

**Ares(2022) 1499976 – 01.03.2022**

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

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

<b>Member State:</b>	Malta
<b>Organisation:</b>	MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, FOOD AND ANIMAL RIGHTS Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
<b>Date:</b>	23/03/2022
<b>Name, position and contact details of responsible official:</b>	<span style="background-color: #cccccc; display: inline-block; width: 200px; height: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;"></span> Malta

<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>Yes except for questions (list):</b>	
<b>No:</b>	X

**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**

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

.....

**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.

**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);
- catch certification scheme (Chapter III).

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

- *the control of direct landings of third country fishing vessels;*

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

- *validation of catch certificates upon exports;*

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

- *checks and verifications of catch certificates for imports under direct landing;*

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

- *checks and verifications of catch certificates for imports arriving by other means than fishing vessels (e.g. by containers, trucks);*

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

- *validation and verifications of re-exports.*

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

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

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

N/A, single Authority

- 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.).*

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.....  
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<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.

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

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

- *for checks and verifications in accordance with Articles 16 and 17;*
- *for validation of catch certificates and re-export certificates in accordance with Articles 15.2 and 21.3.*

*3 officials, not including BFT section for ICCAT ebcds.*

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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?

*Yes*                       *No*

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

*Malta Freeport Terminals Ltd Freeport Centre Port of Marsaxlokk*

<b>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></b>
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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*

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

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

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

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?

<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)

<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.

Please fill-in the table below (2020):

Inspections of third country vessels in Member States ports (2020)								
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2020)	Flag of the third country vessel(s) <sup>8</sup>					Total
			<i>Ex. NO</i>	<i>DZA</i>	<i>LBY</i>	<i>TUN</i>	<i>TUR</i>	
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	100	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of inspections	10	1	4	2	5	12
		% of inspections / landings	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
		Number of infringements	3	0	0	2	0	2
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	ALB	LBY	PAN	TUN	
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	100	0	0	0	2	2
		Number of inspections	10	4	2	5	8	19
		% of inspections / landings	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
		Number of infringements	3	2	0	0	2	4
Transshipments	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transshipments in ports	2	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of inspections	2	0	0	0	0	0
		% of inspections / transshipments	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
TUN		Missing fishing logbook Inappropriate gear	Seized gear
TUN		Inappropriate gear Missing fishing logbook	Seized gear
...			
FSx			

Please fill-in the table below (2021):

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

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

<b>Flag of the third country vessel<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>Name of the third country fishing vessel</b>	<b>Type of infringements</b>	<b>Measures taken</b>
ALB		Vessel logbook not on board. ITD not on board. Observer logbook not on board. Transfer authorisation not on board.	Notified EFCA
ALB		No boarding ladder provided. Obstruction of duties.	Informed EFCA
TUN		Breached Chapter 425 And EU Regulation. Fish And Gear Seized.	Fish, gear, and boat confiscated by AFM
FSx		Breached Chapter 425 And EU Regulation. Fish And Gear Seized.	Fish, gear, and boat confiscated by AFM

3.5. Please provide:

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

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

<b>Landings in 2020</b>		<b>Landings in 2021</b>	
<b>Flag of the third country vessel<sup>12</sup></b>	<b>Landed quantities by species</b>	<b>Flag of the third country vessel<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>Landed quantities by species</b>
FS1	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:	TUN	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:
FS2	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:	TUN	Species 1: Species 2: Species x:
...	...	...	...

<sup>11</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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

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

FSx	...	FSx	...
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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: 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	...

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]

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

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

Yes  No

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

In 2020: .....

In 2021: .....

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

Yes  No

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

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



**Section 4. Information on catch certification scheme for importation for the purpose of the IUU Regulation<sup>16</sup>**

4.1. How many catch certificates<sup>17</sup> 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>18</sup> Please only provide information on catch certificates accompanying the consignments to be imported in your country; for consignments meant for transit to another Member State (Article 19.1 of the IUU Regulation), please see the question 4.7. of this questionnaire.

