

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Act on Ensuring
the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of
Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants (ver1.0)

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A) General Provisions

1. What are the objectives of the regulation, Japan's catch documentation scheme (JCDS) on Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants, etc in the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants (hereinafter referred to as "the Act").

To combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, which constitutes one of the most serious threats to the sustainable use of fisheries resources, the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) have already introduced schemes to regulate imports of IUU catches. As one of the world's largest importers of fishery products along with the EU and the US, the objective is to introduce legislation to regulate the import of IUU catches into Japan and to contribute to the global efforts to eliminate IUU fishing.

2. What is an outline of the regulation on Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants, etc?

In order to prevent the inflow of IUU catches into the domestic market, when Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants, etc. (Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants and processed products which are made of/from any of the Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants) are to be imported into Japan, a catch certificate issued by a foreign government authority certifying that the Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants have been legally caught shall be attached.

3. Who is subject to the regulation on Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants etc.? Are customs brokers commissioned with import clearance duties obliged to follow the regulation?

The regulation on the importation of Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants etc. are formulated for importers who intend to import such Aquatic Animals and Plants etc. Customs brokers are persons who are entrusted with customs clearance services and are not subject to the obligations under the Act.

4. What are the similarities and differences compared with the EU catch certification scheme?

Japan's catch documentation scheme (JCDS) was developed based on the EU catch certification scheme as a model and the same requirements apply to columns in catch certificates. However, it differs from the EU scheme in that EU scheme covers all

fish species, but JCDS covers only fish species designated as Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants (Squid and cuttlefish, Pacific saury, Mackerel and Sardine).

5. What specific documents are required for the importation of Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants, etc.?

The documents required for the importation of Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants, etc. are as follows.

- Catch Certificate issued by the flag State authority of the fishing vessel by which the Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants, etc. (in the case of processed products, the Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants that are the raw materials thereof) were caught.
- In the case that Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants etc. are imported into Japan via a third country other than the flag State, in addition to the Catch Certificate, the required documents are specified according to whether or not the product has been processed in the third country (if processed, a document (such as Processing Statement) indicating that the fishery product has been processed in the third country. If not processed, documents that indicating the fishery products did not undergo any operations other than unloading, reloading or any operations designated to preserve them in good and genuine condition in a third country, and that the products were under the supervision of the competent authorities of the third country).

Furthermore, if the Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants, etc. were caught before the date on which the Act enter into force or had been farmed, documents certifying such facts are required instead of a Catch Certificate (see Questions 14 and 18).

a) Species that are subject to the regulation

6. What fish species are designated as Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants?

Fish species designated as Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants are Squid and cuttlefish, Pacific saury, Mackerel and Sardine, and are specified by HS code (the first six digits of the Statistical code number in Japan's Tariff Schedule). Specifically, it covers items classified under the respective JPN statistical code number in Japan's Tariff Schedule below, including Squid and cuttlefish, Pacific

saury (Cololabis spp.), Mackerel (Scomber spp.) and Sardine (Sardinops spp.). The items in cells shaded are treated as processed products and may require separate documents in addition to the Catch Certificate (see question 40).

