



Promotion of Measures to Avert Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing into the Supply Chain

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The increasing demand for fish has driven fishers to catch more fish by all means even to the extent of practicing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. It has been well reported that IUU fishing not only contributes to overexploitation of fish stocks but is also a hindrance to the recovery of fish populations and ecosystems. IUU fishing not only damages the marine environment but also distorts competition and puts those fishers who operate legally at a disadvantage, adversely affecting the economic and social well-being of fishing communities, especially in the third world countries where coastal communities rely heavily on fish resources. On the global scale, IUU fishing is a big problem and is difficult to quantify, and can occur in virtually any fisheries, *i.e.* in shallow coastal or inland waters or even in offshore areas. It is a particular issue in developing countries including the Southeast Asian countries where fisheries management strategies need to be strengthened, and where resources for landing controls and vessel inspections, and number of patrol vessels are limited to enforce the necessary regulations.

Consultative Forum (AFCF), SEAFDEC Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) on Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia, Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia (RPOA-IUU), as well as those meetings of the ASEAN Heads of States including during the launching of the roadmap for ASEAN Economic Community. On the part of SEAFDEC, collaborative projects under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) mechanism paved the way for the conduct of consultations and discussions at the regional and sub-regional levels to find the ways and means of promoting effective fisheries management as well as managing fishing capacity in order to combat IUU

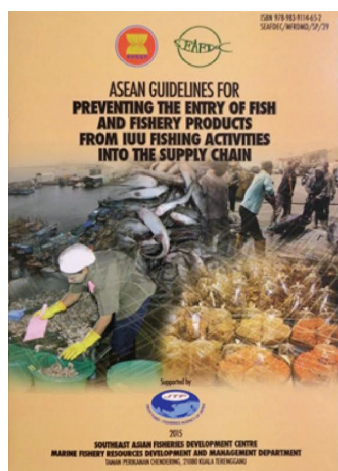
During the past decade, attempts had been made to improve fisheries management with the fundamental objective of reducing illegal and destructive fishing. The seriousness of this concern has been increasingly expressed through discussions and recommendations in various meetings and consultations such as those of the Council of Directors of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), ASEAN Fisheries



fishing in the Southeast Asian region. With such tall order, the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) requested SEAFDEC to assist them in the development of guidelines to prevent the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain of the inter- and intra-regional as well as international fishery trade system.

In response, the SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) together with the SEAFDEC Secretariat conducted a series of consultative meetings involving the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries as well as experts from national and regional organizations, to identify the issues related to IUU fishing activities that occur in the Southeast Asian waters. Through such meetings and consultations, the Guidelines were developed, reviewed and finalized for endorsement through processes under the ASEAN protocol (Mazalina *et al.*, 2015). After incorporating the suggestions made during the 17th Meeting of FCG/ASSP in December 2014 and the 47th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2015, the final draft of the Guidelines was endorsed during the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) in June 2015 for consideration at high level meetings of the ASEAN in 2015. Finally, the Guidelines were endorsed by the 37th Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) in September 2015.

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



Initiatives of AMSs to Improve Fisheries Management and Combat IUU Fishing

During the development of the Guidelines, the AMSs provided information on the status of their respective countries' initiatives to attain sustainable development of fisheries through the improvement of fisheries management, including combating IUU fishing. Based on the countries' inputs during the consultations and meetings, as well as during the Stakeholders Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development towards the ASEAN Economic Community organized by SEAFDEC (SEAFDEC, 2016), and the 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" in March 2016 (SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, 2016), the countries' initiatives in improving fisheries management and combating IUU fishing are summarized as shown in **Box 1**.

Issues and Concerns Encountered in Implementing the Guidelines

Although the AMSs recognize the importance of combating IUU fishing through trading measures and are seriously tackling the issues on IUU fishing, implementation of the "ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain" differs from country to country based on the circumstances surrounding the respective fishery and trading industry in the countries. To promote the Guidelines in the AMSs, appropriate strategies and measures should be introduced to ensure that effective and practical national plans are formulated and their effective implementation is in place. Nevertheless, the AMSs are still encountering various issues, concerns and difficulties that need to be addressed to be able to implement the Guidelines.

