

Implementation of import controls under the EU IUU Regulation

A review of progress
January 2017



Background to analysis

- Member states (MS) submit reports every two years to European Commission on implementation of IUU Regulation
- Reports submitted for 2010/11, 2012/13, 2014/15
- Obtained via access to information requests
 - 2010/11: 25 reports (excl. AT, LU)
 - 2012/13: 27 reports (excl. HR)
 - 2014/15: 23 reports (excl. FI, IT, LU, MT, SE)
- Quality of reporting differs considerably between MS and, in some cases, precludes robust comparisons across MS/analysis of implementation
- Publication of full analysis planned for February 2017

Inspections of landings by third country (TC) vessels in EU ports

Article 9 IUU Regulation (1005/2008)

- MS required to inspect 5% of landings and transshipments by third country (TC) vessels in their ports each year
- Inspections must be based on risk management
- 21 benchmarks (risk criteria) in Art. 4 of the Implementing Regulation (1010/2009)



Inspections of landings by third country (TC) vessels in EU ports

Implementation:

- 2014/15:
 - 10 MS reported 4122 TC vessel landings and transshipments
 - All 10 MS reported fulfilling 5% inspection requirement
 - MS apply risk criteria or inspect 100% of TC landing/transshipment operations
- Report from Spain:
 - DECLINE in quantities of products landed by TC fishing vessels in Las Palmas since 2010, but an INCREASE in access to port services
 - Shift to nearby (non-EU) ports with less rigorous controls?

Risk-based verification of import CCs

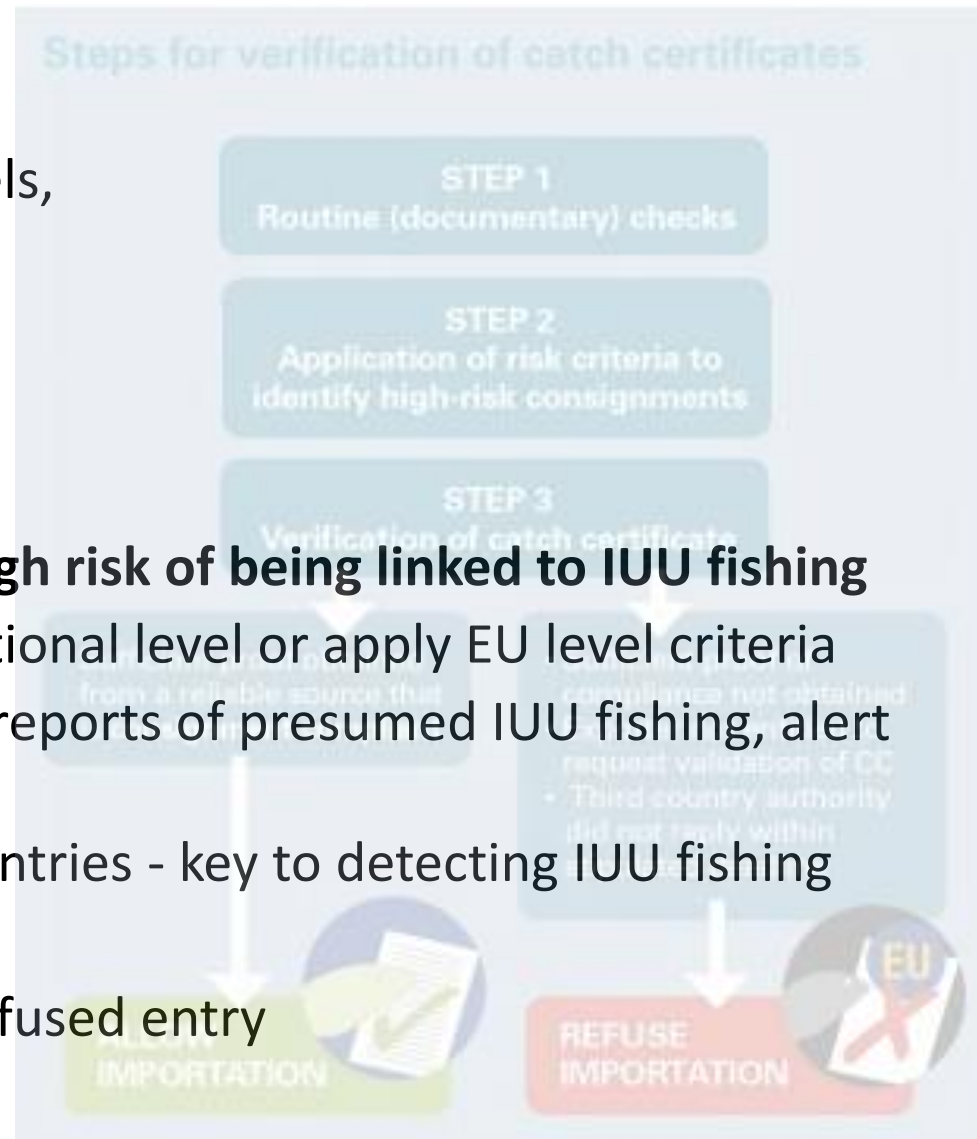
Applies to direct landings AND freight imports (e.g. container vessels, air freight...)

