

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

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

<b>Member State:</b>	<b>BULGARIA</b>
<b>Organisation:</b>	<b>Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>28.04.2022</b>
<b>Name, position and contact details of responsible official:</b>	<p>████████████████████ <b>Directorate of “Management of Fisheries and Conservation of Fish Resources“</b></p> <p><b>Phone:</b> ██████████, <b>e-mail:</b> ██████████ <a href="mailto:office@iara.government.bg">@iara.government.bg</a>, <a href="mailto:office@iara.government.bg">office@iara.government.bg</a>.</p>

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

**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:**

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0215\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0215(01))

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

**Please state your notified authorities under the IUU Regulation in accordance with Article 39.4 (nationals): [Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture](#)**

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## Section 1. Information on legal framework<sup>1</sup>

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.

**Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, Art. 18**

**Ordinance No. 3 of February 19, 2013 on the implementation of a point system for Serious infringements within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of the Council of 29 September 2008 to establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999**

<https://iara.government.bg/wps/portal/iara-web/administration/legislation>

## Section 2. Information on administrative organisation<sup>2</sup>

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)-  
**Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Directorate-General “Fisheries and Control”**
- 
- catch certification scheme (Chapter III)- **Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Directorate "Management of Fisheries and Conservation of Fish Resources"**
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*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): **The internal coordination is carried out by EAFA documentary system, e-mail and phone***
- 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.).*

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

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

- Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture – the Agency is contact point for the implementation of the IUU Regulation. Its main activities are fisheries control, granting fisheries permissions, verification and validation of catch certificates, designating of landing ports and transhipments of third countries fishing vessels.
- Customs Agency, which is competent authority for customs control, authorization, suspension and denial of importation or exportation.
- Bulgarian Food Safety Agency, Directorate “Border Control” which carries out state veterinary control of imported/exported animal products.
- Directorate General “Border Police” at the Ministry of Interior, which performs control in the territorial waters and EEZ;
- Maritime administration Agency and Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company – these authorities are responsible for port access and granting of port services.
- The cooperation between different institutions is based on a memorandum of agreement, the scope of which is to cooperate in the process of import, export and re-export of fishery products, carry out joint inspections and controls and exchange of information. In order to make communication more operational, the Heads of the Institutions designate a contact points according to their competencies.

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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:*

**By order of the Executive Director of EAFA, a total of 4 officials are dealing with the implementation of the catch certification scheme - 2 - in Burgas, 1 - in Varna and 1 - in Sofia.**

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

**By order of the Executive Director of EAFA are involved 2 officials in Burgas.**

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2.3. Does your country have freezones/freeports<sup>3</sup> in which activities relevant to importation/exportation/processing of fishery products are authorised?

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<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/business/customs-procedures/what-is-importation/free-zones\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/customs-procedures/what-is-importation/free-zones_en)

Yes

No

There are no free zones/free ports for the mentioned activities.

**Section 3. Information on access to ports, including for direct landings and transhipments of fishery products, by third country fishing vessels<sup>4</sup> (and information on related port inspections and confirmed infringements)<sup>5</sup>**

3.1. Does your country have designated ports for access to port services or direct landings or transhipment of fishery products by third country fishing vessels (Article 5 of the IUU Regulation<sup>6</sup>)?

Yes

No

**In implementation of Article 5 of the IUU Regulation, Bulgaria has designated the following ports, where direct landings and transhipments from third countries vessels are authorized:**  
- Varna;  
- Burgas.

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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

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

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?<sup>7</sup>

**There have no any cases for repair/maintenance/supply .**

3.3. How many landings and transhipments 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?

**On the territory of Bulgaria there are not registered any quantities landed and transhipped by third country fishing vessels.**

*Please fill-in the table below (2020):*

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<sup>4</sup> Fishing vessels as defined in article 2.5 of the IUU Regulation.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

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

<sup>7</sup> 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 transhipment operation is foreseen. Only designated ports in accordance with Article 5 can be used in this context.