Legal Framework

Some AMSs lack the necessary legal frameworks for implementing some parts of the Guidelines, *e.g.* installation of VMS. Without any legal framework, the countries would not have any enforcement power. In some aspects, difficulties in establishing legal framework reflect the lack of technical guidance and assistance or lack of human and/or financial resources to follow the provisions stipulated in the Guidelines. Another issue is related to the evaluation and improvement of existing systems and governance which needs to be looked into by the governments.

Lack of Resources

The Guidelines covers very wide range of fishing and trading activities. Therefore, for the AMSs to follow the Guidelines in its every aspect, the countries should have certain amount of resources, which include human and financial resources, to be able to monitor their fishing/trading activities.

Awareness Building

Another challenge that confronts the AMSs in the implementation of the Guidelines is awareness building of the stakeholders. The key stakeholders in the supply chain of aquaculture products are unaware about the benefits and advantages of using a traceability system in their operations. Also, some traditional stakeholders are averse to change and are reluctant to implement any traceability system.

Way Forward

Although the Guidelines has been established and disseminated since 2015, some AMSs still require assistance to make implementation plans for adoption of the Guidelines at national

Box 1. Initiatives of AMSs in improving fisheries management and combating IUU fishing

Brunei Darussalam

Managing Fishing Activities

Under Fisheries Order 2009 of Brunei Darussalam, fishing access is controlled through the issuance of fishing gear licenses by the Department of Fisheries (DOF), Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism. All fishing vessels and boats are compelled to register under the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Fishing Vessels and Pleasure Crafts) Regulations 2011 by the Marine Department, Ministry of Communication. The size and specification of fishing vessels for commercial fishing operations such as trawlers, long liners and purse seiners are determined by fishing areas (fishing zones) of the country's waters. Starting in 2015, fishing gear license card was introduced as fishing license documentation for better management and surveillance purposes. The implementation of moratorium to any fishing activity in Zone 1 (0-3 nm) was imposed in 2008 to reduce or ban the use of fishing gears that are not considered environment-friendly and are excessive in numbers, and to mitigate overfishing. The use of bigger mesh size at the cod ends of trawl nets from 38 mm to 51 mm was imposed in 2000 and aimed at reducing fish wastage and promoting better fish growth and stocks. All fish caught by commercial fishing vessels should be recorded in logbooks and all fish landed at the two designated fish landing complexes must be declared to the DOF. The performance of all fishing vessels in terms of production and compliance with the rules and regulations are monitored by Extension Officers of the Mobile Technical Unit of DOF as well as by Licensing Officers. At present, the use of vessel monitoring system (VMS) has not yet been implemented by DOF. Awareness building through road shows and briefings to the public continues to promote full cooperation of fishers in combating IUU fishing and the implications of destructive fishing activities in the country. Any offence related to destructive fishing (e.g. blasting and using cyanide) is punishable under the Fisheries Order 2009 and if found guilty, offenders could be fined and ordered to pay not exceeding B\$10,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both. Intensification of surveillance is made through joint operations with other relevant national enforcement agencies, such as Marine Police of the Royal Brunei Police Force, Royal Navy of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Marine Department, and the Internal Security Department, to name a few.

Regulating Transshipment and Landing of Fish/Catch across Borders

Although no landings occur in bordering countries, the country acknowledges that some neighboring countries have similar regulations in terms of landing reports by local fishing vessels, *i.e.* licensing system and other regulations (including those for chartered fishing vessels). Fisheries Order 2009 states that no transshipment is allowed at sea and no landings allowed from foreign fishing vessels at designated landing ports in the country. Currently, no foreign fishing vessels land or transship their catch into the country's port or any other fish landing areas. However, it is a mandatory for all local fishing vessels (including chartered fishing vessels) to land and report their catch only at designated fish landing areas.

Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of ASEAN Member States

Although VMS has not yet been implemented, the country's monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) program is getting stronger with full cooperation from other relevant enforcement agencies in the country. Being part of the RPOA-IUU, Brunei Darussalam is able to get updated information on listed illegal vessels and extend efforts hand-in-hand with other members in combating IUU fishing, especially in the areas of the South China Sea, Sulu-Sulawesi Sea and the Arafura-Timor Sea. Fishing vessel information for the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) has been updated regularly. However, mutual bilateral/multilateral agreements on landings with any bordering or neighboring countries have not yet been established.

Controlling Illegal Fishing and Trading Practices of Live Reef Food Fish, Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species

Guided by the country's Fisheries Order 2009 and its Regulations, export, import and transit of all aquatic species are under the jurisdiction of DOF. Mutual agreement among relevant authorities (including the Royal Customs and Excise Department) is always established through regular consultations, discussions and meetings. Technical assessments and views from DOF are considered as reference information during consultations and in developing agreements. Data collection is carried out to monitor the status of live fish production and its market. Awareness programs through road shows and briefings to the public on the impacts of IUU fishing and trading of such fish and products are continuously promoted. So far, no network has been established between importing and exporting countries of Live Reef Food Fish (LRFF).

Strengthening the Management of Fishing in the High Seas and RFMO Areas

Being part of the RPOA-IUU, Brunei Darussalam is able to get updated information on RPOA-IUU fishing vessels watch list and extend efforts hand-in-hand with other members in combating IUU fishing in the South China Sea, Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, and the Arafura-Timor Sea.

Cambodia

Managing Fishing Activities

Access to fishing is controlled under the Cambodian Fisheries Law, which include proclamations on fishing vessels management, fishing vessel's logbook model, identification of marine fishing gear permitted to use in Cambodian waters, and zoning for fishing operations. The country has already adopted a vessel registration system under the Council Minister for International Fishing Vessels and under the Ministry of Public Work and Transportation for national vessels depending on the vessel's size. After vessel registration, the owner applies for two licenses from the Fisheries Administration (FiA) every year, *i.e.* use of fishing vessel and fishing gear. In order to promote responsible fishing practices and methods, capacity building is conducted for officers and fishers at provincial level and at landing sites on fishing ground (conservation areas), closed season, requirements for fishing, fishing gears, and official landing sites, although budget for awareness building is quite insufficient. As for related laws and regulations, amendments had been carried out starting in 2015, *e.g.* the Fisheries Law, sub-decree on community fishery management, and the 10-year strategic planning framework for fishery (SPF). Development of NPOA-IUU Fishing started in 2016, although fishing logbook and technical requirements of fishing vessel management have already been implemented. Reporting catch and providing appropriate logbook information are still inadequate as most fishers do not have adequate capacity to record catch appropriately and to follow the requirements for validation of catch record. Monitoring of fishing vessels are conducted by regularly checking the fishing license for fishing vessels and fishing gears, fishing logbook and technical requirements of fishing vessel management. The numbers of licensed vessels are monitored by FiA, but there is no

Box 1. Initiatives of AMSs in improving fisheries management and combating IUU fishing (Cont'd)

database that would allow analyses and sharing of data, and no VMS to track the fishing vessels. The existing mechanism for combating IUU fishing involves fisheries line offices (national, regional and local levels), sub-national administration (committees), Community Fisheries (CFI) committees, patrolling teams, legal framework and instrument for community-based fisheries management, conservation zones, National Committee on Combating IUU Fishing, FiA Task Force for Combating IUU Fishing, and development of the NPOA-IUU. Community-based patrols and community-based fisheries management staff assist in monitoring small-scale fisheries and also for detecting encroachment of trawlers into the country's restricted waters. Surveillance during fishing operations is limited because of insufficient capacity not only in terms of manpower but also facilities/devices, and limited funding in supporting such activity (only inspection boats with low capacity cover the country's fishing zones, vessels, gears, number, license, marking, season). Surveillance is conducted routinely, *i.e.* 10 days per inspection, and there is limited intervention on port State measures.

