



Public Webinar: Seafood Import Monitoring Program

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Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (NOAA Fisheries)

Facilitator: NWX-DOC CONFERENCING

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time, all participants are in a listen only mode until the question and answer session of today's conference. At that time you may press Star 1 on your phone to ask a question. I would like to inform all parties that today's conference is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this time. I would now like to turn the conference over to Ms. Celeste Leroux. Thank you. You may begin.

Celeste Leroux: All right. Thanks everyone for joining us today. My name is Celeste Leroux. I work on implementation of the Seafood Import Monitoring Program here with the NOAA Fisheries' Office of International Affairs in Seafood Inspection. And thank you for joining us today. I am joined by Brian Vaubel. He's Chief of the Southeast Region of our office's featured inspection program; as well as Chris Rogers. He is the Assistant Director for International Fisheries with the Office of International and Seafood Inspection.

During the webinar, which Brian will be giving, if at any time you're unable to see the Web portion, please visit our Web portal, it is www.IUUFishing.NOAA.gov. On that site you can find a PDF of this presentation that we will be showing today, as well as transcripts of today and previous webinars that we've done on the Seafood [Import] Monitoring Program.

After this presentation, we'll have a robust question and answer session for you and you can submit your question via the conference line or the WebEx. (Sheila) will - via the conference line. I'm sorry. (Sheila) will be helping you figure out how to ask questions through the conference line. And thank you. Welcome. I will turn over the personation to Brian at this time.

Brian Vaubel: Thank you Celeste, for the really nice introduction. Hello and welcome everybody. I have my first coffee on my desk in front of me so it's definitely good morning for me, good morning for many of you, probably good afternoon and maybe good evening for some others. So again, welcome. Today what I'm going to be doing is going to give you a brief presentation on a very important US seafood regulation that will be going into effect in January of 2018. And it is called the Seafood Import Monitoring Program.



My objective is pretty simple and that's to provide you a better understanding of the program. And to answer the who, what, where, when and why, so that as brokers of foreign seafood entering into the US marketplace, you can best prepare and be ready at the time of implementation. I will progress through different facets of the program through just a short series of slides and in the end, at the very end, we'll take time to answer your questions. So first off, what is it?

What is the Seafood Import and Monitoring Program? I'll start off with just a broad overarching definition. And then as we proceed further, take some time to pick it apart a little and to get into more of the detail. So in summary, what it is, is it's a US regulatory program that applies to certain specific seafood products that are imported into the United States. It requires that certain harvest and traceability information for those products, be declared at the time of entry into the US.

This information and data is being collected at the time of entry to address two big things - number one, to prevent IUU or illegal unreported unregulated seafood; and number two, misrepresented seafood products, from entering into US commerce and to keep them out of our market. The goal of this move is to protect our US market, our economy, our food security. It promotes the sustainability of our oceanic resources. IUU and fraudulent seafood undermine the integrity and value for the products traded by our honest brokers and as well as our responsibility to mitigate these products in the US.

So as you can read on the slide that's in front of you right now, the driving forces are summarized. This further describes the rationale behind the action that we're taking. At this point, it's worthwhile to kind of take a step back and look at how the Seafood Import Monitoring Program has developed over the years. And kind of brought us to the point that we are now. So if you look over far on the left, you'll see back in June of 2014, the President asked NOAA and other agencies to develop a taskforce and come up with a list of recommendations on steps that we could take to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud.

Next, over on the timeline, later the same year, the multi-agency taskforce came up with a series of 15 different recommendations. And some of those recommendations involved phasing in a risk based traceability program for seafood, starting at the point of harvest. Three months later an action plan was released for the risk analysis, to establish which species were most at risk for IUU and seafood fraud. As you also can see on the slide, various measures were taken to engage public stakeholders through some of the means that you read there in front of you.

Just a short year later, the proposed rule for the Seafood Import Monitoring Program was released, public comment was collected and considered. At the end of 2016 the final rule for Seafood Import Monitoring Program was



released and has brought us to the point that we're at right now. This webinar and other engagements are being conducted now to educate and inform on this final rule as we march closer to the implementation. And then finally, looking forward on the timeline, so I guess it's maybe one more. Next. There we go.