Inspections of third country vessels in Member States ports (2020)								
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2020)	Flag of the third country vessel(s) <sup>8</sup>					Total
			<i>Ex. NO</i>	<i>FS1</i>	<i>FS2</i>	<i>FS3</i>	<i>FSx</i>	
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	100	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of inspections	10	0	0	0	0	0
		% of inspections / landings	10%	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of infringements	3	0	0	0	0	0
Transhipments	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transhipments in ports	2	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0
		% of inspections / transhipments	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of infringements	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>8</sup> 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) <sup>9</sup>					Total
			Ex. NO	FS1	FS2	FS3	FSx	
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	100	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of inspections	10	0	0	0	0	0
		% of inspections / landings	10%	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of infringements	3	0	0	0	0	0
Transhipments	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transhipments in ports	2	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of inspections	2	0	0	0	0	0
		% of inspections / transhipments	100%	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of infringements	0	0	0	0	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 <sup>10</sup>	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 <sup>11</sup>	Name of the third country fishing vessel	Type of infringements	Measures taken
FS1	_____	_____	_____

<sup>9</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>10</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>11</sup> 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):

**Not applicable - we do not have quantities of fish landed or transhipped**

*Please fill-in the table below (landings):*

Landings in 2020		Landings in 2021	
Flag of the third country vessel <sup>12</sup>	Landed quantities by species	Flag of the third country vessel <sup>13</sup>	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 <sup>14</sup>	Transhipped quantities by species	Flag of the third country vessel <sup>15</sup>	Transhipped quantities by species
FS1	Species 1:	FS1	Species 1:

<sup>12</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>13</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>14</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>15</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

	Species 2: Species x:		Species 2: Species x:
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 transshipment operations as set in Article 9.1 of the IUU Regulation, which benchmarks you use and rank them:  
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**Section 4. Information on catch certification scheme for importation for the purpose of the IUU Regulation<sup>16</sup>**

4.1. How many catch certificates 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.<sup>17</sup>

Flag State (non-EU) <sup>18</sup>	2020	2021
AR	10	19
<b>BY ar.14(2)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>
CV	1	-
CA	89	75
CN	38	24
<b>CN ar.14(2)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>
EC	20	14
<b>EC ar.14(2)</b>	-	<b>2</b>
FO	14	5
GL	8	6
IS	21	34
ID	15	15
<b>ID ar.14(2)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
MX	4	1
MA	28	38
<b>MD ar.14(2)</b>	-	<b>1</b>
NZ	10	14
NO	36	59
<b>NO ar.14(1,2)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>
OM	-	1
PE	7	-
PH	12	6
<b>PH ar.14(2)</b>	<b>3</b>	-
<b>UY ar.14(1)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
LK	-	7
TH	3	2

<sup>16</sup> 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"

<sup>17</sup> If catch certificates are submitted only for transshipment purposes, please specify.

<sup>18</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Flag State (non-EU) <sup>18</sup>	2020	2021
<b>TH ar.14(2)</b>	<b>3</b>	-
<b>TR</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>UK</b>	-	<b>3</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>VN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>VN ar.14(2)</b>	<b>4</b>	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>420</b>

In red color: INDIRECT IMPORT art.14(1) and PROCESSING STATEMENTS art.14(2)

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.

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

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?

Flag State (EU)	2020	2021
<b>BG</b>	-	<b>17</b>
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>17</b>

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>	-	-
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>	-	-
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>	-	-

RFMO document	2020	2021
<b>Total</b>	-	-

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 State <sup>19</sup>	2020	2021
<b>BY</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CN</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ID</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>NO</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>PH</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TH</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>VN</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>EC</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MA</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>

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. Has your country received requests to authorise APEOs<sup>20</sup> in 2020-2021?

*Yes*                       *No*

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

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4.8. 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:

<sup>19</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>20</sup> Approved Economic Operators – IUU Regulation, Article 16 and Implementing Regulation (EC) 1010/2009, Chapter II

4.9. 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:

<b>Destination country (non-EU)<sup>21</sup></b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<i>Third Country 1</i>	-	-
<i>Third Country 2</i>	-	-
...	-	-
<i>Third Country x</i>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-

4.10. 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:

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

*Yes*                                       *No*

**We have established a register for catch certificates and processing statements, which allow online monitoring at the three designated points – Bugras, Varna and Sofia.**

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

*Yes*                                       *No*

4.12. 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*

**The procedures for verification of catch certificates for fishery products which are placed under the transit regime are performed at the point of final destination.**

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<sup>21</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

**Section 5. Information on catch certification scheme for exportation<sup>22</sup>**

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.

**The established procedure for validation of catch certificates for exportation is described in Order of the Executive Director of EAFA.**

<https://iara.government.bg/wps/portal/iara-web/home/useful.information/import.export.requirements>

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 <sup>23</sup>	Year	
	2020	2021
UA	-	8
RO	-	1
GB	-	8
<b>Total</b>		17

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?

<sup>22</sup> Section to be filled-in by flag Member States.

<sup>23</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Yes  No

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

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 Regulation<sup>24</sup>**

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: .....

