

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing & Global Governance

Combating IUU fishing, import control schemes, and digitalization of control

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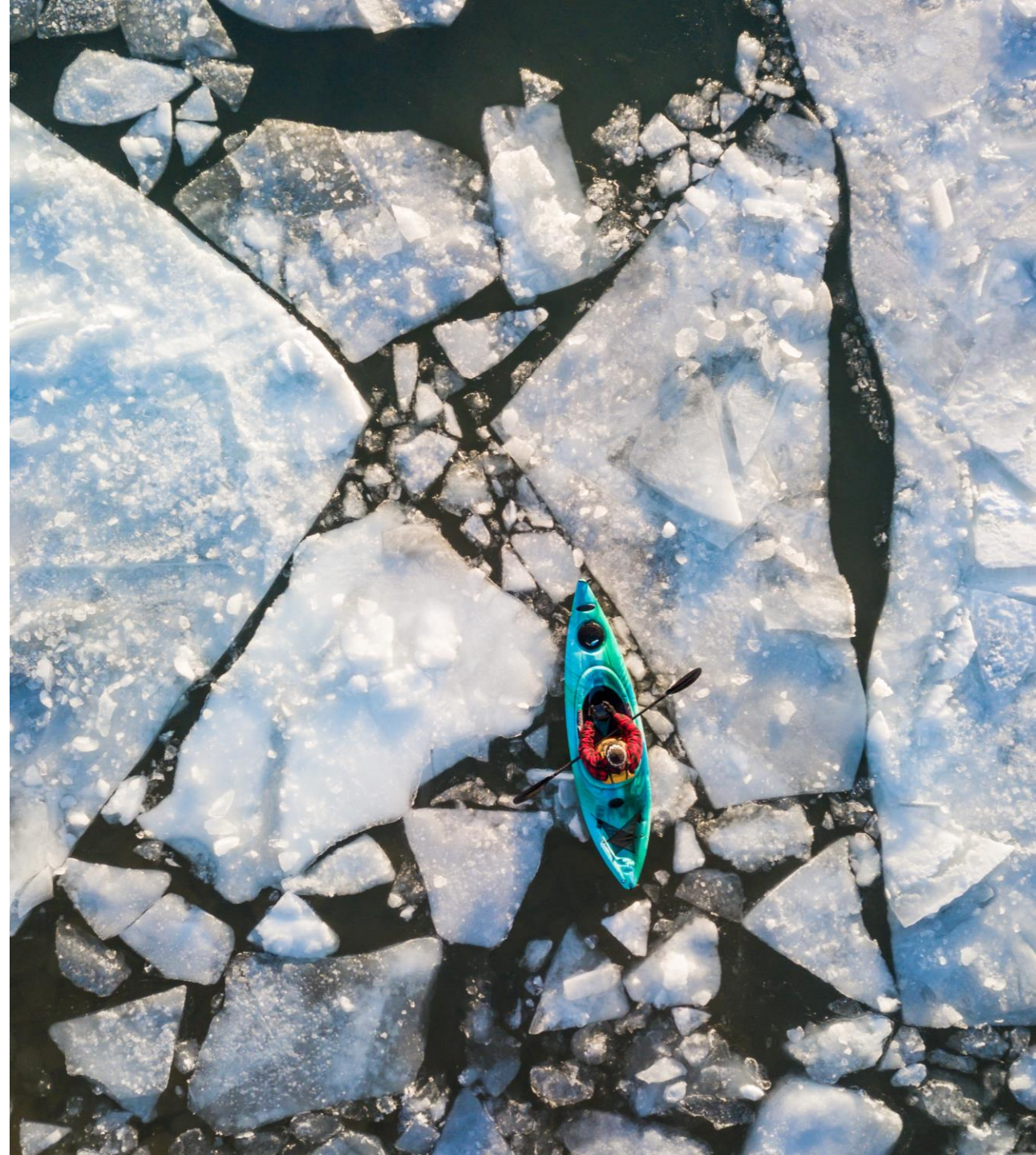


Presentation of 2 reports published in 2021:

1. Spain- A progress report on a decade of combating IUU fishing & key findings from 2020/2021 biennial reports (updated report to be published soon)
2. Digitising the control of fishery product imports – A panorama of the systems in place in the EU and ways forward

Limitations of the work:

- Data content/ways they are reported **may vary** from one biennial report to the other despite being given in response to the same question
- Focus on import controls
- **Limits inherent** in self-reporting & two-page questionnaire
- Not an estimation of IUU in the market. This would require DNA testing, huge sampling
- We ask for more transparency so we can carry these out.



