

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

Reporting period 2016-2017 (deadline for submission 30 April 2018)

Member State:	<i>Latvia</i>
Organisation:	<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>
Date:	
Name, position and contact details of responsible official:	<i>Normunds Riekstiņš, director of the Fisheries Department, <u>Normunds.Riekstins@zm.gov.lv</u></i>

May the Commission provide a copy of this questionnaire to other Member States?	
Yes:	<i>X</i>
Yes except for questions (list):	<i>no restrictions</i>
No:	

<p>Please state your notified authorities under the IUU Regulation in accordance with:</p> <p>Article 15.2 (exportation of catches):</p> <p><i>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); Fisheries Department</i></p> <p>Article 17.8 (verification of catch certificates):</p> <p><i>State Environmental Service (SES); Fisheries Control Department (for the check and verification procedures of the catch certificates);</i></p> <p><i>National Customs Board; State Revenue Service (for the customs control)</i></p> <p>Article 21.3 (re-exportation):</p> <p><i>State Environmental Service; Fisheries Control Department</i></p> <p>Article 39.4 (nationals):</p> <p><i>State Environmental Service; Fisheries Control Department</i></p>

Section 1. Information on legal framework¹

Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2014-2015, has your country adopted/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)?

Yes No

If yes, please detail and provide copies or provide link to the official national database

1) *A separate section on preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing was established on the MoA's website:*

<https://www.zm.gov.lv/zivsaimnieciba/statiskas-lapas/nnn-zvejas-apkarosana-un-izskausana?nid=2603#jump>

In the previous period information on IUU issues was published on the MoA's website and there was no separate section for this subject.

2) *MoA published recommendations on how to complete a catch certificate in the public part of the official website:*

[https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/ck/files/nozvejas_sertifikats_aizpildisana_2017oktobris\(1\).pdf](https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/ck/files/nozvejas_sertifikats_aizpildisana_2017oktobris(1).pdf)

3) *State Revenue Service (SRS) National Customs Board evaluated the guidance on changes in the IUU fishing control (on the basis of Latvian law and SRS National Customs Boards internal regulation, this is a limited information, thereby information further distribution is prohibited).*

Section 2. Information on administrative organisation²

2.1. Does your country have different authorities/services to deal with the implementation of the IUU Regulation?

Yes No

2.2. If different authorities/services are involved, please distinguish between:

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

a) internal co-operation (between local/regional authorities and head-quarter);

Please explain and describe this cooperation:

- MoA is the authority in charge for the validation of the catch certificates for the Latvian fishing vessels. During the validation process each catch certificate is examined for a variety of criteria - does the potential exporter or respective fishing company hold the valid licence and quota for relevant species, % of its exhaustion, logbooks etc. In case where there are no problems, the certificate is validated.

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.

- Regarding catch certificates issued by the third countries - SES Fisheries Control Department (Central office) is the authority responsible for the validation of the catch certificates to allow the import into or re-export of the fish production via Latvia. The catch certificate is verified by obtaining necessary information - is the catch obtained by the vessel included in the IUU vessels list, crosschecked with the information submitted within the mutual assistance system, etc.

- Internal cooperation between the Central office and sub-quarters of SES is needed only where physical checks for fishing vessels flying the flag of third countries is required. According to the Council Regulation 1005/2008 Article 6, third country vessels inform the competent authority- SES on intend to land the products in relevant designated port of Latvia (designated in National Rules of the Cabinet of 02.05.2007 No 296 "Regulations regarding Commercial Fishing in Territorial Waters and Economic Zone Waters"). This information is received in the Central office, verified by checking information and further permission or rejection for vessel entry into port is provided. In the port the physical verification of the landing, based on decision made by the Central office is performed by the sub- quarter of SES located in the designated port.

- Co-operation among the authorities of the SRS National Customs Board, involved in the implementation of the IUU Regulation, is described in the guidance of the SRS National Customs Board 'On changes in the IUU fishing control'.

- Co-operation among the respective structures of the Nationals Customs Board when dealing with the implementation of the IUU Regulation is as follows:

Customs Clearance Process Unit of Customs Clearance Process Management Division – develops guidance etc. for customs officials and explanations for customs clients as well, performs co-operation with others structures in Customs Department, entities in Latvia (MoA, State Environmental Service) responsible for implementation of the IUU Regulation,

Import CCP of Riga Custom Control Points' Division – involved in drawing up import customs procedure (incl. control of documents (also CC) concerning the respective consignment),

Risk Management Division – performs risk management regarding customs matters.

