

**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>	Poland
<b>Organisation:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>Date:</b>	06.05.2022
<b>Name, position and contact details of responsible official:</b>	

<b>May the Commission provide a copy of this questionnaire to other Member States and the European Fisheries Control Agency?</b>	
<b>Yes:</b>	Yes, if requested and with notification of our office
<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))

Our notified authorities under the IUU Regulation does not correspond with the latest version of the Official Journal. In view of the above on 11th March 2022, we sent an email to the DG MARE with the current notified authorities, which are given below.

Article 15.2 (exportation of catches):

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Fisheries Department

Article 17.8 (verification of catch certificates):

- in case of imports by land or air:

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Fisheries Department

- in case of imports by sea:

Main Sea Fisheries Inspectorate Regional Center in Gdynia

Main Sea Fisheries Inspectorate Regional Center in Szczecin

Article 21.3 (re-exportation):

Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Waterways; Fisheries Department

Main Sea Fisheries Inspectorate Regional Center in Gdynia

Main Sea Fisheries Inspectorate Regional Center in Szczecin

**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):**

*Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Fisheries Department*

*Main Sea Fisheries Inspectorate Regional Center in Gdynia*

*Main Sea Fisheries Inspectorate Regional Center in Szczecin*

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

***Act on Fisheries of 19.12.2014,***

<https://dziennikustaw.gov.pl/DU/rok/2022/pozycja/540>

***Act on Fishery Product Market of 5.12.2008,***

<https://dziennikustaw.gov.pl/DU/2019/1489>

***Order of Director of the Maritime Office in Szczecin of 26.07.2013***

<https://www.ums.gov.pl/bezpieczenstwo-morskie/przepisy-portowe>

#### **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): *Main Sea Fisheries Inspectorate in Słupsk (MSFI) – Branch Offices in Gdynia and Szczecin*
- catch certification scheme (Chapter III): *as above (for goods arriving via Polish maritime border control points); for goods arriving via land border control points – Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*
- validation of catch certificates upon exports: *Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)*

<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.

- validation and verification of re-exports: *Main Sea Fisheries Inspectorate in Shupsk – Branch Offices in Gdynia and Szczecin*

*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:*

*MSFI is responsible for the implementation of provisions of the IUU Regulation in case of importation and landings executed through the designated Polish seaports.*

*Imports entering Poland via airports/land border crossings are subjected to control by the Department of Fisheries within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (being also the superior authority for the MSFI).*

*Mutual assistance information is distributed to the Main Sea Fisheries Inspector and further to the Branch Offices (Gdynia and Szczecin) by the SLO functioning within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Feedback information is collected by the MSFI and sent to the SLO for being put together with information delivered by the Department of Fisheries. Final feedback information from Poland is then sent by the SLO to the appropriate recipients.*

*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.):*

*Fisheries Administration (MARD and MSFI) is cooperating with Polish Customs and Excise Administration who are responsible for keeping goods not yet released for the free circulation in EU under surveillance, with Border Veterinary Control Posts for the physical inspection of goods (here also with the Food Quality Inspection). MSFI is cooperating with Maritime Administration for surveillance of maritime traffic of third country fishing vessels.*

*Fisheries – responsible for checking of the CCs and legality of the catch itself; responsible for acceptance or denial of the importation of the fishery products and forwarding information concerning the decision taken to the Custom authorities in order to allow them to take appropriate actions; Dpt. Of Fisheries – additionally responsible for issuing of CC for products stemming from catches done by vessels flying the flag of Poland;*

*Health/Food Quality – responsible for physical checks of consignments arriving at Polish borders for conformity with veterinary and food quality requirements; responsible for checking if the products imported are the same as shown on documents; the veterinary Border Control Posts in Szczecin and Gdańsk are places for coordinated, joint inspections of fishery products imported from 3rd countries and delivered by means of maritime transport to designated Polish seaports; such inspections are conducted simultaneously by the officials from the Sea Fisheries Inspection, the Agricultural and Food Quality inspection and the Veterinary Inspection;*

*Customs – responsible for final release for free circulation of the imported products and for collection of the relevant duties; release is not done prior to confirmation of acceptance from Fisheries and Health authorities;*

*Border Guard – responsible for aiding Fisheries authorities in controlling and preventing any illegal activities related to fisheries on Polish maritime waters*

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.

for checks and verifications in accordance with Articles 16 and 17: *4,5 FTE in MSFI (for the reporting period; currently 3,5 FTE) ; 3 in MARD.*

for validation of catch certificates: *3 in MARD.*

for re-export certificates in accordance with Articles 15.2 and 21.3: *4,5 FTE in MSFI (for the reporting period; currently 3,5 FTE) ; 3 in MARD.*

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*

*Świnoujście – Euroterminal  
Gdańsk – Customs Free Zone*

**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*

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 \(europa.eu\)](#)

Our list of designated ports corresponds to the latest version of the Official Journal:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021XC1201%2803%29&qid=1650446944575>

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)

<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.).

