

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

Reporting period 2022-2023 (deadline for submission 30 April 2024)

Member State:	BULGARIA
Organisation:	Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture
Date:	29.04.2024
Name, position and contact details of responsible official:	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>

May the Commission provide a copy of this questionnaire to other Member States?	
Yes:	X
Yes except for questions (list):	
No:	
May the Commission provide a copy of this questionnaire to the European Fisheries Control Agency for a horizontal assessment¹?	
Yes:	X
Yes except for questions (list):	
No:	

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%3A52022XC0408%2802%29&qid=1701963740421>

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

¹ This assessment is for internal use of the Commission. EFCA will present to Member States a summary of this assessment in the EFCA's Plenary and Steering Group meeting.

Please state your notified authorities under the IUU Regulation in accordance with Article 39(4) (nationals):

Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture

Section 1. Information on legal framework²

Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2020-2021, has your country adopted/modified national law or any administrative guides for the application of any of the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation)?

Yes No

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

Section 2. Information on administrative organisation³

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” and Directorate-General “Fisheries and Control”

- nationals (Chapter VIII).

Executive Agency for Fisheries and Aquaculture

When providing the above requested information, please specify if different authorities/services are involved in the implementation of the IUU Regulation for:

- *the control of the access and use of ports, including for landings and transshipments, of third country fishing vessels in accordance with Chapter II of the IUU Regulation;*
- *checks and verifications of catch certificates for fishery products arriving on board of third country fishing vessels at designated ports;*
- *checks and verifications of catch certificates for imports of consignment with fishery products arriving by other means than fishing vessels (e.g. by containers, planes, trucks);*
- *validation of catch certificates for exports;*
- *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 their headquarters/central authorities);*

² This section 1 is to be filled-in by all Member States i.e. coastal and landlocked Member States.

³ This section 2 is to be filled-in by all Member States i.e. coastal and landlocked Member States.

The internal coordination is carried out by EAFA documentary system, e-mail and phone

- b) *horizontal 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.).*
- **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 transshipments 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.**

If written agreements on cooperation between different authorities/services have been concluded, please provide copies.

When providing the above requested information, if there were any changes in the administrative organisation since the previous reporting period (2020-2021), please underline those changes.

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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); please specify which authority they belong to:

- *for checks and verifications in accordance with Articles 16 and 17 of the IUU Regulation;*

By order of the Executive Director of EAFA, a total of 5 officials are dealing with the implementation of the catch certification scheme - 3 - in Burgas, 1 - in Varna and 1 - in Sofia.

- *for validation of catch certificates for exports and of re-export certificates in accordance with Articles 15(2) and 21(3) of the IUU Regulation.*

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/freeports⁴ in which activities relevant to importation/exportation/processing of fishery products are authorised?

Yes No

In Bulgaria there are no free zones/free ports for the mentioned activities.

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

Section 3. Information on access to ports, including for landings and transshipments of fishery products, by third country fishing vessels⁵ (and information on related port inspections and confirmed infringements)⁶

3.1. Does your country have designated ports for access to port services or landings or transhipment of fishery products by third country fishing vessels (Article 5 of the IUU Regulation⁷)?

Yes No

In implementation of Article 5 of the IUU Regulation, Bulgaria has designated the following ports, where direct landings and transshipments from third countries fishing 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:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52023XC01237>

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

3.2. In years 2022 and 2023 respectively, how many times have third country fishing vessels been granted authorisation to access designated ports in your country only for repair/maintenance/supply?⁸

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/customs-procedures/what-is-importation/free-zones_en

⁵ Fishing vessels as defined in article 2(5) of the IUU Regulation.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Please note that ports designated under Regional Fisheries Management Organisations must also be designated under the IUU Regulation with restrictions if necessary (species, etc.).

⁸ 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 where they do not carry fishery products on board and therefore no landing or transhipment operation is foreseen. Third country fishing vessels shall only access ports designated in accordance with Article 5.

In 2022 and 2023 third country fishing vessels were not requested and accordingly not given permission to access designated ports in our country for repair/maintenance/supply?

3.3. How many landings and transshipments in designated ports by third country fishing vessels have been recorded by your country between 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023? How many inspections did your country carry out and how many infringements have been detected?

Between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2023 no cases of landings and transshipments in designated ports by third country fishing vessels were registered by Bulgaria.

