 602 catch certificates to Ministry Finance Customs Administration.

If possible, please provide details per flag State (FS).

Flag State \ Year	2014	2015
Argentina	51	68
Pakistan	1	
Ecuador		18
Falkland Islands	1	
Philippines	36	20
India	8	8
Indonesia	100	45
Iceland	23	18
Japan	5	4
South Africa	11	16
Canada	2	4
China	31	28
Korea	93	48
Maldives		2
Morocco	5	20
Namibia		2
Norway	4	6
New Zealand	27	39
Panama		1
Peru		1
Russian Federation	20	14
United States	46	56
Salvador		1
Seychelles	27	2
Taiwan	14	28
Thailand	8	9
Viet Nam	11	6
Ukraine	6	
Italy		16
Spain	27	18
Croatia	172	104

<b>Flag State \ Year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>602</b>

5.2 From the number above, how many recognised RFMO catch certificates accompanied imports into your country? Please detail per type of RFMO certificate and year.

We do not have any RFMO catch certificates were accompanied imports into Croatia in 2014 and 2015.

<b>RFMO \ Year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
ICCAT BFT	-	-
Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)	-	-
CCSBT CDS	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

5.3 How many processing statements under Article 14.2 accompanied imports into your country?

In 2014 **153** and in 2015 **136** the Annexes IV processing statements (Art 14.2) were presented to checks which were accompanied imports.

If possible, please provide details per year and per processing country.

<b>Processing State \ Year</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Albania	8	14
Indonesia	5	
China	27	22
Ecuador		3
Papua New Guinea	1	2
Taiwan		1
Thailand	91	86
Viet Nam	3	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	18	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>136</b>

5.4 Please explain if the information in processing statements referring to the corresponding catch certificates is retained and recorded.

In case of reasonable doubt we sent request for verification of Annex IV processing statements to competent authority of processing county. Also, in case of reasonable suspicion



of catch certificate we sent request for verification to competent authority of to the flag State. The release of the products to the market shall be suspended while awaiting the results of the verification of Annex IV processing statements or catch certificate.

5.5 How many requests to authorise APEO<sup>2</sup>s has your country received and how many APEOs have been authorised?

Croatia didn't have any request to authorise APEO status and we don't have any importer with APEO status.

5.6 Please explain briefly the administrative rules referring to the management and control of APEO.

APEO status may be granted to reliable and compliant operators, who may then benefit from simplifications in notifying an intended import of products subject to the IUU Regulation to the competent authorities of the Member State that has granted such status.

5.7 How many re-export certificates were validated by your country for imported products from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015? Please detail per year and, if possible, per destination country.

In 2014 8 and in 2015 2 re-export certificates were validated by Ministry Finance Customs Administration. The destination of consignments have been neighbouring countries; Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

It can be monitored through the Customs IT system in the process of customs clearance procedure (details are in the answer 5.9).

5.9 Has your country established any IT tools to monitor the catch certificates and processing statements accompanying imports? Does it include a module for re-exportation of imported catches?

IT tools are established as risk profiles (different criteria) to monitor the catch certificates in the importation or re-exportation in the process of customs clearance procedure by MFCA.

If yes, please detail.

The declarant (importer/exporter or forwarder agent) in the process of customs clearance procedure (import/export) have to fulfil TARIC code (C673) for catch certificate and his

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<sup>2</sup> Approved Economic Operators – IUU Regulation, Article 16 and Implementing Regulation (EC) 1010/2009, Chapter II

number or code for other species of fisheries products (e.g. ICCAT BCT/C047; ICCAT re-export C041 etc.) or that the declared goods are not concerned by IUU Regulation in box 44 of customs declarations. In this case it is possible to monitor the status of catch certificate by MFCA.

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

Yes, we have implemented the provisions regarding transit under Article 19.2 IUU Regulation. Almost all consignments of fishery products which come into EU through Croatian border crossing points were released in free circulation in Croatia.