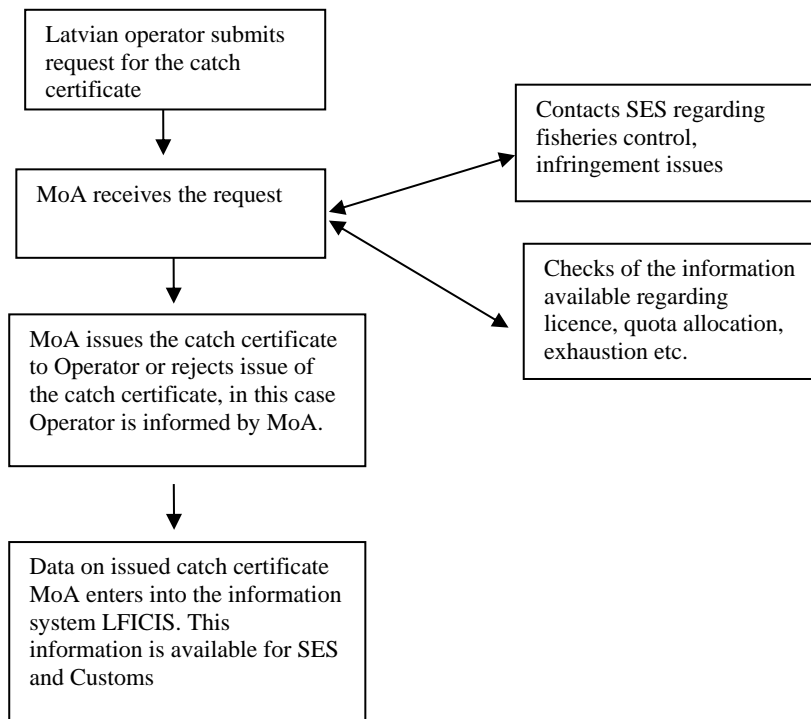
- b) co-operation with other authorities and allocation of tasks for various authorities in the implementation of the IUU Regulation (Fisheries, Health, Customs, Coast Guard, Navy, etc.);

Please explain and describe this cooperation:

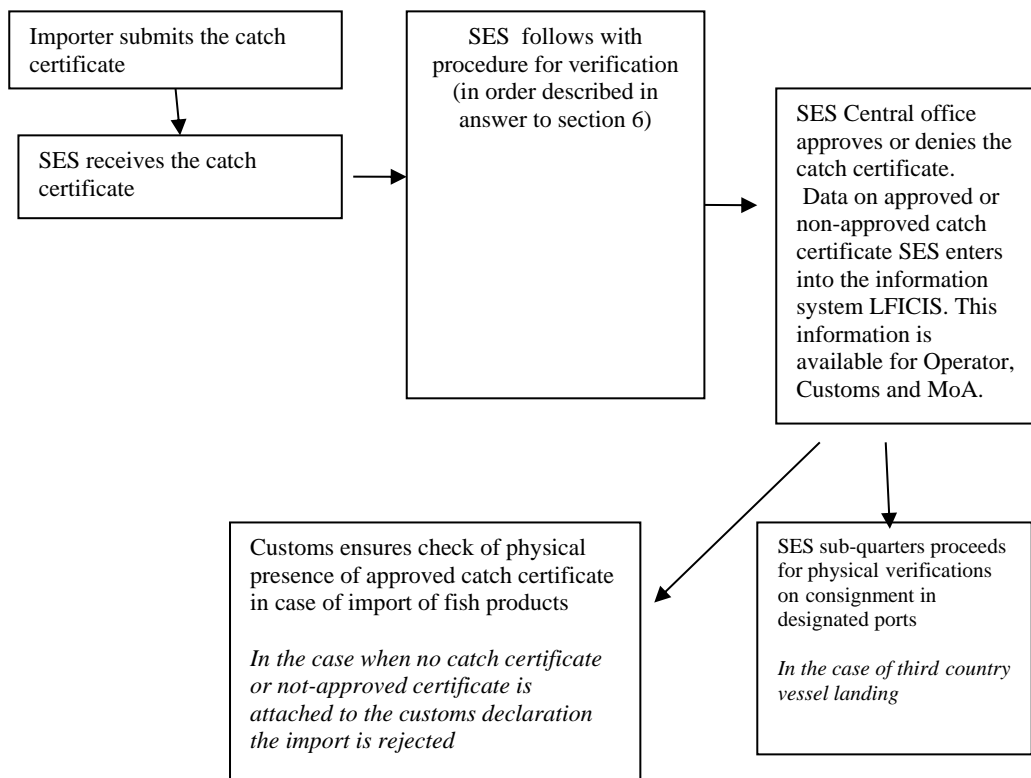
The interinstitutional cooperation has been set in the Rules of the Cabinet as well as in the trilateral agreement between the MoA, Customs authorities and SES.