Regulating Transshipment and Landing of Fish/Catch across Borders

The country has difficulties in controlling fishing vessels that unload catches at bordering countries' landing sites, although it has been forging formal arrangements with respect to landings between bordering countries, *e.g.* MoU between Cambodia and Viet Nam (marine), MoU between Cambodia and Lao PDR (draft - inland), and MoU between Cambodia and Thailand (marine), all of which are still under development. Fishing vessels registration database will be developed and implemented in 2016. To date, port State measures are not implemented since access to landing sites is difficult. Under the Fisheries Law, all means of commercial transportation for fishery products in the country need license and are inspected by FiA to control the transport and resupply vessels.

Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of ASEAN Member States

There are no mutual bilateral agreements between neighboring countries to prevent poaching in respective countries' EEZ waters and cooperation to compile a list of illegal fishing vessels is lacking, although the country needs to strengthen its MCS to monitor fishing vessels operating illegally beyond their designated areas while promotion of the implementation of VMS is required. The country also needs to prevent foreign fishing vessels from fishing in its EEZ unless there is an overall assessment of impact and control, authorized from their own flag State and registered in Cambodia, and not using illegal fishing gears under Cambodian law. Relevant information had already been submitted to SEAFDEC for the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) and to FAO although the country does not have fishing vessels 24 m in length and over.

Controlling Illegal Fishing and Trading Practices of Live Reef Food Fish, Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species

Various inter- and intra-national meetings among relevant authorities on harvesting practices/data reporting including stakeholders' consultations had been conducted in Cambodia. Some agreements with NGOs exist for LRFF, *e.g.* identification of coral reef species, establishment of management system for coral reef conservation areas, control of trade, and listing of endangered species. Reef-based ornamentals and endangered species are sub-decreed for identification of endangered fishery resources (58 species: 29 species from inland and another 29 marine species) and a proclamation on protection measures for endangered fishery resources has been promulgated by the Department of Conservation which monitors and compiles LRFF data. Marine network for Community Fisheries was established in the Koh Rong Archipelago but a network among LRFF importing and exporting countries has not yet been established.

Strengthening the Management of Fishing in the High Seas and RFMO Areas

The country is attempting to implement port State measures (PSM) at landing sites used by foreign vessels which include control of port entry, use of port services, requirements for pre-port entry notification, and designation of ports for fishing vessels in high seas and RFMO Areas. In the past, FiA has not authorized any fishing vessels or carrier vessels flying its flag to fish or transship in the coastal waters of another State or in the high seas. The International Ship Registry of Cambodia (ISROC) maintains a register of all Cambodian flagged vessels, including the types of vessels, *e.g.* fishing vessel, fish carrier, etc., unfortunately control from the government, *i.e.* authorization and licensing are still insufficient. There is no mechanism to de-register vessels that have committed IUU offences or to prevent an IUU fishing vessel from registering.