## **Section 6: Catch certification scheme for exportation**

*Please state your notified authorities under Article 15.2.*

Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fishery is responsible for the validation of the catch certificates for own vessels.

6.1 Has your country established a procedure for validation of catch certificates for exportation of catches from own vessels?

Croatia is well organised and committed concerning the catch certification scheme. The overall catch documentation scheme also integrates regional fisheries management organization catch documents, which shall be accepted as catch certificates in respect of the fishery products from species to which such catch documentation schemes apply.

Products shall only be exported when accompanied by a Catch Certificate which contains information validated by the Croatian competent authority (Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries) of its fishing vessels, in line with its duty under international law to ensure that fishing vessels flying Croatian flag comply with international rules.

The system of certification in the Republic of Croatia is based on an earlier commitment to meet sales notes. Every first buyer is obliged to fulfil the information about the first sale (sale note) before putting the fish in the market. The first buyer - exporter entering the web application using its user name and password meet the sales list, from which the exporter can automatically generate a catch certificate. Once filled sales notes, automatically enrolling types and their codes, and the first buyer - exporter manually enter the headings and the amount sent in exports. Exporters who are not early first buyers will receive their user name and password, and the database has the ability to generate catch certificates using a number of sales notes that they must provide the first buyer first.

If yes, please explain briefly the established procedure and answer questions 6.2 to 6.5.

6.2 How many catch certificates did your country validate from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2015? If possible, please provide details per requesting country/country of destination in the following table.

Destination State	IUU Regulation (Art. 14.2 / Art. 15)	Year	
		2014	2015
Albania		1426	1793
Bulgaria		-	83
Bosnia and Herzegovina		180	135
Switzerland		7	
Czech		8	4
Germany		3	
Spain		1912	1544
France		62	142
Greece		194	204
Italy		3478	2720
Japan		3	1
Morocco		697	443
Marshall Islands		1	
Montenegro		3	1
Portugal		74	98
Serbia		254	261
Slovenia		24	2
Tunis		39	121
<b>Total</b>		<b>8365</b>	<b>7552</b>

6.3 Has your country established any IT tool to monitor the catch certificates validated for exports stemming from own vessels?

If yes, please detail.

The fishing fleet activities, as well as catch, landing and marketing of fishery products in Croatia, is monitored by national authorities under Directorate of Fisheries by the medium of a number of mechanisms, including electronic communications as well as standard logbooks and catch certificates. The introduction of electronic system and links between the databases

on licenses, fleet, catches and landings, first buyers, first sales and VMS system, has enabled efficient data cross check.

6.4 Does your country monitor that the catches for which your country has validated Catch Certificates actually leave the EU?

If yes, please detail.

Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries is a competent authority regarding the supervision and validation of an BCD's for the BFT fishing and the most of the catches are exported in Japan.

CC for other catches of the Croatian fishing fleet are validated by the competent Authority (Directorate of Fisheries) and its data base provides monitoring of an CC and its country of destination.

6.5 Has your country refused the validation of a catch certificate between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015?

If yes, please detail.

Since the fishing grounds are exploited by national fleets which are considered to be fully regulated and in line with a present regulations there was no need, at least till now, to refuse the validation of a CC between 1 January 2014. and 31 December 2015.

## **Section 7: Verifications of catch certificates for importation**

7.1 Has your country established a procedure for verification of catch certificates for importation?

Croatia has established the procedure for verification of catch certificates and Annex IV processing statements in importation. MFCA is in writing form issued instructions for customs officials for dealing with the import of fishery products in accordance with IUU Regulation.

If yes, please detail.

In the Ministry of Finance Customs Administration there are 9 authorized customs officers in 4 Regional customs office (RCO) those are competent for the checks and verifications of the

catch certificates and Annex IV regarding IUU Regulation. Every catch certificate and every Annex IV processing statement were checked by authorized customs officers regarding IUU Regulation.