To improve cooperation in 2015 the Customs authority was granted access to MoA information system "Latvian Fisheries Integrated Control and Information System" (LFICIS), this allows to see and check import certificate validated by SES.

Scheme of cooperation in the case of export of fisheries products from Latvian vessels is as follows:



Scheme of cooperation in the case of import/ re-export of fisheries products from third countries:



- c) 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 the export catch certificates for Latvian vessels, mutual assistance and requests co-ordination 1,5 official in MoA is involved.

For the import and re-export catch certificate verification (formalities and procedures, as well as physical control and verification) - 3 SES officials and 6 SRS National Customs Board officials are involved.

In the case of physical control of third country vessel landing in the designated port at least one more official should be added to the import control number. In this case total numbers for landing control are 4 SES officials.

- d) Do the authorities of your country have the possibility to audit/verify a company for the purposes laid down in the IUU Regulation?

Yes No

If yes, which and how many audits/verifications have they undertaken since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2014-2015? Please detail the results:

According to the Fishery Law and National Rules of the Cabinet "Regulations on Monitoring Fish Landings and Inspection of Fish Marketing and Transport Facilities, Warehouses and Processing Premises" mentioned above, officials of the SES have the power to carry out verification of the transport, storage and production facilities in order to eliminate IUU fishing. There were no any suspicions of illegal activities during the routine inspections within the period from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017. There was no information regarding the necessity to carry out more specific inspections (no attempt to import IUU catch etc.). However, random verifications were carried where compliance with the Control regulation 1224/2009 was checked and that included monitoring for potential activities under the IUU Regulation.

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

Yes No

Section 3. Information on direct landings and transshipments of fishery products by third country fishing vessels⁴ (including information on port inspections and infringements)⁵

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

Yes No

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.)

If yes, please list your country's designated ports (including ports designated under Regional Fisheries Management Organisations requirements) and answer to questions 3.2. to 3.7.:

Rīga;
Ventspils.

3.2. How many landings and transshipments in designated ports of third country vessels have been recorded by your country between 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017? How many inspections has your country carried out and how many infringements have been detected?

Please fill-in the table below (2016):

Inspections of third country vessels in Member States ports (2016)									
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2016)	Flag of the third country vessel(s)*						
			Ex. NO	BS	NO	VC	DM	AG	Total
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	100	4	4	1	4	1	14
		Number of inspections	10						
		% of inspections / landings	10%						
		Number of infringements	3						
Transshipments	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transshipments in ports	2						
		Number of inspections	0						
		% of inspections / transshipments	0						
		Number of infringements	0						

*Use ISO Alpha-2 country codes

Please fill-in the table below (2017):

Inspections of third country vessels in Member States ports (2017)								
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2017)	Flag of the third country vessel(s)*					Total
			Ex. NO	DM	AG	VC	AN	
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	100	1	1	3	1	6
		Number of inspections	10			1		
		% of inspections / landings	10%			33%		
		Number of infringements	3			0		
Transshipments	Non-EU vessels using MS	Number of transshipments in ports	2					

Inspections of third country vessels in Member States ports (2017)							
	designated ports	Number of inspections	2				
		% of inspections / transshipments	100%				
		Number of infringements	0				

*Use ISO Alpha-2 country codes

3.3. From the figures above, in the cases where your country detected infringements by third country vessels between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2017, please specify the flag, the vessel's name, the type of infringement and the measures taken (Article 11 of the IUU Regulation).