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:

Flag State (EU or non-EU) <sup>25</sup>	2020		2021	
	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>
Country 1				
Country 2				
...				
Country x				

<sup>24</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>25</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.





Flag State (EU or non-EU) <sup>26</sup>	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>
AR	10	10	19	19
BY ar.14(2)	11	11	19	19
CV	1	1	-	-
CA	89	89	75	75
CN	38	38	24	24
CN ar.14(2)	11	11	4	4
EC	20	20	14	14
EC ar.14(2)	-	-	2	2
FO	14	14	5	5
GL	8	8	6	6
IS	21	21	34	34
ID	15	15	15	15
ID ar.14(2)	7	7	9	9
MX	4	4	1	1
MA	28	28	38	38
MA ar.14(2)	-	-	1	1
NZ	10	10	14	14
NO	36	36	59	59
NO ar.14(1,2)	14	14	12	12
OM	-	-	1	1
PE	7	7	-	-
PH	12	12	6	6
PH ar.14(2)	3	3	-	-

Flag State (EU or non-EU) <sup>26</sup>	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>
UY ar.14(1)	6	6	12	12
LK	-	-	7	7
TH	3	3	2	2
TH ar.14(2)	3	3	-	-
TR	11	11	16	16
GB	-	-	3	3
US	12	12	19	19
VN	1	1	3	3
VN ar.14(2)	4	4	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>420</b>

**In red color: INDIRECT IMPORT ar.14(1) and PROCESSING STATEMENTS ar.14(2)**

Please reply to the following questions:

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

**We verify all catch certificates.**

6.8. Does your country also physically verify the consignments?

Yes                       No

If yes, please detail:

**The Custom agency and the Food safety agency are performing the physical verification of all consignments.**

*Number (per year) and percentage in relation to all verifications made:*  
.....

*Method of selection:* .....

**Section 7. Assistance requests to third countries<sup>27</sup>**

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 <sup>28</sup>	No of assistance requests for verifications 2020	Justification	No of assistance requests for verifications 2021	Justification
CN	1	Art.17.6 of the IUU Regulation	1	Art.17.6 of the IUU Regulation
TW	1	Art.17.6 of the IUU Regulation	-	-
KR	1	Art.17.6 of the IUU Regulation	-	-
EC	1	Art.17.6 of the IUU Regulation	1	Art.17.6 of the IUU Regulation
OM	-	-	1	Art.17.6 of the IUU Regulation
NO	-	-	1	Art.17.6 of the IUU Regulation
<b>Total</b>	4		4	

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]

2020 .....0.....

2021 .....0.....

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. SPAIN for contacts with the Ecuadorian authorities. Quick and correct answer.**

<sup>27</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>28</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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.**

**2020 - 172**

**2021 - 224**

<https://eu-cert.nanoq.gl/check>

<https://fcs-scp.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fcsweb/ViewCertificate-en.aspx>

<http://www.fiskistofa.is/english>

<http://www.catchcertificate.no/>

<https://servicios.aduana.gob.ec/servicios/ui/vue.xhtml>

<https://zwfw.moa.gov.cn/approval-system-web/onlineAuthen.html>

<https://hbs.tarbil.gov.tr/Subis/SearchCC?docNumber>

<https://sicer.conapesca.gob.mx/loginUsr.php>

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/directory/publication/establishment/index#!/search?sort=country.translation>

<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/bbed62fb-76f4-4d8f-bd4c-84c0b63e063d/library/8ed728cd-3778-4fe0-ae0c-13a4d70cf33e/details>

<https://www.iuu-vessels.org/Home/Search>

**Section 8. Information on refusal of importations (Article 18 of the IUU Regulation)<sup>29</sup>**

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 <sup>30</sup>	No.	Flag State <sup>31</sup>	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)?

.....

<sup>29</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>30</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>31</sup> 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 flows<sup>32</sup>**

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:

**There are no significant changes in trade flows compared to the previous reporting period. The main groups of fish products are preserved - Mackerel, Shrimp, Merluccius, Squid, Skipjack tuna, Sardina. The main countries of origin, as in the previous period, are Canada, Norway, Morocco, Iceland, China and Argentina. Imports from Ecuador are increasing significantly.**

