

# **The EU Fisheries Control Regulation and how it applies to small-scale fisheries**

**Laurence Cordier - DGMARE**



# EU Fisheries Control Regulation

## How it applies to small-scale fisheries

**Laurence Cordier**

DG MARE D4 - Fisheries control and inspections unit

*14 March 2024*

What are the rules today for small scale fisheries?

# Current rules: Masters of fishing vessels/licence holders

## Catch Reporting

No mandatory electronic reporting system (ERS)

- **Vessels 10-12m: Paper logbook and paper landing declaration**

ERS not mandatory - unless required at national or regional level

- **Vessels below 10m: No logbook, nor landing declaration** (unless required in national legislation)

No reporting of catches below 50 kg

## Tracking

No tracking of fishing vessels below 12 m, unless required at national or regional level

# Current rules: First buyers & operators in the supply chain

## Sales Notes

Registered buyers, auctions and other operators authorized by Member States with a turnover for the “first-sale-fishery-products” of:

- less than 200.000 euro => electronic sales note, **if possible**, within 48 hours
- more than 200.000 => electronic sales notes within 24h

## Traceability

Adequate labelling to ensure traceability/no electronic transmission.  
EU produced fresh and frozen fishery products only

=> Exclusion of imports

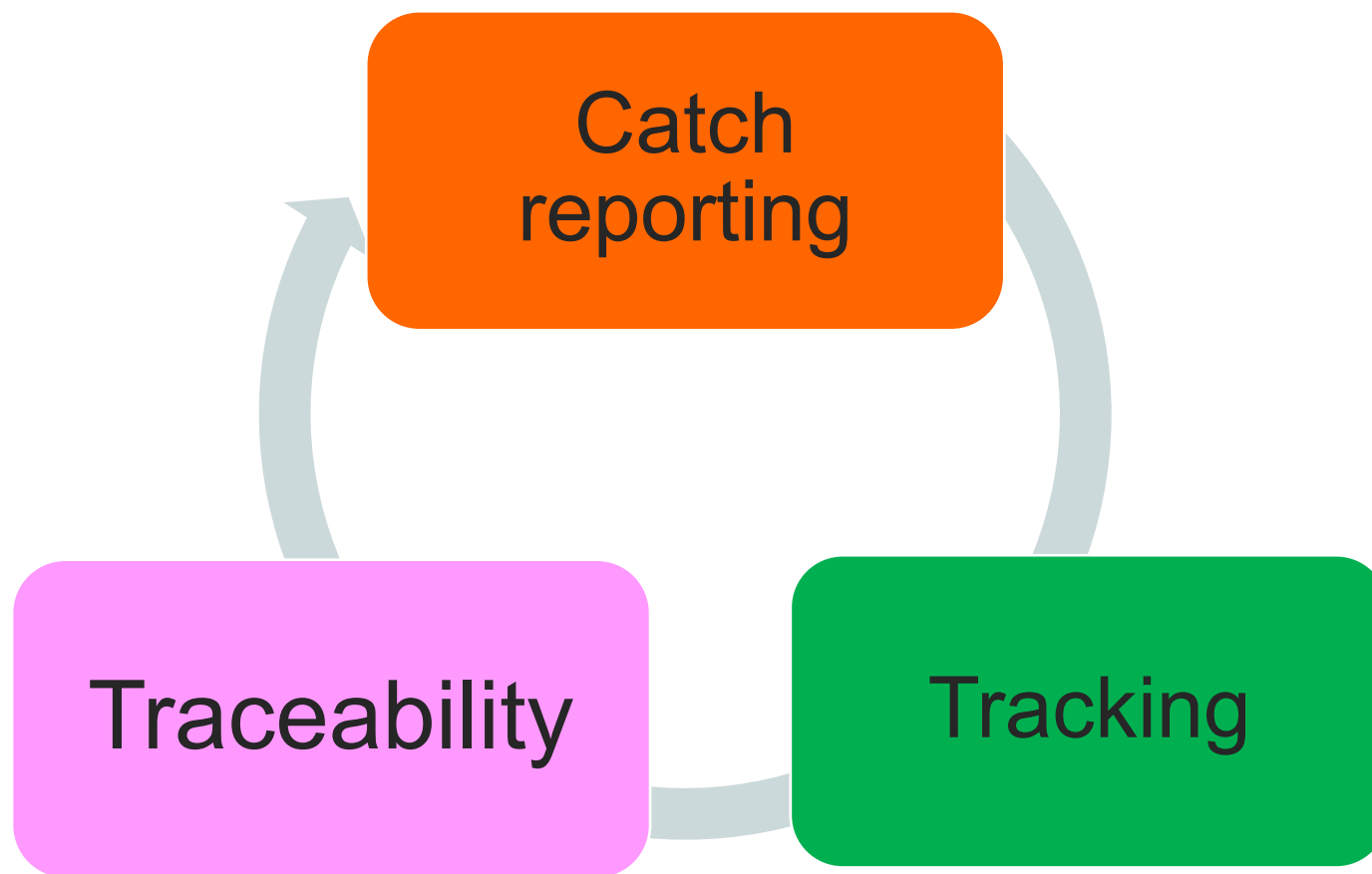
=> Exclusion of all other fishery products such as canned products

