

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

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

<b>Member State:</b>	Sweden
<b>Organisation:</b>	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
<b>Date:</b>	30/4-2024
<b>Name, position and contact details of responsible official:</b>	  

<b>May the Commission provide a copy of this questionnaire to other Member States?</b>	
<b>Yes:</b>	X
<b>Yes except for questions (list):</b>	
<b>No:</b>	
<b>May the Commission provide a copy of this questionnaire to the European Fisheries Control Agency for a horizontal assessment<sup>1</sup>?</b>	
<b>Yes:</b>	X
<b>Yes except for questions (list):</b>	
<b>No:</b>	

**Please check if your notified authorities under the IUU Regulation (Articles 15(2), 17(8) and 21(3)) correspond with the latest version of the Official Journal:**

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%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](mailto:MARE-NOTIFICATIONS-IUU-1005-2008@ec.europa.eu)**

<sup>1</sup> 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):**

SwAM is the only Swedish authority that is notified as a competent authority according to the IUU regulation (Articles 15.2, 17.8 and 21.3). Since the responsibility according to article 39 goes beyond SwAM's powers, a clarification is needed from the responsible Swedish Ministry on which authority Sweden should designate as the competent authority according to Article 39.

**Section 1. Information on legal framework<sup>2</sup>**

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 organisation<sup>3</sup>**

2.1. Please provide information on your administrative organisation for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU Regulation), in particular as regards:

- port inspections (Chapter II);
- catch certification scheme (Chapter III);
- nationals (Chapter VIII).

*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);*
- 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.).*

*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.*

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

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

SwAM is the responsible authority for fisheries control. Within the Department of Fisheries Control, three separate units perform the implementation of the IUU regulation.

- The unit for Fisheries Inspections is responsible for inspection in ports.
- FMC validates catch certificates for exportation and perform administrative controls.
- The Unit for Data monitoring and Analysis has a coordinating role and performs checks and verifications of catch certificates. Checks, when fishery products arrive on board of third country fishing vessels at designated ports and when imports of consignment with fishery products arrive by other means than fishing vessels. Verifications and validation in case of re-exports.

a) The only unit that has regional offices are the unit for Fisheries Inspections, which is located in three different locations in Sweden: Göteborg, Karlskrona and Simrishamn. Catch from third country vessels are almost exclusively landed in the west coast of Sweden, which means that there is no systematic regional cooperation in terms of third country landings between the three offices. Please note that these offices all belong to the same unit for Fisheries Inspections, which means that meetings and joint efforts on various matters are held on regular basis.

b) SwAM is the authority that has been appointed to implement the IUU regulation. SwAM has a close cooperation with the Coast Guard based on a written agreement. Regarding cooperation with Customs and Swedish Food Agency (SFA), there are no written agreements in place. However, cooperation between SwAM and Customs is based on a mutual agreement in cases where consignments need to be stopped at the border.

So far there has been one joint control (2023) carried out by SFA and SwAM upon a request from SwAM.

## 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;*
- *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.*

Checks and verifications and validation of re-export certificates; 2 FTE/SwAM

Validation of CC for exports; 0,5 FTE/SwAM

## 2.3. Does your country have freezones/freeports<sup>4</sup> in which activities relevant to importation/exportation/processing of fishery products are authorised?

Yes  No

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

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<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/business/customs-procedures/what-is-importation/free-zones\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/customs-procedures/what-is-importation/free-zones_en)

**Section 3. Information on access to ports, including for landings and transhipments of fishery products, by third country fishing vessels<sup>5</sup> (and information on related port inspections and confirmed infringements)<sup>6</sup>**

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 Regulation<sup>7</sup>)?

Yes  No

If yes, please check if your list of designated ports in accordance with Article 5(3) corresponds to the latest version of the Office Journal:

<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](mailto: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?<sup>8</sup>

There were 7 during 2022 and 14 during 2023.

3.3. How many landings and transhipments 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) <sup>9</sup>					Total
			Example: IS	NOR	FS2	FS3	FSx	
Landings	Third country vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	100	349				349
		Number of inspections	10	20				20
		% of inspections / landings	10%	5,75%				5,75%
		Number of infringements	3	0				0

<sup>5</sup> Fishing vessels as defined in article 2(5) of the IUU Regulation.

<sup>6</sup> This section 3 refers to Chapter II (Articles 4 to 11) of the IUU Regulation and is applicable to coastal Member States. Landlocked Member States should not fill in this section.

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

<sup>8</sup> It is reminded that provisions of Chapter II apply to third country fishing vessels aiming to access EU ports for port services, even in cases 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.

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

<b>Transhipments</b>	Third country vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transhipments in ports	2	0				0
		Number of inspections	0	0				0
		% of inspections / transhipments	0	0				0
		Number of infringements	0	0				0

Please fill-in the table below (2023):

<b>Inspections of third country fishing vessels in Member States ports (2023)</b>								
<b>Type of operation</b>	<b>Vessels</b>	<b>Figures (2023)</b>	<b>Flag of the third country vessel(s)<sup>10</sup></b>					<b>Total</b>
			<i>Example: IS</i>	<i>NOR</i>	<i>FS2</i>	<i>FS3</i>	<i>FSx</i>	
<b>Landings</b>	Third country vessels using MS designated ports	Number of landings	100	334				334
		Number of inspections	10	20				20
		% of inspections / landings	10%	5,99%				5,99%
		Number of infringements	3	2				2
<b>Transhipments</b>	Third country vessels using MS designated ports	Number of transhipments in ports	2	0				0
		Number of inspections	2	0				0
		% of inspections / transhipments	100%	0				0
		Number of infringements	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): N/A