CC Flag state (3rd)	2020	2021
China	59	15
Ecuador	14	19
Egypt	9	0
Faroe Islands	8	6
Ghana	4	3
Iceland	0	34
Indonesia	6	17
Kenya	2	3
Korea	13	13
Mauritania	0	2
Mauritius	4	9
Morocco	216	381
Norway	1	22
Panama	3	9
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1	0
PERU	10	4
Philippines	29	21
Russia	27	66
Senegal	229	180
Seychelles	67	12
South Africa	0	1
Taiwan	1	12
Thailand	1	0
Tunisia	0	11
Turkey	1	0
United Kingdom	0	N/A
USA	0	12
Vietnam	1	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>861</b>

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.*

<sup>16</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States.

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

<sup>18</sup> If catch certificates are submitted only for transshipment purposes, please specify.

RFMO document	2020	2021
<i>N/A</i>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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?

CC Flag state (EU)	2020	2021
France	29	18
Germany	1	0
Italy	1	0
Netherlands	0	2
Spain	38	16
United Kingdom	N/A	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>44</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>N/A</i>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</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	2020	2021
China	0	1
Ecuador	4	14
Korea	11	14
Mauritius	116	50
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	3	0
Philippines	2	7
Seychelles	12	1
Thailand	16	1
Turkey	3	1
United Kingdom	0	138
Vietnam	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>227</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. Do you have cases where third country fishery products arriving to your country (entry point) were destined to another Member State? [Article 19.1 of the IUU Regulation]

Yes  No

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

In 2020: .....N/A.....

In 2021: ..... N/A .....

4.8. Has your country received requests to authorise APEOs<sup>19</sup> in 2020-2021?

Yes  No

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

.....

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

Yes  No

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

If yes, please detail:

.....

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

Yes  No

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

<b>Destination country (non-EU)<sup>20</sup></b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<i>Tunisia</i>	0	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>

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

Yes  No

<sup>19</sup> Approved Economic Operators – IUU Regulation, Article 16 and Implementing Regulation (EC) 1010/2009, Chapter II

<sup>20</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

*Physical targeted inspection and random inspections of export points.*

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

If yes, please detail:

*.....Inspection of container and sealed, (customs may break seal in order to perform further inspections so seal at destination maybe customs MT).....*

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

*Yes*                       *No*

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

*Yes*                       *No*

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

*At the point of entry*               *At the place of destination*               *Not implemented*

**Section 5. Information on catch certification scheme for exportation<sup>21</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.

*Catches are verified through logbooks before such catch certificates are issued and validated*

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>22, 23</sup>	Year	
	2020	2021
<i>UK</i>	0	2
Total	0	2

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

*Yes*  *No*

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

*Yes*  *No*

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

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

*Yes*  *No*

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

If yes, please detail:

*Number (per year):* .....

<sup>21</sup> Section to be filled-in by flag Member States.

<sup>22</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>23</sup> It is recommended that the validation of a catch certificate for exportation takes place when the country of destination is known.

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; submissions of Documents, copies or originals for verification, release on original certification subject to Inspections at point of entry for fresh fish 100%, random inspections of preserved and frozen produce. Inspection in case of several errors or inconsistencies in the paperwork.

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>
<i>Country 1</i>				
<i>Country 2</i>				
...				
<i>Country x</i>				
Total				

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

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

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

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

- Yes  No

If yes, please detail: checks on RFMO web sites or ebcd /catch certification validation by competent authorities. RFMO's have been contacted several times due to errors in listings.

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

- All  Only part by applying risk management  
 Only part without applying risk management  No verifications

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

- Union criteria  National criteria

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

.....

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

.....

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

*UK catch certification error in quantities and species in regard to catch area, pacific cod listed as caught in FAO 27. This has mitigated its self in the latter months.*

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

	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>
Flag State (EU or non-EU)[1]				
China	59	59	15	15
Ecuador	14	14	19	19
Egypt	9	9	0	0
Faroe Islands	8	8	6	6
France	29	29	18	18
Germany	1	1	0	0

Ghana	4	4	3	3
Iceland	0	0	34	34
Indonesia	6	6	17	17
Italy	1	1	0	0
Kenya	2	2	3	3
Korea	13	13	13	13
Mauritania	0	0	2	2
Mauritius	4	4	9	9
Morocco	216	216	381	381
Netherlands	0	0	2	2
Norway	1	1	22	22
Panama	3	3	9	9
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1	1	0	0
PERU	10	10	4	4
Philippines	29	29	21	21
Russia	27	27	66	66
Senegal	229	229	180	180
Seychelles	67	67	12	12
South Africa	0	0	1	1
Spain	38	38	16	16
Taiwan	1	1	12	12
Thailand	1	1	0	0
Tunisia	0	0	11	11
Turkey	1	1	0	0
United Kingdom	0	0	8	8
USA	0	0	12	12
Vietnam	1	1	9	9

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)?