Please fill-in the table below (2022):

Inspections of third country fishing vessels in Member States ports (2022)								
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2022)	Flag of the third country vessel(s) ⁹					Total
			Example: IS	FS1	FS2	FS3	FSx	
Landings	Third country 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
Transshipments	Third country vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transshipments in ports	2	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0
		% of inspections / transshipments	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Number of infringements	0	0	0	0	0	0

⁹ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Please fill-in the table below (2023):

Inspections of third country fishing vessels in Member States ports (2023)								
Type of operation	Vessels	Figures (2023)	Flag of the third country vessel(s) ¹⁰					Total
			Example: IS	FS1	FS2	FS3	FSx	
Landings	Third country 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	Third country 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 fishing 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 (2022):

Flag of the third country vessel ¹¹	Name of the third country vessel	Type of infringements	Measures taken
FS1	_____	_____	_____
FS2	_____	_____	_____
...	_____	_____	_____
FSx	_____	_____	_____

Please fill-in the table below (2023):

Flag of the third country vessel ¹²	Name of the third country vessel	Type of infringements	Measures taken
FS1	_____	_____	_____

¹⁰ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹¹ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹² 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 2022 and 2023, respectively (by species and flag of the catching 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 2022 and 2023, respectively (by species and flag of the vessels):

Not applicable. We do not have quantities of fish landed by or transhipped from third countries' fishing donor vessels.

Please fill-in the table below (landings):

Landings in 2022		Landings in 2023	
Flag of the third country vessel that caught the fish ¹³	Landed quantities by species ¹⁴ (weight in tonnes)	Flag of the third country vessel that caught the fish ¹⁵	Landed quantities by species ¹⁴ (weight in tonnes)
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 2022		Transhipments in 2023	
Flag of the third country vessel ¹⁶	Transhipped quantities by species ¹⁴	Flag of the third country vessel ¹⁷	Transhipped quantities by species ¹⁴

¹³ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹⁴ Please use the FAO Alpha-3 codes (ASFIS).

¹⁵ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹⁶ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

	<i>(weight in tonnes)</i>		<i>(weight in tonnes)</i>
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 2022:

In 2023:

3.7. Since January 2022, has your country denied access to its ports to a fishing vessel for port services, landing or transshipment 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 2022:

In 2023:

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 2022:

In 2023:

¹⁷ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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) No 1010/2009]?

Yes

No

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

If yes, please detail, in order to reach the objective of at least 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 importation¹⁸

4.1. How many catch certificates¹⁹ from non-EU countries were submitted to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023? Please complete the following table by flag State validating the catch certificates, including cases where catch certificates are accompanied by processing statements.²⁰ 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) ²¹	2022		2023	
	Annex II catch certificate ²²	Simplified catch certificate ²³	Annex II catch certificate ²²	Simplified catch certificate ²³
AR	20		12	
CA	56	4	55	
CN	34		52	
EC	53	1	3	
FO	22		9	
BY	13		8	
IS	12		18	
IN				3
ID	16	1	24	6
MX			2	
MA	8	45	13	21
NZ	13		11	
NO	56		95	

¹⁸ Section to be filled-in by all Member States.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ If catch certificates are submitted only for transshipment purposes, please specify.

²¹ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

²² Based on Annex II to the IUU Regulation

²³ Based on Annex IV to the Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009

Flag State (non-EU)²¹	2022		2023	
PE	4	2	2	
PH	13		9	
RU	1		27	
SC	7		16	
LK	14			
TH	4		2	
TR	34		15	
UA			1	
GB	3			
US	29		33	
VN	2		1	
GL			1	
Total	414	53	409	30

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	2022	2023
<i>ICCAT (electronic)-bluefin tuna catch document</i>	—	—
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>	—	—
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>	—	—
Total	—	—

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 2022 until 31 December 2023?

Flag State (EU)	2022	2023
ES	16	16
RO		1
BG	21	28
Total	37	45

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	2022	2023
<i>ICCAT (electronic)-bluefin tuna catch document</i>	----	----
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>	----	----
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>	----	----
Total	----	----

4.5. How many processing statements (Article 14(2) – Annex IV) were submitted to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023? Please provide details per year and per processing country.

Processing non-EU State²⁴	2022	2023
<i>CN</i>	18	18
<i>BY</i>	13	8
<i>ID</i>	16	11
<i>MA</i>	3	3
<i>NO</i>	6	3
<i>EC</i>	1	
<i>PH</i>		5
<i>TR</i>	2	3
<i>UA</i>		1
Total	59	52

4.6. How many single transport documents referred to in Article 14(1)(b)(i) were submitted to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023? Please provide details per year and by third country concerned.

