

**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:	<i>Lithuania</i>
Organisation:	<i>Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania</i>
Date:	<i>30.04.2024</i>
Name, position and contact details of responsible official:	

May the Commission provide a copy of this questionnaire to other Member States?	
Yes:	<i>Yes</i>
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:	<i>Yes</i>
Yes except for questions (list):	

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.

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

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

Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania

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

Since last reporting exercise no modifications of national law related to the application of any of the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 were made.

However, the links to the current versions of several legal acts provided in 2022 need to be updated:

- National Fisheries control program for the year of 2021-2024 <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/9cdc9b92417111ebb394e1efb98d3e67?ifwid=-13my3gh6>
- Fisheries Service Regulations adopted by the order of Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania <https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalAct/lt/TAD/TAIS.368075/asr>
- Description of the Procedure for the Approval of European Union Catch Certificates for Vessels fishing under the Flag of the Republic of Lithuania adopted by the order of the Director of the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/8dd816d083c011eab005936df725feed/asr>

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);

Officials of the Fisheries Service, when performing fisheries control, perform fishing supervision and inspect fishing vessels, including third countries cargo vessels discharging fisheries products in designated port in Lithuania, as well landings in other ports where applicable.

- catch certification scheme (Chapter III);

Fisheries Service is an authority validating catch certificates for the vessels flying Lithuanian flag.

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.

Lithuanian Customs authorities responsible for control of imported and exported (or reexported) fisheries products subject to catch certificate both in ports and in other types of transport. Customs Department is an authority validating Processing Statement documents.

- nationals (Chapter VIII).

Fisheries Service is an authority responsible for the co-operation with national and EU authorities regarding nationals potentially involved in IUU fishing.

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 – Fisheries Service, Customs Department;*
- *checks and verifications of catch certificates for fishery products arriving on board of third country fishing vessels at designated ports – Customs Department;*
- *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) – Customs Department;*
- *validation of catch certificates for exports – Fisheries Service;*
- *validation and verifications of re-exports – Customs Department.*

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);*

All Fisheries Service's divisions dedicated for fisheries enforcement and control are based in the Fisheries Service main office in Klaipėda.

- 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.).*

Among examples of best practices relating to the enforcement of the IUU Regulation cooperation – both interinstitutional and international – is being implemented. As regards interinstitutional cooperation, the Fisheries Service mainly cooperates with another competent national institution in fighting IUU fishing, the Customs Department, because both are involved in control of fisheries products which are placed on national market. Constant exchange of information, joint capacity building workshops (organized annually) are being implemented. In addition, cooperation strengthening with Lithuanian State Border Guard Service and the Ministry of Interior is ongoing for the future actions for joint inspection and surveillance actions. Fisheries Service also cooperates with Lithuanian Naval Forces and with Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration.

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.

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;*

5 on behalf of the Fisheries Service.

For the Customs Department, it is not possible to estimate the number of persons involved in the implementation of the catch certificate scheme as customs officials perform customs controls of all kinds of goods. There were no special customs officials employed for the purpose to implement only the catch certification scheme.

- *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.*

2 on behalf of the Fisheries Service.

For the Customs Department, it is not possible to estimate the number of persons involved in the implementation of the catch certificate scheme as customs officials perform customs controls of all kinds of goods. There were no special customs officials employed for the purpose to implement only the catch certification scheme.

2.3. Does your country have freezones/freeports⁴ in which activities relevant to importation/exportation/processing of fishery products are authorised?

Yes No

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

*Klaipėda free economic zone.
Kaunas free economic zone.*

Customs authorities have the possibility to audit companies according to customs legislation. During the period of 2022–2023 no audits of companies were performed.

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 transshipment of fishery products by third country fishing vessels (Article 5 of the IUU Regulation⁷)?

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:

<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

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.).

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

2022 - 1 for repair purposes.

2023 - 1 for repair purposes.

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?

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					
			NOR	FRO	BHS			Total
Landings	Third country vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	55	27	11			93
		Number of inspections	4	3	1			8
		% of inspections / landings	7,1%	11,1%	10,0%			8,6%
		Number of infringements	0	0	0			0
Transshipments	Third country vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transshipments in ports	0	0	0			0
		Number of inspections	0	0	0			0
		% of inspections / transshipments	0	0	0			0
		Number of infringements	0	0	0			0

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.

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					
			NOR	FRO	BHS			Total
Landings	Third country vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	58	44	5			107
		Number of inspections	6	3	1			10
		% of inspections / landings	10,3%	6,8%	20,0%			9,3%
		Number of infringements	0	0	0			0
Transhipments	Third country vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transhipments in ports	0	0	0			0
		Number of inspections	0	0	0			0
		% of inspections / transhipments	0	0	0			0
		Number of infringements	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
None			

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
None			

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);

¹⁰ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹¹ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

¹² ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

- 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):

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:

* landings from reefer vessels only, data not available to the full extent

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 (weight in tonnes)	Flag of the third country vessel ¹⁷	Transhipped quantities by species ¹⁴ (weight in tonnes)
FS1	<i>None</i>	FS1	<i>None</i>

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 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:

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.

