

Revised EU rules and digitalisation of fisheries control

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Regulation

Regulation (EU) [2023/2842](#) as regards fisheries control

What is changing and why?

The revised EU fisheries control regulation updates rules for controlling fishing vessels to make EU fishing more sustainable. The control of EU fishing activities will be entirely digitalised. The EU's [IT tool for catch certification](#) (CATCH) will become compulsory, and will be integrated with the Trade Control and Expert System ([TRACES](#)) to ensure better compliance with its Common Fisheries Policy, and to combat [illegal, unreported, and unregulated \(IUU\) fishing](#).

Actions

Fishery operators and exporters of fish products to the EU should replace paper-based catch recording and certification systems with a digital system that can work with the EU CATCH tool and/or TRACES. They should also try to ensure full digital traceability of fish and seafood products for export to the EU.

Timeline

Date of publication: 20 December 2023.

Date of application: 9 January 2024.

Transitional provisions

CATCH will become compulsory for EU operators and authorities for imports of fishery products as of 10 January 2026. Catch certificates and related documents that have been validated, endorsed, or signed before 10 January 2026 may be used by importers until 10 January 2028 (in accordance with Regulation [1005/2008](#)).

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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