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

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

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

Please fill-in the table below (2023):

Flag of the third country vessel <sup>12</sup>	Name of the third country vessel	Type of infringements	Measures taken
NOR	Eli R	Margin of tolerance, article 14 of the Control Regulation	Administrative sanction 2 000 SEK
NOR	Linnea	Margin of tolerance, article 14 of the Control Regulation	Case dismissed

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):

Please fill-in the table below (landings):

Landings in 2022		Landings in 2023			
Flag of the third country vessel that caught the fish <sup>13</sup>	Landed quantities by species <sup>14</sup> (weight in tonnes)	Flag of the third country vessel that caught the fish <sup>15</sup>	Landed quantities by species <sup>14</sup> (weight in tonnes)		
NOR	Species and weight:	NOR	Species and weight:		
	ANE		0,050	BLL	0,022
	BLL		0,083	CAA	0,011
	COD		4,449	CAD	0,010
	HAD		0,649	COD	2,095
	HAL		0,139	HAD	0,385
	HER		38,200	HER	59,500
	HKE		0,159	HKE	0,017
	LEM		0,003	LIN	0,250
	LIN		0,233	MON	1,080
	LUM		0,025	NEP	14,753
	MON		1,986	PLE	0,019
	NEP		17,811	POK	2,837
	PLE		0,138	POL	0,016
	POK		6,540	PRA	222,043
	POL		0,061	REG	0,002
PRA	281,831	SPR	202,000		

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

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

<sup>14</sup> Please use the FAO Alpha-3 codes (ASFIS).

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

	REG	0,003		TUR	0,004
	SOL	0,009		WHG	0,028
	SPR	59,700		WIT	0,227
	TUR	0,130			
	USK	0,008			
	WHG	0,054			
	WIT	0,443			

Please fill-in the table below (transhipments): N/A

Transhipments in 2022		Transhipments in 2023	
Flag of the third country vessel <sup>16</sup>	Transhipped quantities by species <sup>14</sup> (weight in tonnes)	Flag of the third country vessel <sup>17</sup>	Transhipped quantities by species <sup>14</sup> (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	...

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

<sup>16</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>17</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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: 0

In 2023: 3 were initially denied, but was granted access after they updated and completed missing data.

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:

SwAM does not have a risk assessment based on the risk criteria in Article 4 of 1010/2009. However, we take a risk-based approach before conducting inspections both at sea and in ports, regardless of the nationality of the vessel. According to our risk assessment, Norwegian ships landing in Sweden are not a high risk, which is confirmed by the lack of violations. In the risk assessment, we take into account previous suspected violations and the time since the last inspection. Ships that land regularly in Sweden are also regularly inspected in port.

**Section 4. Information on catch certification scheme for importation<sup>18</sup>**

4.1. How many catch certificates<sup>19</sup> 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.<sup>20</sup> Please only provide information on catch certificates accompanying the consignments to be imported in your country; for consignments meant for transit to another Member State (Article 19(1) of the IUU Regulation), please see the question 4.7. of this questionnaire.

Clarification:

It's not possible for us to distinguish between simplified CC and Annex II CC in our IT-system.

The number of processing statements is presented in table 4.5. It's only possible to extract information on the issuing country from our IT-system.

<sup>18</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States.

<sup>19</sup> Please provide only the number of catch certificates i.e. not the number of all transactions (imports/declarations) where the same certificates have been (re)used.

<sup>20</sup> If catch certificates are submitted only for transhipment purposes, please specify.



Flag State (non-EU) <sup>21</sup>	2022		2023	
	Annex II catch certificate <sup>22</sup>	Simplified catch certificate <sup>23</sup>	Annex II catch certificate <sup>22</sup>	Simplified catch certificate <sup>23</sup>
<i>ARG</i>	20		20	
<i>CAN</i>	259		225	
<i>CHN</i>	9		12	
<i>ECU</i>	1		1	
<i>FRO</i>	167		168	
<i>GBR</i>	182		303	
<i>GRL</i>	364		345	
<i>IDN</i>	51		19	
<i>IND</i>	133		138	
<i>ISL</i>	245		244	
<i>KIR</i>	2		6	
<i>KOR</i>	16		6	
<i>MAR</i>	14		12	
<i>MDV</i>	67		103	
<i>MUS</i>	6		4	
<i>NAM</i>	0		4	
<i>NOR</i>	12 402		13 118	
<i>NZL</i>	22		21	
<i>PER</i>	8		1	
<i>PHL</i>	124		147	
<i>PNG</i>	0		3	
<i>RUS</i>	538		65	
<i>SLB</i>	6		0	
<i>SYC</i>	50		103	
<i>THA</i>	39		30	
<i>TUR</i>	1		5	
<i>TWN</i>	22		12	
<i>USA</i>	485		682	
<i>VNM</i>	36		25	
<i>ZAF</i>	22		19	
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 291</b>		<b>15 841</b>	

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

<sup>22</sup> Based on Annex II to the IUU Regulation

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

4.2. From the number above, how many recognised RFMO catch certificates (Annex V to Commission Regulation 1010/2009) accompanied consignments destined to your country? *Please detail per RFMO certificate and year.*

<b>RFMO document</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>ICCAT (electronic)-bluefin tuna catch document</i>		
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>		
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

4.3. How many catch certificates from EU Member States (including from your country) were presented to the authorities of your country from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2023?