Looking forward on the timeline, January 1, 2018, just seven months away from now, will be the go date for compliance for these priority species. We'll cover exactly what those species are here in a little bit. If we could go please, to the next slide, thank you, here are some key points that are very important in the understanding of this rule. Number one, it is only for seafood entering the US from a foreign country. It does not apply to any domestic seafood or any seafood that has already entered into the United States.

The importer, very specifically, the importer of record at the time of product entry, will be responsible to keep records which support the declarations made at the time of import. So the data that's collected at the time of import, it's very clear the importer of record will be the responsible party. Number two, all data collected relative to the harvest event or events and all steps in the supply chain leading up to the point it enters into the United States. That's the data that will be collected.

Number three, all of this data will be collected via a standard "custom clearance" process using the international trade data system, commonly referred to as ITDS. This is the US government's single portal window, data portal for all import reporting. It will not be a separate system and will be all integrated together. Number four, all data collected is confidential. The information is used simply just to confirm legality of imported seafood and it will all be held securely.

And finally, number five, point number five, as I mentioned earlier, this rule does not apply to US domestic seafood. However, it would apply to any US seafood that is exported out of the United States and sent back again. An example of this, for any priority species exported to a foreign country for processing, and then exported back to the United States, would be subject to the requirements of the rule. So if we could, go to the next slide please. Thank you. Thank you.

So what is it exactly and what will be required for (unintelligible) products? This slide helps answer that question. So as I mentioned earlier, specific information must be declared in the ITDS system at the time of US Customs clearance for certain species. This information that you see, many bullet points in front of you, is the information that will be collected. So if you start up in the kind of the upper left hand box up there, harvesting or producing entity, you'll see the specific harvest and or aquaculture data that will be asked for and collected at the time of entry.



Down below it this answers the what is it and how much, so information about the seafood, what species, how much weight, what form is it, that sort of information will be collected. And down in the lower right hand corner, we're kind of going around that way, this again is the who is responsible. Again, it's the importer of record is the responsible party identified in this rule. Some good points to understand is that they will need a NOAA Fisheries issued International Fisheries Trade Permit, IFTP. This permit can be acquired online very easily, for those that have not done so already.

It's a very easy process. I believe the fee is currently \$30.00 and must be renewed annually. The importer of record must maintain records that support chain of custody and data elements that you see over in the left hand column. So all of those bullet points over there, the data that's collected, the importer of record will be required to maintain records that support that. They do not need to submit those reports on every entry, however, they possibly could be audited in the future and will need to have documents that support that. So the US has taken a very flexible approach to the records that must be kept.

The rule is not prescriptive. There's no specific document or a certificate required. For example, many people may think of the catch certificate required by the EU. We do not have a certificate so to speak. So the documents can be any that are already used in the chain of custody so that are normally already used in your current business practices. Documents such as landing tickets, bills of sale, invoices, manifests, etc.

If you kind of even move down a little bit farther, in that box, you'll see that any trans ship products have to be included in the chain of custody as well. And documents showing this must be maintained by the importer of record. So in summary, really the key point when it comes to documents, the key is that the documents maintained most corroborate and tell the story of the data provided or declared when the product enters into the United States on the ITDS system.

So up in the upper right hand box is 13 priority species. These are the species that this rule applies to. Again, they were selected based upon IUU and seafood fraud risk. One of the things that I really want to bring to your attention and this is important, is two of the species on this list. They are noted by the asterisk in front. So if you look, that is abalone and shrimp. Currently, the rules effective date has been stayed or temporarily suspended for these two species.

And this is done until the United States has a comparable reporting system for domestic aquaculture production of those species. Now this is important. So for all the other species, the United States for domestically harvested product, the US already has all of the data that is being asked for as far as catch data, harvest data, landing data, all of that. But however, for abalone and shrimp this does not occur right now, for aquaculture. And we are not requiring any



imports to comply with the rule until we have closed these gaps for US aquaculture production of these two particular species.

When that happens, the stay or the suspension will be lifted and plenty of advance notice will be provided so that traders may adapt. If we can, let's go to the next slide. Thank you very much. We've reached our last slide and we'll take some questions here in a little bit. From the final rule release to compliance date is about a year, January 1, 2018 again is the compliance date for any products entering US commerce on that date or after.

All 13 priority species, except abalone and shrimp, will need to comply. Abalone and shrimp will be included at a later to be determined date. In the meantime, other webinars and stakeholder meetings are scheduled between now and the effective date. Please, please, please, take a look at that Web portal that's right about in the middle of the slide, for more information. There's also a series of fact documents and there's also a schedule of upcoming events. So I highly encourage that you use that resource.