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>

*In 2020 – 12, in 2021 – 9*

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

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

Inspections of third country vessels in Member States ports (2020)										
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2021)	Flag of the third country vessel(s) <sup>8</sup>							
			RU	NO	FO	BS	PA	BB	CW	Total
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	1	32	51	23	6	6	1	120
		Number of inspections	1	2	1	2	0	1	0	7
		% of inspections / landings	100,0 %	6,2%	2,0%	8,7%	0	16,7%	0	5,8%
		Number of infringements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transshipments	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transshipments in ports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		% of inspections / transshipments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of infringements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<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 transshipment operation is foreseen. Only designated ports in accordance with Article 5 can be used in this context.

<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>							
			RU	NO	FO	BS	PA	BB	CW	Total
Landings	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	1	65	32	14	0	5	0	117
		Number of inspections	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	5 *
		% of inspections / landings	100,0%	6,2%	0	0	0	0	0	4,3%
		Number of infringements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transshipments	Non-EU vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transshipments in ports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		% of inspections / transshipments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of infringements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

\*Low number of inspections due to COVID-19 limitations

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):

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

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

Flag of the third country vessel <sup>11</sup>	Name of the third country fishing vessel	Type of infringements	Measures taken
FS1			
FS2			
...			
FSx			

3.5. Please provide:

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

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

Landings in 2020*		Landings in 2021*	
Flag of the third country vessel <sup>12</sup>	Landed quantities by species, kg	Flag of the third country vessel <sup>13</sup>	Landed quantities by species, kg
RU	Cod (GUII): 37506 Haddock (GUII): 1308 Beaked redfish (GUII): 4800 American plaice (GUII): 2070 Atlantic wolffish (GUII): 925 Spotted wolffish (GUII): 775	RU	Cod (GUII): 45539 Haddock (GUII): 1430

\*Only landings of fish delivered directly from fishing grounds are shown here. It is not possible to present the data for landings of catches when fishery products arrive to our ports from the other ports – the data of amounts landed include various presentations of the same species which should not be added unless all is converted to the live weight. Data of actual conversion factors used by 3rd countries vessels are incomplete.

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

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

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

Please fill-in the table below (transhipments):

Transhipments in 2020 <sup>3</sup>		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

\* No transhipment operations in PL ports in 2020 and 2021

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: 1

In 2021: 0

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:

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

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



Basic criteria used as per Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No. 1010/2009 – letters: m), n), o) and p). Vessels' notifications indicating arrival for repairs or other non-landing purposes is used as an additional threat for the risk assessment.

**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.

Flag State (non-EU) <sup>19</sup>	2020	2021
NO	674	806
IS	318	393
FO	81	58
RU	1463	1839
GB	0	33
US	576	853
CA	225	207
SV	28	8
PA	20	98
KR	1	23
PH	242	178
ID	29	34
NZ	185	317
CN	229	116
MA	9	6
IN	53	74
GL	12	10
EC	75	142
VN	9	11
PE	15	159
AR	111	254
PG	2	10

<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 each certificate are submitted only for transshipment purposes, please specify.

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

<b>Flag State (non-EU)<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<i>MX</i>	1	0
<i>CO</i>	3	2
<i>CL</i>	193	161
<i>NI</i>	0	4
<i>TW</i>	0	5
<i>MV</i>	0	106
<i>ZA</i>	12	19
<i>AU</i>	1	3
<i>LK</i>	108	22
<b>total</b>	<b>4765</b>	<b>5951</b>

\* The numbers given in this table include all catch certificates presented to the PL control offices. Some of the catch certificates were submitted as copies and have been counted each time even when the certificate's number was the same. Currently in Poland it is not possible to find if the same catch certificate was submitted for the first time or was it already have been presented before for the reason of:

- a) there are three independent offices dealing with the catch certificates in import,
- b) the time lag between copies arrival is very long,
- c) some of the copies have arrived already in 2019 and some copies are still arriving in 2022,
- d) some (or rather many) copies are arriving to other Member States also,
- e) each copy is handled before the goods are released for free circulation

This issue is tackled by the new Single Window Scheme being implemented in Poland since 2022, where each catch certificate arriving for the first time will receive its individual tag. This Single Window Scheme is currently in the very initial implementing phase.