After checking, the authorized customs officials will verify and sign catch certificate or Annex IV on the upper right corner of the CC or Annex IV. After that the process of customs clearance will start. The customs officers in the customs clearance process will check the conformity original CC or original Annex IV with verify and sign sample which are enclosed. Also, they will check declared data of fisheries product on single administrative document with accompanying documents (invoice, B/L, health certificate etc.).

In case of reasonable suspicion we sent request for verification of catch certificate to competent authority of the flag State.

In the case some suspicion the release of the products to the market shall be suspended while awaiting the results of the verification.

7.2 How many catch certificates have been verified from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015?

In 2014 **729** and in 2015 **573** catch certificates have been verified by MFCA. (In 2015 one consignment was refused by veterinary inspection.)

7.3 Does your country use a risk assessment approach for verification of catch certificates?

If yes, please detail.

MFCA use risk assessment approach for checks and verification of catch certificates or Annex IV processing statement. Every catch certificate and every Annex IV processing statement passing through risk assessment.

The elements of risk assessment are as follow: flag state notification; form of CC and number or details for Annex IV; checks in EU SMS base (competent authority /sign and seal); vessel details (EU IUU vessel list, tracking vessel bases, IMO number); specie and HS code; catch area/RFMO/license; cross-checking dates of catch with transshipment/validation dates; transport details (tracking container base); quantity of caught; processing plant; relevant information on refusal of importations from other EU member countries and Commission; own documentary evidences from previous consignments and cross-checking dates of catch/processing statement with other accompanying documents as Bill of lading, invoice, health certificate. Risk profiles for control fisheries products regarding IUU Regulation 1005/2008 are implemented into the system for processing customs declarations.

7.4 Does your country also physically verify the consignments?

The consignment will be physically inspected in accordance with the results of the risk analysis system. Also, the consignment will be physically inspected in the case of reasonable suspicion which was detected in documentary control of catch certificate or Annex IV processing statement.

If yes, please detail (reason, method of selection, number, etc.).

## **Section 8: Verification requests to flag States**

### **8.1 How many requests for verifications have been sent to third country authorities?**

What were the main reasons for these requests? Please specify by using the reasons provided in Articles 17.4 and 17.6 of the IUU Regulation.

Croatia sent in 2014 **15** and 2015 **4** requests for verifications to third country competent authorities.

In article 17.4 of IUU Regulation are defined reasons for request for verification to third country authorities. In article 17.6 are defined way and procedures how competent authorities of the Member State will prepare the request for verification. In the text of request for verification the competent authorities of the Member State have to explain the reasons for well-founded doubts as to the validity of the certificate or processing statements or other data. Copy of catch certificate and copies of other relevant document have to be attached the request for verification.

The common reasons for our requests for verifications were validation seal or the signature of the relevant authority because the EU's SMS database is not updated.

In 2014 Croatia had six requests for verification of US catch certificates because US NOAA validation base were showed that the results are not valid. The base was in the upgrade phase and therefore the results of checks look for request for verification.

Croatia had some problems in communication with the relevant authorities of the third country in verification process because the contacts details of the third countries were not updated in the SMS base EU.

### **8.2 How many requests for verification were not replied to by the third country authorities within the deadline provided in Article 17.6 of the IUU Regulation? Does your country in these situations send a reminder to the third country authorities?**

All our requests for verification were replied by the third country authorities in 15 days.

### **8.3 Was the quality of the answers provided overall sufficient to satisfy the request?**

The quality of the submitted response were satisfactory.

## **Section 9: Refusal of Importations**

9.1 Has your country refused any imports from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015?

We did not refuse any imports of fisheries products from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015 regarding IUU Regulation.