Please fill-in the table below (2016):

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

*Use ISO Alpha-2 country codes

Please fill-in the table below (2017):

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

*Use ISO Alpha-2 country codes

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

Yes No

If yes, please detail the nature of the problems:

In 2016:

In 2017:

3.5. Since January 2016, has your country denied access to its ports to a fishing vessel for port services, activities of landing or transshipment of fishery products based on the conditions of the IUU Regulation?

Yes No

If yes, please detail the nature of the problem, the number of vessels concerned and their flags:

In 2016:

In 2017:

3.6. Do you have third country fishing vessel landings in transit in your country with final destination in another Member State? [Article 19.3 of the IUU Regulation]

Yes No*

* *Latvian competent authorities and its databases does not collect statistical data of fishing vessel landing in transit, therefore, such data for Latvia are not available.*

If yes, please indicate the number of landings in transit per year:

In 2016:

In 2017:

3.7. In order to determine the cases for port inspection, does your country 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/transshipments from third countries)

If yes, please detail:

There are the risk assessment criteria elaborated by SES for the port inspections to control the Latvian vessels as well as EU Member State vessels landings. The criteria are set taking into account landing amount of species under the recovery plan, proportion of the fleet using this particular port etc., as well behaviour of the certain vessels (penalty points, included/not included in IUU "black list" etc.). This risk assessment has been included in the state information system "Latvian Fisheries Integrated Control and Information System" LFICIS), therefore surveillance of the most risky areas has become more efficient.

Section 4. Information on catch certification scheme for <u>importation</u> for the purpose of the IUU Regulation⁷
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4.1. How many catch certificates from non-EU countries were presented to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017?

⁷ Section to be filled-in by all Member States. 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"

Flag State (non-EU)	2016*	2017*
<i>USA</i>	9	9
<i>Argentina</i>	6	5
<i>Chile</i>	1	2
<i>Korea</i>	1	1
<i>Faroe Island</i>	27	42
<i>Ecuador</i>	0	1
<i>Philippines</i>	5	2
<i>Greenland</i>	1	0
<i>Indonesia</i>	0	2
<i>Iceland</i>	73	52
<i>Canada</i>	17	12
<i>Russia</i>	14	14
<i>China</i>	23	27
<i>Morocco</i>	32	25
<i>Mauritania</i>	7	0
<i>Mauritius</i>	3	3
<i>Norway</i>	246	324
<i>Papua New Guinea</i>	0	1
<i>Peru</i>	7	8
<i>Seychelles</i>	17	8
<i>Senegal</i>	2	0
<i>Taiwan</i>	4	8
<i>Thailand</i>	3	0
<i>Ukraine</i>	13	22
<i>Vietnam</i>	12	21
Total	523	589

* Note: The table shows the unique number of CCs. The LFICIS system records the CC every time the same CC is submitted again, but data on their number is not available.

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

RFMO document	2016	2017
<i>ICCAT (electronic)-bluefin tuna catch document</i>	0	0
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>	0	0
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>	0	0

RFMO document	2016	2017
Total	0	0

4.3. Has your country received processing statements from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017?

Yes *No*

If yes, how many processing statements under Article 14.2 accompanied imports into your country? If possible, please provide details per year and per processing country. Please only report processing statements received from non-EU countries:

Processing non-EU State	2016	2017
<i>China</i>	44	61
<i>Papua New Guinea</i>	0	1
<i>Seychelles</i>	38	75
<i>Iceland</i>	3	0
<i>Faroe Island</i>	1	0
<i>Thailand</i>	7	62
<i>Turkey</i>	0	1
<i>Ukraine</i>	1	4
Total	94	204

4.4. Please indicate if the information in processing statements referring to the corresponding catch certificates is retained and recorded:

Yes *No*

Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of processing statements received from non-EU countries in 2016-2017)

4.5. Has your country received requests to authorise APEO⁸s in 2016-2017?

Yes *No*

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

.....

4.6. Has your country adopted administrative rules referring to the management and control of APEO in 2016-2017?

Yes *No*

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

⁸ Approved Economic Operators – IUU Regulation, Article 16 and Implementing Regulation (EC) 1010/2009, Chapter II

If yes, please detail:

.....

4.7. Has your country validated re-export certificates for products imported from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017?

Yes *No*

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

Destination country (non-EU)	2016	2017
Total	0	0

4.8. 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 2016-2017)

If yes, please detail:

.....