6.8. Does your country also physically verify the consignments?

Yes  No

If yes, please detail:

*Number (per year) and percentage in relation to all verifications made: 100 % documentary checks for both years,*



	2020		2021	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Random inspection (Export point)	122	45%	65	20%
Targeted Inspection (Mod 25)	32	12%	34	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>30%</b>

Method of selection: .....

**Section 7. Assistance requests to third countries<sup>26</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:*

<u>Flag States /RFMO</u>	No of assistance requests for verifications	Justification	No of assistance requests for verifications	Justification
	2020		2021	
<i>IATTC</i>	2	Vessel Data on RFMO site not updated	3	Vessel Data on RFMO site not updated
<i>WCPFC</i>	1	Vessel marked as not authorised		
<i>Morocco</i>			1	misplaced original CC's
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>	

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 ... *China...1* .....

2021 .....

<sup>26</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

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).

N/A

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.

N/A. Assistance requests made to other than the flag state countries where to RFMO's due to mismatching of identification data or vessel incorrectly listed with expired Authorisation on RFMO web site. All incidence where errors on the RFMO sites.

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, China, Norway, UK, USA.

**Section 8. Information on refusal of importations (Article 18 of the IUU Regulation)<sup>27</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>28</sup>	No.	Flag State <sup>29</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>27</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

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

<sup>29</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>30</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:

UK is now a third country. Herring being sourced from FAO 61 Russian catches via Korea.

**Section 10. Information on mutual assistance<sup>31</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?<sup>32</sup>

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

2020.....0

2021.....0

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.....0

2021.....3

<sup>30</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>31</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>32</sup> Please provide the number of all replies, regardless of their content i.e. including replies which, for example, only confirmed that the request was not relevant for your country. Then please specify the number of cases where you took action and describe the actions taken.

**Section 11. Information on cooperation with third countries<sup>33</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).

*2020 & 2021 Tunisian IUU fishing for DOL within EU Malta EEZ and along MLT FAD's*

**Section 12. Information on nationals<sup>34</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>35</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>36</sup>	Serious infractions detected in 2020:			Serious infractions detected in 2021:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
<i>Cyprus</i>	1	Incorrect E-logbook data				

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

<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> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Flag State of the vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) <sup>36</sup>	Serious infringements detected in 2020:			Serious infringements detected in 2021:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
<i>Italy</i>	4		Communicated to EFCA and Italy			
<i>Malta</i>	48	Various: unmarked fishing gear, Illegal Fishing, Operated at sea without a valid captain authorisation, Fishing Within 180m of FAD, e-logbook not used	Follow ups and monitoring			
<i>Total</i>	TOTAL					

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

Yes  No

If yes, please detail: .....

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

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

Yes  No

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

Flag State of the sighted vessel (EU and non-EU) <sup>37</sup>	No of sighting reports issued in 2020	No of sighting reports issued in 2021
<i>Country 1</i>		
<i>Country 2</i>		

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

<b>Flag State of the sighted vessel (EU and non-EU)<sup>37</sup></b>	<b>No of sighting reports issued in 2020</b>	<b>No of sighting reports issued in 2021</b>
...		
<i>Country x</i>		
<i>Total</i>		

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

*Yes*                       *No*

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

.....

**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?

UK incompetence, Importers were warned in writing if documents are not consistent imports will be refused. No correlation between invoices, packing list and catch certification could be established in the first few shipments. This was from the documentation copies submitted by the local importer and the shipment had not left the UK. At this point it seems the UK exporters have understood the concept and what is required.

**Section 15.    Any other comment**

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