The other program and other technical issues associated with ITDS are currently being assessed. Bear with me here. My screensaver just went on. So the - so yes, to go back a little bit, the program and other technical issues associated with ITDS, are currently - again, they're being addressed and these systems will be tested, fully certified and in place prior to the effective date. There will be a trusted trader program in the future. The idea here is to reduce the burden on trade with respect to reporting and record keeping, for those that achieve trusted trader status.

This is still in development and will be published in the federal register when it is defined, so this is something definitely to be on the lookout for, as we move into the future. At the bottom of the slide are some key points of context for questions that are a very good resource for information. And with that, I will conclude the slide presentation part. Again, thanking everybody for listening in and let's go ahead and open this up to any questions you may have. Thank you.

Celeste Leroux: Thank you Brian. This is Celeste just chiming back in. Again, we hope that you will take the time to visit our IUU Web portal at www.IUUFishing.NOAA.gov. On that site you will find our compliance guide which walks through frequently asked questions, fact sheets, the text of the final rule which will tell you every (unintelligible) schedule code that this program will apply to in its first stage, model forms for a catch for processing for (unintelligible) shipment and for small scale fisheries.

And then the commerce (unintelligible) program, we do have to have a proposed rule out later this year for comment and consideration. With that, I'd like (Sheila) to help us please explain to the audience how they can ask questions.



Coordinator: Thank you. We will now begin the question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question by phone, please press Star 1, unmute your phone and record your name clearly. If you need to withdraw your question, press Star 2. Again, to ask a question, by phone, please press Star 1. It will take a few moments for questions to come through. Please standby.

The first question comes from (Gavin Vanderburgh). Your line is open.

(Gavin Vanderburgh): Good evening and thanks very much for the presentation. My question is, is there any automated system available or any commercial system available that would integrate with the ITDS system that meets the requirements of this rule? It looks like there might be between 16 and 18 documents that you have to provide on (unintelligible) imports. And in the case of fresh tuna where you might only send 100 kilos to one specific customer, 18 documents is quite laborious. So is there any automated system available that integrates with ITDS, for this? Thank you.

Chris Rogers: Thanks for that question (Gavin). This is Chris Rogers. The way that the International Trade Data System works is Customs also calls it the ACE portal, the Automated Commercial Environment. That is an electronic portal for sending information for entry filing to US Customs and Border Protection. There is no particular software that Customs and Border Protection puts out for interfacing with that system.

Most Customs brokers will hire a software developer to make sure that the information is reported to the system in the proper format. So what they put out is what they call a Customs Automated Interface Requirements, CAIR. You can find a lot of this information on the US Customs and Border Protection Web site if you just type in, in the search term, ACE, A-C-E, Automated Commercial Environment, you can get a lot of information about the format.

So for each of the government agencies like National Marine Fisheries Service who have additional information requirements, we put out an implementation guide and that will be posted shortly on the Web site for the ACE portal. Basically it shows each of the data elements that would be required for an entry filing for these products, that are covered by the Seafood Important Monitoring Program and an explanation of what that data element is, its format and the structure in which the information must be transmitted in order to be read properly into ACE.

So it's - also on the Customs and Boarder Protection Web site there is a list of certified software vendors. So essentially the paper based information, if your supply chain is using paper based information to transmit the information from the harvest through the supply chain, that would be subject to a software



developer's development interface screen for you to enter that data and put it out in the proper format to be read by ACE ITDS.

Alternatively, if you are collecting that information, perhaps you're using a third party or inhouse system for electronic data reporting for supply chain management, likewise a software developer could reformat that information as necessary, to meet the requirements for an ACE entry filing. So basically, in summary, Customs doesn't provide an interface per se. They provide the necessary format for submission of that information. And it's up to the private sector to develop those interfaces inhouse. Or off the shelf, to the extent that certain certified software vendors for ACE develop an application and they market that more generally to different firms.

So hopefully that answers your question (Gavin). Any follow up?

(Gavin Vanderburgh): No. Thank you very much.

Coordinator: The next question comes from (Adriana Sanchez).