Statistical code	Target Fish (Description)
0301 99	210 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (live)
0302 43	100 Sardines (Of Sardinops spp.) (fresh or chilled)
0302 44	000 Mackerels (Scomber scombrus, Scomber australasicus, Scomber japonicus) (fresh or chilled)
0302 49	100 Pacific saury (Cololabis saira) (fresh or chilled)
0302 89	190 Mackerels (Scomber spp.) (fresh or chilled)
0302 99	910 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (fresh or chilled)
0303 53	100 Sardines (Sardinops spp.) (frozen)
0303 54	000 Mackerels (Scomber scombrus, Scomber australasicus, Scomber japonicus) (frozen)
0303 59	120 Pacific saury (Cololabis saira) (frozen)
0303 89	129 Mackerels (Scomber spp.) (frozen)
0303 99	912 Mackerels (Scomber scombrus, Scomber australasicus, Scomber japonicus) (fish fins, heads, tails, maws and other edible fish offal) (frozen)
0303 99	919 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (fish fins, heads, tails, maws and other edible fish offal) (frozen)
0304 49	100 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (fillet) (fresh or chilled)
0304 59	100 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (meat) (fresh or chilled)
0304 89	100 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (fillet) (frozen)
0304 99	120 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (meat) (frozen)
0305 39	210 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (fillet) (dried, salted or in brine/smoked fish, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process)
0305 54	100 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (dried, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process)
0305 59	020 Mackerels (Scomber spp.) (dried, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process)
0305 69	091 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (salted or in brine/smoked fish, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process)
0305 79	222 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (fish fins, heads, tails, maws and other edible fish offal) (dried, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process)
0305 79	324 Mackerels (Scomber spp.), Sardines (Sardinops spp.) and Pacific Saury (Cololabis spp.) (fish fins, heads, tails, maws and other edible fish offal) (salted or in brine/smoked fish, whether or not cooked before or during the smoking process)
0307 42	010 Kisslip cuttlefish (live, fresh or chilled)
0307 42	090 Other Squid and Cuttlefish (live, fresh or chilled)
0307 43	010 Kisslip cuttlefish (frozen)
0307 43	020 Neon flying squid (frozen)
0307 43	030 Japanese flying squid (Todarodes pacificus), jumbo flying squid (Dosidicus gigas), Japanese squid (Lololus spp.), shortfin squid (Illax spp.) and sparkling enope squid (Wataseniscintillans) (frozen)
0307 43	090 Other Squid and Cuttlefish (frozen)
0307 49	210 Kisslip cuttlefish (salted or in brine)
0307 49	290 Other Squid and Cuttlefish (salted or in brine)
0307 49	500 Other Squid and Cuttlefish (smoked)
1604 13	010 Sardines (Sardinops spp.) (Prepared or preserved fish, caviar and caviar substitutes prepared from fish eggs) (In airtight containers)
1604 13	090 Sardines (Sardinops spp.) (Prepared or preserved fish, caviar and caviar substitutes prepared from fish eggs) (Other)
1604 15	000 Mackerels (Scomber spp.) (Prepared or preserved fish, caviar and caviar substitutes prepared from fish eggs)
1605 54	100 Squid and Cuttlefish (Crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates, prepared or preserved) (smoked)
1605 54	911 Squid and Cuttlefish (Crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates, prepared or preserved) (not smoked, in airtight containers, containing rice)
1605 54	919 Squid and Cuttlefish (Crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates, prepared or preserved) (not smoked, in airtight containers, not containing rice)
1605 54	991 Squid and Cuttlefish (Crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates, prepared or preserved) (not smoked, not in airtight containers, containing rice)
1605 54	999 Squid and Cuttlefish (Crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates, prepared or preserved) (not smoked, not in airtight containers, not containing rice)

7. The codes shown in the Tariff Schedule referred to in Q6 are 9-digit codes unique to Japan and different from those used abroad. How can the scope of the scheme be determined?

On one hand, the actual scope of the scheme is specified by the internationally used HS codes. On the other hand, the Tariff Schedule table referred to in Q6, which shows the scope of coverage, uses the nine-digit statistical code number (six-digit HS code plus three digits unique to Japan) normally used in Japan, for the convenience of Japanese business operators involved in import operations. For details on the relevant items for each HS code, please refer to the Japan Customs website. (<https://www.customs.go.jp/english/tariff/index.htm>)

8. Could fish species other than Squid and cuttlefish, Pacific Saury, Mackerel and Sardine, included in the scope based on the HS codes be subject to the regulation, JCDS?

Only four species of fish are covered by Japan CDS: squid and cuttlefish, saury, mackerel and sardine. Other fish species, even if included in the scope indicated

by HS code (see Q6), are not covered by this scheme and do not require a Catch Certificate to be attached.

9. What criteria are used to designate Class II Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants?

Class II are defined as a group of Aquatic Animals and Plants designated to be recognized to be in need to take measures to regulate the import measures by reasons that they are recognized to be illegally caught or gathered with significant risk by foreign fishing vessels under foreign laws or that international conservation and management measures of fisheries resources are necessary particularly vulnerable to IUU fishing by foreign flagged vessels under foreign laws or international conservation and management measures, thus recognized to require measures to regulate importation. In designating Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants, the Task Force on the Scheme of Ensuring the Proper Distribution of Fishery products consisting of various stakeholders such as academics, learned individuals, NGOs and business operators set the criteria and discussed, and the decision was made following advice and recommendations by the Fisheries Policy Council.