Indonesia

Managing Fishing Activities

Access to utilize fisheries resources is granted to eligible person or entity under Fisheries Law No. 31/2004 and amendment No. 45/2009, which is not transferable and indicates that license is attached to person and boat ≥ 5 GT; Boat ≤ 5 GT should be registered; and currently adapted to Ministerial Regulation of Marine Affairs and Fisheries No. 23 of 2013 on registration and marking of fishing vessels, and No. 30 of 2012 amended by Ministerial Regulation No. 26 of 2013 and No. 57 of 2014 on capture fisheries business. Indonesia has issued several enactments and regulations for responsible fishing practices, *i.e.* the enactment of relevant Ministerial Regulations including those on: (1) limited entry; (2) boat restriction, *e.g.* size and engine power; (3) gear restriction, *e.g.* mesh regulation; (4) area restriction, *e.g.* zonation, determined fishing ground; (5) temporary closure in some local fishing communities; the Ministerial Regulation of Marine Affairs and Fisheries No. 42/2014 Juncto 2 of 2011 on Fishing Lanes and Deployment of Fishing Gears, No. 02/2015 on Prohibition of Trawling, No. 1/2015 on Capturing of Lobster and Crab in certain sizes. NPOA-IUU fishing has been implemented and endorsed through Ministerial Decree of Marine Affairs and Fisheries No. 50/2012. The use of environment-friendly fishing gears such as pole and line has also been promoted. System of reporting catch and compiling appropriate logbook information were regulated by Ministerial Regulation No. 48/2014 on fishing logbook and No. 1/2013 on observers' onboard program. Logbook system has been implemented for all licensed fishing vessels > 5 GT. Monitoring of all fishing operations is conducted for all fishing vessels with permits to operate in all of its archipelagic waters, EEZ and high seas. A Database Sharing System for fisheries management (DSS) has been developed and used as tool for traceability and several databases had been integrated, *e.g.* Registration of Fishing Vessel, Fishing License, Logbook, Catch Certificate, VMS, Authorization of Fishing Vessel to RFMO, Center of Fishing Port Information, Port Clearance, Operation Legal Letter of Fisheries Vessel. VMS is implemented for all fishing vessels > 30 GT as enacted under Ministerial Regulation No. 10/2012 and Ministerial Decree No. 42/2015. VMS online is also integrated with DSS. Analysis and Evaluation (ANEV) has been conducted to evaluate compliance of commercial fishing vessels to national laws and regulations, especially the Ministerial Regulation No. 56, No. 57 on moratorium and prohibition of transshipments.

Box 1. Initiatives of AMSs in improving fisheries management and combating IUU fishing (Cont'd)

Intensification of surveillance is conducted from time to time through implementation of VMS System, Patrol Boat, etc. Port State control is conducted through Report of Inspection on ports, implementation of Port Clearance for every fishing vessel for conducting fishing operations, market report by destination for export (Data on Catch Certificate), etc. Indonesia also conducts promotion of community-based management approach granted under Fisheries Law No. 31 of 2014.

Regulating Transshipment and Landing of Fish/Catch across Borders

Several regulations had been implemented to oblige every fishing vessel that operate in Indonesian waters to land their catches in Indonesian fishing ports by DG Decision No. 51/DJPT/2012 on Implementation Guidelines for Fishing Vessels in Fishing Ports. Foreign flag vessels not regulated under LPPNRI (national intelligence investigation body on good governance) and blacklisted vessels in RFMOs and other international organizations, are prohibited from fishing in Indonesian waters. As a signatory country to Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in 2009, Indonesia promulgated Ministerial Regulation No. 46/2014 on Quality and Safety Control of Fish and Fishery Product entering Indonesia. Inspection at port is conducted by inspectors from DG Surveillance (MCS) and DG of Capture Fisheries (Quality of Fish). Indonesia supports the RFVR initiated by SEAFDEC and has established the fisheries vessel registration database. Catch Certification has been implemented in the country since 1 January 2010 and the system is integrated with the DSS.

Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of ASEAN Member States

At present, there are five (5) designated ports in the country, *i.e.* Jakarta, Bitung, Bungus, Ambon, and Pelabuhan Ratu that had been improved in terms of port infrastructures and facilities. The country enhances coordination with all national law enforcement agencies for optimizing the surveillance patrols in Indonesian waters. Several workshops and focus group discussions had been conducted including those on PSM training curriculum in cooperation with NOAA-USAID and IOTC for socialization of the PSMA to relevant stakeholders.