Non-EU State concerned²⁵ – single transport document	2022	2023
	0	0
Total	0	0

4.7. How many documents referred to in Article 14(1)(b)(ii) (the so-called non-manipulation declarations) were submitted to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023? Please provide details per year and per country that issued such a document.

²⁴ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

²⁵ Country through which fishery products went when transported from the territory of the flag State and before arriving to your country.

4.12. Has your country validated re-export certificates for products imported from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023?

Yes *No*

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

Destination country (non-EU) ²⁸	2022	2023
TR		1
Total		1

4.13. 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 2022-2023)

If yes, please provide details:

It is within the competence of customs.

4.14. 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.

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

Yes *No*

4.15. 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 because no consignments were placed under transit procedure as laid down in Article 19(2)

²⁸ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Section 5. Information on catch certification scheme for exportation²⁹

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 2022-2023)

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 an 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 2022-2023 in accordance with Article 15?

Yes *No*

If yes, how many catch certificates did you validate from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023? Please provide details per requesting third country/country of destination in the following table:

Destination State ^{30, 31}	Year	
	2022	2023
GB	15	13
UA	4	3
TR	2	12
Total	21	28

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 2022-2023)

²⁹ Section to be filled-in by flag Member States.

³⁰ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

³¹ 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 2022 and 31 December 2023?

Yes No

Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of request for validation of catch certificates for exportation in 2022-2023)

If yes, please provide details on:

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 Regulation³²

Please note: points 6.1 to 6.3 in this Section refer to checks of catch certificates in accordance with Article 16(1) whereas points 6.4 to 6.11 refer to verifications of catch certificates in accordance with Article 17.

The clear separation between checks and verifications in this Section thus reflects the provisions of the mentioned Articles of the IUU Regulation.

It is therefore important to provide the requested information in line with this separation.

6.1. Has your country established a procedure for checks of catch certificates in accordance with Article 16(1)?

Yes No

If yes, please provide relevant instruction manuals/ guidance documents.

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. (i) if all required data are provided in a catch certificate and (ii) if these data correspond to the notification from the flag State in question³³)?

Yes No

If you do not check all catch certificates as indicated above (i.e. for data completeness and correspondence with information from the flag State notification) and instead you apply risk management for checks, please provide the following:

- risks identified in 2022 and 2023 on the basis of risk management used to check catch certificates, and
- number of catch certificates checked:

Please fill-in the table below:

³² Section to be filled-in by all Member States

³³ Based on comparison of the information in the catch certificate with the information provided in the flag State notification available to Member States authorities on the Commission website (in CIRCABC database).

Flag State (EU or non-EU) ³⁴	2022		2023	
	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>
AR	20	20	12	12
CA	60	60	55	55
CN	34	34	52	52
EC	54	54	3	3
FO	22	22	9	9
BY	13	13	8	8
IS	12	12	18	18
IN			3	3
ID	17	17	30	30
MX			2	2
MA	53	53	34	34
NZ	13	13	11	11
NO	56	56	95	95
PE	6	6	2	2
PH	13	13	9	9
RO			1	1
RU	1	1	18	18
SC	7	7	16	16
ES	16	16	16	16
LK	14	14		
TH	4	4	2	2
TR	34	34	15	15

³⁴ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

UA			1	1
GB	3	3		
US	29	29	33	33
VN	2	2	1	1
GL			1	1
Total	483	483	447	447

6.3. What exactly do you check in catch certificates in accordance with Article 16(1)? Please describe the precise scope and the procedure used in detail³⁵:

The checks we carry out for all catch certificates can be described as follows:

Checks:

- If the catch certificate (CC) contains all the information specified in the Annex II of IUU Regulation or in the Annex IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009 in case of simplified CC;
- If the Flag State is a notified country (Art. 20) – in CIRCABC database and Flag State notification in DG MARE website;
- If CC template is in line with the Regulation (EC) 1005/2008 or notified by the flag State – in CIRCABC database, Regulations (EC) 1005/2008 and 1010/2009;
- Flag State status – if the country is identified/listed as non-cooperating (Arts. 31 and 33)/if the country is pre-identified as non-cooperating (Art. 32 – yellow card) – in DG MARE website and EU Official Journal;
- If the CC is validated by the Flag State authorities as notified to Commission (Art. 20) - in CC box no. 1: the name, address and tel./fax of the validating authority correspond to data provided in CIRCABC database; in CC box. no. 9: stamp corresponds to the stamp template provided in CIRCABC database; date of validation is logic when compared with other dates provided in the CC; official's name/title corresponds to name/title provided in CIRCABC database; signature corresponds to the signature provided in CIRCABC;
- If the vessel is included in an IUU vessel list –in the link: <https://iuu-vessels.org/Home/Search>;
- If receiving vessel is included in an IUU vessel list (in case of transshipment) - in the link: <https://iuu-vessels.org/Home/Search>;
- If Fishing licence/authorisation validity and catch dates are consistent (CC box no. 2 vs CC box no. 3);