“Spain - A progress report on a decade of combating IUU Fishing”

- Analysis of 4 biennial reports submitted by Spain to the EC, covering the period from 2012 to 2019 – focus is on **imported products**
- Identification of areas of **progress/ stagnation/ challenges** in the implementation of the IUU Regulation by Spain



What we did:

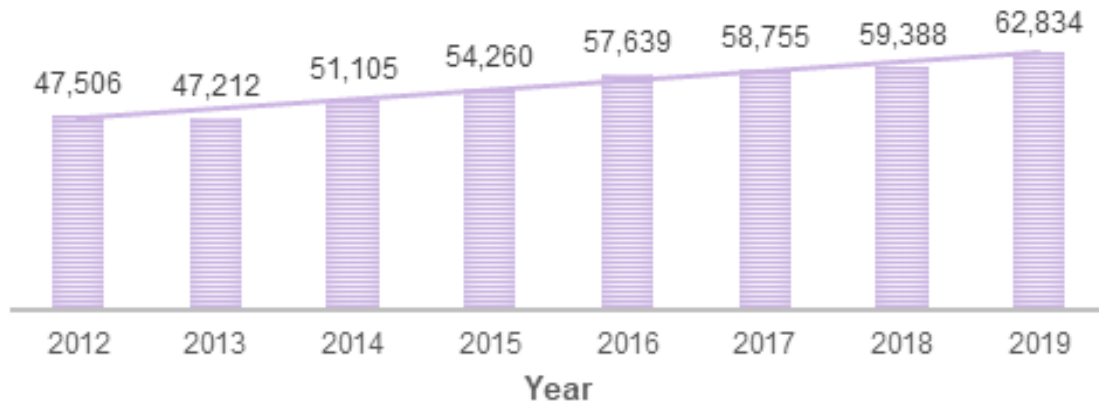
- **Access to information request** sent to Secretaria General de Pesca (SGP)/ DG MARE
- Monitor of progress on the implementation of the IUU Regulation through **10 key criteria** (e.g., number of officials involved in controls, number of fish imports refused ...)
- Carried out interviews with SGP to **cross-check information** (when possible)
- Carried out an analysis of the IT system - SICGPI



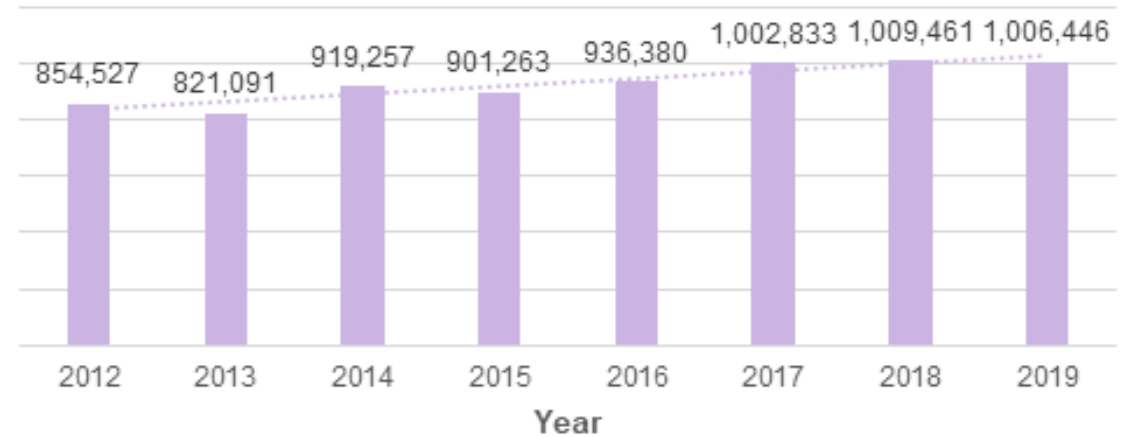
Starting point:

Volume of imports and number of catch certificates

Number of catch certificates presented for authorisation in Spain per year



Total volume of imports into Spain in tonnes per year



Selected indicator for tracking of progress	Biennium 2012/2013	Biennium 2014/2015	Biennium 2016/2017	Biennium 2018/2019	Biennium 2020/2021
Modification of national law or any administrative guidelines for the application of the IUU Regulation	yes	yes	no	no	yes
Number of officials involved in controls under the IUU Regulation	94	116	126	165	160
Percentage of verifications of catch certificates and processing statements	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of inspections of third-country fishing vessels in Member States' ports	701	914	300	294	290
Number of imports that have been refused	42	58	24	13	10
Use of a risk assessment approach for verification of catch certificates	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Number of requests for verifications sent to third-country authorities	1031	1113	771	1120	550
Refusal of catch certificate validations	yes	yes	yes (504)	yes (785)	yes (328)
Use of an IT tool to monitor the catch certificates and processing statements accompanying imports	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Number of infringements detected	102	99	58	37	35
	3	3	11	11	4
Number of serious infringements detected					

Key findings (including the 2020/2021 biennial reports):

- **Progress** in a number of areas of the implementation of the IUU Regulation (officials involved in controls, checking all CC for third-country fishery products, risk assessment approach, refusal of validation of CC and imports, IT tools)
- **Stagnation/decrease** in other areas of controls (number of requests for verifications sent to third-country authorities, prosecution of IUU fishing activities and number of refusal of imports)



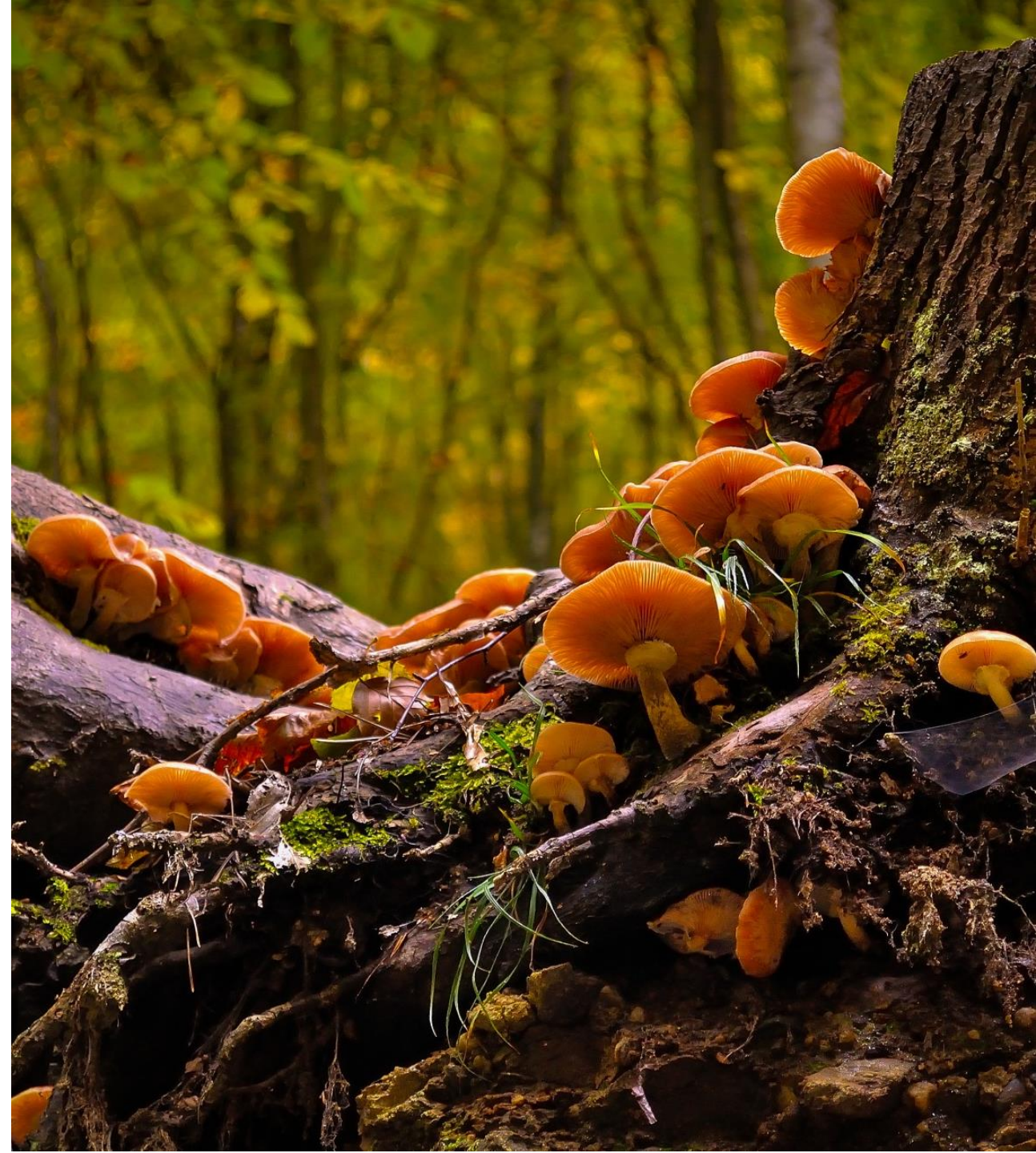
Recommendations to the European Commission