4.9. 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*

4.10. 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 exportation⁹

5.1. Has your country 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 2016-2017)

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

Fishing company submits to the MoA the catch certificate with necessary data entered and signed by the master of the vessel. Officials of the MoA check the licence No, quota and its' exhaustion level, landings and other relevant information, communicates, if necessary, with the SES on control and infringement matters, and then proceeds for signing of catch certificate. The scanned signed catch certificate is sent via email to the relevant entrepreneur (fishing company), as well as placed to the information system LFICIS. If requested also the original is available at any stage.

5.2. Has your country validated catch certificates for exportation in 2016-2017?

Yes No

If yes, how many catch certificates did your country validate from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017? If possible, please provide details per requesting third country/country of destination in the following table:

Destination State	Year	
	2016	2017
China *		6
Egypt*		3
Ghana*		5
Japan*	9	
Korea*	6	
Norway	42	
Serbia*	2	9
Ukraine	268	506
Uzbekistan*		4
Total	327	533

** This third country is not in the list of third countries requesting Catch certificates for the exportation catches by fishing vessels flying an EU Member state flag, however, Catch certificates were approved for various reasons, for example: entering into the new markets; as well there were situation, when certificates (17 certificates in 2017) were validated for exportation to the EU (UK, Poland, Portugal, Sweden) with subsequent exports to third countries.*

⁹ Section to be filled-in by flag Member States.

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

Yes No

5.4. Does your country monitor that the catches for which your country has validated catch certificates actually leave the EU?

Yes No

Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of validation of catch certificates for exportation in 2016-2017)

5.5. Has your country refused the validation of a catch certificate between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2017?

Yes No

Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of request for validation of catch certificates for exportation in 2016-2017)

If yes, please detail:

Number (per year):

Reason:

Follow-up:

Section 6. Information on verifications of catch certificates for importation according to Article 17.1 to 5 of IUU Regulation¹⁰
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6.1. 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:

There is an internal order of the SES regarding procedure for verification. It prescribes the order of the circulation of the documents, as well actions of officers in verification process. Importer submits documents prescribed by the Council Regulation 1005/2008, as well shows the originals of invoice and if necessary veterinary certificate or packaging documents.

Procedure of verification:

- *SES verifies the state of origin of cargo - crosscheck of information mentioned in the documents (invoice, certificates etc.), compliance of the catch certificate with the sample and also information regarding fishing vessel, catch origin (fishing area).*
- *If necessary SES communicates with the administration of state of origin, communicates via IUU mutual assistance.*
- *Registration and signing of the documents according to the national regulations and SES internal orders;*
- *SES confirms/denies relevant catch certificate and in the first case gives an official reference to the legality of production;*

¹⁰ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

- *SES scans relevant documents and placed scanned document into the information system LFICIS, if necessary SES sends scanned document via email to the relevant importer.*
- *The Custom has the access to the information system LFICIS and checks documents verified by SES.*

6.2. How many catch certificates have been verified by your administration from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017? Please specify, separately for each year:

Flag State of origin (EU or non-EU)	Number of verifications 2016		Number of verifications 2017	
	No of basic document-based verifications ¹¹	No of in-depth verifications ¹²	No of basic document-based verifications	No of in-depth verifications
<i>USA</i>	9	*See comments below table	9	*See comments below table
<i>Argentina</i>	6		5	
<i>Chile</i>	1		2	
<i>Denmark</i>	14		20	
<i>Korea</i>	1		1	
<i>Faroe Island</i>	27		42	
<i>Ecuador</i>	0		1	
<i>Philippines</i>	5		2	
<i>France</i>	14		15	
<i>Greenland</i>	1		0	
<i>Indonesia</i>	0		2	
<i>Italy</i>	1		2	
<i>Ireland</i>	3		5	
<i>Iceland</i>	73		52	
<i>Canada</i>	17		12	

¹¹ See fields CC1 to CC6 (*Preliminary overview checks “helicopter view”*) of the EFCA Common methodology for IUU catch certificates verification and cross-checks.

¹² See fields CC7 to CC32 (*Verify and cross-check information related to the form, flag state, validating authority, fishing vessel, product(s), transshipment operations*) of the EFCA Common methodology for IUU catch certificates verification and cross-checks.