³⁵ Please provide a complete description (not only examples of what and how is checked).

- In case of transshipment, if fishing licence/authorisation validity and transshipment dates are consistent (CC box no. 2 vs CC box no. 6 or CC box no. 7) and if the area/position of caches and transshipment are logical;
- If the CC validation date (box no. 9) and the catch dates (box no. 3) are consistent;
- In case of transshipment, if the CC validation date (box no. 9) and the dates in box no. 6 (transshipment date and signature date of master of fishing vessel) are consistent;
- In case of transshipment, if the CC validation date (box no. 9) and the date(s) in box no. 7 (transshipment date and - if provided - signature date of port authority) are consistent;
- In case of transshipment, If the declared quantities of catch and transshipment are consistent (CC box no. 3 vs CC box no. 6 and PS);
- If the product is included in the Annex I i.e. products excluded from the scope of Regulation (EC) 1005/2008 – in Regulation (EC) 1005/2008 (Annex I), TARIC https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/calculation-customs-duties/what-is-common-customs-tariff/taric_en;
- If the submitted CC has been object of a previous withdrawal or refusal in the same or another Member State (MS) – in Mutual Assistance messages and national import database(s) / previous import records;
- If the CC number is unique and generated by the flag State – according the template in CIRCABC database notification;
- If the Processing Statement is endorsed by the competent authority – in the notifications in CIRCABC database;
- If approval number is provided and correct - list in the link: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/directory/publication/establishment/index#!/search?sort=country.translation>;
- Transport details – if the container number in the annex corresponds to the container described in the Bill of Lading, the CMR, the Packing list and the Health Certificate;

Compulsorily during CCs checks we use all available electronic verification systems introduced by third countries.

6.4. Has your country established a procedure for verification of catch certificates for importation in accordance with Article 17?

- Yes* *No*

If yes, please provide relevant instruction manuals/ guidance documents.

6.5. 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*

6.6. If you apply risk management to verifications (Article 17(3)), do you use Union (Article 31 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 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 used³⁶:

.....

6.7. If you apply risk management to verifications, please provide information on the risks identified in 2022 and 2023 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.

.....

6.8. If you do not apply risk management to verifications, please describe the procedure used³⁷:

We carry out verifications in line with art.17 (4) of the IUU Regulation. In any case where a check of a catch certificate or a processing statement leads to a discrepancy or reason to doubt, we make a verification and request to the flag state on the basis of art. 17(6) of the IUU Regulation. In particular, we do compulsory verifications when:

- We have reason to doubt in the authenticity of the catch certificate itself, of the validation seal or of the signature of the relevant authority of the flag State;
- The data in the paper CC does not match the same in the flag state's electronic certificate verification system (when there is an electronic flag state verification system);
- The CC template is not in line with the Annex II to Regulation (EC) 1005/2008, and this template has not been communicated to the Commission (Art. 20);
- We do not find the signature of the validation authority official among the other signatures in the flag state notifications;
- Fishing licence/authorisation validity does not cover the declared catch dates;
- Fishing licence/authorisation validity does not cover the declared transshipment date;
- CC validation date is before the catch dates;
- CC validation date is before the transshipment date and/or signature date of master of fishing vessel;
- The declared quantities of catch and transshipment are not consistent;

³⁶ Please provide a complete description (not only examples of national criteria and of their use).

³⁷ Please provide a complete an accurate description

- Submitted CC has been previously withdrawn (by importer) or refused (by authorities) in the same or another MS;
- Catch dates are not coherent with landing dates;
- We have information that questions the compliance by the fishing vessel with applicable laws, regulations or conservation and management measures, or the fulfilment of other requirements of the IUU Regulation;
- Fishing vessels, fishing companies or any other operators have been reported in connection with presumed IUU fishing;
- Flag States or re-exporting countries have been reported to a regional fisheries management organisation under the terms of an instrument adopted by that organisation to implement trade measures with regard to flag States;
- An alert notice related to the CC/PS/data therein has been published pursuant to Article 23(1).

