Changes to the EU IUU Regulation catch certification scheme

Council Regulation (EC) 1005/2008

MARE B4

Key role of the EU in countering IUU fishing

The EU is the world's largest importer of fishery products

The EU has therefore a key role to play and a responsibility in the global fishery production and market

Council Regulation (EC) 1005/2008 with its catch certification scheme started applying in 2010

93 non-EU countries notified their authorities for exports and many others are involved in traceability documentation

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EU catch certification scheme

The EU catch certification scheme did not introduce any new conservation and management measures

Flag States confirm the application and respect of national and regional conservation and management measures by vessels

Other documents required by the scheme focus on traceability of products intended to be exported to the EU

The scheme is so far paper-based with all the challenges this implies

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Revised legislation

The IUU Regulation (1005/2008) is amended through Article 4 of (EU) 2023/2842 of 22 November 2023 and entered into force 10 January 2024.

Modifications to the IUU Regulation, addressed today, apply 24 months after the entry into force of the new Regulation: **10 January 2026**

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Catch certification scheme – main changes

A. CATCH: mandatory use of this IT system for EU operators and controlling authorities in the EU MS

B. Modifications to content of documents and procedures under the catch certification scheme

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A. CATCH - general functionalities, access, timeframe

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What is CATCH? (I)

Integrated computerised information management system for the Catch Certification Scheme

- System for the integrated management, handling, storage and exchange of information and documents related to importation into the EU and, where relevant, exportation of fishery products.
- To be used to exchange import decisions (importer/authority), data and documents in relation to importation and, where relevant, exportation of fishery products.

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What is CATCH? (II)

- EU importers will need to submit catch certification information through CATCH to Member States' competent authorities
- Member States' authorities in charge of IUU controls must carry out checks and verifications of the information received through CATCH and provide the decision about authorisation of import to the EU importer
- From 2028, decision about IUU authorisation of import will be automatically shared with EU customs authorities (IT interconnection to CERTEX)

Users of CATCH

- From 10 January 2026, EU importers and EU competent authorities are obliged to use CATCH
- From 10 January 2026, non-EU countries' operators and authorities may also use CATCH, on a voluntary basis

What difference does voluntary use of CATCH by non-EU countries make?

- Non-EU countries' exporters and authorities will be able to voluntarily use CATCH directly. That means to generate and validate documents in CATCH. This is the preferred option to ensure digital document flows and procedures. In addition, EU importers will simply need to complete the importer declaration and submit the digitally received CCs to their competent authorities

- However, non-EU will also be able to continue creating and validating paper-based catch certificates and related documents. In these cases, EU importers will have to introduce data included on paper documents in CATCH themselves manually (and submit the scanned documents too). This can lead to delays in import procedures

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Access to CATCH

- Only for Member States for the time being
- Request access through the system (TRACES NT) - details in CATCH presentation

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Expected benefits of CATCH

- Reduce risk of fraudulent certificates
- Facilitate controls and risk management
- Harmonise procedures
- Future link to customs IT system
- Speed up administrative procedures and facilitate the submission of data
- When non-EU countries' authorities and operators choose to use the system directly, facilitate the entire process as the workflow becomes entirely digital

B. Modification of the content of documents and procedures under the catch certification scheme

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Why changes? When and what?

- Content now includes missing key data elements related to fishing and to tracing trade flows
- This to ensure same traceability data requirements for the same commodities in all cases

As of 10 January 2026, the changes are found in:

  - Annex II – catch certificate
  - Article 14(2) and Annex IV (use of processing statement)
  - Article 14(1) through the introduction of a non-manipulation document

- Note: “old” (current) catch certificates and documents (created and validated before 10/01/2026) will be admissible for additional 24 months from date of application (must be submitted through CATCH)

Annex II (catch certificate) - changes (I)

- Identification of the fishing vessels: use of IMO/UVI number, fishing gear added
- Fishing activity: more precise fishing areas identified
  - FAO area; **AND**
  - EEZ **OR** High Sea; **AND**
  - RFMO (if applicable)
- Fishery product: the weight boxes have been clarified to ensure data consistency for quantity management
- Transshipment/landing: clear distinction of the operations introduced

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Annex II (catch certificate) - changes (II)

Transport appendix and importer declaration

- Transport details have been reviewed and obligation to provide data by importer has been introduced
- Importer declaration: weight and product description data have been added to ensure product identification, consistency with customs procedures' data and quantity management – crucial for the future connection on CATCH with the EU Single Window Environment for Customs

Detailed changes to the catch certificate and related documents: box by box

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(i) EUROPEAN UNION~~COMMUNITY~~ CATCH CERTIFICATE			
Document number		**Validating Authority**	
1. Name	**Address**	**Telephone~~.~~ Fax**	
2. Fishing vessel name	**Flag - home port and registration number**	**Call sign**	**IMO ~~/Lloyd's N~~number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable) ~~(if issued)~~**
Fishing licence no. – Valid ~~to~~ until		**~~Inmarsat~~ Mobile satellite service no Telefax no Telephone no. E-mail address (if issued)**	
Fishing gear (1)			

(1) Code to be used in accordance with International standard statistical classification of fishing gear.