Article 17 IUU Regulation:

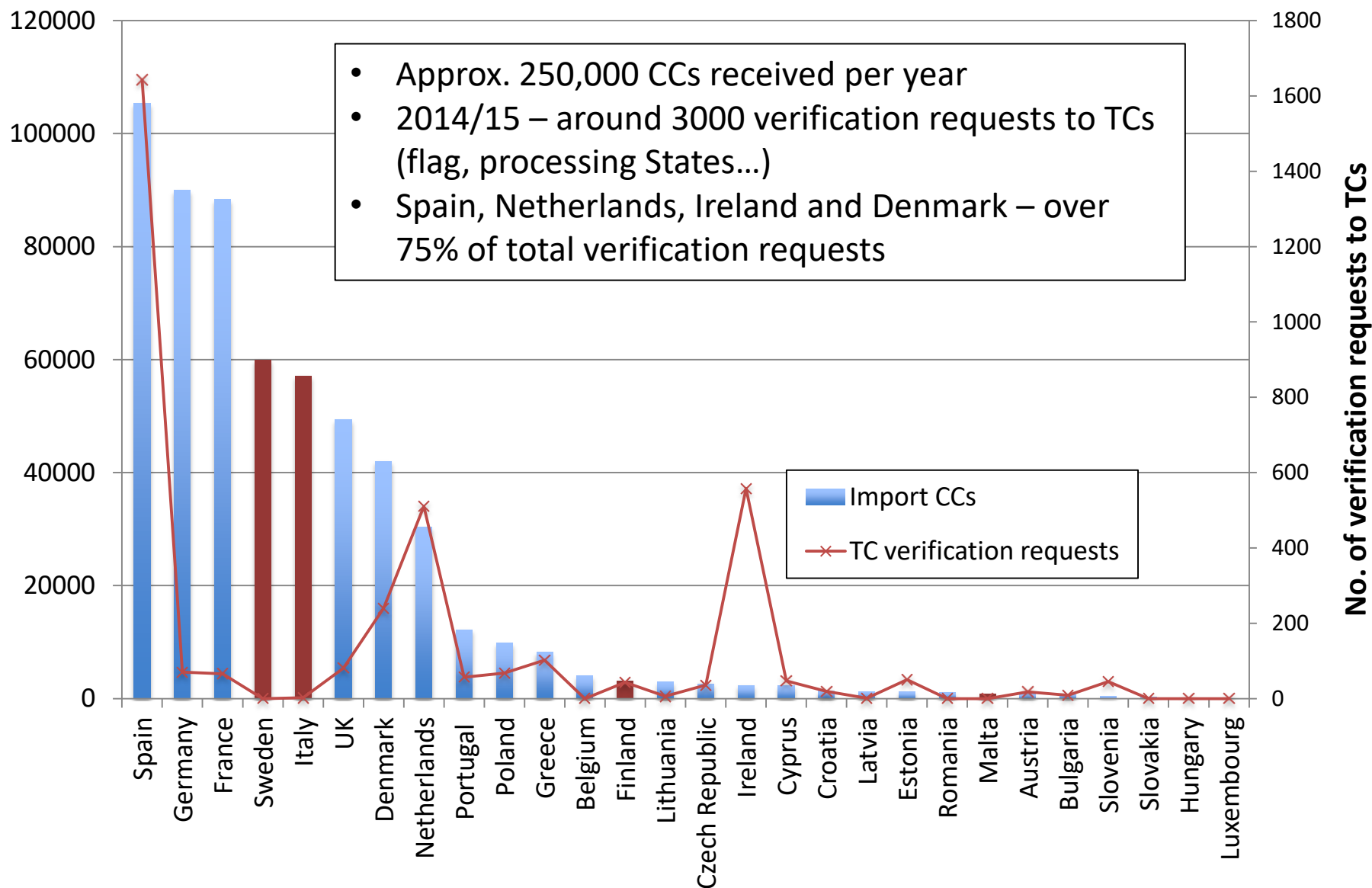
- “All verifications necessary”
- Focus on consignments with a **high risk of being linked to IUU fishing**
- MS may define risk criteria at national level or apply EU level criteria
- **Mandatory verifications** (fraud, reports of presumed IUU fishing, alert notice, etc.)
- Verification requests to third countries - key to detecting IUU fishing