6.9. How many catch certificates have been verified by your administration from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023? Please specify, separately for each year:

Flag State (EU or non-EU) ³⁸	2022		2023	
	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>RU</i>			18	1
<i>TR</i>			15	1
<i>CA</i>			55	1
<i>CN</i>			52	1
Total	0	0	140	4

6.10. Please reply to the following questions:

- a) How many catch certificates have you verified in the context of the application of Article 17(4)? - 4
- b) How many catch certificates have you verified on the basis of risk identified in accordance with Article 17(3)? - 0
- c) How many catch certificates have been verified at random (Article 17(5)) - 0

6.11. Does your country also physically examine the consignments in the context of verifications? Please note that under this point you are asked to provide information on physical examinations based only on IUU-related grounds.

Yes No

If yes, please provide details on:

³⁸ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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

- a) Number of physically examined consignments (per year) and percentage in relation to all verifications made:
- b) Method of selection of consignments:

Section 7. Assistance requests to third countries³⁹

7.1. Have you sent assistance requests for verifications under Article 17(6) of the IUU Regulation to flag States' authorities in 2022-2023⁴⁰?

- Yes No

If yes, how many assistance requests for verifications? Note: please provide separate data for 2022 and 2023:

Flag States ⁴¹	Number of assistance requests for verifications 2022	Justification (please provide a brief description)	Number of assistance requests for verifications 2023	Justification (please provide a brief description)
RU			1	RU-MUR-2022-3835, RU-MUR-2022-4595, RU-MUR-2022-4614, RU-MUR-2022-4760 - The CCs are not signed by the [redacted] who is empowered by Russian Authorities for Severomorskoe territorial department. The document of notification is found in CIRCABC and is in force from 08.07.2021.
CA			1	Two catch certificates - 191070198 and 148438026 for a total of 48000 kg.

³⁹ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

⁴⁰ Please note that assistance requests for verifications sent to countries other than flag States should be listed under point 7.4.

⁴¹ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Flag States⁴¹	Number of assistance requests for verifications 2022	Justification (please provide a brief description)	Number of assistance requests for verifications 2023	Justification (please provide a brief description)
				but the bill of lading has one CGMU 5167708 and it is for 24000 kg.
<i>CN</i>			1	Checking a processing statement, issued China authorities, for alaska pollock/ Russian catch/- We do not find the processing statement in China's electronic verification system.
<i>TR</i>			1	Discrepancies between the Catch certificate we received and the one we find in the Turkish electronic verification system.
Total	0		4	

7.2. How many assistance requests for verifications 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. have you denied the importation)? [Please provide separate data for 2022 and 2023]

20220.....

20230.....

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 for verifications 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.

Germany

7.5. If you have been using IT systems developed by third countries allowing for a full or partial verification⁴² of catch certificates, please indicate these countries and the number of verifications that were made through their systems (at least approximately)?

We use these IT systems as part of our checks of CCs and PSs.

2022 – more than 240

2023 – more than 280

Norway: <https://www.catchcertificate.no/>

Greenland: <https://eu-cert.nanog.gl/check>

Iceland: <https://island.is/s/fiskistofa>

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

USA: <https://certificate.seafoodinspection.nmfs.noaa.gov/certificateValidation/searchCertificatePageBack.htm>

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

Russia: <https://fishexp.cfmc.ru/Account/Login>

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

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

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

India: <https://c-cert.mpeda.gov.in/track-certificate>

⁴² Please indicate if you use these IT systems already as part of your checks (not verifications) of catch certificates.

Section 8. Information on refusal of importations (Article 18 of the IUU Regulation)⁴³

8.1. Has your country refused any imports from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023? *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	2022		2023	
	Flag State ⁴⁴	Number	Flag State ⁴⁵	Number
Non-submission of a catch certificate for products to be imported.		0		0
The products intended for importation are not the same as those mentioned in the catch certificate.		0		0
The catch certificate is not validated by the notified public authority of the flag State.		0		0
The catch certificate does not indicate all the required information.		0		0
The importer is not in a position to prove that the fishery products comply with the conditions of Article 14.1 or 2.		0		0
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.		0		0
The catch certificate has been validated by the authorities of a flag State identified as a non-cooperating State in accordance with Article 31.		0		0
Further to the request for verification (Article 18.2).		0		0

8.2. If the answer to point 8.1 is yes, what measures were taken by your authorities in relation to the consignments refused (Article 18.3)? Please also quote the national legal basis for the measures taken.