<b>Flag State (EU)</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>DEU</i>	2	1
<i>DNK</i>	19	21
<i>ESP</i>	29	14
<i>EST</i>	26	28
<i>FRA</i>	30	6
<i>IRL</i>	7	8
<i>ITA</i>	4	0
<i>LVA</i>	8	6
<i>LTU</i>	26	21
<i>SWE</i>	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>113</b>

4.4. From the number above, how many recognised RFMO catch certificates from EU Member States accompanied imports into your country? *Please detail per RFMO certificate and year.*

<b>RFMO document</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>ICCAT (electronic)-bluefin tuna catch document</i>		
<i>Dissostichus spp. (CCAMLR)</i>		
<i>CCSBT CDS</i>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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.

<b>Processing non-EU State<sup>24</sup></b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>ALB</i>	204	112
<i>CAN</i>	0	1
<i>CHN</i>	384	503
<i>ECU</i>	3	0
<i>FRO</i>	0	2
<i>GBR</i>	496	400
<i>GRL</i>	1	0
<i>IDN</i>	0	1
<i>IND</i>	7	5
<i>ISL</i>	0	3
<i>KOR</i>	1	0
<i>MAR</i>	86	90
<i>MDV</i>	0	1
<i>MUS</i>	41	70
<i>NOR</i>	533	1 888
<i>PHL</i>	20	8
<i>PNG</i>	12	9
<i>SGP</i>	0	3
<i>THA</i>	195	94
<i>TWN</i>	4	2
<i>USA</i>	0	3
<i>VNM</i>	17	14
<i>ZAF</i>	5	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 009</b>	<b>3 213</b>

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.

<b>Non-EU State concerned<sup>25</sup> – single transport document</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>S I</i>		

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

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

<b>Non-EU State concerned<sup>25</sup> – single transport document</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>S 2</i>		
...		
<i>S x</i>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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.

<b>Non-EU State issuing a document in line with Article 14.1.b.ii<sup>26</sup></b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>CAN</i>	1	0
<i>NOR</i>	79	55
<i>THA</i>	6	0
<i>TUR</i>	2	0
<i>USA</i>	30	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>81</b>

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 (according to the Swedish Customs)*

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

In 2022: .....

In 2023: .....

4.10. Has your country received requests to authorise APEOs<sup>27</sup> in 2022-2023?

*Yes*                                       *No*

<sup>26</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

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

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:

<b>Destination country (non-EU)<sup>28</sup></b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<i>MAR</i>	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

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 (We have only had one re-export case over the years and we followed that up until the goods were re-imported to us and that everything was in order.)*
- Not applicable (e.g. in the absence of validation of re-export certificates in 2022-2023)*

If yes, please provide details:

.....

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?

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

*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 exportation<sup>29</sup>**

5.1. Have you established a procedure for validation of catch certificates for exportation of catches from own vessels in accordance with Article 15?

*Yes*     *No*

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

If yes, please explain briefly the established procedure and answer questions 5.2 to 5.5.

Requests for validation of catch certificates are received via e-mail. We verify that the details of the vessel, the fishing period and the license are correct. We check that a catch certificate has not already been issued for the same fishing period. The species and weight are compared with the log book. The capture area is compared with data from our position monitoring. If we previously validated a certificate for the same fishing period, we check that the certificates together do not exceed the number of fish landed per species according to the information in the log book. We also check that the vessel has a sufficient quota for the number of fish and that it is the same master indicated in the catch certificate as in the log book. We also check that information about the exporter and the transport is filled in. In case of direct landing, we check that Box 11 (import declaration) is filled out. Once this is done, we sign and stamp the catch certificate. The entire procedure is done manually.

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 <sup>30, 31</sup>	Year	
	2022	2023
<i>Third Country 1</i>		
<i>Third Country 2</i>		
...		
<i>Third Country x</i>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>

Some clarification: At the time of validation, SwAM had information about the destination country. However, there has been a misunderstanding about what information should be entered in the catch certificate before validation. We have not saved the data on recipient countries for the requested time period. Note that the country of destination has been known

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

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

<sup>31</sup> It is recommended that the validation of a catch certificate for exportation takes place when the country of destination is known.

to SwAM through communication with the exporter, even if it has not been entered in the catch certificate. Today we have developed our work processes and manuals and the information is now included in the catch certificates before validation. We will be able to provide information from the year 2024 onwards in future biennial reports.

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)

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 Regulation<sup>32</sup>**

**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. (See Annex I)

We have created our own checklist based on EFCA's Common Methodology for IUU Catch Certificates Verification and cross-checks (version 1.0 2016). We have subsequently adapted the

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

way we work with our checklist, so that it is aligned with the IUU Catch Certification Scheme (Chapter III of IUU Regulation) Common Approach Checks and Verifications developed by the EU Commission, to match section 1 (2022 version).

These are the current controls in place.

Section 1 - Checks

We check CH1 - CH15 and CH21 in full.

CH16 and CH22 are checked in full when we receive the messages/information. After that point, checks are performed randomly

CH17 is an automatic check carried out by our IT-system.

