

# IUU – Guide for Irish Exporters

## 1.0 Background

**This guide is written for Irish exporters who wish to export fishery products to any third country external to the EU, for reasons such as processing, which may at any time later then be re-imported back to the EU. In that event these products will be governed by the new EU IUU Regulation (1005/2008), which came into force on 1 January 2010.**

The EU is intent on eliminating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Under the new Regulation the EU is tackling the problem of IUU fishing by introducing a range of measures that will make it much more difficult for illegal fish to enter the EU market, and by creating offences for any EU nationals engaged in IUU activity, right through the supply chain. One of the biggest changes has been the introduction of a certification system for legally caught fish. Any fishery products caught on or after 1 January 2010 and imported into any EU country must now be accompanied by a catch certificate. Equally any Irish caught fish exported outside the EU (e.g. for processing) which may then be re-imported back into the EU, must also be accompanied by a catch certificate.

### **1.1 This guide explains:**

- The rules governing exports;
- When you need an Irish catch certificate;
- How to obtain, complete and transmit the Irish catch certificate;
- Irish Authorities – who does what?

### **1.2 Catch Certificates**

There are a few exceptions, but generally all seafood caught on or after 1 January 2010, which is imported into the EU, will require a catch certificate. This catch certificate has to be validated by the authorities of the flag state of the vessel that caught the fish.

However, there is also a responsibility on exporters of Irish caught fish to obtain an Irish catch certificate if you export fish outside the EU, and then re-import it back into any EU country including Ireland.

The onus is on the exporter to determine under what circumstances an Irish catch certificate applies, Annex 1 of 202/2011 which replaces Annex 1 of 1005/2008 indicates exports which are excluded from the catch certificate requirement, for further information see;

[EU 202/2011 Exempt Products](#)

For additional information see the SFPA website and IUU Handbook on practical application:

[IUU Handbook](#)

## **2.0 The Irish Catch Certificate Explained**

### **2.1 When do you need an Irish catch certificate?**

In general an Irish catch certificate will be required when:

- a) Fish caught by Irish fishing vessels is exported to a third country (e.g. for processing), and such products are at any time later to be re-imported back to the EU.
- b) A non-EU country systematically requires an EU catch certificate to accompany imports of fishery products from that country.
- c) An Irish fishing vessel lands fish to a third country and this fish is subsequently processed and exported into to the EU.

#### **a) Exports of Fish Caught by Irish fishing Vessels**

In the case of fish caught by Irish vessels, for export to a third country (e.g. for processing), and then at any time later re-imported back to the EU, the exporter will need to complete an Irish catch certificate and apply, by forwarding the catch certificate, to the IUU Office of the SFPA to validate the certificate.

In the case of fish caught by other EU vessels, it will be the responsibility of the EU flag state (i.e. where the vessel is registered) to validate catch certificates.

For details of the relevant competent authorities in other EU Member States see;  
[Member States Competent Authorities](#)

#### **b) Third Country Catch Certificate Requirement**

A number of third countries have informed the European Commission that they will require catch certificates for exports from the EU. A list of these countries can be found on the European Commission Fisheries page at;

[3rd Countries Requesting EU Catch Certificates](#)

Anyone exporting to these countries should contact the relevant authorities in the country to which you will be exporting, or the importer, to find out what documentation will be required.

#### **c) Irish Fishing Vessels Landing to a Third Country**

For landings of Irish vessels, into a third country, where this fish is subsequently processed and re-imported back to the EU, the master of the fishing vessel or his representative will need to complete an Irish catch certificate and submit it for validation to the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA). Once submitted, the details will be checked and the validation carried out. The validated catch certificate will then be returned to the vessel master or his representative.

### **2.2 You Don't Need an Irish Catch Certificate**

- For seafood traded within the EU.

- Where the product is exported outside the EU and will not be re-imported to the community, unless the third country requires a certificate (See hyperlink at Third country requirement).
- Where an Irish fishing vessel lands fish to a third country, and this fish is imported unprocessed to the EU, as long as it is accompanied by a T2M Form. This is used to prove the Community status of fish products caught by Community fishing vessels.

Information on T2M Forms can be found at;

[T2M Forms and Information](#)

### 2.3 Completing the Irish Catch Certificate

The catch certificate is required to be completed by the exporter of the fisheries products.

