



Brussels, 16 October 2009

NOTE TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE – WG III

Subject: Update on the implementation of the IUU Regulation

1. IMPLEMENTING REGULATION AND PRACTICAL HANDBOOK

On 23 September the Management Committee gave its favourable opinion on the draft Commission Regulation laying down technical rules for the IUU Regulation. The draft is now in written procedure for adoption on XX October by the Commission.

The handbook is finalised. The English version will be published after the adoption without delay on the IUU section of DG MARE's website. The other language versions will follow as soon as the translations are finalised.

2. NOTIFICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES WITH THIRD COUNTRIES AND MEMBER STATES

2.1. Third countries

2.1.1. Notifications

Out of the 171 third countries plus 22 overseas countries and territories trading with the Community, so far 43 countries have had their notification accepted by the Commission and 23 countries need to transmit additional information before acceptance. In addition, 15 countries have informed the Commission that they are preparing their notifications.

The abovementioned means that around 82% of the volume imported into the EC, from the countries with accepted notifications or notifications where information is missing, is covered. The countries that have advised the Commission of their notifications shortly cover additional 12% of the volume traded.

15 countries have indicated that they will not notify authorities as they have no direct or indirect trade with the Community.

2.1.2. Agreed records

DG MARE is finalising agreed records with countries having a traceability and control system which meets the requirements of the EC catch certification scheme to generate a document having the same value.

The first one was signed with Norway on 3 September. More signatures are planned in October with the US and Canada. DG MARE can also foresee agreed records with the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

2.1.3. Regional seminars

In addition to the 4 regional seminars already held for third countries, the preparations for the fifth one for the Pacific countries in November in New Caledonia are well under way and the invitations have been sent.

2.1.4. Bilateral meetings

Since October 2008, the Commission has met with 37 third countries, including one overseas territory; Iceland, Canada, Norway, Singapore, USA, Greenland, New Zealand, Thailand, Colombia, Seychelles, Japan, Korea, the Faroe Islands, Morocco, the Philippines, Malaysia, Chile, Turkey, Taiwan, Indonesia, Russia, Costa Rica, Jamaica and the Bahamas, Argentina, the Maldives, China, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cameroon, Brazil, South Africa, Australia, Croatia, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, India.

The outcomes of a workshop recently held in China with the participation of the Commission indicate clearly that, both the authorities and the operators have a good knowledge of the Regulation and are well prepared to its implementation from January 2010.

In addition to the bilateral meetings, the Commission has also presented and discussed the Regulation at numerous international forums since the formal adoption. These include: ASEAN, ACP, ASEAN/SEAFDEC, COFI, ASEM, CTA, CFFA and APEC.

2.1. Member States

2.2.1 Notifications

Less than half the Member States have notified their authorities for the validation and verification of catch certificates, waiting for the training sessions in order to determine what should be those authorities.

2.2.2. Information and training

In order to allow for a proper and smooth implementation of the IUU Regulation in the Member States, 4 training sessions of 2 ½ days for officials of the competent authorities have been organised in cooperation with the CFCA.

All sessions take place in Vigo, Spain. The first two sessions took place in the week 28 Sept – 2 Oct and the last two will take place in the week of 19 – 23 Oct.

2.2.3. Bilateral meetings

The Commission has held bilateral meetings with several Member States to discuss individual problems and questions in relation to the implementation process. So far 3 meetings have been held and more are expected to follow the closer 1 January 2010 comes.

3. MISCELLANEOUS

Information pertaining to the implementation of the IUU Regulation and the activities of the Commission can be found on the website of DG MARE under:

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/external_relations/illegal_fishing_en.htm