



## Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): Resources & Guidance

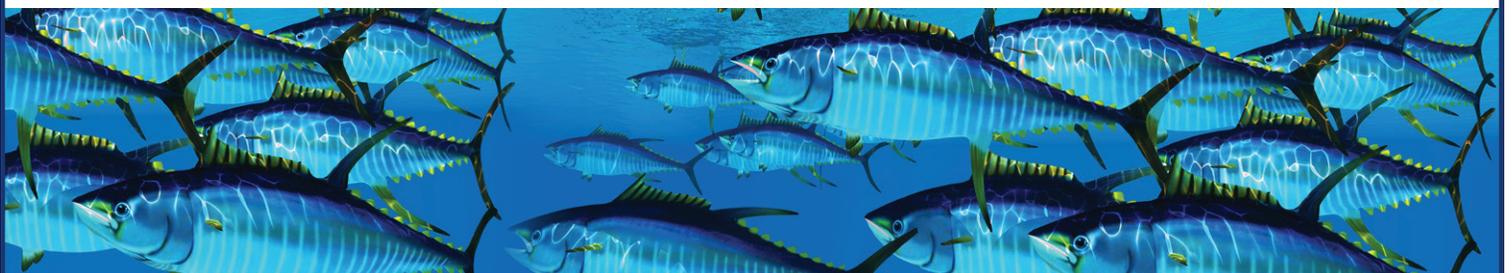
The NMFS' Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) established reporting and recordkeeping requirements for imports of certain seafood products deemed as a priority for monitoring illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and potential seafood fraud. This is a risk-based traceability program—requiring the importer of record to provide and report key data—from the point of harvest to the point of entry into U.S. commerce—on thirteen imported fish and fish products identified as vulnerable:

- Abalone
- Atlantic Cod
- Blue Crab (Atlantic)
- Dolphinfish (Mahi Mahi)
- Grouper
- King Crab (red)
- Pacific Cod
- Red Snapper
- Sea Cucumber
- Sharks
- Shrimp
- Swordfish\*
- Tunas: Albacore, Bigeye, Skipjack, Yellowfin, and Bluefin\*

\*Is or maybe included in the NMFS HMS or 370 programs.

### Key Points

1. The rule establishing SIMP applies only to seafood entering the US 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 the US.
2. For the purposes of SIMP, the “importer” must have a US address when applying for a permit and can act as agent on behalf of a foreign importer of record. The “importer” must maintain “chain of custody” recordkeeping and must be in the US.
3. Data collected will allow priority species of seafood to be traced from the point of entry into US commerce back to the point of harvest or production to verify that it was lawfully harvested or produced.
4. The collection of harvest and landing information for these priority seafood species will be accomplished through International Trade Data System (ITDS) reporting.
5. The information collected under this program is confidential.
6. The rule also applies to reimported product of priority species originally harvested in the US.
7. DIS documents or images are not required for SIMP.
8. Each harvest event must be reported, and there are different reporting requirements for harvest capture fisheries (HCF) and small vessel harvest (SVH).
  - a. HCF: Harvest events can be aggregated as long as processing dates are the same and fishing gear types are the same. If you are reporting SIMP data from multiple harvest events with different dates and/or different fishing gear types, it must be noted on the SIMP forms.
  - b. SVH: Each separate catch must be reported and can only be combined by the number of vessels in that harvest event.
9. The amount of reportable fish/seafood caught in a harvest event is of interest to NOAA/NMFS, as opposed to how much is destined to a particular consignee. Therefore, total catch weights should be reported, not how much is destined to a specific customer. This amount may differ from the commercial invoice.



# Data Requirements & Resources for SIMP PGA Message Set

Find Scientific Name, HTS, & 3-Alpha Codes

- Scientific name and 3-Alpha code can be found:

- o [NMFS SIMP – Species that require the full set of the SIMP records](#) (online document)
- o [Scientific Species 3 Alpha Code](#), United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization’s Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS)

Swordfish NMFS SIMP Sample Data

| Scientific name | English name | 3A_CODE | TAXOCODE   |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|------------|
| Xiphias gladius | Swordfish    | SWO     | 1750400301 |

Tunas

| Scientific name    | English name          | 3A_CODE | TAXOCODE      |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------------|
| Katsuwonus pelamis | Skipjack tuna         | SKJ     | 1750102501    |
| Thunnus alalunga   | Albacore              | ALB     | 1750102605    |
| Thunnus albacares  | Yellowfin tuna        | YFT     | 1750102610    |
| Thunnus maccoyii   | Southern bluefin tuna | SBF     | 1750102608    |
| Thunnus obesus     | Bigeye tuna           | BET     | 1750102612    |
| Thunnus orientalis | Pacific bluefin tuna  | PBF     | 1750102602    |
| Thunnus thynnus    | Atlantic bluefin tuna | BFT     | 1750102601    |
| Thunnini           | Tunas nei             | TUN     | 17501XXXXX043 |
| Thunnus spp        | True tunas nei        | TUS     | 17501026XX    |

- + When an HTS is flagged as NM8 (SIMP specific data IS required) but the imported goods are not subject to SIMP reporting, PGA can NOT be disclaimed. You must transmit the Scientific Species Code, this in turn lets ACE know the goods are not regulated.

- o [Harmonized Tariff Codes for Seafood Import Monitoring Program](#), NOAA Fisheries

Determining Harvest Description Codes

- HCF = Harvest Capture Fisheries /“Wild Caught” – (including small vessel harvests transferred to a larger vessel at sea) this includes pen matured (PMH) animals, those animals captured alive before they are “penned” for feeding and growth until actual/final harvest.
- HBA = Hatchery Based Aquaculture – Harvested animals that have been owned by individuals or corporate bodies throughout their entire life cycle from spawning to harvest.
- SVH = Small Vessel Harvest – “Wild Capture” aggregated harvests involving multiple small-scale fishing vessels (20 measured gross tons or less or 12 meters length overall or less) landed at shore (off-loaded from multiple small vessels to shore). (Not used for situations where the fish were transferred to a larger collecting vessel.)

Geographic Location

- Reference specific definitions of geographical bodies of water can be found in the [ACE CATAIR Appendix PGA document](#).

NMFS International Fisheries Trade Permit

- Access an overview of the [International Fisheries Trade Permit \(IFTP\)](#) and [NOAA's portal](#) to procure it, as required by NMFS.

NOAA performs audits on SIMP regulated

products and may issue a fine for non-compliance. For more information view the following information from NOAA.

- [Guide to Audit Requirements for SIMP: FAQ](#)
- Model Catch Certificate: [Fillable Guide](#)

## Additional SIMP Resources

- [US Seafood Import Monitoring Program](#), National Ocean Council Committee on IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud
- [Resources: US Seafood Import Monitoring Program](#), National Ocean Council Committee on IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud
- IUU and Seafood Fraud Web Portal, National Ocean Council Committee on IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud
- For questions regarding SIMP requirements, send an email providing your name, affiliation and/or organization along with your inquiry to [simpsupport@noaa.gov](mailto:simpsupport@noaa.gov).