Flag State of origin (EU or non-EU)	Number of verifications 2016		Number of verifications 2017	
	No of basic document-based verifications ¹¹	No of in-depth verifications ¹²	No of basic document-based verifications	No of in-depth verifications
<i>Russia</i>	14		14	
<i>China</i>	23		27	
<i>Great Britain</i>	37		36	
<i>Morocco</i>	32		25	
<i>Mauritania</i>	7		0	
<i>Mauritius</i>	3		3	
<i>Netherlands</i>	0		2	
<i>Norway</i>	246		324	
<i>Papua New Guinea</i>	0		1	
<i>Peru</i>	7		8	
<i>Seychelles</i>	17		8	
<i>Senegal</i>	2		0	
<i>Spain</i>	20		22	
<i>Taiwan</i>	4		8	
<i>Thailand</i>	3		0	
<i>Ukraine</i>	13		22	
<i>Vietnam</i>	12		21	
Total	612		691	

*Latvia does not store records of such information in the databases. Basic document-based verification is done to every single catch certificate that has been submitted to SES. Catch certificate *template, flag state authority, fishing vessel details, product description, catch dates, species, product code, weight, dates of transshipment* Latvia considers as a basic verification, not depth-in verification as mentioned in the EFCA common methodology, and SES performs all these cross-checking's for each catch certificate. In addition, each catch certificate, that can be verified in flag state's electronic systems, which Latvia has access to, has checked every time.

6.3. Does your country use a risk assessment approach for verification of catch certificates in accordance with Article 17?

Yes

No

If yes, please detail (e.g. EU criteria for verifications (Article 31 of Commission Regulation 1010/2009); EFCA risk assessment methodology; national criteria).

There is a risk assessment methodology elaborated by SES for catch certificate verification and approval. Methodology covers factors like additional verification regarding state of origin and fishing vessel (fishing activity area, IUU „black lists” etc.), verification of catch certificate validity status (check on risk of falsification). Also „valuable” species like bluefin tuna - if they would be imported - would fall under the more detailed study of documents and consignment. Information received from the Commission and via IUU mutual assistance from the other Member States is also used to identify the countries with the higher risk.

6.4. Does your country also physically verify the consignments?

Yes No

If yes, please detail:

If there is any suspicions on the compliance of the consignment with the rules prescribed in the regulations, it is the duty of officials to proceed with the physical verification of the products to be imported.

Number (per year): One verification during 2016/2017

Method of selection: Upon request of the State Environmental Service

Follow-up:

The SES requested the SRS National Customs Board to carry out risk assessment regarding the physical compliance of fishery products to be imported from Vietnam with the information provided in the accompanying documents in order to authorise release into free circulation of the fishery products.

On 12 November 2016 in Riga Free Port Customs Control Point (CCP), with participation of officials of the Food and Veterinary Service, in-depth customs physical controls were carried out of the container SZLU3634790: identification of the vehicle and comparison of numbers with the information provided in the accompanying documents, external inspection of the vehicle, scanning of the cargo. Upon opening the container, the cargo contained therein was completely unloaded in the control hangar of CCP. Several packages were opened and compared with the information provided in the accompanying documents – it was established that the packages contained different kinds of dried fish. The amount of goods was compared with the information provided in the accompanying documents. No irregularities were found and the SES was informed accordingly.

In case of discrepancies in quantities of goods (mismatch with the accompanying documents), the SRS Customs board shall handle and take all necessary actions accordingly to the SRS procedures specified by movement of risk information and instructions on customs control as well as carry out investigation of circumstances in co-operation with the Fishing Control Department of the SES.

Latvia points out that Food and Veterinary Service officials also verify the consignments according to the procedures laying down in the Commission decision No 94/360/EK on the reduced frequency of physical checks of consignments of certain products to be implemented

from third countries, under Council Directive 90/675/EEC. Taking into account risk assessment for the fisheries product imports from the third countries, Food and Veterinary Service physically verifies 20% of the fisheries products import (including canned fish).

Section 7. Verification requests to flag States¹³

7.1. Has your country sent requests for verifications under Article 17.6 of the IUU Regulation to other countries authorities in 2016-2017?