CH18 is checked on catch certificates from Canada, Greenland, the UK and Norway. The numbering is checked on the official webpages for validating CCs from Canada and Greenland. Catch certificates from the UK are checked by the QR-code on the catch certificates. For Norway, the checks are carried out automatically by our IT-system.

CH19 and CH20 are only checked randomly and when we discover inconsistent data in the documentation.

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 question<sup>33</sup>)?

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:

Clarification: The table also includes catch certificates that have been checked more than once, as some consignments contain copies of catch certificates that have been split into several consignments at different times.

*Please fill-in the table below:*

Flag State (EU or non-EU) <sup>34</sup>	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>
ARG	20	20	20	20
CAN	259	259	225	225

<sup>33</sup> 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).

<sup>34</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.



<i>CHN</i>	9	9	12	12
<i>DEU</i>	2	2	7	7
<i>DNK</i>	88	88	98	98
<i>ECU</i>	1	1	1	1
<i>ESP</i>	41	41	42	42
<i>EST</i>	95	95	172	172
<i>FRA</i>	61	61	11	11
<i>FRO</i>	167	167	168	168
<i>GBR</i>	182	182	303	303
<i>GRL</i>	364	364	345	345
<i>IDN</i>	51	51	19	19
<i>IND</i>	133	133	138	138
<i>IRL</i>	18	18	20	20
<i>ISL</i>	245	245	244	244
<i>ITA</i>	6	6	0	0
<i>KIR</i>	2	2	6	6
<i>KOR</i>	16	16	6	6
<i>LTU</i>	154	154	181	181
<i>LVA</i>	30	30	10	10
<i>MAR</i>	14	14	12	12
<i>MDV</i>	67	67	103	103
<i>MUS</i>	6	6	4	4
<i>NAM</i>	0	0	4	4
<i>NZL</i>	22	22	21	21
<i>PER</i>	8	8	1	1
<i>PHL</i>	124	124	147	147
<i>PNG</i>	0	0	3	3
<i>RUS</i>	538	538	65	65

<i>SLB</i>	6	6	0	0
<i>SWE</i>	30	30	14	14
<i>SYC</i>	50	50	103	103
<i>THA</i>	39	39	30	30
<i>TUR</i>	1	1	5	5
<i>TWN</i>	22	22	12	12
<i>USA</i>	485	485	682	682
<i>VNM</i>	36	36	25	25
<i>ZAF</i>	22	22	19	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 414</b>	<b>3 414</b>	<b>3 278</b>	<b>3 278</b>

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 detail<sup>35</sup>:

Submission of catch certificates is done digitally. When an import is registered in our IT system, an automatic check is made. The system checks that the catch certificates are registered and submitted within the prescribed deadline for the chosen mode of transport.

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

- Yes*                       *No*: Physical examinations of consignments based on IUU grounds from the Customs are only carried out after a specific request from SwAM. Such request has not yet been made. If SwAM notices any ascertained deviations in registered data during checks, SwAM would either ask the Customs to perform a physical examination of the consignment, alternatively ask the Customs to stop it at the border and then SwAM would carry out the physical examination itself.

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

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

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

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

6.5. 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 used<sup>36</sup>:

Our method is based on risks associated with different countries. We therefore aim to verify all catch certificates for all countries except Norway. For Norway, we access catch certificate data directly from the official database which means that the risk of data manipulation is very low. Therefore, we do not verify data from the catch certificates from Norway.

SwAM acknowledges the recommendation to include the Norwegian CCs in the IUU controls. Due to limited resources, it has not been possible to include these in our IUU controls in the past. In case of increased resources, we are hopeful that the Norwegian CCs can be included in our IUU controls onwards.

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.

.....

6.6. If you do not apply risk management to verifications, please describe the procedure used<sup>37</sup>:

See answer under 6.5.

6.7. 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) <sup>38</sup>	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>MAR</i>	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

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

<sup>37</sup> Please provide a complete and accurate description

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

6.8. Please reply to the following questions:

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

Clarification: The verification was done following a request for the validation of a re-export certificate regarding a consignment of PRA from Norway. The prawns were to be shipped to Morocco for processing. SWAM therefore first carried out a document check and then the consignment was physically inspected together with the border veterinarian in the Port of Gothenburg.

6.9. 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:* .....
- b) *Method of selection of consignments:* .....

**Section 7. Assistance requests to third countries<sup>39</sup>**

7.1. Have you sent assistance requests for verifications under Article 17(6) of the IUU Regulation to flag States' authorities in 2022-2023<sup>40</sup>?

- Yes  No

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

<b>Flag States<sup>41</sup></b>	<b>Number of assistance requests for verifications 2022</b>	<b>Justification (please provide a brief description)</b>	<b>Number of assistance requests for verifications 2023</b>	<b>Justification (please provide a brief description)</b>
<i>Country 1</i>				
<i>Country 2</i>				
<i>...</i>				
<i>Country x</i>				
<b>Total</b>				

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

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

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

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 N/A

2023 N/A

7.3. Was the quality of the answers provided overall sufficient to satisfy the assistance request? If no, please explain why the quality was not sufficient, and the measures you have taken in such case(s).

N/A

7.4. Have you sent assistance requests 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 verification<sup>42</sup> of catch certificates, please indicate these countries and the number of verifications that were made through their systems (at least approximately)?

