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CHOSAINT
IASCAIGH MHARA

SEA-FISHERIES
PROTECTION
AUTHORITY

Press Release

Issued by the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority's Press Office

17th June 2024

The SFPA Publishes Fisheries Information Notice on New Regulations on the Margin of Tolerance for Fishing Logbooks

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) recently published a new Fisheries Information Notice (FIN) to help prepare industry members for changes to the margin of tolerance rules for the recording of fish which enter into force on the 10th July 2024. The FIN can be accessed on sfpa.ie. *

This FIN explains the updates to margin of tolerance under Regulation (EU) 2023/2842, which amends the existing Control Regulation (Regulation No 1224/2009).** The margin of tolerance is the difference between the estimated quantity of species recorded by the master in the fishing logbook (estimated live-weight) and the actual weight of the species once weighed and converted to live-weight (live-weight equivalent). The permitted margin of tolerance under the Control Regulation is currently set at 10% for all species. From the 10th July 2024, the margin of tolerance will increase to 20% for species with a live-weight equivalent (LWE) of 100kg or less.

Additionally, specific derogations will be introduced for species landed unsorted in small pelagic fisheries, tropical tuna purse seine fisheries, and fisheries for industrial purposes. The margin of tolerance that applies to these fisheries depends on whether they are landed into a listed or non-listed port. The requirements for ports to become listed are detailed in the new Implementing Regulation 2024/1474. No European Union ports have been listed to date. Further information will be provided pending any approval by the European Commission to list ports within the jurisdiction of the Irish State.

Ireland's electronic logbooks (ieCatch) will be updated to reflect these new rules following their entry into force on the 10th July. The SFPA will communicate with all electronic logbook users regarding these updates when they take place.

All vessel operators should familiarise themselves with the new margin of tolerance rules in advance of the implementation date. The SFPA are committed to supporting compliance with both new and existing legislation and are available to provide

guidance. For assistance or further details on the FIN, please contact:
sfpafood&fisheriessupport@sfpa.ie

Ends

Note to Editor

*The FIN can be accessed on the SFPA website or by clicking on the following link: :
[Sea Fisheries Protection Authority > Search \(sfpa.ie\)](#)

** This FIN explains the updates to margin of tolerance under Regulation 2023/2842 - which amends the existing Control Regulation ([Regulation No 1224/2009](#)) - and outlines the application of [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1474](#) (which lays down the rules for the application of Article 14(4), point (a) of the Control Regulation).

Further Information

About the SFPA

The Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) is the independent statutory body responsible for the regulation of the sea-fisheries and the sea-food production sectors. It promotes compliance with the EU Common Fisheries Policy, sea-fisheries law and food safety law relating to fish and fish products, verifies compliance and, where necessary, enforces it. Its mandate covers all fishing vessels operating within Ireland's 200-mile limit, over 2,000 Irish registered fishing vessels wherever they operate, and all seafood produced in Ireland's seafood processing companies. The SFPA operates through a network of regional port offices situated at Ireland's main fishery harbours. For further information visit: www.sfpa.ie