(Adriana Sanchez): Hi. Good morning. Thank you for these webinars. My question is - I have a couple of questions actually. You keep talking about like this form and that you can find, you know, if you go to the Web site. But why are those links not provided on this sort of framework that we are given? It seems that we're hunting down information so it's not very user friendly. And you also haven't developed - you're still working on a technical, I don't know how to enter the data. And we are in June and this is supposed to be implemented in January.

And a lot of us import frozen products that get caught, processed and frozen before the January date. So we need to be able to know or at least pilot what is the system that you are trying to implement. And I've asked this question numerous times and we keep talking about oh, you're going to have a webinar or refer to this document. And I refer to the document and it doesn't answer my question. Then you're like looking at we need to use the (Unintelligible) (FAO) three alpha species code that is on the ASFIS. And that link to the Web site does not work.

So how do we have access to the information if it's not available, the Web site is not available? So when are we going to have something that we can work with? That's my major question. (Unintelligible) specifically enter data, look at the form and know what to tell my vendors, because we're in June. June is tomorrow. So time is like ticking.

Kerry Turner: Hi. This is Kerry Turner here at the Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection. When you go on - I'm just going to respond in reference to the Web portal. I think that's what you're responding to in terms of where you can find some of those materials that were set up there,



www.IUUFishing.NOAA.gov. When you go on that Web site there's a link for the Seafood Import Monitoring Program and on the right side there is the resource materials with all of those forms.

Currently, those links are working on our Web site. I wasn't sure if you were referring to a link from another Web site, but if you have any problems with those links, feel free to send me an email, Kerry, K-E-R-R-Y dot Turner, T-U-R-N-E-R at NOAA dot gov. In reference to the latter portion of your question, Chris, do you want to go ahead?

Chris Rogers: Yes. We're currently working with Customs and Border Protection, to complete the programming for this message set, what we call the National Marine Fisheries Service Message Set, that would be associated with all of the products covered under the Seafood Import Monitoring Program. As soon as Customs completes that programming, we will announce the opening of the pilot test.

And we anticipate doing so as soon as possible, but we have to wait for Customs to finish certifying that the software is operational. So as soon as that is done we will work with Customs and the trade community. Customs has a very broad network of importers, Customs brokers, freight forwarders under their mailing list. We will put that out. We'll put out a federal registry notice indicating that the pilot test is open. In the meantime, if you do go through the Web portal, www.IUUFishing.NOAA.gov, our (unintelligible) guide is posted.

And that has several links to the Customs Web site where this information on the implementation guide and the formats, will be posted. So I would suggest go to that portal first and then open up the compliance guide and then look for some of the Web links there. If they are not working, do let Kerry know and we'll troubleshoot why there may be a problem.

(Adriana Sanchez): You know, I am in the Web site. Like I have gone to your Web site numerous times and you have like 20 million links. It's like so not user friendly, so yes you have a final rule and you have model aggregated catch certificate, but if I'm looking for the ASFIS, you know, alphanumeric code, where is that link? Because when I go to (unintelligible) that link doesn't work. So those are the kinds of things that instead of having, you know, 20 million resources, you should just focus on okay, this is what we're asking you to do; this is the link to the major fishing area; this is the link to the (follow) fishing gear; this is the link to the ASFIS list of species, all in that guidance document.

Because you guys keep referring to that guidance document and it doesn't really have those links. Does it? Because I haven't seen it or maybe I'm just like looking at the wrong document. I have to work with an (NGO) partner about (unintelligible) to help me navigate this information. So if I'm having



issues, how do I expect my (venture)s to understand why they're being required to (unintelligible)? Yes. I could use a model aggregated catch certificate and give that to them for them to enter this information as a practice, just so that we have something to enter.

But, you know, it's like I keep bringing the same topics up and then I sit on the webinars and I get oh, refer to the Web site. Anyway...

Kerry Turner: Thank you for that input. We'll definitely, you know, take that under very much consideration, to make sure that it's - the information that you need is there. And also that you're able to navigate that. Again, if you are looking for one specific document that you aren't able to find, please contact us. Regarding the portal you can contact myself, Kerry Turner. Again, that's Kerry.Turner@NOAA.gov. I will work with you on being able to navigate to get to that document.

And I guess we can also work with whatever agency link to advise that particular agency, there's an issue with the links on their Web site and to inform them of that. So thank you very much for that comment.

