

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004341/25
to the Commission
Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE), Gabriel Mato (PPE)
(4 November 2025)**

Subject: Imports of IUU fishery products from China

According to the Beyond CATCH report ⁽¹⁾ (EU IUU Fishing Coalition), illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries products from China are continuing to enter the EU market without sufficient verification or oversight. The report highlights systemic weaknesses in EU import controls, showing that high-risk fisheries products from third countries can reach EU consumers despite existing regulations.

According to Faro de Vigo ⁽²⁾, Asian vessels will continue to receive authorisation to sell their catches in the EU ⁽³⁾, despite being included on IUU fishing lists created by regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs).

In their joint advice ⁽⁴⁾, MAC and LDAC highlight the urgent need to reinforce and harmonise import controls, especially in EU ports.

1. What is the Commission's view on the risk of IUU fisheries products from China entering the EU market, especially through EU ports? What measures will the Commission take to ensure that all products comply with the IUU Regulation?
2. Was the Commission aware of the situation reported by Faro de Vigo?
3. How will the Commission follow MAC and LDAC's joint advice to strengthen the regulation's enforcement and close existing loopholes?

Submitted: 4.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(13 January 2026)**

1. Import controls are essential to prevent products stemming from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing entering the EU market. This is why the Commission has reinforced the work with the Member States on this, including by developing CATCH (IT system for the management of EU catch certificates and related documents under the catch certification scheme), which became mandatory for EU importers and Member States as of 10 January 2026.
2. The Commission was aware of the situation reported by Faro de Vigo. The North Pacific Fisheries Commission's (NPFC) Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC) noted in 2017 ⁽¹⁾ 'that there are seven cases of two vessels with the same name and number, and recommended the automatic inclusion of the seven illegal vessels once the authorised vessels have been re-registered under new names'. After that, vessels using those names (LU RONG YUAN YU 101/102/103/105/106/108/109) without authorisation were included in the NPFC IUU list. Therefore, the LU RONG YUAN YU 101-109 authorised by China, which changed their names to LU RONG YUAN YU 810/811/812/813/815/816/817, were authorised to operate in NPFC under the new names — with their former names clearly mentioned in the NPFC Record of Authorised vessels. In 2024, the TCC stated ⁽²⁾ that 'the United States of America noted that they met on the margins of TCC with China regarding vessels 17-23 on the IUU vessel list'. No update or modification of the information in the IUU list was made further to that meeting.
3. As indicated in the response to the joint advice by the Long Distance and the Market Advisory Councils on the urgent need for effective implementation of EU import control rules across Member States, the Commission has taken into account a number of recommendations in its ongoing work.

¹ <https://aeur.eu/f/j6q>.

² <https://www.farodevigo.es/mar/2025/10/20/buques-asiaticos-multados-pesca-ilegal-o-abusos-laborales-pueden-vender-en-la-ue-122788562.html>.

³ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/directory/listing/establishment/publication/index#!/view/CN/FISHERY_PRODUCTS.

⁴ <https://marketac.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/EN-LDAC-MAC-Advice-EU-import-control-rules-27.06.2025.pdf>.

⁽¹⁾ North Pacific Fisheries Commission's (NPFC) report of the Second Meeting of the Technical and Compliance Committee (reference NPFC-2017-TCC02-Final Report): <https://www.npfc.int/sites/default/files/2018-08/NPFC-2017-TCC02-Final%20Report.pdf>.

⁽²⁾ NPFC report Seventh Technical and Compliance Committee Meeting (NPFC-2024-TCC07-Final Report): <https://www.npfc.int/sites/default/files/2024-06/NPFC-2024-TCC07-Final%20Report.pdf>.