.....

⁴³ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

⁴⁴ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

⁴⁵ 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

Not applicable (absence of refusals in 2022-2023)

If yes, please provide details:

Section 9. Information on trade flows⁴⁶

Please provide information and relevant import figures, 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 2020-2021:

There are no significant differences in trade flows compared to the previous reporting period. The main groups of fish products are preserved - Mackerel, Merluccius /hake/, Prawns, Squid, Sardine, Pollock. The main countries of origin, as in the previous period, are Norway, Morocco, Canada, Iceland, China, Argentina. Imports from Ecuador are significant in 2022, but sharply decrease in 2023. Imports from Russia increase in 2023.

FISH PRODUCTS 2022		FISH PRODUCTS 2023	
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL		AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL	
SQUID	5,42	ALASKA POLLOCK	2,17
HER	1,50	BELONE BELONE	0,06
MAC	49,72	CAB	0,55
SKIPJACK CANNED TUNA	2,70	COD	4,82
GROUP	1,22	CONSERV	1,06
CAT	0,26	CUS	0,03
GURNARD	0,01	FLOUNDER	1,42
TARAKIHI	0,03	FRESH TUNA LOINS	0,01
SAVORIN	0,15	GHOST SHARK	0,04
CARDINAL SPOTTED STARGAZER	0,02 0,00	HER	1,74
SPIKY OREO	0,00	HOKI	0,08
HOKI	0,01	KCD CRAB	0,00
		LOBSTER	0,03

⁴⁶ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

GHOST SHARK	0,01	LOOKDOWN	0,07
SOUTHERN BLUE WHITING	0,12	MAC	45,68
LOOKDOWN DORY	0,06	MAC-CONSERVE	0,09
RAYS BREAM	0,01	MACRURONUS	0,62
MERLUCCIUS	20,05	MERLUCCIUS	11,31
CANNED SARDINELLA	1,07	OCTOPUS	0,50
ALASKA POLLOCK	3,90	PAT	0,05
SARDA	2,43	POMATOMUS SALTATRIX	0,01
SARDINE	2,42	RED COD	0,05
MULLUS	0,15	REDFISH FILLET	0,14
SHRIMPS	5,40	SALILOTA AUSTRALIS	0,01
CONSERV	0,25	SALMON ROE	0,01
SURIMI	0,55	SAO	0,02
SAIRA	0,21	SARDA	2,01
POMATOMUS SALTATRIX	0,11	SARDINE	5,07
QUEEN SNOW CRAB	0,12	SARDINELLA	0,42
OCTOPUS	0,07	SAVORIN	1,13
FROZEN PINK SALMON FILLET	0,14	SHRIMPS	10,65
LOBSTER	0,02	SKIPJACK TUNA	0,23
STROMATHEUS	0,06	SKIPJACK CANNED TUNA	2,06
ALLOTHUNNUS	0,01	SQUID	5,68
RAJA	0,19	STROMATEUS	0,01
MACRURONUS	0,69	SURIMI	0,78
YELLOWFIN	0,02	TRACHURUS	0,50
SKIPJACK	0,13	TURBOT	0,02
TRACHURUS	0,61	WHB	0,51
FRESH WATER PRAWNS	0,00	YELLOWFIN TUNA	0,39

RED MULLET	0,00		
COD	0,10		
MONKFISH	0,04		
RED COD	0,02		
TREVALLY	0,02		

FISH PRODUCTS 2022		FISH PRODUCTS 2023	
AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL BY COUNTRY		AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL BY COUNTRY	
NORWAY	18,56	NORWAY	25,39
MOROCCO	17,39	MOROCCO	14,90
CANADA	16,90	CANADA	13,73
ECUADOR	8,22	ICELAND	9,79
SPAIN	7,85	CHINA	8,62
ICELAND	6,17	SPAIN	6,54
CHINA	4,61	RUSSIA	3,09
ARGENTINA	3,97	ARGENTINA	2,89
NEW ZEALAND	3,16	FAROES	2,55
TURKEY	2,51	NEW ZEALAND	2,37

Section 10. Information on mutual assistance⁴⁷

10.1. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2020-2021, how many mutual assistance messages of the Commission (DG MARE B4) has your country replied to?⁴⁸

Please provide separate data for 2022 and 2023 (if any)

2022

⁴⁷ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

⁴⁸ 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.