Yes No

If yes, how many requests for verifications? *Note: please provide separate data for 2016 and 2017:*

Flag States	No of requests for verifications 2016	Justifications (Articles 17.4 and 17.6 of the IUU Regulation)-	No of requests for verifications 2017	Justifications (Articles 17.4 and 17.6 of the IUU Regulation)
<i>Vietnam</i>	1	17.4	2	17.6
<i>Netherlands</i>			1	17.6
<i>Peru</i>			1	17.6
Total	1		4	

7.2. How many requests for verification were not replied to by the other countries' authorities within the deadline provided in Article 17.6 of the IUU Regulation? Does your country in these situations send a reminder to the authorities of the country in question? [Please provide separate data for 2016 and 2017]

2016None

2017None

7.3. Was the quality of the answers provided overall sufficient to satisfy the request?

Yes No

¹³ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

Section 8. Information on refusal of importations (Article 18 of the IUU Regulation)¹⁴

8.1. Has your country refused any imports from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017? *Note: please only consider refusals based on the IUU Regulation, not for other reasons e.g. Food Safety, Customs legislation, etc.*

Yes No

If yes, please provide details in the table below:

Reason for refusal of importation	2016		2017	
	Flag State	No.	Flag State	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 Union 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 towards the refused fishery products?

.....

¹⁴ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

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

Yes No

If yes, please detail:

Section 9. Information on trade flows¹⁵

9.1. Did your country note a change¹⁶ of imports of fishery products since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2014-2015?

Yes No

If yes, please detail:

9.2. Please provide information, deriving from your country's statistical data, concerning change of trade patterns in imports of fishery products into your country:

MoA notes that amount, structure and value of imported fish production is more related to the general economic processes, not to the introduction of IUU control measures. It should be noted that the largest part of the Latvia's fish production – both fish products and canned and processed fish Latvia is exported. Therefore major part of imported fish is used as raw material for diversification of production range in fish processing. There was significant decrease in the export of Latvia's fisheries products in 2014-2015 because of Russian ban for import of fisheries products and its effect was observed also in 2016-2017.

Total volume of imported fish products (excluding canned fish) in 2016 (compared to 2015) increased by 4 % (total import from third countries and EU). In turn in 2017 (compared to 2016) decreased by 9 %.

From the third countries biggest share in import for a longer period has been Norway (11% from the total import from third countries and EU), Iceland (3,2 %), Morocco (1,2 %) and China (1,2%). The imported volumes from other third countries can be considered as not very significant. The proportion of EU countries is stable and accounted for over 80% of Latvia's total imports of fish products.

<i>Fishery products imports from the third countries</i>	2015	2016	2017
<i>China</i>	582 t	10471 t	755 t
<i>Norway</i>	6089 t	6633 t	6398 t
<i>Iceland</i>	660 t	2025 t	1910 t
<i>Morocco</i>	867 t	956 t	698 t

¹⁵ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

¹⁶ For example: new kinds of fishery products, new trade patterns or significant and sudden increase in trade volume for a certain species and/or certain third countries.

Section 10. Information on mutual assistance¹⁷

10.1. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2014-2015, how many mutual assistance messages of the Commission has your country replied to?

Please provide separate data for 2016 and 2017 (if any)

Latvian authorities are doing their best to reply to all mutual assistance requests, even if there have been no imports.

2016 - 3

2017 – 8

10.2. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2014-2015, has your country sent any mutual assistance message to the Commission/other Member States?

Please provide separate data for 2016 and 2017 (if any)

2016..... None

2017..... None

¹⁷ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

Section 11. Information on cooperation with third countries¹⁸

11.1. 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)?

Yes No

If yes, please detail (please provide separate data for 2016 and 2017, if any).

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Section 12. Information on nationals¹⁹

12.1. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2014-2015, 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 in accordance with Article 39 of the IUU Regulation?

Yes No

If yes, please detail:

12.2. What measures has your country taken to encourage nationals to notify any information on interests in third country vessels (Article 40.1)?

Latvia has prepared the amendments to the Fishery Law to ensure that Latvian nationals provide information to SES regarding their activities related to engagement in fisheries operations with the third countries.

12.3. Has your country endeavoured to obtain information on arrangements between nationals and third countries allowing reflagging of their vessels in accordance with Article 40.4?

Yes No

If yes, please detail:

12.4. If yes to any of the above, how many cases have your country dealt with and which administrative or penal follow-up was given?

Please provide details:

12.5. Has your country put in place procedures to ensure that nationals do not sell or export any fishing vessels to operators involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the Union IUU vessel list (Article 40.2)?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details:

¹⁸ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

¹⁹ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

12.6. 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?