Indonesia also actively cooperates with RPOA-IUU participating countries and with relevant agencies at national level. Fisheries vessels data had been provided for the RFVR and VMS database, *i.e.* vessels arrested from fishing in the high seas, the action of which will be undertaken through clarification and verification of relevant data, *e.g.* investigations on FV Wuhan - Benoa in 2013, FV Perlon - Batam in 2014, which are in accordance with the current national policy on combating IUU fishing.

Controlling Illegal Fishing and Trading Practices of Live Reef Food Fish, Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species

Indonesia is actively participating at relevant fora among relevant authorities that discuss issues on harvesting practices and data reporting of LRFF, reef-based ornamentals, and endangered aquatic species. Database for coral reef fish is being established in 2016 under the Core Map Project implemented by DG of Capture Fisheries to collect and monitor data and information on LRFF and reef-based ornamentals. This database will also be integrated with the existing DSS for traceability purposes. A regulation has also been issued under International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 (CITES) for import and export of endangered species and the country also participates in LRFF Network established under SEAFDEC.

Strengthening the Management of Fishing in the High Seas and RFMO Areas

Indonesia is now in the process of ratifying the PSMA and as such, is now implementing capacity building program for fisheries inspectors/fishing port officers. Observers' Onboard Program regulated under Ministerial Regulation of Marine Affairs and Fisheries No. 1 of 2013, has been implemented for fishing vessels operating in the Indonesian fisheries management areas. Indonesia is a full member of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and Commission for the Conservation of Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), and cooperates with the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) as cooperating non-member country. As a full member of CCSBT, Indonesia strictly applies catch documentation scheme (CDS) for the southern bluefin tuna in compliance with its relevant Resolutions.

Malaysia

Managing Fishing Activities

Fishing access is controlled through the registration for fishing vessels and issuance of licenses for fishing gears based on fishing zones under Fisheries Act 1985 and Regulations, placed under the purview of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOFM). All fishers are also registered by DOFM and issued fishermen's identification card. Unsustainable fishing practices such as electric fishing; use of poison, cyanide, and dynamites; pair trawl; and push nets are banned under the Fisheries Regulation 1980 (Prohibition of Fishing Methods). The 38 mm cod end mesh size for trawl nets had been enforced since November 2013 to reduce trash fish landing by trawlers. Under its NPOA-IUU, a standard operation procedure (SOP) has been established allowing actions to be taken against foreign fishing vessels landing their catches at Malaysian ports. Declaration of catch is imposed under the conditions of the fishing license, and all deep sea fishing vessels (70 GRT and above) must declare their catches using the LOV (Landing of Vessels) Report and e-Declaration. Failure to do so will result in suspension of fishing license. Fishing vessel records are maintained through an e-license system. Non-compliance to the national laws and regulations are recorded in the Offences SIRIP System (Sistem SIRIP Perundangan). All fishing vessels are monitored using appropriate monitoring system, *e.g.* VMS for vessels more than 70 GRT (C2) and Automatic Identification System (AIS) for all trawlers less than 70 GRT. All deep sea fishing vessels must install VMS which is regularly monitored by DOFM. Awareness campaign on responsible fishing practices/methods, IUU fishing and destructive fishing methods to stakeholders is organized through seminars, exhibitions, pamphlets, among others. Stakeholders' consultations are held involving target groups, *e.g.* fishermen/ fishermen's associations, school children/youth, consumers, traders, NGOs, relevant government agencies, politicians. Community-based management approach has been promoted to prevent, deter and eliminate any violations with support from relevant government agencies and communities, *e.g.* establishment of Fisheries Volunteers (SUPER) consisting of local fishers to serve as extension agents; "ears and eyes" for the government; communication channel between government and fishermen; search and rescue supporting team. Fisheries Resources Management Plan Using the EAFM Approach was established in Lawas, Sarawak as pilot site. MCS especially surveillance during fishing operations, is conducted by DOFM, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), Marine Operation Force under Royal Malaysian Police, and the Royal Malaysian Navy.

