

EU Catch Certification

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**SEAFOODINDUSTRY
COUNCIL**

The New Zealand Seafood Industry Council Ltd



EU Regulation 1005/2008

- Part of major EU overhaul of compliance regime and global move to tackle trade in illegal;
- Requires Catch Certificates for all imports of capture fish products, produced at time of landing;
- Processing in other countries before sale to EU requires Processing Certificates to relate processed product to Catch Certs;
- Additional to and separate from Health Certs.

Timeline

- New Regulation 1005/2008, September 2008 for implementation 01/01/10;
- NZ/EU negotiation through 2009;
- Simplified NZ Catch Certificate agreed in late 2009;
- Survey of initial implementation experiences – March 2010;
- Future developments – 2010 and later.



Problems for NZ

- EU Reg. clashed with existing catch documentation and would require double documentation;
- Multiple catch events in single consignments would need multiple documents;
- Charter fleet operators would have to get Catch Docs from vessels' Flag States.



Negotiated Solution

- One single consignment document created using the NZFSA E'Cert platform;
- Applies to all vessels, regardless of flag: they are all “NZ fishing vessels”;
- Current certificate production is extremely clumsy and prone to error – awaiting E'Cert platform rebuild.



Implementation – ICFA Survey

- Internal costs of compliance have increased;
- No hold-ups at the EU frontier so far;
- Demands to verify that fish without Catch Certs were caught before 2010;
- Demand for non-standard Catch Certs to be in other EU languages;
- Demand for Catch Certs by customers outside EU;
- Catch cert process differs from other documentation.

Looking forward

- Need to complete E-Cert platform rebuild is now urgent for seafood sector;
- USA and Japan watching EU experience for possible adoption;
- Traceability technology suppliers developing integrated systems;
- Jury out on whether it will reduce trade in illegal fish.