

SPECIAL REPORT

Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain in Southeast Asia

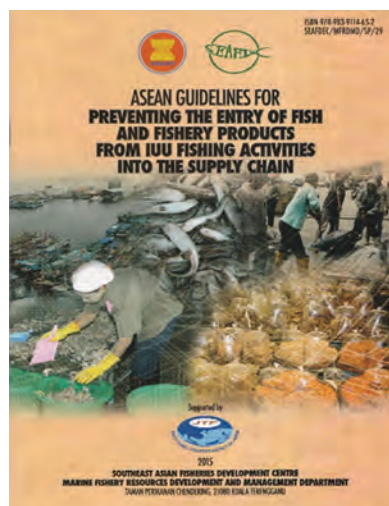
by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

SEAFDEC implemented various activities that aim to control IUU fishing in the region, one of which was the project “Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products.” With financial support from the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF), the Project was carried out by the SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (SEAFDEC/MFRDMD) from 2013 to 2019. The objectives of the Project are to: 1) strengthen cooperation among ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in combating IUU fishing, 2) study the existing fishing and trading practices in small-scale fishery in the region, 3) analyze associated problems in compliance with the EC Regulation No. 1005/2008 in the region, and 4) suggest a possible catch certification system for large- and small-scale fisheries to ensure only non-IUU/legal fish and fishery products are traded in the region.

As requested by the AMSs, the “ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain” or the “ASEAN Guidelines” was developed by the Project taking into consideration the relevant international trade-related measures that prohibit the marketing of fish and fishery products derived through unsustainable means and from unsustainable sources. The ASEAN Guidelines was drafted during the “Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain” on 23-25 September 2014 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

Subsequently, after incorporating the suggestions made during the 17th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in December 2014 and the 47th Meeting of the SEAFDEC

Council in April 2015, the final draft of the ASEAN Guidelines was endorsed by the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) in June 2015 for consideration at high level meeting of the ASEAN in 2015. The ASEAN Guidelines was endorsed by the 37th Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) in August 2015 and finally by the 37th Meeting of the ASEAN Minister for Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in September 2015.



The ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain



Participants of the Core Expert Meeting on Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asian Region Through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Product, 7-9 October 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in the ASEAN Member States

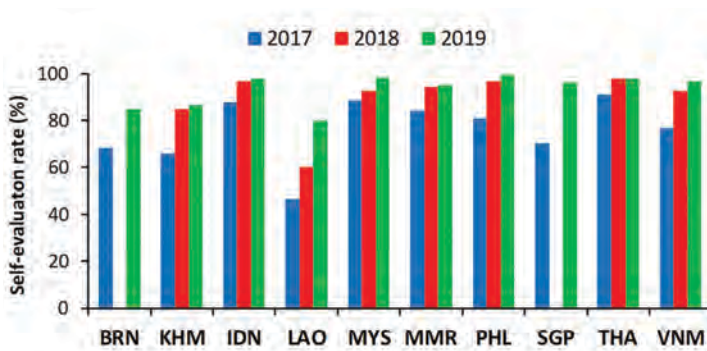
Voluntary in nature, the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines depends on the capacity of respective AMSs. One of the activities of the Project was to promote the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in the region. In 2017, the “2nd Regional Technical Consultation on Promotion of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing

Activities into the Supply Chain” was organized to determine the status of implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines by the respective AMSs through self-evaluation.

Subsequently, the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines was followed up through self-evaluation during the consultative country visits conducted by MFRDMD in 2018 and at the Terminal Meeting of the Project in 2019.



Participants of the 2nd Regional Technical Consultation on Promotion of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain



Results of the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines by the ASEAN Member States' self evaluation from 2017 to 2019

Ways forward

Although the ASEAN Guidelines has been endorsed and promoted since 2015, some AMSs still need assistance plans in the adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines at national levels. The practical and effective implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines depends on the circumstances in fishing, trading, and other scenarios of respective AMSs. In this regard, MFRDMD would continue extending technical assistance through capacity building activities as requested by the AMSs. Moreover, the AMSs have been asked to consider continuing the self-evaluation of the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines to keep track of the activities in combating IUU fishing in their countries and in the Southeast Asian region. ☒