NOAA Fisheries:
Seafood Import Monitoring Program
Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Seafood Fraud

Driving Factors for U.S. Action
IUU fishing and seafood fraud threaten valuable natural resources that are critical to global food security and put law-abiding fishers and seafood producers, here in the U.S. and abroad, at a disadvantage.

- **June 2014**
  - Presidential Memorandum
  - NOAA and its U.S. Government partner agencies are directed to report on “recommendations for the implementation of a comprehensive framework of integrated programs to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud that emphasizes areas of greatest need.”

- **December 2014**
  - 15 Recommendations released

- **March 2015**
  - Recommendation #14 & 15 - first phase of a risk-based traceability program to track seafood from point of harvest to entry into U.S. commerce.

- **February 2016**
  - Released Action Plan calling for Identification of Species Vulnerable to IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud; and Implementation

- **December 2016**
  - Proposed Rule for a Seafood Import Monitoring Program released

- **January 2018**
  - Final Rule for a Seafood Import Monitoring Program released (effective Jan 9.2017)

January 1, 2018 is the mandatory compliance date for most priority species included in the rule.

Ongoing public engagement through public meetings, webinars, Federal Register notices, and demarches.
The Seafood Import Monitoring Program establishes permitting, data reporting and recordkeeping requirements for the importation of certain priority fish and fish products that have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing and/or seafood fraud.

Key Points You Should Know:

1. The rule establishing the Seafood Import Monitoring Program applies only to seafood entering the U.S. from a foreign country. The importer of record will be required to keep records regarding the chain of custody of the fish or fish product from harvest to point of entry into U.S.

2. The data collected will allow these priority species of seafood to be traced from the point of entry into U.S. commerce back to the point of harvest or production to verify that it was lawfully harvested or produced.

3. The collection of harvest and landing information for these priority seafood species will be accomplished through International Trade Data System (ITDS) reporting.

4. The information collected under this program is confidential.

5. The rule also applies to re-imported product of priority species originally harvested in the U.S.
Seafood Import Monitoring Program: Information to be Collected

### Harvesting or Producing Entity
- Name and flag state of harvesting vessel(s)
- Evidence of authorization to fish (permit or license number)
- Unique vessel identifier (when available)
- Type(s) of fishing gear used
- Name(s) of farm or aquaculture facility

### Fish – What, When and Where
- Species of fish – Aquatic Sciences Fishery Information System (ASFIS) number
- Landing date(s)
- Point(s) of first landing
- Name of entity(s) to which the fish was landed or delivered
- Product form(s) at time of landing including quantity and weight of product
- Area(s) of wild-capture or aquaculture harvest

### 13 PRIORITY SPECIES
- Abalone
- Atlantic cod
- Blue crab (Atlantic)
- Dolphinfish (Mahi Mahi)
- Grouper
- King crab (red)
- Pacific cod
- Red snapper
- Sea cucumber
- Sharks
- Shrimp
- Swordfish
- Albacore, bigeye, skipjack, bluefin and yellowfin tuna

### Importer of Record
- Name, affiliation and contact information
- NOAA Fisheries issued international fisheries trade permit (IFTP) number
- Importer of record is responsible for keeping records regarding the chain of custody (above)
- Information on any transshipment of product (declarations by harvesting/carrier vessels, bills of lading)
- Records on processing, re-processing, and commingling of product
Information You Should Know

• Final rule published on December 9, 2016. Became effective on January 9, 2017.

• **January 1, 2018** is the mandatory compliance date for most priority species listed in the rule, with *shrimp and abalone compliance phased in at a later date.

• Continuing outreach and engagement of U.S. importers, foreign trading partners, and international seafood producers
  - IUU Taskforce web portal - [www.iuufishing.noaa.gov](http://www.iuufishing.noaa.gov)
  - Compliance Guide, Fact Sheet

• NOAA Fisheries working with Customs and Border Protection to effect necessary ITDS message set and business rule programming

• NOAA Fisheries developing a Commerce Trusted Trader Program to facilitate compliance

• For questions related to requirements of the SIMP, contact NOAA Fisheries’ Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, Celeste Leroux, [Celeste.Leroux@noaa.gov](mailto:Celeste.Leroux@noaa.gov)

• For questions related to the use of the Automated Commercial Environment, ITDS, contact NOAA Fisheries’ Office of Science and Technology, Dale Jones, [Dale.Jones@noaa.gov](mailto:Dale.Jones@noaa.gov)