SwAM uses the following IT-system as part of the checks of catch certificates:

Canada: [View Certificate \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

Greenland: [View issued and validated Greenlandic catch certificates \(nanoq.gl\)](https://nanoq.gl)

Norway: SwAM verifies CCs by scanning the QR codes, as well as [Catch Certificate](#).

**Section 8. Information on refusal of importations (Article 18 of the IUU Regulation)<sup>43</sup>**

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 <sup>44</sup>	Number	Flag State <sup>45</sup>	Number
Non-submission of a catch certificate for products to be imported.				
The products intended for importation are not the same as				

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

<sup>43</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>44</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<sup>45</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Reason for refusal of importation	2022		2023	
	Flag State <sup>44</sup>	Number	Flag State <sup>45</sup>	Number
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.

.....  
.....

8.3. In case of refusal of importation, did any operator contest the decision of the authorities of your country?

Yes                       No

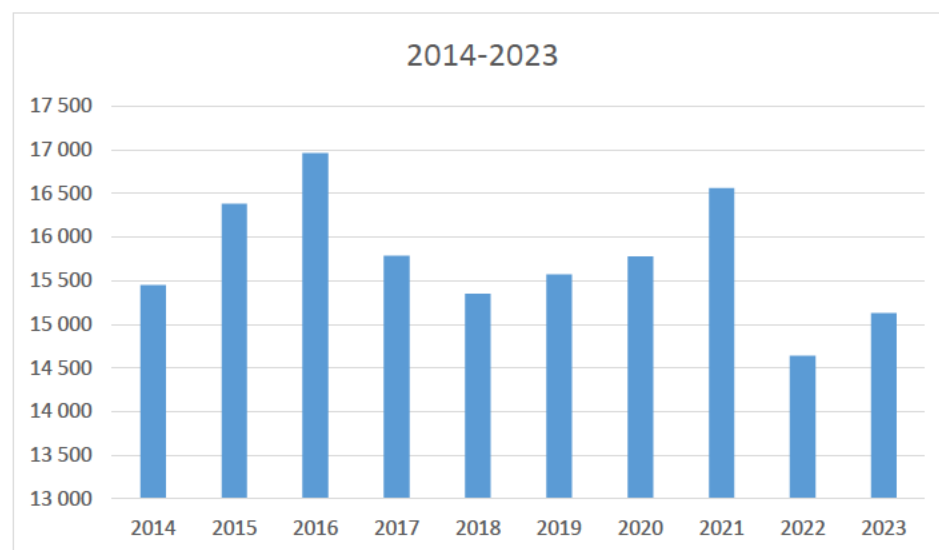
*Not applicable (absence of refusals in 2022-2023)*

If yes, please provide details: .....

**Section 9. Information on trade flows<sup>46</sup>**

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:

Since the last reporting period (2020-2021), the number of consignments has decreased by almost 8 %. This is probably an effect of the covid-19 pandemic. Last year, however, imports increased by 3.3 % and almost reached the same level as in 2018.



During the period 2014-2020, China was the second largest exporting country each year, but in the years 2021-2022 it was the UK. In 2023, China was again the second largest country. This is likely due to a combination of Brexit and the covid-19 pandemic.

2022			2023		
NOR	12 647	86,38%	NOR	13 359	88,28%
GBR	496	3,39%	CHN	513	3,39%
CHN	389	2,66%	GBR	402	2,66%
ALB	198	1,35%	ISL	182	1,20%
ISL	188	1,28%	ALB	111	0,73%

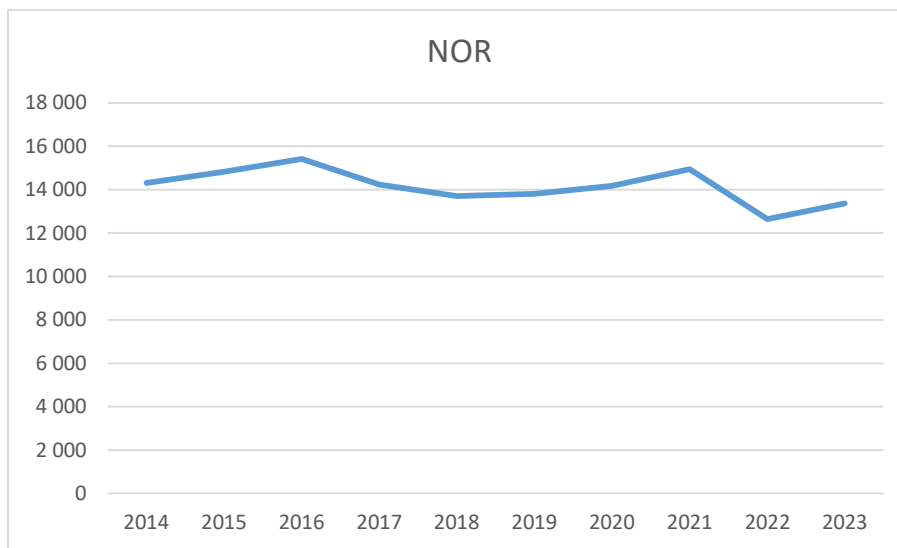
Country code	2020	2021	2022	2023	Comment
ALB	145	145	198	111	Decrease
ARG	1	4	3	1	
CAN	123	104	125	106	
CHL		1			
CHN	476	309	389	513	Increase
COL	6				
ECU	7	2	2	1	
FRO	32	25	15	22	
GBR		324	496	402	Increase
GRL		2			
IDN	4	3	6	2	