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.*

<b>RFMO document</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<i>ICCAT (electronic)-bluefin tuna catch document</i>	4	3
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>	4	6
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</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?

<b>Flag State (EU)</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<i>GB</i>	53	N/A
<i>DK</i>	11	9
<i>SE</i>	4	2

Flag State (EU)	2020	2021
<i>PL</i>	0	1
<i>LT</i>	0	1
<i>LV</i>	0	2
<i>ES</i>	60	62
<i>FR</i>	5	41
<i>EE</i>	1	1
<i>IT</i>	0	3
<i>DE</i>	0	1
<i>IE</i>	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>128</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>	0	0
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>	0	0
<i>CCSBT CDS</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 <sup>20</sup>	2020	2021
<i>NO</i>	2	9
<i>CN</i>	833	902
<i>EC</i>	43	80
<i>VN</i>	45	48
<i>PG</i>	4	14
<i>TH</i>	8	11
<i>CO</i>	12	25
<i>FO</i>	0	1
<i>Other</i>	56	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>1139</b>

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

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

Yes  No

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

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

Yes  No

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

In 2020: .....

In 2021: .....

4.8. Has your country received requests to authorise APEOs<sup>21</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:

*There is a regulation on granting the APEO status*

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

Yes  No

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

Destination country (non-EU) <sup>22</sup>	2020	2021
NO	235	260
Total	235	260

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

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

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

*Yes*                       *No*

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

If yes, please detail:

*Customs and Excise service is controlling re-use of raw material by the processing plant to check if the balance is zero.*

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>23</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 exporter sends the original of the catch certificate to the Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. We check the data of the fishing vessel along with the license and special permit. The certificate also lists the dates of fishing and the number of catches. Employees of the Department of Fisheries confirm the catch data at the Fisheries Monitoring Center. After being informed about the correctness of the data, the certificate is validated and the original is sent to the exporter.*

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>24, 25</sup>	Year	
	2020	2021
<i>Third Country 1</i>		
<i>Third Country 2</i>		
...		
<i>Third Country x</i>		
Total	7	34

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)

<sup>23</sup> Section to be filled-in by flag Member States.

<sup>24</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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

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): .....

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>26</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: *The CCs are first checked against their accordance with the rules of the IUU regulation and against conformity with the templates. This is done by the use of the appropriate database (so far mostly SMS) as well as the information within the IUU regulation itself and the related regulations concerning agreed records with third countries. Recent information from Commission as well as Mutual Assistance messages are also taken into account at this stage. The whole process is, of course, governed by the knowledge and experience gained through the years.*

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>27</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>
NO	614	614	635	635
IS	237	237	358	358
FO	81	81	54	54

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

<sup>27</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Flag State (EU or non-EU) <sup>27</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>RU</i>	887	887	920	920
<i>GB</i>	0	0	29	29
<i>US</i>	278	278	468	468
<i>CA</i>	225	225	207	207
<i>SV</i>	28	28	8	8
<i>PA</i>	20	20	98	98
<i>KR</i>	1	1	23	23
<i>PH</i>	242	242	142	142
<i>ID</i>	29	29	34	34
<i>NZ</i>	185	185	310	310
<i>CN</i>	229	229	116	116
<i>MA</i>	9	9	6	6
<i>IN</i>	53	53	73	73
<i>GL</i>	12	12	9	9
<i>EC</i>	75	75	142	142
<i>VN</i>	9	9	11	11
<i>PE</i>	15	15	23	23
<i>AR</i>	109	109	252	252
<i>PG</i>	2	2	10	10
<i>MX</i>	1	1	0	0
<i>CO</i>	3	3	2	2
<i>CL</i>	193	193	161	161
<i>NI</i>	0	0	4	4
<i>TW</i>	0	0	5	5
<i>MV</i>	0	0	3	3
<i>ZA</i>	12	12	19	19
<i>AU</i>	1	1	3	3
<i>GB</i>	53	53	N/A	N/A
<i>DK</i>	11	11	9	9
<i>SE</i>	4	4	2	2
<i>PL</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>LT</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>LV</i>	0	0	2	2

Flag State (EU or non-EU) <sup>27</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>
ES	60	60	58	58
FR	5	5	41	41
EE	1	1	1	1
IT	0	0	3	3
DE	0	0	1	1
IE	0	0	5	5
<b>total</b>	<b>3684</b>	<b>3684</b>	<b>4249</b>	<b>4249</b>