The Irish catch certificate can be found at:

[Irish Catch Certificate](#)

The exporter will need to ensure that sections 2 to 5 of the Irish catch certificate are completed.

If appropriate in cases of transshipment at sea, or in port, sections 6 and 7 need to be completed. One catch certificate should be completed for each consignment to be exported. Where multiple vessels and landings make up a consignment, the details of each landing will need to be attached to the catch certificate using the multiple vessel schedule; available on the SFPA website. Sea Fisheries Conservation/Information for Exporters/Schedule to Catch Certificate.

[Catch Certificate Schedule](#)

### 2.4 Preparing to Validate the Catch Certificate

As the exporter you also have to fill in sections 8, 10, including details of how the fishery products will be transported to their destination outside the EU, to include all means of transportation, including port of loading, port of disembarkation, container number, seal number, transporting vessels name etc. It is the responsibility of the exporter to present the completed catch certificate to the Irish Authorities for validation. ***A Bill of Lading must be supplied also for the validation process; other documentation may be requested also.***

Office with responsibility for the local area where the exporter of the fishery product(s) is based. The following is a list of Offices and their contact details;

#### **SFPA Clonakilty**

T: 023 8859300

F: 023 8859720

E: [sfpa\\_info@sfpa.ie](mailto:sfpa_info@sfpa.ie)

#### **SFPA Castletown Bere**

T: 027 70439

F: 02770094  
E: [castletownbere@sfpa.ie](mailto:castletownbere@sfpa.ie)

**SFPA Dingle**

T: 066 9152122  
F: 066 9151489  
E: [dingle@sfpa.ie](mailto:dingle@sfpa.ie)

**SFPA Dunmore East**

T: 051 383135  
F: 051 383045  
E: [dunmore@sfpa.ie](mailto:dunmore@sfpa.ie)

**SFPA Howth**

T: 01 8321910  
F: 01 8321911  
E: [howth@sfpa.ie](mailto:howth@sfpa.ie)

**SFPA Killybegs**

T: 074 9731264  
F: 074 9731819  
E: [killybegs@sfpa.ie](mailto:killybegs@sfpa.ie)

**SFPA Rossaveal**

T: 091 572405  
F: 091 572585  
E: [rossaveal@sfpa.ie](mailto:rossaveal@sfpa.ie)

Where an Irish fishing vessel lands fish to a third country, and this fish is subsequently processed and is at any time to be re imported back to the EU, the Irish catch certificate should be sent to the IUU Office by email or fax:

T: 00 353 (0) 23 88 59300  
F: 00 353 (0) 23 88 59720  
E: [sfpa\\_info@sfpa.ie](mailto:sfpa_info@sfpa.ie)

## 2.5 Validating the Catch Certificate

Once the SFPA is satisfied with the information submitted, the catch certificate will be validated. The validated catch certificate is **not** required at point of export; it is only required if the product exported is to be re-imported to the EU so the processing flag state can complete an Annex IV (Processing Statement) for entry back into the EU. Some third countries require an EU catch certificate to accompany imports of fishery products whether to be processed or not. (See third country catch certificate requirement above). The European Commission has recommended that copies of validated catch certificates are kept for a three year period.

## 2.6 How far in Advance of Importation does the EU Importer need the Catch Certificate?

The validated catch certificate should be submitted to the IUU Office by the importer before the arrival of the consignment into the EU. If the fish has been processed it will also need to be accompanied by a processing statement validated by the relevant authorities in the third country of processing (see Annex IV of Regulation

1005/2008). Other documents pertaining to the import may be requested of the importer so as verification checks can be made, the following are minimum time period requirements:

- Goods arriving by air: **4 hours**
- Goods arriving by sea: **3 days**

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For any information or validation of catch certificates and all IUU documents, contact the Irish Authorities as listed below.

Sea Fisheries Protection Authority,  
IUU Office,  
Clogheen,  
Clonakilty,  
Co. Cork,  
Ireland.

T: 023 88 59300  
F: 023 88 59720 (Please mark for attention of IUU Office)  
E: [iuuoffice@sfpa.ie](mailto:iuuoffice@sfpa.ie)  
W: [www.sfpa.ie](http://www.sfpa.ie)

**Import Documentation sent to the IUU Office outside of office hours (M-F, 9-5pm)  
must be sent via e-mail only.**

Any queries of a confidential nature can be forwarded to: [iuuprevention@sfpa.ie](mailto:iuuprevention@sfpa.ie)