

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002480/26
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(16 June 2026)**

Subject: EU CATCH transition period and wild salmon fishing season

The new EU CATCH requirements come into effect at a particularly delicate time for wild Pacific salmon supplies to the EU fish processing industry. The six-month transition period ends on 10 July 2026, in the middle of a short fishing season. The existing simplified administrative arrangements between the EU and the US are coming to an end and exporters need to adapt to the new documentation requirements. The issue is not the legality of catches or the risk of IUU fishing, but the risk of disruption of supplies to EU processors due to the system not being adapted to the catch aggregation model. Industry representatives warn that a lack of swift action could prevent a significant share of catches from the 2026 season from reaching Europe, hitting not only processing companies, but also industry workers and consumers.

I therefore ask:

1. Has the Commission carried out an analysis of the impact of the transition period ending on 10 July 2026 on the continued supply of legal raw material to the EU fish processing industry, including on business competitiveness, jobs and consumer prices?
2. Does the Commission envisage urgent measures to prevent supply disruptions during the 2026 fishing season, in particular for fisheries based on aggregated catches, in order to avoid losing part of the legal supply of raw material to the EU?
3. Is the Commission considering extending the transitional period beyond 10 July 2026 to ensure continuity of supply to EU processors?

Submitted: 16.6.2026

**Question for written answer E-002481/26
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(16 June 2026)**

Subject: Impact of EU CATCH on Polish and EU fish processors

The EU CATCH system aims to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and improve the traceability of fishery products. There are no doubts as to the aim of the EU CATCH system.

However, the practical implementation of the new requirements for legal raw material from heavily regulated fisheries used by EU importers and fish processors, including those in Poland, is of concern. For example, one lot of wild salmon from Alaska may consist of catches from multiple small vessels and multiple fishing days, which are then pooled before being delivered to the processing plant. The transition period ends on 10 July 2026 — in the middle of a short fishing season, which risks disrupting supply.

I therefore ask:

1. Has the Commission assessed the impact of EU CATCH on Polish and EU fish processors using legal raw fish from fisheries where catches are aggregated before processing?
2. Will the Commission consider introducing alternative means of demonstrating compliance with EU CATCH requirements for such fisheries, with full traceability and monitoring of the legality of catches?
3. Will the Commission extend the transitional period beyond 10 July 2026 to avoid disrupting the supply during the fishing season?

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**Question for written answer E-002484/26
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(16 June 2026)**

Subject: Proportionality of EU CATCH requirements for legal raw fish

The Commission is presenting EU CATCH as a tool for digitalisation, harmonising controls and reducing the administrative burden.

In practice, however, the system may have the opposite effect on legal raw fish from low-IUU-risk fisheries if the documentation requirements do not take the specificities of supply based on aggregated catches into account.

This includes wild Pacific salmon, which can be an important raw material for EU and Polish processing plants. One lot may include fish from multiple small vessels and multiple fishing days, which may require a very large number of records to be manually reported.

I therefore ask:

1. Does the Commission consider the current EU CATCH requirements proportionate for low-IUU-risk fisheries, where catches are aggregated prior to being delivered to processing plants?
2. How will the Commission address the allegation that the current requirements may create a de facto administrative barrier to the legal raw material needed for EU processing?
3. Does the Commission intend to introduce simplifications for fisheries with a high level of aggregated catches?

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**Joint answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(3 August 2026)**

Member States and third countries' authorities were informed of the amendments to the illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing Regulation ⁽¹⁾ almost two years before the application of the revised catch certificate template and the obligatory use of CATCH for EU importers and EU authorities as of 10 January 2026.

The Commission considers that two years should have been sufficient time for all administrations to prepare their industry and adapt for the initial application date of 10 January 2026.

Nevertheless, to ease the digital transition for stakeholders, the Commission introduced flexibility in CATCH to avoid that new requirements would block submissions of importer declarations.

The rules are applied in a non-discriminatory manner towards third countries exporting to the EU. The Commission has therefore no intentions of excluding certain fisheries (e.g. where catches are aggregated before processing) from providing the data required in the catch certificate.

The Commission has carefully listened to the EU industry who has pointed out possible supply issues during summer and early autumn of 2026 for wild salmon and American lobster.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Union system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999.

The Commission has therefore decided to prolong the flexibilities for the former administrative arrangement third countries ⁽²⁾ by allowing submission into CATCH of the old templates up to and including 30 November 2026.

The flexibilities will end after 30 November. The Commission continues therefore to encourage the EU processing industry to engage fully with third country suppliers to ensure adequate and uniform implementation of CATCH.

⁽²⁾ The 7 countries are: US, Canada, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and South Africa. See all (now terminated) administrative arrangements in consolidated version of 27 March 2020 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1010/2009 of 22 October 2009 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.