<sup>46</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

IND	5	16	18	18	
ISL	251	171	188	182	
KOR	1	1	5	3	
MAR	77	90	95	102	Increase
MDV			2	27	
MMR	1				
MUS	72	87	52	51	Decrease
NAM				4	New country
NOR	14 184	14 946	12 647	13 359	Decrease
NZL	5	4	2	5	
OMN		1			
PHL	92	75	93	41	Decrease
PNG	2	6	19	8	Increase
RUS	4	3	2		
SYC		1	1	11	Increase
THA	235	190	183	84	Decrease
TUR	7	4	8	4	
TWN	4	2	3	4	
USA	16	25	40	20	Decrease
VNM	18	9	26	28	Increase
ZAF	7	10	21	18	Increase
<b>No consignments</b>	<b>15 775</b>	<b>16 560</b>	<b>14 639</b>	<b>15 127</b>	

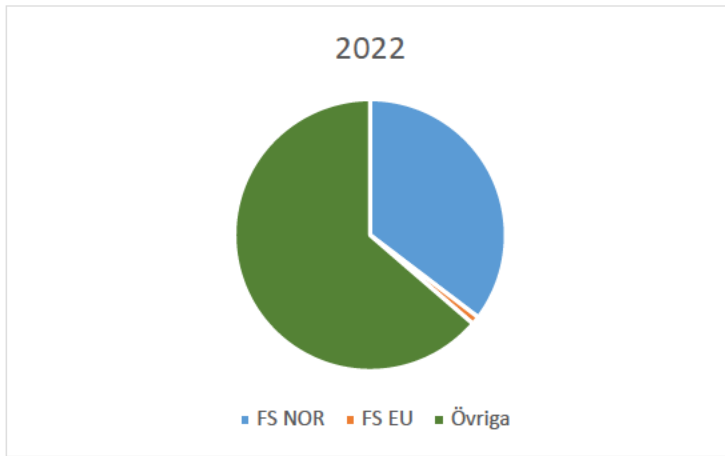
Norway is still the country where most consignments (88.28%) are imported from, but it reached an all-time low in 2022 when only 12 647 number of consignments were imported. This was almost 18 % lower than in 2015, which was the year with the highest figure to date.

The only new country since the last report are Namibia, and Sweden received 4 consignments with HKC in May 2023.

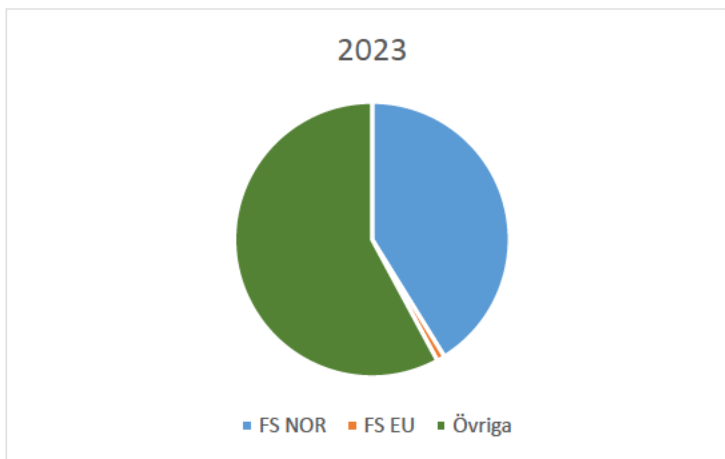


In 2022, almost 59% of the consignments from Norway, concerned catches from a flag state other than Norway.