Coordinator: And again, as a reminder, you can press Star 1 on your phone and record your name if you have a question. Our next question comes from (Darcy McKay). Your line is open.

(Darcy McKay): Hi Chris. How are you doing? I just have two questions in regards to weight. And the first one I guess is that on the compliance guide and documents that I've seen, we have the weight data field for the harvest event, but I'm also looking at the model test toolkit that you guys made available and there's three separate weight - there's a total landed weight, a catch process weight and a finish product weight. So I'm just wondering, is there - are you looking for like in terms of when the actual Customs entry is made, three separate weight data points or just one?

Chris Rogers: Okay. Thank you for that question (Darcy). The normal customs entry would indicate the weight of the product as entered into the United States, so that weight would always be reported under normal Customs reporting procedures. What we're looking for is a weight at the point of harvest which might be a round weight if the fish are not processed onboard. But if there is some processing onboard that weight should indicate the product form. So in other words, if the fish are headed and gutted at the point of landing, the total weight of the landing would indicate whether it's pounds, kilograms and the product form, headed and gutted or whole fish. So we are going to be starting...

(Darcy McKay): All right, so...



Chris Rogers: ... a separate weight that would be indicative of the point of landing. And then the normal Customs information that is collected about the shipments being offered for entry, would indicate the finished product weight.

(Darcy McKay): Yes. Understood. I understand the differentiation between the Customs entry weight at point of import. And then so just to go back to the landing, the harvest landing weight; there are multiple fields around the catch certificate so I just wanted to verify that there was only the one data point for the weight that would be put in there, just - and specifically related to the harvest event. So I think that that is the case.

Chris Rogers: Yes. Just to confirm, so whatever product form is landed that should be indicated, the weight and the product form, so we know what was - what landed and the form in which it was landed.

(Darcy McKay): Okay. Perfect. And then for the - my second question, in regards to the weight, is there any - so I mean if you have a harvest event you're looking for the total amount - the total weight of whatever that harvest is at the time of landing, like you mentioned, if there's, you know, whatever the product form is, if there's processing on border and whatnot. I'm just wondering, is there any relation between this and, you know, the amounts that are being caught that have to be reported in other sustainability type initiatives or are we able to, you know, if we have multiple I guess container shipments coming in from the same harvest and we're reporting the same landed weight on - for two different shipments that may have come from that harvest, there's no issues with that?

Chris Rogers: No. There are no issues with that. Basically, what we're asking for is enough information to trace back that entered shipment to that harvest event. so we want - obviously the entry filing information tells us all about the shipment, the harvest event information tells us all about the (purchase). And then the supply chain record keeping responsibilities on the part of the US importer will allow us to connect those two points - the harvest event as origination and the entered shipment event as the entry into US commerce.

So if other requirements are applied to your supply chain because of participation in other third party programs, that information could be used to satisfy the US reporting requirements.

(Darcy McKay): Excellent. Thank you very much.

Coordinator: We are showing no further questions at this time. But again, if you would like to ask a question, you can press Star 1 on your phone and record your name when prompted. One moment please for any additional questions. We do have questions coming in. One moment. The next question is from (Louis Garcia). Your line is open.



(Louis Garcia): So my question revolves around the reporting requirements, after it's been imported into the United States. Are there going to be any for the importers, something similar to how bluefin is recorded now or swordfish where they have to do biweekly reporting?

Chris Rogers: No. This is Chris Rogers. Thank you for that question (Louis). No. The Seafood Import Monitoring Program does not have any additional reporting requirements, just the record keeping requirement on the part of the importer of record in the event that the entry is selected for an audit. And then we will request those supply chain records in order to trace back from the entry to the reported harvest event.

However, you raise a good point in that certain products under the Seafood [Import] Monitoring Program are also covered under other trade monitoring programs that we have implemented, because the US is a contracting party to several regional fishery management organizations. So as you noted, the bluefin tuna, swordfish reporting requirements that pertain to the international commission for the conservation of Atlantic tunas. Those programs will still remain in effect. They won't be supplanted or substituted by the Seafood Import Monitoring Program.

So all those additional requirements associated with those programs will still pertain, but there's no separate as you say, biweekly report for the Seafood Import Monitoring Program.

(Louis Garcia): And one more question. Do - for the message sets, will you guys at least to be more efficient, will it be used - since a lot of the information is the same or some of it at least, will you guys take that into consideration or will it be a completely different message set within ACE?