¹⁷ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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:

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/transhipments from third countries)

If yes, please detail, in order to reach the objective of at least 5% of landing and transhipment operations as set in Article 9(1) of the IUU Regulation, which benchmarks you use and rank them:

The risk assessment criteria are described in the annex to the Description of the Procedure for Landing of Fishery Products adopted by the order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/0029cd50db6b11e39a43a3f57c05722e/asr>

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	37		37	
BY	18		0	
CA	2		1	
CL	5		7	

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 transhipment 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	
	Annex II catch certificate ²²	Simplified catch certificate ²³	Annex II catch certificate ²²	Simplified catch certificate ²³
<i>CN</i>	50		56	
<i>EC</i>	45		13	
<i>EU</i>	0		1	
<i>FO</i>	24		23	
<i>GB</i>	9		9	
<i>GH</i>	0		14	
<i>GL</i>	3		0	
<i>ID</i>	4		22	
<i>IN</i>	132		141	
<i>IS</i>	165		205	
<i>MA</i>	2		6	
<i>NO</i>	411		342	
<i>NZ</i>	10		8	
<i>PE</i>	79		32	
<i>PH</i>	8		5	
<i>RU</i>	152		132	
<i>TH</i>	4		9	
<i>UA</i>	5		31	
<i>US</i>	5		31	
<i>UY</i>	3		2	
<i>VN</i>	92		49	
Total	1442		1366	

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	0	0

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

No data available

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	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

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>BY</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>CN</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>CZ</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>FO</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>GB</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>HK</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>IS</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>NO</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>TR</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>UA</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>US</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
Total	<i>153</i>	<i>97</i>

²⁴ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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

No data available

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.

Non-EU State issuing a document in line with Article 14.1.b.ii²⁶	2022	2023
<i>S 1</i>		
<i>S 2</i>		
...		
<i>S x</i>		
<i>Total</i>		

No data available

4.8. Please indicate if you retain and record the information contained in processing statements (Article 14.2 – Annex IV) 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 2022-2023)

4.9. 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 2022: *30*

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

²⁶ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

In 2023: 81

4.10. Has your country received requests to authorise APEOs²⁷ in 2022-2023?

Yes No

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

.....

4.11. Has your country adopted administrative rules referring to the management and control of APEOs in 2022-2023?

Yes No

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

If yes, please provide details:

.....

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
<i>MD</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>UA</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>BY</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>12</i>

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:

Discharge of export (re-export) customs procedures is being controlled by Customs Declaration Processing IT system

²⁷ Approved Economic Operators – IUU Regulation, Article 16 and Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009, Chapter II

²⁸ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

4.14. 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

4.15. 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)

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 procedure for the electronic validation of European Union Catch Certificates for vessels flying the flag of the Republic of Lithuania has been drawn up in accordance with the procedure of 29 September 2008 Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. This procedure lays down the European Union catch certificates for the export to third countries of fishery products caught by fishing vessels flying the flag of the Republic of Lithuania.

Following receipt of an application for a validation of EU catch certificate from a fishing operator, further verification steps are carried out with the following criteria:

- *whether the format of the submitted catch certificate is in line with the approved form;*
- *the certificate is duly completed and endorsed with the signature and stamp of the responsible company;*
- *verification of any apparent discrepancies between information and data (fishing licence number, fishing trip dates, fishing area and dates, species of the fish products and quantities).*

The Fisheries Service provides fishing operator with a validated EU catch certificate within three working days if no discrepancies are found.

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:

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

Destination State ^{30, 31}	Year	
	2022	2023
Total	57*	50*

**No requesting third countries details are available as no such information are required/provided in EU CC*

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

** All the validated by the Fisheries Service EU CC are registered in the document management system in use.*

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)

** Not directly*

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.

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.

³² Section to be filled-in by all Member States

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.

Customs is a designated authority responsible for checks of catch certificates. Recommendations on the enforcement of the IUU Regulation have been elaborated and distributed to customs officials. Authenticity of catch certificates, fishing vessels data, records on conservation and management measures, product description, code, weight are checked using CIRCABC and other databases.

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:

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>
Country 1				
Country 2				
...				
Country x				
Total				

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:

1. *Are the imported products the same as specified in the certificate.*
2. *Does the Certificate contain all the required information.*
3. *Is the Certificate Approved by the Designated Authority of the State Flag.*

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).

³⁴ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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

4. *Is the fishing vessel not on the IUU vessel list.*
5. *Whether the flag State is not on the list of non-cooperating States.*

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.

National risk criteria as well as EU risk assessment methodology are used for risk assessment which is performed by RIKS (LTU abbrev. of Risk Management and Control System).

