



U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources

HEARING ON

“Oversight: Russian Seafood Ban Implementation and Seafood Traceability”

April 7, 2022
Washington, DC

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) submits this statement for the record regarding CBP's role in enforcing the March 11, 2022, Executive Order (EO) 14068, *Prohibiting Certain Imports, Exports, and New Investment With Respect to Continued Russian Federation Aggression*.

CBP is committed to enforcing EO 14068 and prohibiting the entry of fish, seafood, and preparations thereof that are of Russian Federation origin, among other commodities, including alcoholic beverages and non-industrial diamonds. CBP has a close working relationship with the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and together we have collaborated to support the enforcement of EO 14068.

EO 14068 and current OFAC guidance prohibit the importation of fish, seafood, and preparations thereof that are products of Russian Federation origin. The prohibition does not apply to goods extracted in the Russian Federation if such goods were incorporated or substantially transformed into a foreign-made product. Substantial transformation is a legal standard invoked in U.S. customs laws to determine the country of origin for goods imported into the United States (*see, e.g.*, 19 C.F.R. § 134.1(b), (d)).

Data related to the country of harvest are collected by CBP's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) as part of the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) for those species included in the SIMP. However, consistent with current OFAC guidance, country of harvest data is not used by CBP to enforce import sanctions under EO 14068.

CBP is committed to our role of enforcing U.S. import laws and sanctions. We will continue to collaborate with our OFAC, USFWS, and NOAA partners to leverage each agency's capabilities and authorities to fulfill our critical trade enforcement missions.