Article 18 IUU Regulation:

- Non-compliant products to be refused entry



Number of import CCs received and third country verification requests (2014/15, red bars indicate 2012/13 data)



Fishery imports from non-EU countries into top 6 EU importers, 2014-2015 (excl. imports from EEA)

	IUU Reg imports (annual average in tonnes, 2010- 2015)*	Import CCs received	Verification requests to third countries	Verification requests as % of total CCs received	Import CCs from carded countries (estimate)**	Rejected consignments
Spain	860,000	105,365	1,643	1.559%	3%	58
UK	380,000	49,313	81	0.164%	13%	15
Germany	365,000	90,000	60-70	0.078%	8%	2
Netherlands	350,000	30,335	511	1.685%	14%	1
Italy	350,000	57,172	2	0.003%	20%	0
France	275,000	88,345	66	0.075%	6.5%	12

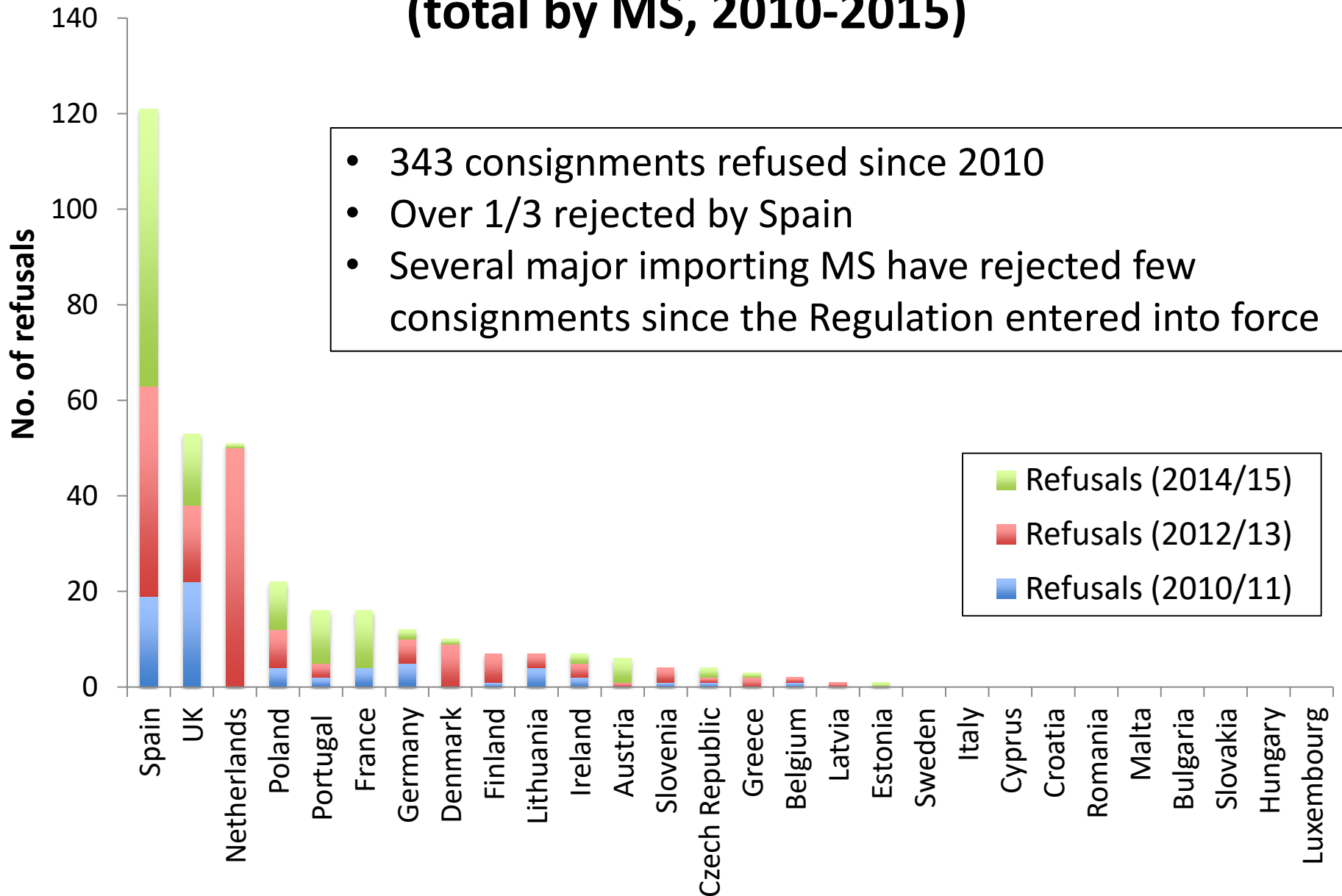
Notes:

Grey shading indicates data for 2012/13

*Eurostat. Calculated based on methodology set out in: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/studies/iuu-regulation-application/doc/final-report_en.pdf

**Based on flag State information reported in MS reports. Red text indicates estimates based on Customs data reported in Eurostat (Germany) or country of origin information contained in Customs import declarations (France) – flag State information not available.

