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SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
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SAFE SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD
BIA MARA SÁBHÁILTE INBHUNAITHE

Commission Decision to remove Ireland's Control Plan for Weighing After Landing

22 April 2021



- **What happened?**
- **Why did this happen?**
- **What now?**
- **Operator Obligations**
- **Weighing of Fishery Products**
- **What does this mean?**



European Commission is revoking the derogation to weigh fishery products following transport away from place of landing to a destination within Ireland or countries without a control plan

Article 61(1) of Council Regulation (EC) 2009/1224

The approved control plan submitted by Ireland in 2012, has been revoked.

Article 1(3) of Implementing Decision 2012/474/EU.

What?



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- **All fishery products must be weighed on landing on approved weigh systems by the Competent Authorities** CR 60(1)
- **This is being implemented with immediate effect.**

Why did this happen?



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- **In 2018, the Commission carried out an audit in Ireland aimed at monitoring the implementation of the control plan (in relation to pelagic fisheries).**
- **The findings of that audit identified irregularities, which revealed that Ireland has failed to ensure effective implementation of the control plan in accordance with the obligations arising from the Regulation**
- **Ireland did not take appropriate measures to address such non-compliance, in particular by withdrawing the permission to weigh after transport**
- **The EU found that Ireland could not guarantee an effective control of landed quantities of catches and minimise the risk of non-compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy.**

What now?



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- **Weighing will take place immediately on landing prior to all fishery products being held in storage, transported, or sold.**
- **The accurate weighing of catches remains the responsibility of industry/nominated operator.**
- **Weighing is permitted in facilities within the port area.**
- **The current definition of a port area is being on the apron of the landing site. Where public roads are accessed is deemed to be outside the apron of the landing site. The port area is still being assessed.**

Operator Obligations



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- **All fishery products must be weighed on landing prior to being held in storage, transported or sold** CR Art 60.2
- **All fishery products must be weighed on systems approved by the Competent Authorities (SFPA & NSAI)** CR Art 60.1, IR 72
- **Operators are responsible for the accurate weighing of all fishery products** CR Art 60.4
- **The figure from weighing is used for the completion of landing declarations, transport documents, sales notes and take-over declarations** CR Art 60.5
- **The operator shall record the weighing with required information and retain the weigh record for three years.** IR Art 70
- **Fishery products are placed into lots at weighing** IR 67
- **The Competent Authority shall have full access to the weigh systems, the weighing record, written declaration and all premises where the fisheries products are stored or processed.** IR Art 75



- **Weighing of all fishery products on landing** CR Art 60.2

- **Approved National Sampling Plan** CR Art 60.1

provided that fishery products are landed in standardised boxes. This sampling plan does not apply to some species and storage methods

- **Common Control Plan with Belgium and France** CR Art 61.2

Permits weighing after transport to approved premises in Member states with the Common Control Plan

- **SFPA weighing official control** CR Art 60.6

Officials may require for any quantity of fish landed to be weighed in their presence

- **Potential for Approved on-board weighing** CR Art 61.2

Weighing on board and sample weigh on landing in accordance with sampling matrix

What does this mean?



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- **Operators will be given an interim blanket approval up to 1st June provided the following for all fishery products:**
 - Scales are calibrated in the last 6 months by an authorized verifier
 - Weighing is undertaken in line with the sampling plan CR 60.1 or if required in its entirety CR 60.2, 60.6, 61.2
 - Weigh records are accurately completed and retained for 3 years IR 70
 - Fishery products are placed into lots at weighing IR 67
 - Transport documents are to include the weight of fish CR 68
- **This does not apply to landings of >10 tonnes of HER, MAC, JAX, WHB**

What does this mean?



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- **SFPA revising and implementing the approval process for weigh systems**
- **All weigh systems will be assessed for approval by both Competent Authorities during the period up to 1st of June** in line with Art. 72 of IR 404/2011
- **Operators are requested to send details of weigh systems they will use for weighing on landings and copies of calibration certificates to the SFPA, applications@sfpa.ie**
- **Currently all designated ports are being reviewed in line with weighing requirements**

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- **SFPA is producing an FAQ document**
- **Guidance Documents on Transport, Traceability & Weighing are being updated**
- **SFPA will review solutions proposed by industry**

Questions



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