Regulating Transshipment and Landing of Fish/Catch across Borders

The country seeks cooperation from bordering countries and all RPOA-IUU Member Countries to deny Malaysian fishing vessels from entering and landing catches at their ports through a letter dated 11 March 2015. All RPOA-IUU Member Countries are requested to inspect Malaysian fishing vessels and prepare reports for transmission to Malaysia's RPOA-IUU Focal Point.

Box 1. Initiatives of AMSs in improving fisheries management and combating IUU fishing (Cont'd)

Bilateral dialogues had also been convened with neighbouring countries such as Thailand and Viet Nam, and data on registration of fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over had been submitted to the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database maintained by SEAFDEC. Malaysia is strengthening PSM through the establishment of the technical committee under the Ministry of Agriculture. Nevertheless, before any foreign fishing vessel is permitted to enter and land their catches at Malaysian ports, the status of the vessels is counterchecked with relevant organizations' database, e.g. IOTC, Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), RPOA-IUU Secretariat so that any blacklisted vessels would not be issued permit to enter Malaysian ports. Catch certification is already adopted as required by EC Regulation 1005/2008 to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Its relevant domestic legislations had been amended to facilitate the issuance of catch certificate, and the country has actively participated in various training programs/courses organized by regional and international organizations. SOP is already in place under NPOA-IUU for handling local and foreign fishing vessels that had been engaged in IUU fishing in and beyond Malaysian fisheries waters that enter any Malaysian ports.

Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of ASEAN Member States

Movement of local fishing vessels are detected using AIS or VMS. Fishing vessel owner is alerted if it has encroached bordering countries' waters. A show-cause letter will be issued to the owner of fishing vessel if VMS track shows that the vessel had been operating beyond its designated area, in which case, its license could be suspended or cancelled. The black list of IUU vessels provided by EU, IOTC and other RFMOs is utilized and updated with the list of foreign fishing vessels caught operating illegally in Malaysian waters. Information on IUU vessels are exchanged among AMSs upon request. Malaysia will inform the flag State of IUU fishing vessels through diplomatic channels. Malaysia shared information to the RFVR Database (for fishing vessels more than 24 m in length). Although there has been no bilateral agreement with any foreign country to allow fishing in Malaysian fisheries waters, Section 15 of Fisheries Act 1985 provides that it is mandatory to have a government-to-government agreement before allowing foreign fishing vessels to fish in Malaysian fisheries waters.

Controlling Illegal Fishing and Trading Practices of Live Reef Food Fish, Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species

Meetings are convened to discuss issues compiled by relevant Malaysian agencies and stakeholders with MOA as lead agency of a committee which includes representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Ministry of Tourism, DOFM, MMEA, Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services (MAQIS), Royal Malaysia Customs Department, Sarawak Forestry Department, Sabah Fisheries Department, LKIM, Marine Parks, Sabah Parks, NGOs, and Stakeholders (live fish traders, aquarists, relevant importers and exporters, tour operators and fishermen associations). MAQIS manages and monitors import and export of fish, fishery products, LRFF and reef-based ornamentals at entry point. Section 40 of the Fisheries Act requires a permit to import and export live fish. Fisheries Regulation (Control of Endangered Fish Species) Amendment 2008 and International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 (CITES) are enforced to avoid inappropriate export of endangered aquatic species. Consultations and awareness programs for small-scale/artisanal fishers through dialogues, seminars, road shows, pamphlets, exhibitions, mass media, social media and education, are conducted from time to time accordingly. Fisheries Management Information System (FMIS) managed by Data Collection Section of DOFM is compiling the information on landing by species and fishing gears. Malaysia participates in the LRFFT Network.