# What is changing in the control rules & when?

# Revision of the EU Fisheries Control System / Control Regulation 1224/2009

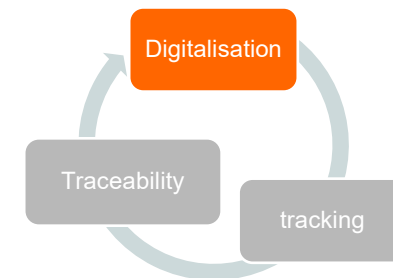


# What changes is the Control Regulation?





# Electronic catch reporting



**Jan 2026**  
**Fishing**  
**vessels**  
**12 - 15m**

Electronic catch reporting for **all** catching **vessels of 12m and above**

- No more derogations for vessels between 12m and 15m
- Current ERS system to be used.

**Jan 2028**  
**Fishing**  
**vessels < 12m**

Electronic catch recording for **all catching vessels**

- **Electronic logbook:** to be sent before the landing takes place (but it can be in the port)
- **Electronic landing declaration:** to be sent within 24 hours of the landing
- **New electronic tools:** mobile user-friendly applications: either developed at national level or developed by the Commission. (decision in May 2024)

# Fishing logbook: what changes?

- **Additional & more precise data in the e-Logbook:**

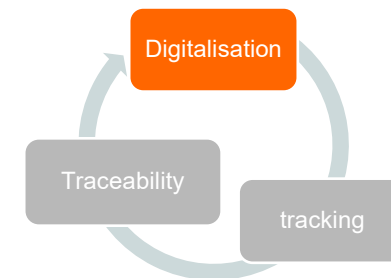
- No derogation for catches below 50Kg
- Reporting of sensitive species (dead, injured or alive)
- Reporting in case of lost gears
- For vessels  $\geq 12\text{m}$ :
  - ❖ Time of catches
  - ❖ Information per fishing operation (“haul by haul”)



- **Logbook transmission**

- At least once a day/after the last fishing operation & before entering a port/landing site (but for vessels  $<12$ : before landing)

# Electronic catch reporting



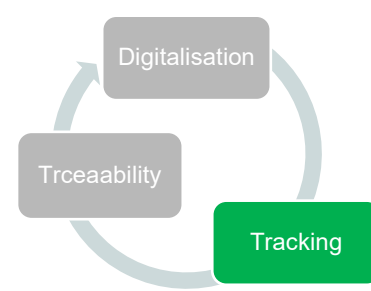
**Jan 2026**  
**1st buyers/  
transporters/  
storage  
facilities**

- First buyers (registered buyers/auctions) => Electronic sales note within 48h from landing.
- Storage facilities => Electronic takeover declaration within 24H from landing
- Transporter => Electronic transport document\* before the transport begins  
*(\*only for fishery products which are not sold before transport)*

**Jan 2028**  
**Fishing  
without a  
vessel**

- Commercial fishers who are shell gathering, spare fishing, fishing from the shore, ice fishing will record of their catches electronically once a day and submit the data to Member States (Catch declaration)
- Tools/Applications to be developed by Member States

# Tracking of fishing vessels



Jan 2026  
Fishing  
vessels  
12 - 15m

## VMS of all fishing vessels of 12m and above

- No more derogations for vessels between 12m & 15m
- Current VMS system to be used

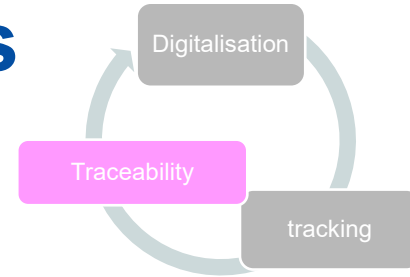
*“Fishing vessels”* includes support vessels, reefers, auxiliary vessels...