10. Why are not all the fish species subject to the regulation as in the case of EU?

In the discussions by the Task Force on the Scheme of Ensuring the Proper Distribution of Fishery products, consisting of various stakeholders, it was argued that target fish species should be designated from the perspective of both the necessity and feasibility of regulation, and higher priority species were designated. The target fish species is scheduled to be verified and reviewed every two years or so, based on the discussions of the Task Force on the Scheme of Ensuring the Proper Distribution of Fishery products, and the advice and recommendations of the Fisheries Policy Council.

11. Why are tuna species excluded?

For bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, etc., in Japan, import restrictions based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law are already in place and will continue to be firmly regulated under the Law from the perspective of fulfilling the obligations of RFMOs (Regional Fisheries Management Organizations) established under international conventions. Skipjack tuna and albacore tuna which are not regulated by the aforementioned Law, do not fulfill the criteria of designation as target species, with some reasons such as their stock status being in stable condition.

12. What are specifically included in “squid and cuttlefish”, “mackerel” and “sardine”?

The purpose of Japan CDS is to ensure the legality of imports and to deter IUU fishing by requiring a Catch Certificate, etc. to be attached when importing Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants. However, in trying to prevent the importation of IUU catches, it is recognized that the laundering of fish by falsifying the origin and species has been considered a loophole.

In the case of squid and cuttlefish designation, if only some squid and cuttlefish, such as Japanese flying squid *Todarodes pacificus* and Neon flying squid *Ommastrephes bartramii*, are covered as target species, there is a risk that other squid and cuttlefish that are not covered may be used as a loophole, for example, by falsifying designated Japanese flying squid as non-designated Mongo ika and importing them without a Catch Certificate etc. Therefore, it was decided that all squid and cuttlefish including Mongo ika etc.. to be included.

Likewise, for mackerel designation, it was decided that the whole *Scomber* spp including chub mackerel *scomber japonicus*, blue mackerel *scomber australacus*, *scomber scombrus* etc are to be covered. In the case of sardine, all sardines spp including *sardinops sagax* are included.

13. What are the items excluded from the scheme. Is there an exclusion list as the EU scheme?

Unlike the EU scheme, which covers all fish species and specifies exclusions, Japan CDS covers specific fish species and is therefore presented in the form of an enumeration of those covered. The fish species covered by the scheme are squid and cuttlefish, saury, mackerel and sardine, but their livers, roes, tongues, cheeks, heads and wings are outside the scope of Japan CDS. Fishery products falling under Headings 0301.11 and 0301.19 (ornamental fish), Chapter 5 (fishery products which are not fit for human consumption), Chapter 15 (fats and oils), Heading 1603 (extracts and juices), Chapter 23 (flours, meal, and pellets unfit for human consumption (animal fodder etc.)) are also excluded. The specific scope of the product to be covered should be confirmed by the HS code (see Q6).

14. If the Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants etc. (in the case of processed products, the Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants used as the raw materials thereof) are farmed, do they need to fulfill CDS requirement?

Farmed Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants are also subject to this scheme, but

instead of a Catch Certificate, the importation of such Aquatic Animals and Plants must be accompanied by documents (invoice, declaration prepared by the importer, etc..) indicating that they are farmed Aquatic Animals and Plants.

Similarly, in the case of importation of processed products produced from farmed Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants, a Catch Certificate shall be replaced by a document indicating that the said Aquatic Animals and Plants used for the products are farmed ones. In this case, processing statement is not necessary.

15. Are Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants not for human consumption such as ornamental fish, subject to the scheme?

No. Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants not for human consumption, such as ornamental fish, are outside the scope of this scheme and attachment of Catch Certificate etc. are not required.

16. Is Catch Certificate required for personal use?

No. The scheme does not apply if Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants are brought into Japan for personal use, such as for souvenirs etc., and a Catch Certificate is not required.

17. Is a Catch Certificate, etc. also required for the importation of small quantities of free samples of specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants etc.?

When importing small quantities of free samples, it is not necessary to attach a Catch Certificate, etc., if the following two conditions are met;

- ① The aggregate value is 180,000 yen or less
- ② Must be free of charge cargo (free samples).

