



(Revised: April 15, 2017)



FACT SHEET

U.S. Seafood Import Monitoring Program

NOAA Fisheries published its final rule establishing the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) on December 9, 2016. The Program establishes, for imports of certain seafood products, the reporting and recordkeeping requirements needed to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU)-caught and/or misrepresented seafood from entering U.S. commerce, thereby providing additional protections for our national economy, global food security and the sustainability of our shared ocean resources.

BACKGROUND

IUU fishing and seafood fraud jeopardize the health of fish stocks, distort legal markets, negatively impact consumer confidence, and unfairly compete in global markets with the products of seafood producers who comply with fishery regulations. As a global leader in sustainable fisheries and a major market for seafood consumption, the U.S. has a responsibility to combat illegal practices that undermine the sustainability of our shared ocean resources.

NOAA and its U.S. Government partner agencies are engaged in numerous efforts to engage internationally, enhance enforcement, strengthen partnerships, and establish seafood traceability. The Seafood Import Monitoring Program is the first-phase of a risk-based traceability program—requiring the importer of record to provide and report key data—from the point of harvest to the point of entry into U.S. commerce—on an initial list of imported fish and fish products identified as particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing and/or seafood fraud.

OVERVIEW

- The Seafood Import Monitoring Program establishes permitting, data reporting and recordkeeping requirements for the importation of certain priority fish and fish products that have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing and/or seafood fraud.
- The data collected will allow these priority species of seafood to be traced from the point of entry into U.S. commerce back to the point of harvest or production to verify whether it was lawfully harvested or produced.



- The collection of catch and landing documentation for these priority seafood species will be accomplished through the International Trade Data System (ITDS), the U.S. government’s single data portal for all import and export reporting.
- The Seafood Import Monitoring Program is not a labeling program, nor is it consumer facing. In keeping with the Magnuson-Stevens Act authority (under which the regulatory program has been promulgated) and the strict information security of the ITDS--the information collected under this program is confidential.
- The importer of record will be required to keep records regarding the chain of custody of the fish or fish product from harvest to point of entry into U.S.
- The final rule reflects and responds to numerous public comments and messages received on the proposed rule (February 2016) and underscores NOAA Fisheries’ extensive efforts to establish an effective program that minimizes the burden of compliance on industry while providing the necessary information to identify illegal and/or misrepresented seafood imports before they enter the U.S. market.

LIST OF PRIORITY SPECIES

Abalone *	Red Snapper
Atlantic Cod	Sea Cucumber
Blue Crab (Atlantic)	Sharks
Dolphinfish (Mahi Mahi)	Shrimp *
Grouper	Swordfish
King Crab (red)	Tunas: <i>Albacore, Bigeye, Skipjack,</i>
Pacific Cod	<i>Yellowfin, and Bluefin</i>

IMPLEMENTATION

January 1, 2018 is the mandatory compliance date for most priority species listed in the rule, with *shrimp and abalone compliance phased in at a later date. The effective date of this rule for all imported shrimp and abalone products – wild capture and aquaculture-raised - will be stayed until commensurate reporting and/or recordkeeping requirements have been established for U.S. domestic aquaculture-raised shrimp and abalone production. At such time, NOAA Fisheries will announce a compliance date for shrimp and abalone.



INFORMATION TO BE COLLECTED

Harvesting or Producing Entity

- Name and flag state of harvesting vessel(s)
- Evidence of authorization to fish (permit or license number)
- Unique vessel identifier (when available)
- Name(s) of farm or aquaculture facility
- Type(s) of fishing gear used

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 Organization fishing area and gear codes should be used.

Fish – What, when and where

- Species of fish— Aquatic Sciences Fishery Information System (ASFIS) three-alpha code
- Landing date(s)
- Point(s) of first landing
- Product form(s) at time of landing - including quantity and weight of product
- Area(s) of wild-capture or aquaculture harvest
- Name of entity(ies) to which the fish was landed or delivered

Note: In cases where entries and products comprise more than one harvest event, each event that is relevant to a shipment must be reported but the importer does not need to link each event to a particular fish or portion of the shipment.

Importer of Record

- Name, affiliation and contact information
- NOAA Fisheries issued international fisheries trade permit (IFTP) number.
- Importer of record is responsible for keeping records regarding the chain of custody detailed above.
- Information on any transshipment of product (declarations by harvesting/carrier vessels, bills of lading)
- Records on processing, re-processing, and commingling of product.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Information/materials about the final rule are posted to www.iuufishing.noaa.gov
- For questions related to the requirements of SIMP, contact NOAA Fisheries' Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, Celeste Leroux, Celeste.Leroux@noaa.gov
- For questions related to the use of the Automated Commercial Environment/ITDS, contact NOAA Fisheries' Office of Science and Technology, Dale Jones, Dale.Jones@noaa.gov