MA_GHA_005

MA_ECU_07

Ares(2018)6426845

MA_NAM_001

MA_PAN_03

MA_MRU_002

MA_VNM_005

MA_CHN_024

MA_CHN_025

MA_PER_001

MA_CHE_001

MA_PHL_006

2023

MA_GHA_006

MA_RUS_003

MA_CIV_006

MA_SEN_006

MA_MRU_003

MA_GUI_010

From the numbers above, please specify in how many cases you took action and describe the actions taken.

10.2. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2020-2021, has your country sent any mutual assistance message to the Commission/other Member States?

Please provide separate data for 2022 and 2023 (if any)

2022.....No.....

2023.....No.....

Section 11. Information on cooperation with third countries⁴⁹

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 provide details (please provide separate data for 2022 and 2023, if any).

.....

Section 12. Information on nationals⁵⁰

12.1. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2020-2021, has your country implemented or modified existing measures to ensure that your country can take appropriate action with regards to nationals involved in IUU fishing in accordance with Article 39 of the IUU Regulation?

- Yes No

If yes, please provide details:

12.2. Have there been any cases of nationals of your country engaging in or supporting IUU fishing, including by engagement on board or as operators or beneficial owners of fishing vessels included in the EU IUU vessel list?

- Yes No

If yes, please provide details:

12.3. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2020-2021, has your country taken any action with regard to its nationals who have been identified as supporting or engaged in IUU fishing?

- Yes No

If yes, please provide details:

12.4. What measures has your country taken to encourage nationals to notify any information on interests in third country fishing vessels (Article 40(1))?

- Yes No

Has your country endeavoured to obtain information on arrangements between nationals and third countries allowing reflagging of their fishing vessels in accordance with Article 40(4)?

- Yes No

If yes, please provide details:

⁴⁹ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

⁵⁰ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

12.5. Has your country put in place procedures to ensure that nationals do not sell or export any fishing vessels to operators involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the EU IUU vessel list (Article 40(2))?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details:

12.6. Has your country made use of Article 40(3) and removed public aid under national aid regimes or under EU funds to operators involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the EU IUU vessel list?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details:

We shall include as a new proposal in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act.

Section 13. Serious infringements (Chapter IX of the IUU Regulation)⁵¹

13.1. Has your country detected serious infringements as defined in Article 42 of the IUU Regulation from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023?

Yes No

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

Flag State of the fishing vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁵²	Serious infringements detected in 2022:			Serious infringements detected in 2023:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
<i>BGR002121295</i>	1	Fishing without a valid licence, authorisation or permit;	1 500 lv. – Article 56, paragraph 1 from Fisheries and Aquaculture Act /FAA/ In connection with Ordinance No 3 from 19.02.2013 for applying a point system for serious infringements			

⁵¹ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

⁵² ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Flag State of the fishing vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁵²	Serious infringements detected in 2022:			Serious infringements detected in 2023:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
			as laid down in Council Regulation 1005/2008 (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.			
BGR001126028	1	Not fulfilled its obligations to record and report catch or catch-related data	200 lv. – Article 59 from Fisheries and Aquaculture Act /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.			
BGR002020155	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	1 500lv. In connection with Ordinance No 3, 6 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 6 points are			

Flag State of the fishing vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁵²	Serious infringements detected in 2022:			Serious infringements detected in 2023:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
		violation of Order № RD-09-69/01.02.2019 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	assigned to the master of the vessel.			
BGR002121182	1	Not fulfilled its obligations to turn on VMS while fishing.	2 000 lv. In connection with Ordinance No 3, 3 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence			
BGR001024377				1	Not fulfilled its obligation to record and report catch or catch-related data	200 lv. – Article 59, 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.
BGR001024562				1	Fishing in a prohibited	1 500lv.