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

*The conformity with available, most up-to-date, template (comparison). Correctness of the validating authority. Completeness and consistency of the data in the document (consecutiveness of dates, quantities, provided names (vessels, entities), accuracy of CN codes provided by the EU operators, stamps and signatures in cases when look unusually.*

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:

*The content of each CC is first compared with other accompanying documents (BL, HC, Packing List, invoices, landing/transshipment declarations, - according to availability) to verify if the data correlate. Should any uncertainty arise, the additional information/explanations and/or additional documents are being asked from the importer/3C exporter/3C competent authority. In case it is the latter, the official verification request is sent expressing reasons for the procedure and expected actions at the side of the subject 3C authority. In the sent request, there is a deadline for answering indicated, yet if no reaction is received within a week a reminder is sent followed by another 2-3 days before the deadline. The latter one reminds also that in case there is no answer to the verification request, the products related to the verified document shall not be allowed for importation into the EU. After receiving the new material, the data are being analysed and compared with the previous ones and either (should there be such necessity) additional explanations/information/documents are requested (the verification continues) or the final decision (allowing or denying the importation) is being made.*

*Should the necessity arise to receive information concerning the "physicality" of the products related to the CCs, we are in permanent contact with other services, such as those responsible for checking the quality and health aspects of the fishery products. Data received from them are also taken into consideration when making the decision whether the importation should be accepted or denied.*

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.

.....

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

Flag State (EU or non-EU) <sup>28</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>
<i>NO</i>	674	674	806	806
<i>IS</i>	318	318	393	393
<i>FO</i>	81	81	58	58
<i>RU</i>	1463	1463	1839	1839
<i>GB</i>	0	0	33	33
<i>US</i>	576	576	853	853
<i>CA</i>	225	225	207	207
<i>SV</i>	28	28	8	8
<i>PA</i>	20	20	98	98
<i>KR</i>	1	1	23	23

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



Flag State (EU or non-EU) <sup>28</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>
<i>PH</i>	242	242	178	178
<i>ID</i>	29	29	34	34
<i>NZ</i>	185	185	317	317
<i>CN</i>	229	229	116	116
<i>MA</i>	9	9	6	6
<i>IN</i>	53	53	74	74
<i>GL</i>	12	12	10	10
<i>EC</i>	75	75	142	142
<i>VN</i>	9	9	11	11
<i>PE</i>	15	15	159	159
<i>AR</i>	111	111	254	254
<i>PG</i>	2	2	10	10
<i>MX</i>	1	1	0	0
<i>CO</i>	3	3	2	2
<i>CL</i>	193	193	161	161
<i>NI</i>	0	0	4	4
<i>TW</i>	0	0	5	5
<i>MV</i>	90	90	106	106
<i>ZA</i>	12	12	19	19
<i>AU</i>	1	1	3	3
<i>DK</i>	11	11	9	9
<i>SE</i>	4	4	2	2
<i>PL</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>LT</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>LV</i>	0	0	2	2
<i>ES</i>	60	60	62	62
<i>FR</i>	5	5	41	41
<i>EE</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>IT</i>	0	0	3	3
<i>DE</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>IE</i>	0	0	5	5
<i>LK</i>	108	108	22	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>4899</b>	<b>4899</b>	<b>8995</b>	<b>8995</b>

Please reply to the following questions:

- How many catch certificates have you verified in the context of the application of Article 17.4?  
*As above.*
- 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:

*No precise number available, since such controls are done daily by Veterinary officers and Food Quality Inspectors at BCPs. Out of all those, around 30 per year are joint controls conducted by Fishery- and Food Quality Inspectors together with veterinary officials.*

*Method of selection: All shipments/containers arriving from 3rd countries other than NO, IS or FO are subjected to veterinary controls which include identification of species and weight checking. Imports for joint controls are selected either randomly or upon receiving an alert from Veterinary officials.*

**Section 7. Assistance requests to third countries<sup>29</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>30</sup>	No of assistance requests for verifications 2020	Justification	No of assistance requests for verifications 2021	Justification
<i>PE</i>	2	Art. 17.6 a)	-	-
<i>PH</i>	7	Art. 17.4 a) Art. 17.6 a)	-	-
<i>IS</i>	5	Art. 17.6 a)	4	Art. 17.6 a)
<i>AR</i>	2	Art. 17.6 a) Art. 17.5	-	-
<i>CN</i>	4	Art. 17.4 a) Art. 17.6 a)	1	Art. 17.6 a)
<i>MX</i>	1	Art. 17.6 a)	-	-
<i>RU</i>	18	Art. 17.4 a) Art. 17.6 a)	19	Art. 17.4 a) Art. 17.6 a) Art. 17.5