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3. Description of product	Type of processing authorised on board		4. References to ~~of~~ applicable conservation and management measures		
Species	Product code	Catch area(s) and catch date(s) (from – to) (2)	Estimated ~~live~~ weight to be landed in kg ~~(kg)~~	~~Estimated weight to be landed~~(Net catch weight in kg~~)~~	Verified weight landed (net catch weight in kg) (3) ~~where appropriate~~

(2) Catch area:
- FAO area(s);
- exclusive economic zone(s) and/or high seas; and
- relevant regional fisheries management convention area(s).

(3) To be filled in only if verified in the context of an official inspection.

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5. Name of master of fishing vessel or of fishing licence holder - Signature ~~Seal:~~

6. Declaration of transhipment at sea Name of master of fishing vessel	Signature and date		Transhipment date/area/position	Estimated weight (kg)
Master of receiving vessel	**Signature**	**Vessel name**	**Call sign**	**IMO~~/Lloyds N~~ number ~~(if issued)~~ or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable)**

7. Transhipment and/or landing authorisation within a port area:								
Name	Authority	Signature	Address	Telephone	Port of landing (as appropriate)	Date of landing (as appropriate)	Seal (stamp)	
					Port of transhipment (as appropriate)	Date of transhipment (as appropriate)	Name and registration number of receiving vessel	Seal (stamp)
							IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable) of receiving vessel	

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No changes

8. Name and address of exporter	Signature	Date	Seal

9. Flag State authority validation:			
Name/Title	**Signature**	**Date**	**Seal (stamp)**

10. Transport details: *See Appendix*

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(i) EUROPEAN UNION CATCH CERTIFICATE

Document number		Validating authority				
1. Name	Address			Telephone Fax		
2. Fishing vessel name	Flag - home port and registration number		Call sign	IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable)		
Fishing licence no – valid until	Mobile satellite service no Telefax no Telephone no Email address (if issued)					
Fishing gear(1)						
3. Description of product	Type of processing authorised on board		4. References to applicable conservation and management measures			
Species	Product code	Catch area(s) and catch date(s) (from - to)(2)	Estimated weight to be landed in kg	Net catch weight in kg	Verified weight landed (net catch weight in kg)(3)	
5. Name of master of fishing vessel or of fishing licence holder - Signature						
6. Declaration of transhipment at sea Name of master of fishing vessel		Signature and date	Transhipment date/area/position		Estimated weight (kg)	
Master of receiving vessel	Signature	Vessel name	Call sign	IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable)		

7. Transhipment and/or landing authorisation within a port area:								
Name	Authority	Signature	Address	Tele-phone	Port of landing (as appropriate)	Date of landing (as appropriate)	Seal (stamp)	
					Port of transhipment (as appropriate)	Date of transhipment (as appropriate)	Name and registration number of receiving vessel	Seal (stamp)
							IMO number or, if not applicable, other unique vessel identifier (if applicable) of receiving vessel	

8. Name and address of exporter	Signature	Date	Seal
9. Flag State authority validation:			
Name/Title	Signature	Date	Seal (stamp)
10. Transport details: *See Appendix*			

Catch certificate - How it will look like from 10 January 2026

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Changes to Appendix: Transport details

1. Country of exportation Port/airport/other ~~place~~ point of departure	2. Exporter signature		3. Point of destination	
Vessel name and flag Flight number/ airway bill number Truck nationality and registration number Railway bill number Freight bill number Other transports documents (e.g. bill of lading, CMR [2], air waybill)	Container number(s) list attached	Name	Address	Signature

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Appendix
How it will look like from 10 January 2026

Appendix

TRANSPORT DETAILS (1)

1. Country of exportation Port/airport/other point of departure	2.Exporter signature		3.Point of destination	
Vessel name and flag Flight number/airway bill number Truck nationality and registration number Railway bill number Freight bill number Other transport documents (e.g. bill of lading, CMR (2), air waybill)	Container number(s) list attached	Name	Address	Signature

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(1) In the case of use of multiple modes of transport or multiple shipments, the information related to the transport has to be provided for each mode of transport used for each shipment.

(2) Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road.

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Article 14(2) and Annex IV

Use of processing statements

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What changes?

- A processing statement (Annex IV) will be required even in cases where the processing of the product takes place in the same country of the flag of the fishing vessel.
- This means that all processed products should be exported to the EU accompanied by a catch certificate AND a processing statement.
- The processing statement should refer to the related catch certificates that will include the quantity of fish used as raw material to produce the processed products to be exported to the EU.
- The requirement for a unique processing statement number has been added to ensure the link between the statement and the catch certificate(s)

Article 14(1)

Introduction of a non-manipulation document

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What changes?

- **Introduction of a template** for the current documentary requirements for the import into the EU of fishery products *transported in the same form* through a non-EU country other than the flag State or the State in which processing takes place, i.e. *evidence that the fishery products did not undergo operations other than unloading, reloading or any operation designed to preserve them in good and genuine condition, and remained under the surveillance of the competent authorities in that non-EU country*

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How does it change?

- A template will be adopted in a Delegated Regulation before the application of the new rules (before 10 January 2026) and applicable as of 10 January 2026.
- The template must be signed by the authorities of the country through which products have transited or have been stored.
- The template will be integrated in CATCH.

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Work plan before 10 January 2026

- IT developments (CATCH)
- Implementing / delegated provisions
- Promotion of direct use of CATCH by non-EU countries
- Trainings / information sharing

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For any question:

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Thank you

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