Rejected consignments (total by MS, 2010-2015)



Risk-based verification of import CCs

Risk assessment:

- Effective risk analysis crucial to target limited enforcement resources
- Wide disparity in methods and criteria for risk assessment
- In 2014/15, 4 MS reported applying EU level risk criteria to direct CC verifications

Verifications:

- Differing standards of scrutiny and rigour
- Report from Spain
 - DECREASE in trade flows following an INCREASE in verification requests to certain flag States
 - Diversion of trade to other MS?

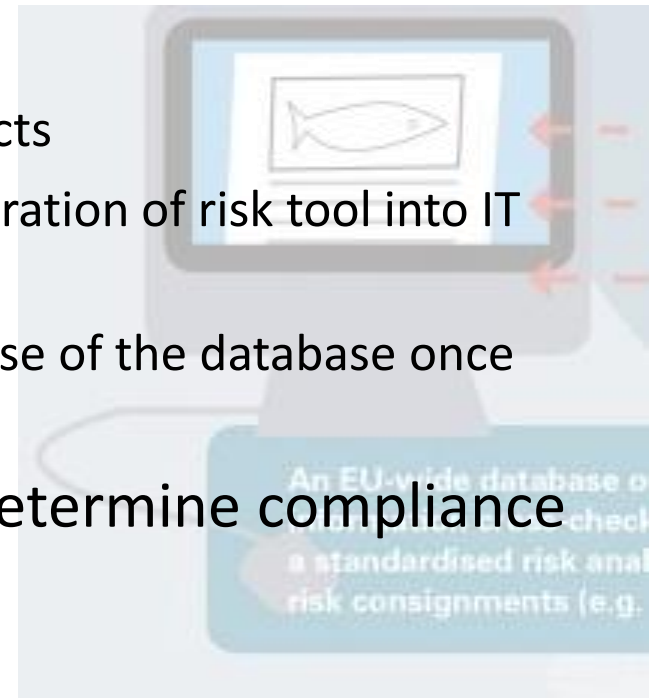


Conclusions

- Risk-based verification of import CCs - **inadequate harmonisation of MS procedures**
- Uneven/weak MS controls, lack of EU level guidance
- Improved harmonisation called for by MS (e.g. DK, ES in 2014/15 reports)
- **LDAC advice** to Commission on implementation of IUU Regulation (November 2016) – IT system to support CC scheme, harmonisation
- Calls for improved harmonisation/implementation in **European Parliament resolutions on:**
 - How to make fisheries controls uniform (October 2016)
 - EU wildlife trafficking action plan (November 2016)
- **Improved reporting** on specific criteria and procedures is required

Recommendations

- Harmonise procedures for risk analysis, CC verifications and inspections **to a minimum standard across MS**
- **Methods and criteria defined at EU-level**, guidance issued
- **EU-wide database of CC information** by end 2017 (specific recommendation included by 14 MS in 2014/15 reports):
 - Assist in EU-level cross-checks of CCs
 - Improve efficiency & detection of IUU products
 - Standardise risk assessment through incorporation of risk tool into IT system
 - MS must commit to the full and systematic use of the database once established.
- **Commission audit missions** to MS to determine compliance with import controls



SUPPORTING THE EU TO END ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

Thank you for your attention!

Highlights

Banish the paper mountain, properly assess risk

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New data on EU fishing gear
Union external fishing
fleet: more transparency
in world fisheries

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Ensuring legal EU seafood
imports: the digital
revolution must happen
this year

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Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events at this time.

Media Resources

2 Aug

NOAA Fisheries Releases Final Rule for Electronic Reporting of Trade Data

Source & Author: NOAA Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries published a [final rule](#) establishing regulations to integrate the collection of trade documentation within the International Trade Data System, and requiring vessel monitoring system (VMS) data to be submitted to the system. The effective date for implementation is September 20, 2018. [Continue reading](#)

25 Jul

Banish the paper mountain, properly assess risk

Source & Author: WWF

NGOs urge significant improvements to EU system to prevent illegal fish imports from entering the market

Detailed recommendations for how the European Union (EU) can eliminate existing weaknesses in its system to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing were published today by WWF and partner NGOs*. [Continue reading](#)

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