

EN

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Answer given by Mr Kadis  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(8.1.2026)

Tracing all lots of fishery and aquaculture products at all stages of production, processing and distribution, from catching or harvesting to the retail stage, ensuring that such lots are accompanied by a minimum set of information, and requiring operators to maintain ‘systems and procedures to identify any operator from whom they have been supplied with lots of fishery and aquaculture products and to whom these products have been supplied’, are obligations that have been in force in the Union since 2011<sup>1</sup>.

The revision of the fisheries control system, culminating in Regulation (EU) 2023/2842<sup>2</sup>, builds on these rules while strengthening the recording and transmission of traceability data. Article 58(6) of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 requires such data to be recorded and made available ‘in a digital way’, a technologically neutral formulation that allows various means of digital transmission without mandating any specific systems or tools across the supply chain. This minimum technological standard does not prevent stakeholders from using more advanced solutions, as already done by several operators, including through interoperable standards and systems.

The 2026 implementation deadline established by the co-legislators in Regulation (EU) 2023/2842 cannot be modified through secondary legislation. The Commission will keep working with stakeholders and Member States to develop supplementary rules supporting their work and further harmonise and simplify the traceability framework, without undermining the objectives of the fisheries control revision.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 (the ‘Control Regulation’), Article 58(1) to (5). Please, note that Article 124(a) of the original Control Regulation deferred the application of Article 58 until 1 January 2011.

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2842/oj/eng>.