- ❖ Publish biennial reports from MS on website
- ❖ Conduct audits in MS to verify the accuracy of data provided
- ❖ Improve questionnaire guidelines and clarity
- ❖ Request information on all sanctions imposed (not only on serious infringements)
- ❖ Take action against MS which do not report/report late
- ❖ Provide feedback to MS to ensure consistency in reporting by MS



Recommendations to Spain

- ❖ Report on time, make information available and continue to improve, wherever necessary, the data provided
- ❖ Continue to move forward, maintaining and improving the system in areas with high level of performance
- ❖ Improve the procedure for the prosecution of IUU fishing activities
- ❖ Lead in the use of CATCH (testing, feedback etc..)
- ❖ An impact assessment of the efficacy of the control system should be carried out



"Digitising the control of fishery product imports – A panorama of the systems in place in the EU and ways forward"

- Document the different stages MS have reached in the process of CC digitalisation: analysis biennial reports and questionnaires
- Encourage MS that do not have IT tool to start using CATCH on a voluntary basis
- Draw attention to the lack of a level playing field within Europe when it comes to digitised import control systems



Overview of IT tools among Member States:

- 13 MS have not established IT tools – they continue to verify CCs on paper
- 13 MS have IT tools in place; 5 of the IT tools specifically include a module for re-exportation of imported catches
- Little details for 3 MS
- 7 MS have IT tools with integrated risk identification
- Deep dive into SICGPI and CATCH



Key findings & recommendations:

- Overall **lack of level playing field** within the EU – uneven standards can create loopholes for products linked to IUU fishing
- MS have improved the verification of the legality of imports but there is a need to access a single EU database to avoid **double use of CCs, fraudulent CCs, and overuse of CCs and PSs**
- MS should start using **CATCH** on a voluntary basis and establish a **shared risk management** at EU level
- Additional focus on a parallel trade flow analysis should be given, both by making data more easily available and by including this feature in future versions of CATCH
- The EC should enhance the **transparency of the conclusions and recommendations** made following inspections and audits by fishery inspectors (DG MARE, EFCA) by publishing the **inspection and audit reports** related to fisheries control in EU MS and non-EU countries.
- Promote the use of CATCH by third countries.



Next Steps :

- Update of the report on Spain
- Carry out an analysis at EU level
- Study on IUU risks associated with specific species
- Follow the switch to CATCH
- Follow implementation reports from COM and ECA.
- Think about/commission an EU wide study using DNA testing?





Thanks!

Q&A