The 'aggregate value' here refers to the taxable value of customs duties, etc. (or the customs appraised value in the case of those not subject to customs duties, etc.). For example, if the sample, which is a free of charge cargo, is imported under the same contract as other paid-for cargo, even if the aggregate value is ¥180,000 or less, the contract as a unit is paid for, so the special exception cannot be applied and a Catch Certificate is required. In order to prove to the customs that the aggregate value of the goods is 180,000yen or less and it is a free of charge cargo, documents such as contract, invoice etc., are required.

18. If the Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants (in the case of processed products, the specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants used as the raw materials thereof) were

caught before the Act entering into force, are such aquatic animals and plants subject to this scheme?

Yes, they are subject to Japan CDS even if Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants were caught before the enforcement of the Act. However, when importing such Aquatic Animals and Plants etc., instead of a Catch Certificate, a document that shows that the Aquatic Animals and Plants in question were caught before the date of enforcement of the Act (such as a transaction record or other document that confirms that they had been caught before the Act came into effect) shall be attached. In the case of imports of processed products made from specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants caught before the date of entry into force the Act and produced before or after the date of the Act going into force, a document showing that the Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants as raw materials were caught before the date of entry into force of the Act shall be attached instead of a Catch Certificate. In this case, a processing statement (see C) is not required.

b) Processed Products

19. Is a portion sliced out of a whole fish, such as fillet etc., considered as processed product?

Yes. "Processing" herein includes processes that significantly change structure of fishery products, such as freezing, drying, salting, and smoking, etc., as well as cutting as fillet etc. of the fishery products. The specific range of processed products is specified with the HS code (see Q6).

20. What is "processing on board"? How it should be described?

When the caught Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants are processed (including freezing) on board the vessel prior to landing, "Type of processing authorized on board" field in the Catch Certificate needs to be filled.

B) Catch Certificate

a) Validating and issuing authority of the Catch Certificate and its procedures.

21. Who specifically will carry out what procedures to have a Catch Certificate issued, and when?

The general flow of procedures for a Catch Certificate for the importation of Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants from overseas to Japan is as follows

1 In the flag State of the fishing vessel that caught the Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants (in the case of processed products, the Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants that are the raw materials thereof), the exporter applies to the flag State government for the issuance of a Catch Certificate, stating the necessary information such as fishing vessel information, product information and resource management measures.

2 The flag State government verifies the information, fills in the necessary information and then issues a Catch Certificate with the flag State government official's signature, to the exporter.

3 The exporter sends the Catch Certificate to the Importer

4 The importer who has received the Catch Certificate fills in necessary information, signs and submits it to the Japanese customs when making import declaration.

22. What foreign government bodies issue Catch Certificates?

Regarding the government authority that issues the Catch Certificates, the flag State is to designate a competent public authority authorized to validate the entries on the certificate. Depending on the make-up of the government organization in each country, several agencies or local bodies may be designated, but only public bodies can be designated.

The names of the public authorities responsible for issuing Catch Certificates in each country will be published on the official website of the Fisheries Agency of Japan.

23. If the catch was made in EEZ of another country than the flag State of the fishing vessel or by a chartered vessel, which government issues the certificate?

Regardless of the area where the fish was caught, the government authority of the flag State of the fishing vessel issues the Catch Certificate. This principle also applies to charter vessels, where the flag State of the charter vessel is responsible for issuing the certificate.

24. How long does it take to issue a Catch Certificate?

The time required to issue a Catch Certificate is assumed to vary depending on the scheme of each government and other factors. Therefore, it is difficult to cite any standard duration of time.

25. In which units should the Catch Certificate, which is required when exporting specified

Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants, etc. to Japan, be attached?

Basically, one Catch Certificate is required for each round of export. Fishery products shipped simultaneously from one exporter to one consignee or fishery products handled under a single transport document are treated as “single consignment”, and for each consignment of fishery product, one must apply for the issuance of Catch Certificate.

26. ① If a fishing vessel exports fishery products caught on several fishing days and in several different fishing areas to Japan all at one time, or ② if multiple species of fishery products caught by a fishing vessel are imported all at once as one single import, to which unit should the Catch Certificate be attached?

Under scenarios like ① and ②, when fishery products shipped in one round of export involve multiple fishing days, fishing areas and species, all relevant information can be entered in a single Catch Certificate.

27. How can I prepare and attach legal catch certificate if fishery products caught by multiple fishing vessels are aggregated and exported to Japan in one round of export?

