

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: EU-US Agreement on Lobster Tariffs Enters Into Force

Country: European Union

Post: Brussels USEU

Report Category: Fishery Products, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On December 18, 2020, the European Commission published a Regulation eliminating EU customs duties for fresh and frozen lobsters from August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2025. Operators who paid duties between August 1 and December 18, 2020 may request reimbursement from the national customs authorities of the Member States.

On December 18, 2020 the European Union published [Regulation 2020/2131](#), which eliminates the customs duties, on an *erga omnes*¹ basis, on lobster falling under CN codes 0306 11 90, 0306 12 10, 0306 12 90, and 0306 32 10. The Regulation entered into force on December 18, 2020 and applies from August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2025.

If operators paid duties between August 1, 2020 and December 18, 2020, they may request reimbursement from the national customs authorities of the Member States concerned. Member States instructions can be found in the attachment that was prepared by the office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Brussels.

Conditions

The Regulations outlines two conditions for the elimination of the customs duties:

- the reduction of customs duties by the United States of certain products outlined in Annex II, notably "products containing meat of crustaceans, mollusks or other aquatic invertebrates, prepared meals" (HS code: 1604 20 05);
- the abstention by the United States from the introduction of new measures against the Union that undermine the objectives pursued by the August 2020 [Joint Statement](#) from USTR and the Commission.

Attachments:

[Lobster duties repayment.docx](#)

¹ The application of 0 percent duty will apply to all countries.