

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: May 16, 2022

Report Number: JA2022-0040

Report Name: Japan Designates the First Imported Marine Species to Require Catch Documents

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Fishery Products, FAIRS Subject Report

Prepared By: Daisuke Sasatani

Approved By: Mariya Rakhovskaya

Report Highlights:

On April 26, 2022, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries designated mackerel, Pacific saury, sardine, squid and cuttlefish as vulnerable to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. From December 1, 2022, Japan will require catch certificates to import products containing these species as a main ingredient.

General

On December 4, 2020, Japan introduced [the Adjustment for the Domestic Distribution of Specified Marine Animals and Plants Act](#) (hereafter termed “the Act”) to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing (see details in [JA2021-0006](#)). The Act classified fishery resources at high risk of IUU fishing as Class I (domestic) or Class II (imported). For Class II animals (to be identified through a separate process), the Act directed the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) to take measures to restrict imports to preserve and manage global fishery resources. For further details, see attached documents from Japan’s Fisheries Agency.

On April 26, 2022, MAFF published [MAFF Ordinance No.39](#) (available in Japanese only). The ordinance includes Japan’s first tranche of Class II designations: mackerel (*Scomber spp.*), Pacific saury (*Cololabis spp.*), sardine (*Sardinops spp.*), squid and cuttlefish. From December 1, 2022, MAFF will require catch certificates to import products containing these animals as main ingredients, including processed seafood.

MAFF also designated juvenile eel, abalone, and sea cucumber as Class I aquatic species. The Act mandates that the domestic fishery industry adopt a Catch Document Scheme for Class I animals and develop a traceability system.

Fisheries Agency will review its list of aquatic species vulnerable to IUU fishing (in Class I and Class II) every two years.

Attachments:

[Appendix 1. The New Act to Regulate IUU Catches.pdf](#)

[Appendix 2. The Details of Import Regulation \(Class II Animals\).pdf](#)

[Appendix 3. Technical Note on Class II Animals \(Draft\).pdf](#)