Chris Rogers: Well the way ACE is set up it will have to be a separate block of data that comes in to satisfy each of the program requirements. However, the software developer can set up a data entry screen for the Customs broker, the importer so that the information is only entered once and then parsed out into the separate message set. So that would be a matter to discuss with the software developers. We certainly would expect that software developers for ACE ITDS are quite familiar with this, with multiple agencies, often having jurisdiction over similar products.

For example, all of the products subject to the Seafood Import Monitoring Program under the National Marine Fisheries Service jurisdiction are also subject to additional reporting for the Food and Drug Administration because they're a food product. So a software developer would be able to understand and look at the requirements for the independent message sets for each agency and where duplication in terms of data elements exist, the information would only have to be entered once and then parsed out for the separate message sets to be read by ACE.



(Louis Garcia): Great. And the last question - the - can a non-resident importer get an IFTP or is that only for US residents?

Chris Rogers: No. We are restricting the International Fisheries Trade Permit issuance to US residents. So we understand that under Customs regulations, a non-resident entity may make entry provided they have a US resident agent for service of process, so we're not interfering with those other agency regulations. However, an International Fisheries Trade Permit must be reported as part of the National Marine Fisheries Service message set and must validate against our reference file of currently issued permits.

So an entity resident within the United States must obtain that permit and that permit must be reported at the point of entry filing or at the time of entry filing. And that entity who obtains and reports the permit, has to understand their obligations if, under the circumstances of the entry filing they're not actually listed as the importer of record, the International Fisheries Trade Permit holder would still be responsible for the information reported in the record keeping requirement in the event of an audit.

(Louis Garcia): Okay. And for that record keeping would you need like a blanket statement from the permit holder allowing the importer to use that?

Chris Rogers: Just for clarification, when you - the permit holder would be responsible for maintaining those records or having access to them in the event that a National Marine Fisheries Service requests them as part of an audit. So if the International Fisheries Trade Permit holder perhaps let's say is the consignee here on the US side of the transaction, and the importer of record is in fact a non-resident entity, the importer of record may maintain that supply chain record.

However, they must be available to the International Fisheries Trade Permit holder and produce upon request to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

(Louis Garcia): Okay. And so an authorization letter authorizing the importer to use that permit would be sufficient if they owe - the trade permit is the one that's going to be asked for the audit? Okay. I understand. I think we're good. Thank you.

Coordinator: The next question comes from (Chantelle Ingua). Your line is open.

(Chantelle Ingua): Hi. My question is very similar from the (step)s of a non-resident importer. But just further to that question, to expand on it, what is it that NOAA (unintelligible) presence in the United States for being a permit holder? Is that just an entity set up or does it require a physical brick and mortar?



Chris Rogers: You didn't come in very clearly. This is Chris Rogers. I think I understood your question about again, this non-resident entities and the International Fisheries Trade Permit. So we are restricting issuance of the International Fisheries Trade Permit to US residents, residents - individual residents through our corporations. However, Customs regulations do allow for non-resident entities to make entries and be reported as the importer of record.

Normally we would anticipate that is it the importer of record as reported to customs who would obtain the International Fisheries Trade Permit, but in certain situations that may not be the case. As I said before, in answer to (Louis)'s question, an International Fisheries Trade Permit, a valid one, must be reported on entry. Those are only issued to US resident entities, resident corporations.

So the parties involved in the trade transaction, the importing transaction, need to work out which entity in that transaction, is going to fulfill that role of the permit holder and insure that that permit holder understands their liabilities and obligation. So not only to make good on the reporting in the message set for that harvest event, but also to be able to produce the records if that entry is subject to an audit.

(Louis Garcia): Understood. Thank you.

Coordinator: I show no further questions at this time. But again, if you would like to ask a question you can press Star 1 on your phone. One moment please for additional questions.

Celeste Leroux: Thanks. While we're waiting, I just wanted to remind participants that again, if you're looking for any of the materials supporting the Seafood Import Monitoring Program, you can find them on our Web portal at www.IUUFishing.NOAA.gov. And if you have a question that you might need more time to prepare or you'd like to write down, you're welcome to email me, my contact information is below, Celeste.Leroux@NOAA.gov.

