



Other Information

27 November 2017

United States Government Seafood Import Monitoring Programme

- (1) The United States Government Seafood Import Monitoring Programme (SIMP) establishes, for imports of certain seafood products, the reporting and recordkeeping requirements to prevent illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing and/ or misrepresented seafood from entering the United States commerce.
- (2) SIMP is administered by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- (3) SIMP requires harvest data to be reported at the point of entry into the United States commerce, or retained by the importer of record for imported fish or fish products identified as priority species due to the risk of IUU fishing and seafood fraud activities.
- (4) The importer of record is identified to United States Customs and Border Protection on each entry filing.
- (5) The United States importer of record will be required to obtain an International Fisheries Trade Permit (IFTP) from NOAA to report certain harvest information at the time of entry filing, and to keep records regarding the chain of custody of the fish or fish product from harvest to point of entry into the United States.
- (6) The effective start date for implementation of the SIMP is 1 January 2018. However, the United States importer of record needs to provide the required information for all seafood products covered by the SIMP entering the United States market from 1 January 2018, even if it was caught before that date.

Species covered by the first phase of the SIMP

- (1) Thirteen species will be covered by the first phase of the SIMP, which is intended to expand in the future to cover all seafood:
 - a) Abalone (Paua)
 - b) Atlantic Cod
 - c) Blue Crab (Atlantic)
 - d) Dolphinfin (Mahi Mahi)
 - e) Grouper
 - f) King Crab (red)
 - g) Pacific Cod
 - h) Red Snapper
 - i) Sea Cucumber
 - j) Sharks
 - k) Shrimp
 - l) Swordfish
 - m) Tunas: Albacore, Bigeye, Skipjack, Yellowfin, and Bluefin

Note: implementation of the SIMP requirements for abalone (paua) and shrimp is delayed until further notice

Information to be collected

- (1) Harvesting or Producing Entity
 - a) Name and flag state of harvesting vessel(s)
 - b) Evidence of authorisation to fish (permit or license number)
 - c) Unique vessel identifier (e.g. Fish Serve vessel registration number)

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- d) Type(s) of fishing gear, as provided in Part 8 of the Schedule 3 of the Fisheries (Reporting) Regulations 2001

Note: the fishing area and type of fishing gear should be specified per the reporting convention and codes used by the competent authority exercising jurisdiction over the wild capture operation. If no such reporting requirements exist, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) fishing area and gear codes should be used.

(2) Harvest Event – what, when and where

- a) Species – FAO 3-Alpha Species Codes (Aquatic Sciences Fishery Information System – AFSIS)
- b) Harvest date(s)
- c) Product form(s) at time of landing – including quantity and weight of product
- d) Area(s) of wild-capture or aquaculture harvest. This should either be the Quota Management Area (QMA), or applicable FAO area where the product is not harvested within a QMA
- e) Point(s) of first landing, whether that is the first port the product is landed into, or another vessel
- f) Name of entity(ies) to which the fish was landed or delivered.

Note: in cases where the imported shipment is comprised of more than one harvest event, each event that is relevant to the shipment must be reported. However, the importer does not need to link a particular fish or portion of the shipment to any one harvest event.

Note the species and their FAO 3-Alpha Species Code can be found here:

<http://www.iuufishing.noaa.gov/Portals/33/SIMP.MandatoryFullMessageSetSpecies.3Alpha%20Codes.pdf>

(3) Importer of record

- a) Name, affiliation and contact information
- b) NOAA issued IFTP number
- c) Importer of record is responsible for keeping records regarding the chain of custody detailed above
- d) Information on any transshipment of product (declarations by harvesting/ carrier vessels, bills of landing)
- e) Records on processing, re-processing, and co- mingling of product.

Recommendations for exporters

It is recommended that exporters take the following action before the SIMP comes into force:

- (1) Clarify who their importers of record are, confirm that importers have an IFTP, and proactively communicate with importers about the rule;
- (2) Review the model certificates (available on the NOAA website – see links below) for traceability and ensure that they can provide all required information. Note that these model certificates are not required and that importers are free to develop whatever data collection format works best for their purposes, as long as they provide all required information;
- (3) Work with the importer of record to determine a method for recording and submitting the required information;
- (4) Where possible, encourage importers and brokers to test their import system prior to the start date of the rule to anticipate and correct any problems; and,
- (5) To the extent possible, ensure you collect the required SIMP data as soon as possible, so that you are able to provide the information for exports that enter the United States on and from the 1st of January 2018. This rule applies regardless of when the product was caught.

More Information:

(1) A Compliance Guide for the SIMP can be found here:

<http://www.iuufishing.noaa.gov/Portals/33/SIMPComplianceGuide2017.pdf>

(2) Model forms can be found here:

http://www.iuufishing.noaa.gov/Portals/33/NMFS_ModelCatchForm.pdf

http://www.iuufishing.noaa.gov/Portals/33/NMFS_AggregatedCatchForm_5.2017.pdf

Contact for further information

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