CATCH
The EU-wide database for seafood import catch documentation

Webinar ClientEarth/IUU Coalition
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DG MARE Unit B4 (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries Policy)
European Commission
INTRODUCTION
Fighting IUU fishing

- **IUU fishing** is a **major global problem**
- One of the **main threats to the sustainability of oceans**
- Deploys fish stocks, destroys marine habitats, and puts honest fishermen in an unfair disadvantage position.
- **Combatting IUU fishing worldwide must therefore be a priority, now more than ever.**
- **SDG 14, European Green Deal, International Ocean Governance Communication**
Fighting IUU fishing – the role of the EU

zero tolerance towards IUU fishing

- The EU is the largest importer of fishery products
- Key role as a market state in the fight against IUU fishing
- Fishery products enter international trade flows more than other commodities
- Impacts on developing countries
Fighting IUU fishing – the role of the EU

EU IUU REGULATION

- Does not introduce any new conservation and management measures
  - Applies international rules: UNCLOS; UNFSA; FAO PSMA; FAO IPOA IUU; RFMOs
  - Aims at improving management and control of flag States over their vessels in line with international law

Transparent and non-discriminatory instrument
EU IUU POLICY

• **EU IUU international cooperation**
  - Dialogues under IUU regulation: TH, VN, KH, PH
  - IUU Working Groups
  - Joint Statements on IUU fishing
  - Ocean Partnership
  - Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements

• **Interaction with other stakeholders**
  - Exchange of information
  - Transparency
  - Investigations

• **Concrete Results**
  - Upgrade/modernisation fisheries control and management system
  - Adherence to international instruments (ex. Port State Measures Agreement)
  - Scaling up the fight against IUU amongst national priorities
  - More info/tools available for governments and stakeholders
IT CATCH
CATCH CERTIFICATION SCHEME

- Tool to fight IUU fishing: certify the **legality of the fish**
- Required for all consignments of fishery products destined to EU market
- Based on traceability principles of marine fishery products traded with the EU
- Seeks that countries act responsibly and ensure compliance with their own conservation and management rules as well as with internationally agreed rules.
- **BUT, it is a paper-based system:**
  - potential risk of fraud
  - burdensome verifications for Member States’ authorities
  - Risk of uneven level of implementation in Member States
Current Commission’s project: move from paper-based system to an IT system (CATCH):

- One **single EU-wide** system
- To facilitate and support **harmonised** checks and verifications at EU borders
- To facilitate **cooperation among competent authorities**: better communication and sharing of information
- To avoid **abusive use of Catch certificates**: EU-wide quantity management in order to avoid overshooting of declared quantities
- To support **risk analysis**
- To create a **level playing field for all operators**
- To reduce **administrative burden** for Member States and other stakeholders
CATCH – for who and when?

- CATCH - developed to be used all through the supply chain to the end market i.e. EU (it does not intervene on the EU internal market itself)

- Launched in 2019: available to EU IUU authorities and EU stakeholders on a voluntary basis

- Legal basis for compulsory use of CATCH by EU authorities and EU operators and customs single window integration: adoption foreseen in 2021, entry into force depending on outcome of the ordinary legislative procedure
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USE OF CATCH</th>
<th>Before the entry into force of the legal basis</th>
<th>After the entry into force of the legal basis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU Member States (authorities)</td>
<td>Voluntary use</td>
<td>Mandatory use</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU importers/stakeholders</td>
<td>Voluntary use</td>
<td>Mandatory use</td>
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<td>Third countries authorities</td>
<td>Voluntary use</td>
<td>Voluntary use</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third countries stakeholders/exporters</td>
<td>Voluntary use</td>
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The more it will be used by third countries, the less burdensome it will be for all.
The more reliable information will be.
Thank you for your attention!