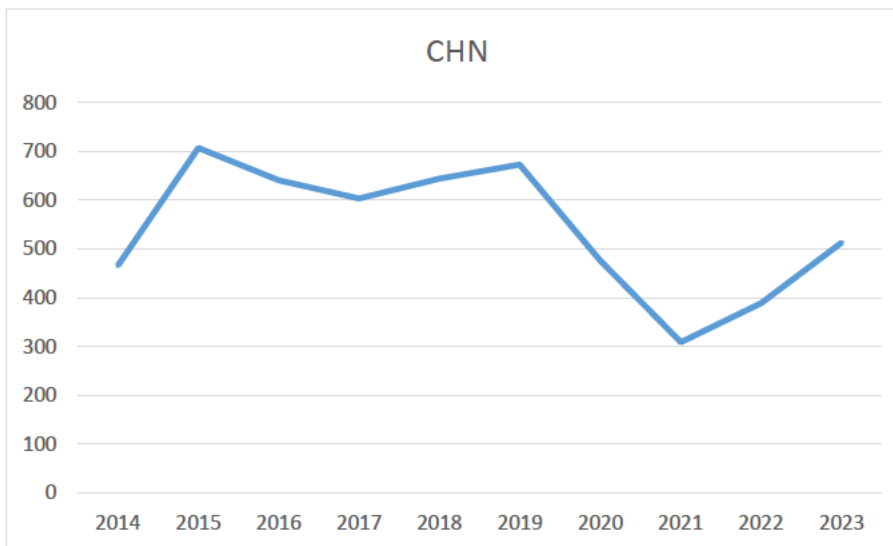




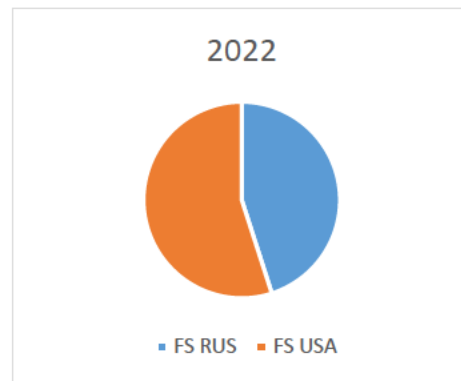
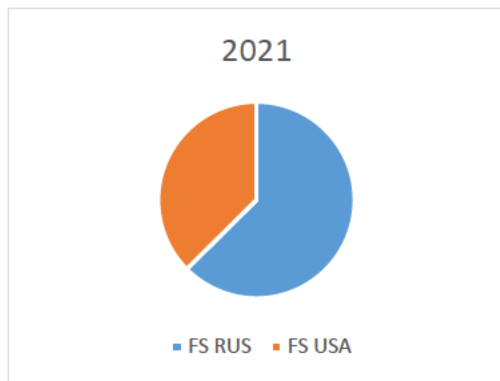
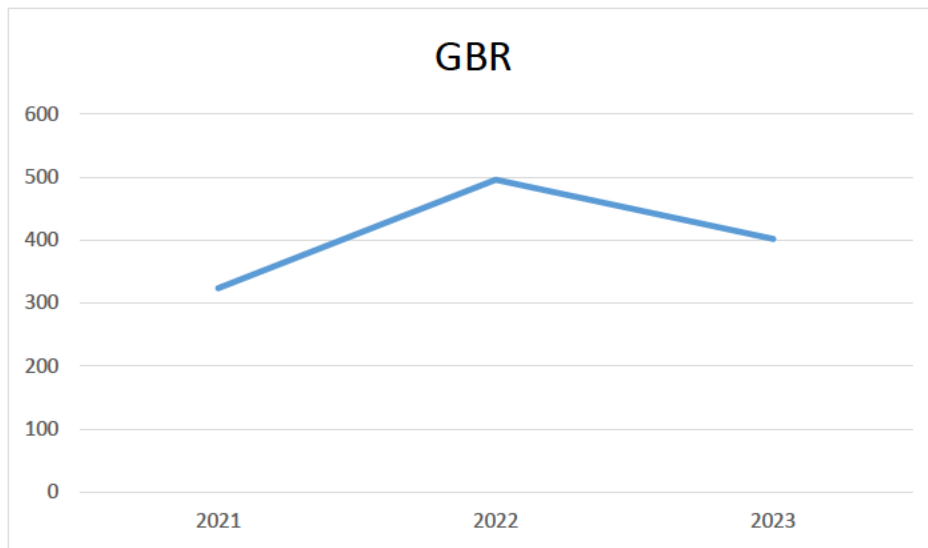
By 2023, these increased to almost 65%.



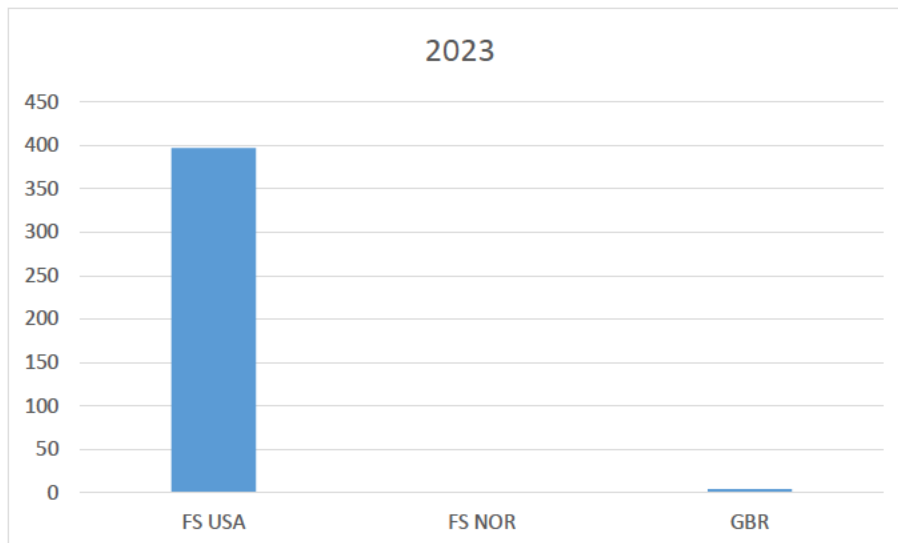
During the Covid-19 pandemic, imports from China decreased by almost 50%. But in the last year there has been an increase of 66% compared to the year 2021.