If fishery products caught by more than one fishing vessel are shipped in a single export, it must be accompanied by a Catch Certificate prepared by using one of the following methods;

- Include all relevant information of the fishery products to be exported with signatures of all masters of fishing vessels involved in a single Catch Certificate
- Include all relevant information of the fishery products to be exported with a signature of a person who can be responsible for the entire catch on behalf of the others in a single Catch Certificate
- Each fishing vessel unit prepares a Catch Certificate. However, if flag States of fishing vessels are different, each flag State needs to prepare the Catch Certificate.

28. If fishery products linked to a single Catch Certificate are exported to Japan in multiple shipments, what do I need to do with the certificate?

If fishery products linked to one Catch Certificate are exported to Japan in multiple shipments, the same certificate can be used more than once, e.g. by using a copy of the certificate.

29. If fishery products with catch dates spanning a certain period of time are exported to

Japan in a single shipment, how should I make entry of the date in a Catch Certificate?

In exporting fishery products with catch dates spanning a certain period of time, it is possible to make entry of catch dates on a single Catch Certificate as 20XX/X/X~20XX/X/X to cover the duration.

30. What documentation is required for the export to Japan of fishery products processed in the flag State of the fishing vessel that caught the specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants?

When Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants are exported to Japan after being processed in the flag State of the fishing vessel that caught them, a Catch Certificate must be attached. An overview of the processing is to be provided in the 'Product information' field of the Catch Certificate. Processing statement etc. are required if the processing is carried out in a third country other than the flag State, and are therefore not required if the processing is done in the flag State.

31. Can the certificate be filled in a language other than English or Japanese?

In principle, the entries in the Catch Certificate shall be in English or Japanese. If a language other than English or Japanese is used, the corresponding English description must be written next to the original entries, or English-translated version of the exact same format needs to be attached.

32. How should 'Estimated live weight', 'Estimated weight to be landed' and 'Verified weight landed' be described?

- The 'estimated landed weight' is used when the total catch landed is imported into Japan as one single consignment and is determined by declaration and weighing at the time of landing, before storage, transport, sale, etc.
- The 'estimated live weight' is the weight of the consignment exported to Japan when a portion of the catch is landed and imported into Japan.
- The 'verified landed weight' is used for communicating verified weight from a third country to the flag State when the catch is landed in a third country other than the flag State of the fishing vessel, and should describe the weight verified at the time of landing. In stating weight, it is recommended to provide net weight rather than gross weight including packaging etc.

33. How should the entry for 'Name of master of fishing vessel-Signature-Seal' field be made?

In principle, the signature of the master of the fishing vessel that caught the specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants etc. (in the case of processed products, the specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants that are the raw materials thereof) should be given in that field. However, in special circumstances where it is not possible for the master to sign, a person who can verify and take responsibility for the veracity of the vessel information, product information and stock management measures entries on the Catch Certificate can sign on behalf of the master. (For example: Representative director of the fisheries company which owns the fishing vessel)

34. Who must complete each part/section of the Catch Certificate?

The following is the information required and persons responsible in filling in the information in each part/section, using a model form of the Catch Certificate, which is an Attachment 7 of the Technical Note.

(a) Validating authority;

Name of the competent authority that validates the catch certificate and a distinctive document number to identify the certificate shall be provided. In the case of using a chartered vessel of a State or region other than the flag State, the authority of the flag State of the chartered vessel shall validate the catch certificate

(b) Fishing vessel information; (c) Product information; (d) Information on resource management; (e) Master of the fishing vessel;

(b) to (e) shall be completed by the master of the fishing vessel or the exporter who receives necessary information from the master except for the information on the verified weight landed. Regarding catch area(s) in (c) Product information, at least one of the followings is required:

① putting a check mark on the appropriate FAO Code box; and

② filling the name of the applicable RFMO(s) in the lower right box.