Jan 2028  
Fishing  
vessels below  
12m

## Tracking of fishing vessels below 12m

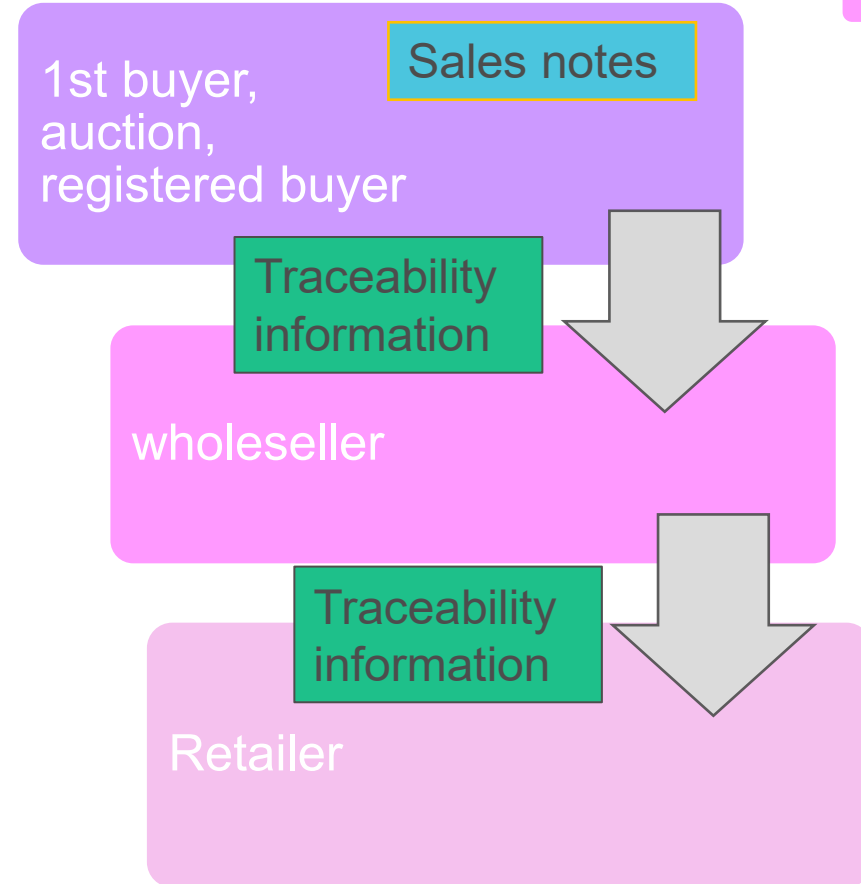
- For vessels below 12m: system to locate & identify the vessel, transmit the position at regular interval (either satellite or other network)
- Member State may choose to develop a system at national level or ask the Commission to develop one (Decision in May 2024)
- For vessels below 9m, Member States may grant a derogation until Jan 2030 (under certain conditions)

# Traceability of fishery and aquaculture products

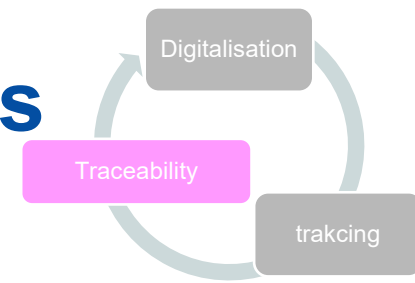


## What are the new rules?

- ❖ Operators must **record** and **make available** traceability information in a **digital way** to the next operator in the supply chain
- ❖ Mixing of lot is authorized after the first sale only if information on composition of the lot & quantities is available



# Traceability of fishery and aquaculture products

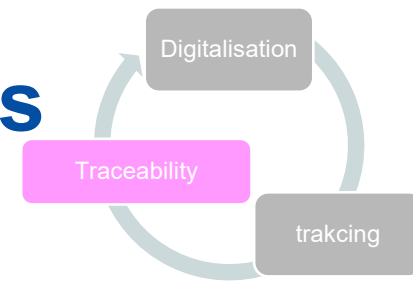


**Which products?  
When ?**

- ❖ For fresh and frozen fishery and aquaculture products (including imported products): new rules apply in Jan 2026 (*fishing without a vessels in 2028*)
- ❖ For prepared and preserved products (including imported products): in 2029, following a feasibility study
- ❖ For Algae: in 2029



# Traceability of fishery and aquaculture products



## Which traceability information for fresh & frozen products?

- ❖ Lot identification number
- ❖ **Unique fishing trip identification number**
- ❖ FAO alpha code of the species and scientific name
- ❖ Geographical area(s)/ production area(s),
- ❖ Fishing gear, date( s) catches/ date(s) of harvest & Quantities in Kg live weight or number of individuals
- ❖ **Clear requirements for imported products:** IMO number and catch certificate number(s) (IUU regulation)
- ❖ **Clear requirement for aquaculture products**

# Thank you very much for attention ! Questions?



© European Union 2024

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