Flag State of the fishing vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁵²	Serious infringements detected in 2022:			Serious infringements detected in 2023:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
					area, which is a closed area, between Cape Sivri burun and Cape Emine, in the area at a distance of 3 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № № RD-09-69/01.02.2019 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	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.
<i>BGR001226262</i>				1	Fishing in a prohibited area, north from Cape Kaliakra, in the area at a distance of 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № № RD-09-69/01.02.2019 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	2 000lv. 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.
<i>BGR001028186</i>				1	Fishing in a prohibited area, which is a closed area, between Cape Sivri burun and Cape Kaliakra, in the area at a	2 000lv. In connection with Ordinance No 3, 6 points are assigned to

Flag State of the fishing vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁵²	Serious infringements detected in 2022:			Serious infringements detected in 2023:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
					distance of 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № № RD-09-69/01.02.2019 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	the holder of the fishing licence, and 6 points are assigned to the master of the vessel.
BGR001028080				1	Fishing in a prohibited area, which is a closed area, between Cape Sivri burun and Cape Kaliakra, in the area at a distance of 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № № RD-09-69/01.02.2019 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	2 000lv. 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.
BGR001028405				1	Fishing in a prohibited area, which is a closed area, between Cape Sivri burun and Cape Kaliakra, in the area at a distance of 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of	2 000lv. In connection with Ordinance No 3, 6 points are assigned to the holder of the fishing licence, and 6

Flag State of the fishing vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁵²	Serious infringements detected in 2022:			Serious infringements detected in 2023:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
					Order № № RD-09-69/01.02.2019 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	points are assigned to the master of the vessel.
<i>BGR002020155</i>				1	Not fulfilled its obligations to turn on VMS while fishing.	3 000lv. 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.
<i>BGR001226231</i>				1	Fishing in a prohibited area, which is a closed area, between Cape Sivri burun and Cape Kaliakra, in the area at a distance of 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № № RD-09-69/01.02.2019 issued by the Minister of Agriculture	2 000lv. 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.

Flag State of the fishing vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁵²	Serious infringements detected in 2022:			Serious infringements detected in 2023:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
					and Food	
<i>BGR001010390</i>				1	Fishing in a prohibited area, which is a closed area, between Cape Sivri burun and Cape Kaliakra, in the area at a distance of 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № № RD-09-69/01.02.2019 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food	2 000lv. 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.
<i>BGR002020155</i>				2	Not fulfilled its obligations to record and report catch or catch-related data Taken on board and landed undersized fish in contravention of the legislation in force	2 000 lv. 1 600 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.
<i>BGR001024748</i>				2	Fishing in a prohibited area, which is	2 000 lv.

Flag State of the fishing vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁵²	Serious infringements detected in 2022:			Serious infringements detected in 2023:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
					<p>a closed area, between Cape Sivri burun and Cape Kaliakra, in the area at a distance of 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № № RD-09-69/01.02.2019 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food</p> <p>Not fulfilled its obligations to turn on VMS while fishing</p>	<p>2 000 lv.</p> <p>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.</p>
BGR001010440				1	<p>Fishing in a prohibited area, which is a closed area, between Cape Sivri burun and Cape Kaliakra, in the area at a distance of 1 nautical mile from the coastline, in violation of Order № № RD-09-69/01.02.2019 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and Food</p>	<p>2 000lv.</p> <p>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.</p>

Flag State of the fishing vessel or nationality of the operator (EU and non-EU) ⁵²	Serious infringements detected in 2022:			Serious infringements detected in 2023:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
Total	4			12		

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

Yes No

If yes, please provide details:

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:

Section 14. Sightings (Chapter X of the IUU Regulation)⁵³

14.1. Has your country issued sighting reports from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023?

Yes No

If yes, how many sighting reports were issued by your country from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023?

Flag State of the sighted fishing vessel (EU and non-EU) ⁵⁴	Number of sighting reports issued in 2022	Number of sighting reports issued in 2023
<i>Country 1</i>	_____	_____
<i>Country 2</i>	_____	_____
...	_____	_____
<i>Country x</i>	_____	_____
<i>Total</i>	_____	_____

14.2. Since the last reporting exercise covering the period 2020-2021, has your country received any sighting reports for fishing vessels flying its own flag from other competent authorities?

Yes No

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

.....

Section 15. General

14.1. During the reporting period 2022-2023, what have been the main difficulties that your country has encountered in implementing the IUU Regulation, including the catch certification scheme?

⁵³ Section to be filled-in by all Member States
⁵⁴ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

For the reporting period 2022-2023 we had no special difficulties with implementing the IUU Regulation and the catch certification scheme.

Section 16. Any other comment

We hope that with the introduction of the new EC online IT Catch system in 2025 it will be possible to check all Catch certificates and Processing statements submitted to the Member States and possible duplication of CC, PS and quantities of fish will be avoided.

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