

## **Information request to third countries on aquaculture products**

Article 2(8) of the IUU Regulation lays down the definition of "fishery products" to which the Regulation applies and refers to its Annex I containing a list of products excluded from this definition. According to this Annex I aquaculture products obtained from fry or larvae are listed as products which do not fall under the scope of the IUU Regulation. In practical terms the competent authorities in the EU Member States will have to take into consideration this provision by verifying imports of fishery products stemming from catches done from 01 January 2010 onwards. In this respect it will be important for them to be able to distinguish first wild catches from aquaculture products and in a second step to make a difference between aquaculture products gained from fish and those obtained from fry or larvae. While for the latter ones no specific provisions arise from the IUU Regulation, all other products need to be accompanied by a catch certificate validated by the flag State of the vessel which carried out the catches.

The European Commission is committed to assist the Member States and third countries in the implementation of the IUU Regulation and in particular of the catch certification scheme. In this respect the issue of aquaculture products has been addressed at various occasions such as bilateral meetings, regional seminars for developing countries, etc. In addition, third countries in September 2009 have been invited to communicate to the European Commission information on relevant species subject to aquaculture by using fry or larvae in order to facilitate the identification of products covered or not covered by the catch certification scheme. So far detailed replies have been received by more than 30 countries. The European Commission will analyse and transmit this information to the Member States for appropriate use to avoid any unnecessary delay in the importation process.