Yes *No*

If yes, please detail:

Latvia shall act in accordance with the Union funds Regulation, which prohibits support to operators involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the Union IUU vessel list.

<p>Section 13. Infringements (Chapter IX of the IUU Regulation) and Sightings (Chapter X of the IUU Regulation)²⁰</p>
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13.1. Has your country detected serious infringements as defined in Article 42 of the IUU Regulation from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017?

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)	Serious infringements detected in 2016:			Serious infringements detected in 2017:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Fishing without valid licence</i>	<i>Administrative fine</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Declared less fish than on-board</i>	<i>Administrative fine</i>
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Transhipped undersized fish</i>	<i>Administrative fine</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Fishing in prohibited area</i>	<i>Administrative fine</i>
<i>Latvia</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Declared less fish than on-board</i>	<i>Administrative fine</i>			
<i>Poland</i>				<i>1</i>	<i>Landing obligation does not match first buyer declaration</i>	<i>Administrative fine</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>5</i>			<i>6</i>		

²⁰ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

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

Yes No

If yes, please detail:

On the basis of the Latvian Administrative Penalty Code in case of violation of the rules of fishing in the territorial waters, the economic zone waters or in international waters physical persons can be fined from 30 EUR up to 350 EUR, and legal persons can be fined from 140 EUR up to 4300 EUR. Also confiscation of fishing gear, and suspension of the fishing license up to one year can be applied. In case of repeated violation of fishing regulations during the year, the physical persons can be fined from 140 EUR up to 700 EUR and legal persons can be fined from 700 EUR up to 14000 EUR. Also confiscation of fishing gear and suspension of the fishing license up to three year can be applied. For fishing without authorization, in prohibited place, or with prohibited gear, physical persons can be fined from 280 EUR up to 700 EUR and legal persons can be fined from 1400 EUR up to 14000 EUR. Also confiscation of fishing gear and suspension of the fishing license up to three year can be applied.

In 2017 SES has established criteria for determining the serious nature of an infringement. These criteria are amount of undeclared fish (if more than 15 % difference between amount recorded in logbook and landed amount), value of undeclared fish (if more than 500 EUR in value is taken outside the coastal zone waters and 250 EUR - in coastal waters), difference of mesh size grater than 5 mm and if the number of fishing gear used in fishing exceeds permitted fishing gear limit more than 20%.

The amount of the fine is determined on the basis of Council Regulation No 1224/ 2009. Article 90.3 of this Regulation provides the Member States shall impose a sanction that is effectively dissuasive and, as appropriate, calculated on the value of the fisheries products obtained by committing a serious infringement.

13.3. Has your country issued sighting reports from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017?

Yes No

If yes, how many sighting reports were issued by your country from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2017?

Flag State of the sighted vessel (EU and non-EU)	No of sighting reports issued in 2016	No of sighting reports issued in 2017
<i>Country 1</i>		
<i>Country 2</i>		
<i>...</i>		
<i>Country x</i>		
<i>Total</i>		

13.4. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2014-2015, has your country received any sighting reports for its own vessels from other competent authorities?

Yes No

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

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Section 14. General

14.1. In the reporting period 2016/2017, what have been the main difficulties that your country has encountered in implementing the IUU Regulation, including the catch certification scheme?

The main potential problem is that it is possible to make multiple importations of notified amount of fish products using the same catch certificate several times, as it is not possible to communicate every catch certificate with colleagues in other Member States. This makes the system inefficient and easy to avoid. Mutual assistance is a good tool to assist in suspicious cases, but it is not sufficient.

14.2. Which improvements would your country suggest to the Regulation that would make implementation smoother?

Latvia supports work on the IT project and recognizes their value in combating of IUU fishing. From the IT project Latvia expects possibility of obtaining the necessary documents from third countries and other EU member states, which would help to avoid falsification of documents and correction of data. Latvia hopes that the IUU IT project will help to improve common EU system for combating IUU fishing. Therefore, we will suggest and support any Regulation's improvements related to the implementation of the new IT tool.

Section 15. Any other comments

Taking into account the last years' experience, MS IUU teams regularly send requests for third countries authorities contact persons. To facilitate the search for the information, Latvia proposes to develop an online list of MS and third countries authorities contact list with up-to-date contact details.

Latvia would like to specifically note that trainings and working groups organized by the Commission and EFCA are very useful and helpful in IUU team daily work.

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