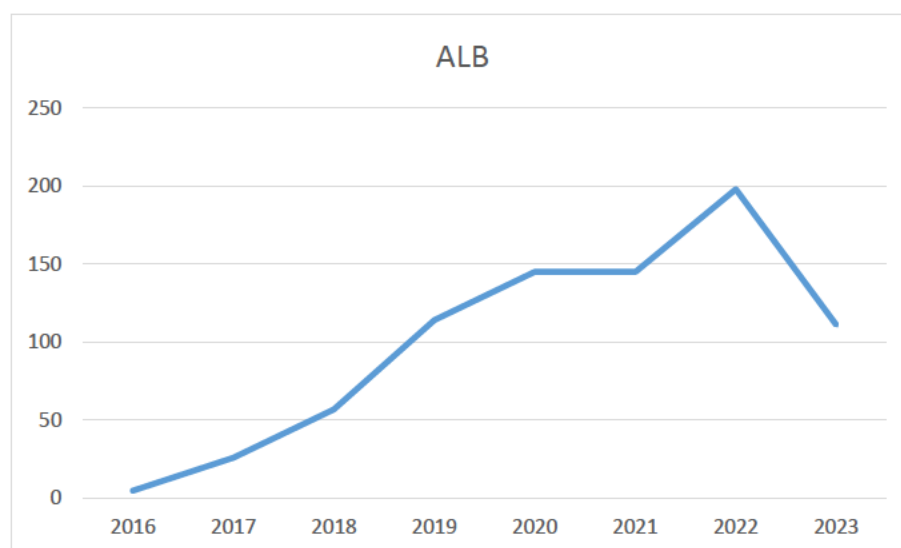
Almost all UK imports in the first year after Brexit were catches from Russia (60%) and the US (36%). In 2022, imports changed so that slightly more came from the US (55%) than from Russia (45%).



By 2023, no Russian catches were imported from the UK.



The trend of Albania's annual increase has come to an end. Since Morocco is still increasing every year, it is likely that the trade in shrimp to be prepared is now shifting from Albania to Morocco.



Some other noted changes in trade patterns also apply to exports. During the autumn of 2023, we have seen an increase in Swedish exports of Swedish-caught herring to the UK. Sometimes the herring is exported directly from Sweden to the UK and sometimes it is first sold to Poland, which then exports it to the UK. We can also see that a lot of Norwegian-caught herring is exported from Norway to Poland, cleared through customs (and IUU-checked) in Sweden, transported to Poland for storage or processing and then the herring is exported to the UK.

**Section 10. Information on mutual assistance<sup>47</sup>**

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?<sup>48</sup>

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

2022 4

2023 3

*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 0

2023 0

<sup>47</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>48</sup> Please provide the number of all replies, regardless of their content i.e. including replies which, for example, only confirmed that the request was not relevant for your country.

**Section 11. Information on cooperation with third countries<sup>49</sup>**

Apart from assistance requests in the context of verifications of catch certificates and accompanying documents foreseen under the catch certification scheme (Article 17(6)), has your country had other exchanges with third countries on issues related to the implementation of the IUU Regulation, such as follow-up of cases concerning nationals, trade flows, operators, private fishing licencing, re-flagging operations, investigations of cases of IUU fishing (Article 42) and investigations of criminal activities associated to IUU fishing?

- Yes*                       *No*

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

.....

**Section 12. Information on nationals<sup>50</sup>**

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))?

None.

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*

<sup>49</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>50</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

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: .....

**Section 13. Serious infringements (Chapter IX of the IUU Regulation)<sup>51</sup>**

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) <sup>52</sup>	Serious infringements detected in 2022:			Serious infringements detected in 2023:		
	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied	Number	Nature	Sanctions applied
<i>SWE</i>	2	Art. 3.1. b, 3.1. e.	Points, administrative sanction fees, criminal sanctions	21	Art. 3.1.a, 3.1.b, 3.1.c, 3.1.e, 3.1.h, 3.1. i.	Points, administrative sanction fees, criminal sanctions
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>21</b>		

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

<sup>51</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>52</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details:

The infringements listed above concerns serious infringements that were *confirmed* as serious infringements during the years 2022-2023.

Out of the 23 serious infringements confirmed in 2022 and 2023, twelve of them resulted in administrative sanction fees (one in 2022, eleven in 2023), and all of these twelve cases involved infringements related to provisions on prior notification (article 3.1 b of the IUU-regulation). When it comes to these types of infringements, the administrative sanction fee is set to an amount depending on the size of the vessel involved, 5 000 SEK for vessels below 12 meter, 10 000 SEK for vessel above 12 meters but below 24 meters, and 25 000 SEK for vessels above 24 meters length.

The rationale behind differentiating the administrative fee is that the size and motor power of the vessel affects the risk of damage to the environment or the stocks involved. The economic value of the catch, as well as the separate fishing patterns, also generally differs between smaller and larger vessels. The administrative sanction fees thereby take into account the value of the prejudice to the fishing resources and the marine environment concerned.

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

Yes, for the other eleven infringements (one in 2022, ten in 2023), in replacement of administrative sanctions. Sweden has a dual system wherein specifically listed easily detectable infringements will result in administrative sanction fees, whereas any other infringements will be processed and dealt with through the penal law system. Administrative sanction fees and criminal sanctions cannot in general be applied simultaneously for the same specific infringement. Serious infringements will also be processed in one of these two systems, depending on the rules which have been infringed upon.

#### Section 14. Sightings (Chapter X of the IUU Regulation)<sup>53</sup>

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) <sup>54</sup>	Number of sighting reports issued in 2022	Number of sighting reports issued in 2023
Country 1		
Country 2		

<sup>53</sup> Section to be filled-in by all Member States

<sup>54</sup> ISO Alpha-2 country codes.

<b>Flag State of the sighted fishing vessel (EU and non-EU)<sup>54</sup></b>	<b>Number of sighting reports issued in 2022</b>	<b>Number of sighting reports issued in 2023</b>
...		
<i>Country x</i>		
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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).

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<b>Section 15.    General</b>
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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?

Implementing the catch certification scheme is time-consuming as verifying and validating all data, contacts with relevant operators, cooperation with relevant authorities can take a considerable amount of time.

<b>Section 16.    Any other comment</b>
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