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):

1. *Is the certificate presented.*
2. *Are the imported products the same as specified in the certificate.*
3. *Does the Certificate contain all the required information.*
4. *Is the Certificate Approved by the Designated Authority of the State Flag.*
5. *Is the fishing vessel not on the IUU vessel list.*
6. *Whether the flag State is not on the list of non-cooperating States.*

If you apply national criteria, please detail them and the methodology used³⁶:

1. *Is the certificate presented.*
2. *Are the imported products the same as specified in the certificate.*
3. *Does the Certificate contain all the required information.*
4. *Is the Certificate Approved by the Designated Authority of the State Flag.*
5. *Is the fishing vessel not on the IUU vessel list.*
6. *Whether the flag State is not on the list of non-cooperating States.*

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.

No risky consignments was detected

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

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

.....

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>AR</i>	37	37	37	37
<i>BY</i>	18	18	0	0
<i>CA</i>	2	2	1	1
<i>CL</i>	5	5	7	7
<i>CN</i>	50	50	56	56
<i>EC</i>	45	45	13	13
<i>EU</i>	0	0	1	1
<i>FO</i>	24	24	23	23
<i>GB</i>	9	9	9	9
<i>GH</i>	0	0	14	14
<i>GL</i>	3	3	0	0
<i>ID</i>	4	4	22	22
<i>IN</i>	132	132	141	141
<i>IS</i>	165	165	205	205
<i>MA</i>	2	2	6	6
<i>NO</i>	411	411	342	342
<i>NZ</i>	10	10	8	8
<i>PE</i>	79	79	32	32
<i>PH</i>	8	8	5	5
<i>RU</i>	152	152	132	132

³⁷ Please provide a complete an accurate description

³⁸ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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>TH</i>	4	4	9	9
<i>UA</i>	5	5	31	31
<i>US</i>	5	5	31	31
<i>UY</i>	3	3	2	2
<i>VN</i>	92	92	49	49
Total	1442	1442	1366	1366

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)?
No information. Taking into account the fact that all catch certificates are verified, the verifications are not distinguished according to articles of the Regulation.
- b) How many catch certificates have you verified on the basis of risk identified in accordance with Article 17(3)?
No information. Taking into account the fact that all catch certificates are verified, the verifications are not distinguished according to articles of the Regulation.
- c) How many catch certificates have been verified at random (Article 17(5))?
No information. Taking into account the fact that all catch certificates are verified, the verifications are not distinguished according to articles of the Regulation.

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:

- a) *Number of physically examined consignments (per year) and percentage in relation to all verifications made: 2022 – 14 (number), 2023 – 33 (number)*
- b) *Method of selection of consignments: Risk Management and Control System*

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?

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.

Yes

No

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

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

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]

2022 - none

2023 - none

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).

-

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.

No

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)?

None

⁴¹ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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.				
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 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: -

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 – 3

1. On 18th of July 2022 the Commission asked MS to transmit samples of Catch Certificates and annex IV Processing Statements from Mauritius. The Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania replied to the Commission on 18th of August 2022 that all received information, regarding samples of catch certificates and annex IV processing statements from Mauritius was transferred to the Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. On 17th of August 2022 the Commission asked MS to transmit samples of Catch Certificates and annex IV Processing Statements from Vietnam. The Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania replied to the Commission on 12 of December 2022 by sending all the asked information related to the Vietnam provided by the Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania.

3. On 23rd of November 2022 the Commission asked MS to transmit samples of Catch Certificates and annex IV Processing Statements from the Philippines. The Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania replied to the Commission on 6th of December 2022 by sending all the asked information related to the Republic of Philippines provided by the Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania.

⁴⁶ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

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.

2023 – none

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

The Fisheries Service cooperates with the Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania in all cases where mutual assistance messages are received and shares the necessary information.

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 – 1.

2023 - 6.

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).

2022 – information on the functions of the Fisheries Service and other institutions in implementing the requirement of the EU IUU regulations, the notification of the flag state and sample documents were provided to Japan in response to a request received from Japan through the Commission.

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

⁴⁹ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

⁵⁰ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

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))?

The Fisheries Service cooperates with the Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration, which is responsible for the registration of vessels in the Register of Seagoing Ships of the Republic of Lithuania, in matters of registration of fishing vessels, and also provides all interested institutions with the latest lists of IUU vessels.

The Fisheries Service also publishes information on the implementation of the IUU Regulation on the website of the Fisheries Service, as well as information on the new provisions of the IUU Regulation related to the requirements for ship owners to de-register their vessels from the register of a non-cooperative country in the fight against IUU fishing.

12.5. 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:

12.6. 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:

12.7. 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:

The Fisheries Service has no information on cases where operators involved in the operation, management or ownership of fishing vessels included in the EU IUU vessel list have received public aid under national aid regimes or from EU funds.

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

⁵¹ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

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

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

Yes *No*

If yes, please provide details:

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>		

⁵² ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

⁵³ Section to be filled-in by all Member States

⁵⁴ ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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 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?

The main difficulties were related to the validation of the Processing Statement documents when fishery products are imported into a third country, as importers did not always take into account the information provided about who is responsible for the validation of the Processing Statement documents, and third country authorities had to send requests for confirmation of the legality of these documents.

Section 16. Any other comment

None

• • •