FISH PRODUCTS 2020		FISH PRODUCTS 2021	
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL		AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL	
ALASKA POLLOCK	0.89	ALASKA POLLOCK	2.06
CANNED TUNA	0.30	CANNED TUNA	1.94
CONSERV	0.85	CONSERV	0.95
GROUP	0.55	GROUP	0.26
HER	2.20	HER	1.32
LOBSTERS	0.01	LOBSTERS	0.02
MAC	40.43	MAC	48.03
MACRURONUS	0.01	SAVORIN	0.70
MERLUCCIOUS	9.49	MERLUCCIOUS	11.91
OCTOPUS	0.22	OCTOPUS	0.00
POMATOMUS	0.15	POMATOMUS	0.66
SALMON	0.08	POLLACHIUS VIRENS	0.41
SARDA	2.40	SARDA	0.73
SARDINA	4.16	SARDINA	3.98

<sup>32</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

SHRIMP	23.18	SHRIMP	15.79
SKIP JACK TUNA	7.71	SKIPJACK TUNA	4.55
SQUID TUBES	5.24	SQUID TUBES	4.86
SURIMI	1.25	SURIMI	0.57
TRACHURUS	0.11	TRACHURUS	0.88
TUNA	0.28	TUNA	0.08
YELLOWFIN TUNA	0.50	BELONE BELONE	0.03
		CORYPHAENA	0.04
		COBIA/RED SNAPPER	0.00
		PAMPANITO	0.23
		RED MULLET/GROUPPER/ RED SNAPPER	0.01

#### Section 10. Information on mutual assistance<sup>33</sup>

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?

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

2020 - 0

2021 – 4

*IUU Regulation – Mutual Assistance – Articles 45(1) and 49(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1010/2009 – Possible suspicious imports from Namibian based legal persons (Ref: MA\_NAM\_001)*

*REF SLO-20210917-AG : Request for Current Official Stamps, Seals and Signatures*

*IUU Regulation – Mutual Assistance – Article 45(1) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1010/2009 - Samples of catch certificates and annex IV processing statements from Panama (Re... - Ares(2021)5480101*

*IUU Regulation – Mutual Assistance – Article 45(1) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1010/2009 - Samples of catch certificates and annex IV processing statements from Ivory Coas... - Ares(2021)6108587*

*Mutual Assistance – Article 45(1) of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1010/2009 - Samples of catch certificates and annex IV processing statements from Sri Lanka (Ref: MA\_SKA\_08)*

<sup>33</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

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 –

**1 –SPAIN – for assistance to provide email address of Ecuadorian Authorized Authorities.**

**2 – to colleagues from Member States for contacts with Korean authorities.**

2021 .....



**Section 11. Information on cooperation with third countries<sup>34</sup>**

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).

.....

**Section 12. Information on nationals<sup>35</sup>**

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)<sup>36</sup>**

13.1. Has your country detected serious infractions 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 infractions, nature and sanctions applied:

Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) <sup>37</sup>	Serious infractions detected in 2020:			Serious infractions detected in 2021:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
BG	1	Taken on board and landed undersized	900 lv. – Article 75, paragraph 1 from			

<sup>34</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>35</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>36</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>37</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) <sup>37</sup>	Serious infringements detected in 2020:			Serious infringements detected in 2021:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
		fish in contravention of the legislation in force	<p>Fisheries and Aquaculture Act /FAA/</p> <p>2730 lv.- Point 46 Annex 1, Ordinance on the amount of compensation for damages to fishing resources (OCDFR)</p> <p>In connection with Ordinance No 3 from 19.02.2013 for applying a point system for serious infringements as laid down in Council Regulation 1005/2008 (Ordinance No 3), 5 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 5 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.</p>			
<b>BG</b> <span style="background-color: #cccccc; display: inline-block; width: 50px; height: 1em;"></span>	1	Not fulfilled its obligations to record and report catch or catch-related data	<p>200 lv. - Article 90, paragraph 1 and 7 from FAA</p> <p>200 lv. - Article 90, paragraph 7</p>			

Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) <sup>37</sup>	Serious infringements detected in 2020:			Serious infringements detected in 2021:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
			from FAA  In connection with Ordinance No 3, 3 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 3 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.			
BG	2	Fishing without a valid licence, authorisation or permit; landed undersized fish in contravention of the legislation in force	3800 lv.  In connection with Ordinance No 3, 12 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 12 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.			
BG	2	Fishing without a valid licence, authorisation or permit; not fulfilled its obligations to record and report catch or catch-related data	1500 lv. - Article 56, paragraph 1 from FAA  200 lv.- Article 59 from FAA  400 lv.- point 57 from Annex 1, OCDFR  In connection with			

Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) <sup>37</sup>	Serious infringements detected in 2020:			Serious infringements detected in 2021:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
			Ordinance No 3, 10 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, 10 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.			
BG	1	Fishing without a valid licence, authorisation or permit;	1500 lv. In connection with Ordinance No 3, 7 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 7 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.			
BG				1	Not fulfilled its obligations to record and report catch or catch-related data	500 lv. In connection with Ordinance No 3, 3 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 3 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.
BG				1	Not fulfilled its obligations to record and report catch or catch-related data	200 lv. In connection with Ordinance No 3, 3 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 3 points are

Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) <sup>37</sup>	Serious infringements detected in 2020:			Serious infringements detected in 2021:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
						assigned to the master of the vessel.
BG				1	Fishing with a trawl, in a coastal prohibited area which is a closed area north of Cape Kaliakra, in the area at a distance of less than 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № RD-09-98/26.02.2016 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	2000 lv. In connection with Ordinance No 3, 6 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 6 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.
BG				1	Fishing in a prohibited area, which is a closed area, between Cape Kaliakra and Cape Shabla, in the area at a distance of 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № RD-09-98/26.02.2016 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	2000 lv. In connection with Ordinance No 3, 6 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 6 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.
BG				1	Fishing with a trawl, in a coastal	2000 lv. In connection

Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) <sup>37</sup>	Serious infringements detected in 2020:			Serious infringements detected in 2021:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
					prohibited area which is a closed area north of Cape Kaliakra, in the area at a distance of less than 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № RD-09-98/26.02.2016 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	with Ordinance No 3, 6 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 6 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.
<b>BG</b>				1	Fishing in a prohibited area, which is a closed area, between Cape Kaliakra and Cape Shabla, in the area at a distance of 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № RD-09-98/26.02.2016 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	2000 lv.  In connection with Ordinance No 3, 6 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 6 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>			<b>6</b>		

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

Yes

No

If yes, please detail:

The most common administrative sanctions envisaged in the Bulgarian law (FAA) are monetary penalties. The national provisions specify the type of the sanction – fine, where the perpetrator is a natural person and proprietary sanction, for legal persons - and its minimum and maximum amount.

The sanctions do not vary depending on the status of the perpetrator – if he is a license holder or master, but rather if it is a legal person (most of the cases of licence holders) or natural person (the master of the vessel) . This approach allows the administrative sanctions envisaged under the national legislation to be individually determined between the minimum and maximum thresholds on the basis of the gravity of the infringement and the mitigation and aggravating circumstances. The amounts envisaged for legal persons are higher compared to the natural persons.

Also, the fish and the other aquatic organisms, as well as the devices, the means and the appliances, with which they have been caught, are confiscated in favour of the state.

Since 2013, with the adoption of the Ordinance No 3 from 19.02.2013 for applying a point system for serious infringements as laid down in Council Regulation 1005/2008 (Ordinance No 3) a point system applies in Bulgaria in regards to serious infringements. While, the FAA has no definition of the ‘serious infringement’, Article 2 of the Ordinance No 3 provides that serious infringements are the infringements within the meaning of Article 42 (1) (a) of Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008. The Ordinance No 3 opted for the "objective" qualification of all the relevant infringement types referred to in the Control and IUU Regulation as serious.

Points can be assigned to the holder of the fishing permit as well as the master of the vessel. The numbers of the points to be assigned in case of infringements depend on the nature of the infringement and are specified in an Annex to the Ordinance No 3.

Bulgaria does not have a system whereby the sanctions take into account the value of the fishery products obtained by committing the serious infringement. In practice, in determination of the administrative sanction in accordance with the provisions of FAA, Ordinance on the amount of compensation for damages to fish resources and Ordinance No 3, the monetary sanction sometimes is even higher than the eight times the value of the fishery products obtained by committing the serious infringement. Under the national law the perpetrator has to pay compensation, where the damage to the fishing resources was established. The compensation is calculated according to the Annex to Ordinance on the amount of compensation for damages to fishing resources (OCDFR) where amounts due for kilogram or quantity of the given species of fish are determined. It applies to most of the serious infringements.

Have you used criminal sanctions? If yes, please specify if in addition to or in replacement of administrative sanctions:

**For the period 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2021 no criminal sanctions have been imposed for serious infringements.**

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) <sup>38</sup>	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>		

13.3. 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).

.....

**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?

**For the reporting period 2020-2021 we had no special difficulties with implementing the IUU Regulation and the catch certification scheme.**

**Section 15. Any other comment**

**We would like that a common database be created for all authorized catch certificates and processing statements submitted to the European Union and that all Member States fill in only the numbers of the catch certificates online. If such a common base exists, problems with duplication of certificates and processing statements submitted to different Member States and exceeding fish quantities will be avoided.**

• • •

<sup>38</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.