If yes, please provide details in the table below:

<b>Reason for refusal of importation</b>	<b>2014</b>		<b>2015</b>	
	<b>Flag State</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Flag State</b>	<b>No.</b>
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 Community IUU vessel list or in the IUU vessel lists referred to in Article 30.				
Further to the request for verification (Article 18.2)				

9.2 If the answer to 9.1 is yes, what did your country do with the fishery products?

9.3 In case of refusal of importation, did the operators contest the decision of the authorities of your country?

Not applicable!

If yes, please detail.

Not applicable, because we don't have experience with refusal importation.

## **Section 10: Trade flows**

Did your country note a change of imports of fishery products since the last reporting exercise in 2014? Please provide information, deriving from your country's statistical data, concerning change of trade patterns in imports of fishery products into your country.

Not applicable. This is the first Croatian IUU Questionnaire.

## **Section 11: Mutual Assistance**

11.1 How many mutual assistance messages of the Commission has your country replied to?

Croatia has replied to all Commission mutual assistance messages since 1 July 2013 to today.

11.2 Has your country sent any mutual assistance message to the Commission/other Member States?

Croatia has sent a few mutual assistance messages to the Commission.

If yes, please detail.

The reason for mutual assistance messages to the Commission were the lack of adequate contacts details for the relevant authorities of the third country (Albania) and the signature of the relevant authority (Vet Nam).

## **Section 12: Cooperation with third countries**

Apart from verifications and refusals under Articles 17 and 18, has your country had information exchange with third countries on issues related to the implementation of the IUU Regulation, such as follow-up of cases concerning nationals, consignments, trade flows, operators, private fishing licencing, as well as the investigation of criminal activities and serious infringements (Article 42).

Croatian Single Liaison Officers did not share any information exchange with third countries on issues related to the implementation of the IUU Regulation, such as follow-up of cases concerning nationals, consignments, trade flows, operators, private fishing licencing, as well as the investigation of criminal activities and serious infringements (Article 42).

If yes, please detail.

## **Section 13: Nationals**

*Please state your country's notified authorities under Article 39.4.*

We know that the Ministry of Finance Custom Administration is responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on activities of nationals referred to in this Chapter and for reporting to and cooperating with the Commission regarding Article 39(4)

13.1 Since the last reporting exercise in 2014, has your country implemented or modified existing measures to ensure that your country can take appropriate action with regards to nationals involved in IUU fishing?



- 13.2 What measures has your country taken to encourage nationals to notify any information on interests in third country vessels (Article 40.1).
- 13.3 Has your country endeavoured to obtain information on arrangements between nationals and third countries allowing reflagging of their vessels? If yes, please list vessels.
- 13.4 If yes to any of the above, how many cases have your country dealt with and which administrative or penal follow-up was given?
- 13.5 Has your country made use of Article 40.3 and removed public aid under national aid regimes or under Union funds to operators involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the Union IUU vessel list? If yes, please detail.

#### **Section 14: Infringements (Chapter IX of the IUU Regulation) and Sightings (Chapter X of the IUU Regulation)**

- 14.1 How many infringements did your country record from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015? Please detail.

Croatia recorded one infringements 1005/2008 Art.3.part 1.a) between the period from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015.

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

Croatia applied and adapted its levels of administrative sanctions in accordance with Article 44.

- 14.3 How many sighting reports were issued by your country from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015?

Croatia didn't issued sighting reports from 1 January 2014 until 31 December 2015

Please detail.

- 14.4 Has your country received any sighting reports for its own vessels from other competent authorities?

If yes, please detail.

#### **Section 15: General**

What have been the main difficulties that your country has encountered in implementing the catch certification scheme?

Croatia didn't have any difficulties in implementing the CC scheme since Croatia experienced the roll as a third Country before entering the EU on 1 July 2013.

15.1 What improvements would your country suggest to the Regulation that would make implementation smoother?

Exchanging information and dissemination of experience is the main precondition for system functioning.

**Section 16: Any other comments**

**Thank you for your cooperation!**