If your question is specific to the Automated Commercial Environment, ACE programming, or entry filing at ITDS or if you'd like to participate in the pilot testing, you're welcome to contact Dale Jones. His email is also on this slide.

Coordinator: We do have an additional question from (Bernard O'Donovan). Your line is open. (Bernard), we're not able to hear you in conference. Please check the mute feature on your phone.

(Bernard O'Donovan): Good morning folks. Good afternoon from Ireland. Good morning to our colleagues in the states. So I'm here with (Adrian Hickey). We work in the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority. We're the regulator for seafood trade in Ireland, so we trade - we have some trade in the states, mainly salmon exports. But I just have one question please on the ITDS, the



International Trade Data System. Is this database up and running or is it something envisaged or maybe how does that - how does the ITDS fit into the SIMP initiative please, if you could answer that for me? Thank you.

Chris Rogers: Okay. Good morning or I guess good afternoon to you (Bernard). The International Trade Data System is a government wide system for US - for import and export electronic reporting. It's the single window concept that all information to support international trade with the United States, is reported and retrieved through that single window. So you may hear both terms use the Automated Commercial Environment. You could say that that's the instrument of software platform to support ITDS, ITDS being the concept of the single window.

So the International Trade Data System is up and running. It is operational. I'm sure at least well over 90%, I've heard 99% of entries are filed electronically in ACE ITDS at this point in time. What is relatively new however, is that in order to support the single window concept, additional agencies have come onboard in the last two years, to support the single window platform for electronic entry.

So the normal Customs entry filing has been filed electronically through ACE ITDS for a number of years. But as of, as I said, the last two years, other agencies like ourselves, National Marine Fisheries Service, are making use of that single window in order to collect the information we need, as separate entities with separate authorities or jurisdictions over certain products, to get that particular information through an ITDS as well. So basically one entry filing with the normal Customs procedures and also to collect the ancillary information needed by respective agencies for determining admissibility of those particular products or commodities under the jurisdiction of those agencies.

So for Seafood Import Monitoring Program, we will make use of ACE ITDS as platform for electronic reporting. You may have heard me mention the term message set, so that's basically how ACE ITDS works. There's the normal message set required for a Customs entry and then the additional message sets that are required by the particular agencies like National Marine Fisheries Service.

So the system is up and running and it has been running for some time but is relatively new. Then it's the message sets for the particularly agencies as part of that unified filing, electronic filing through the single window. As soon as Customs finishes the program for the message set for the Seafood Import Monitoring Program, we'll open up the system for a pilot test. And as I said, we'll work with customers and the trade to get the message out as soon as that pilot test is open.



(Bernard O'Donovan): Okay. Thank you very much. So in summary, could I just verify my understanding of that to be that the ITDS is longstanding, but the message set for the SIMP has yet to be piloted. Is that correct?

Chris Rogers: That's correct.

(Bernard O'Donovan): Okay. Thank you.

Coordinator: And again, if you would like to ask a question at this time, you can press Star 1 on your phone and record your name when prompted. One moment please for any additional questions.

Kerry Turner: While we wait for any last questions for this webinar, just a reminder, we do have a series of upcoming webinars and for the next few weeks we're also looking at a range of in person meetings regarding the Seafood Import Monitoring Program. Those will all be posted at www.IUUFishing.NOAA.gov. Right in the middle of that page there's a link for Seafood Import Monitoring Program. If you have any questions or any concerns or if you are looking for one particular document, feel free to reach out. Our personnel information is on the slide.

For questions regarding SIMP you can reach out to Celeste. Her information is there. And also if you have any questions regarding ACE, the Automated Commercial Environment ITDS or you are interested in participating in the pilot test, we strongly encourage you to do so, and reach out to Dale Jones. His information - Dale.Jones@NOAA.gov, is also up there. I don't see any additional questions. Celeste, do you have any last minute - or Chris or Brian?

Celeste Leroux: We just wanted to thank you all very much for participating in today's webinar. Again, to remind you, the Seafood Import Monitoring Program's mandatory compliance date is January 1, 2018. And we again, are holding more of these webinars in the coming weeks, if you have questions, if you'd like to hear the presentation again, you're welcome to dial into one of those, or in a few days we will have posted a transcript and in the coming days the audio file as well.

Coordinator: That does conclude today's conference. Thank you for participating. You may disconnect at this time. Speakers, please allow a moment of silence and standby for post conference.

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