In (d), references of applicable conservation and management measures related to the species, for which the catch certificate has been adopted by the flag State concerned and is issued, shall be provided (e.g., restrictions on the number of fishing vessels, catch limits, etc.). The measures shall be national or international measures that the vessels have to observe. The verified weight landed shall be filled by the validating authority etc. if catches are weighted at landing by the authority

(f) Declaration of transshipment at sea;

In the case that transshipment was conducted at sea, this section is to be filled jointly by the masters of the fishing vessel and of the receiving vessel (or their representatives);

(g) Transshipment authorization within a port area;

In the case that transshipment was conducted within a port area, this section is to be filled by the competent authority which is responsible for controls of transshipments in that port State;

(h) Exporter; (j) Transport details;

Information of the exporter and details of the transportation route from the catch of fish to the next destination of country are to be filled by the exporter;

(i) Flag State authority validation;

It is the responsibility of the competent flag State authority to validate the catch certificate for the fishery products which are exported to Japan. The authority shall validate the certificate and fill in this section when the authority does not have any doubts about the contents of the application submitted by the exporter.

(k) Importer declaration;

The importer in Japan shall fill in the relevant information on this section before submitting the catch certificate; and

(l) Import control authority;

This section is to be filled by Japan's control authority, so there is no need to fill in.

b) Catch Certificate Form

35. Is there a basic form for the Catch Certificate?

Catch Certificates to be issued by foreign governments will be determined after consultations with the Japanese Government and forms shall be the ones notified to Japan through Flag State Notifications

c) HS Code

36. What digit code should be entered in the product code field on the Catch Certificate and the processing statement, etc.?

The codes to be entered by fishermen, processors, etc. in the Catch Certificate and processing declaration, etc. (in the model forms attached to the Technical Note, ③ the "JPN Import Statistical Code" of the product information in the Catch Certificate, the "JPN Import Statistical Code" of the product information in the simplified Catch Certificate form for small fishing vessels, and the "Product Description and Japanese

import statistical code" in the model form for processing statement, etc.) are basically assumed to be entered outside Japan, therefore, for the convenience of persons entering information and for the validating authority, globally recognized and commonly used 6-digit HS Code (first 6 digits in the Tariff Schedule, referred to in Q6) or code specified by the validating country should be entered.

As for the code to be entered by the importer on the Catch Certificate ('JPN import statistical code' in the^⑪ importer's declaration section in the Catch Certificate model form and 'JPN import statistical code ' in the importer's declaration section in the simplified form for small fishing vessels), since they are relevant to the Japan's import custom clearance operations, 9-digit JPN Statistical Code Number in the Tariff Schedule should be entered.

d) Electronic procedures/ Use of electronic means

37. Can electronic means be used for procedures related to the certificate?

The flag State government of the fishing vessel that catches the Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants issues a Catch Certificate and the certificate is sent from the exporter to the importer. To send the certificate from the exporter to the importer electronic means may be used if there is an agreement between the Flag State and the Government of Japan. Concerning information on export procedures in each country, including the use of electronic means, please refer to the websites of the respective countries. When importers submit Catch Certificates to the Customs, at the time of import declaration, electronic means can be used, for example by scanning the certificates into PDF format and submit them via NACCS.

e) Transshipment

38. What is a 'transshipment at sea'? How should it be described in the certificate?

If the Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants etc. are to be transshipped at sea before landing, it is required to fill in necessary information in the section for 'Declaration of transshipment at sea' in the certificate.

39. What is 'Transshipment authorization within a port area'? How should it be stated?

If the Specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants are transshipped in a port area in a foreign country that has an authorized in- port transshipment scheme, before they are exported to Japan, the competent authority authorizing such transshipment shall fill in the information required in 'Transshipment authorization within a port area' section.

C) Indirect import and consigned processing of fisheries products

40. What documents are required when importing specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants, etc. into Japan via a third country other than the flag State?

In the case of imports of specified Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants into Japan via a third country other than the flag State, documents required to be attached differ depending on whether or not processing is done in the third country. (From Japanese import/export related QAs)

(1) Importation into Japan after processing in a third country

- Catch Certificate validated by the flag State
- Processing statement etc. issued by a government agency, etc. of the third country, certifying that the processing was carried out in the third country.

(2) Importation into Japan without processing in a third country

- Catch Certificate validated by the flag State
- One of the following documents stating that the consignments have not been unloaded, reloaded or otherwise handled in the third country other than to keep them in good and original condition and have been under the custody of the relevant authorities in the third country.
 - Document showing the transportation route from the flag State to the third country
 - Document issued by the government authority of the country where the processing took place, stating the details of the fishery product, dates of unloading and reloading, vessel name or other means of transport, condition of the storage of the fishery product in the third country.