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

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

Flag States <sup>30</sup>	No of assistance requests for verifications 2020	Justification	No of assistance requests for verifications 2021	Justification
CO	2	Art. 17.4 a) Art. 17.6 a)	2	Art. 17.6 a)
PA	2	Art. 17.6 a)	-	-
NO	1	Art. 17.6 a)	-	-
NI	-	-	1	Art. 17.6 a)
ES	4	Art. 17.4 a) Art. 17.6 a)	4	Art. 17.4 a) Art. 17.6 a)
GB	1	Art. 17.6 a)	-	-
NL	1	Art. 17.6 a)	1	Art. 17.6 a)
EC	-	-	5	Art. 17.4 a) Art. 17.6 a)
DK	-	-	4	Art. 17.6 a)
AU	1	Art. 17.6 a)	-	-
US	3	Art. 17.4 a)	1	Art. 17.4 a)
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>		<b>42</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 5

2021 3

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

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. 23. Discrepancy between data in CC and the related PS (CN, NO, CO, EC, FO) inconsistent data concerning route of the consignment (FO). Feedback – satisfactory.

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. It is a part of documentary verification related to US, NO, CA, IN and EC. The IT tool for checking the landing data, available at the fiskistofa.is website, is also used in case of IS catch certificates. No separate record of using those IT systems is available, because each of them may have been used several times for the same catch certificate, since after splitting of the original consignment there might be several new consignments with the same CC or, should the part of the fish be processed in the 3rd country, the copy of the initial CC accompanies each processing statement endorsed.

**Section 8. Information on refusal of importations (Article 18 of the IUU Regulation)<sup>31</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>32</sup>	No.	Flag State <sup>33</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>31</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>32</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>33</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>34</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:

*No important change of trade patterns has been observed, save for the temporary hiatus and following, interchanging periods of more intense importation and idleness. Reefer vessels frequently change flags, there was a trend observed for increase of NO share in the composition of landings. UK becoming 3<sup>rd</sup> country added a huge amount of work related to endorsing of the Polish processing statements which requires checking of enclosed catch certificates for each shipment to UK. PL exporters not prepared for submission of processing statements free of typo errors and from inconsistency with the catch certificates data.*

**Section 10. Information on mutual assistance<sup>35</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>36</sup>

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

*2020 all (samples of catch certificates)*

*2021 all (samples of catch certificates)*

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 no*

*2021 yes 2 (ES, KE-problem with verification of RU CC)*

<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> 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>37</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>38</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>39</sup>**

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

*Yes*                       *No*

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

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

<sup>37</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>38</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>39</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>40</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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

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

Yes  No

If yes, please detail:

*According to Article 126 paragraph 1 of the Sea Fisheries Act in case of serious infringement Main Sea Fisheries Inspector imposes a sanction of five times the value of the fishery products obtained by committing the serious infringement. According to Article 126 paragraph 2 of the Sea Fisheries Act in case of a repeated serious infringement within a five-year period, the Main Sea Fisheries Inspector imposes a sanction of not less than eight times the value of the fishery products obtained by committing the serious infringement and not exceeding twenty times the value of the fishery products obtained by committing the serious infringement.*

Have you used criminal sanctions? If yes, please specify if in addition to or in replacement of administrative sanctions: *In PL we do not use criminal 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>41</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>		

<sup>41</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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?

*COVID-19 significantly reduced the level of landings inspections, especially in 2021. Inspections have been conducted however in relation to calls of 3<sup>rd</sup> country vessels for the reasons other than landings (not included in the relevant table). Checks of PL processing statements was a challenge in 2021.*

*As in previous years (though we are aware those problems are dealt with at the moment, and we are grateful for that):*

*- Lack of precise laws allowing the justified decisions to be taken – there are lots of interpretations and “oral indications” from Commission which, though otherwise are reasonable or even necessary, have no support in existing regulations;*

*- Lack of one consistent interpretation of existing regulations and its forwarding to the 3Cs;*

*- Additionally, due to changes (sometimes several) in government structure of certain 3Cs, it is difficult to find a valid email address to send a verification request to. DB transfer from SMS to CIRCABC should help.*

#### Section 15. Any other comment

...