Strengthening the Management of Fishing in the High Seas and RFMO Areas

Malaysia is complying with the Resolution of IOTC although it has yet to ratify the PSMA. Capacity building on PSM was conducted by IOTC to train relevant officials on port inspections including control of port entry, use of port services, requirements for pre-port entry notification, and designation of ports for fishing vessels. Observers are placed onboard Malaysian flagged carrier vessels in accordance with IOTC resolutions. Although Malaysia does not have the expertise on observers' onboard, it cooperates with RFMOs, e.g. IOTC, CCAMLR, by denying port entry upon receipt of notification on IUU fishing vessels, and IUU fishing vessels could be charged under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance 1952 and Fisheries Act 1985. Apart from being a member of IOTC which does not have a Catch Document Scheme yet, Malaysia is not yet a member of other RFMOs.

Myanmar

Managing Fishing Activities

Policy and legal framework for MCS measures has already been set up in Myanmar with the Department of Marine Administration (DMA) conducting vessel measurements and registrations. The Department of Fisheries (DoF) issues fishing licences based on the vessels' registration with DMA, including permitted fishing gear which is limited in number or size. Photos of vessels are included in the fishing licence together with vessel marking (hull colour, word colour and diameter) for all fishing vessels including foreign fishing vessels.

Collaboration with fisheries stakeholders has been promoted for the improvement of fisheries management and promotion of conservation measures, e.g. identification of closed season and closed area. Myanmar is preparing the draft of a new fisheries law in accordance with its 2008 Constitution and relevant international instruments, to include among others, licence conditions and use of logbooks for all offshore fishing vessels. VMS must be installed in all foreign fishing vessels and local fishing vessels in order not to violate the law and regulations. While all foreign fishing vessels must be installed with VMS, DoF is seeking the assistance of IGOs and NGOs for the installation of VMS in all its local offshore fishing vessels. DoF is compiling the vessels inventory for offshore fishing vessels, and is updating its vessels records for the RFVR Database maintained by SEAFDEC. Awareness of destructive fishing gears is promoted to the fishers. The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development (MLFRD) of Myanmar encourages the formation of fishers groups and development of cooperatives in fisheries, to also serve as conservation teams to support the MCS measures of DoF. A total of 1148 groups have been organized involving 16,576 members from fishing, processing and aquafarming in all states and regions. DoF has implemented the project on "Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in Coastal Mangrove Ecosystems (GCP/MYA/010/ITA) in 13 villages in Bogale Township, Ayeyarwady Region since September 2010 which extends until 2016 as approved by FAO and the Italian Government. The Project aims to strengthen the capacity of participating communities and supporting institutions in the target areas on co-management, implementation of sustainable and mangrove-friendly small-scale aquaculture. DoF also organized the Training on Practical Approach to Community-based Fisheries Management in Coastal Areas of Myanmar in 2002 with 49 participants. Vessel control is carried out using check-in and check-out system as a one-stop inter-agencies service involving the DMA, Customs Department, Myanmar Ports Authority and DoF, among others. DoF designates the landing sites and checkpoints for local and foreign fishing vessels for inspection and port control.

Box 1. Initiatives of AMSs in improving fisheries management and combating IUU fishing (Cont'd)

Regulating Transshipment and Landing of Fish/Catch across Borders

Some arrangements already exist in the country on trading with bordering countries such as free-on-board (F.O.B) system where the seller fulfills its obligations to deliver when the goods have passed over the vessel's rail. Myanmar and Thailand cooperated for the implementation of a fishing rights program since 2010 which was terminated in 2014. Under such agreement, fishing vessels from Thailand were allowed to fish in Myanmar EEZ, provided such vessels are registered and recommended by the Authority of Thailand. In the existing Fisheries Law of Myanmar, provisions for port entry and port inspection are included. Recently, no foreign fishing vessels had been blacklisted. The country has implemented the EU Catch Certification Scheme with other documents issued for market measures, e.g. Country of Origin (CoO), Product Movement Document (PMD) and Health Certificate, among others.

Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of ASEAN Member States

DoF has set up the rules to install VMS system to check local fishing vessels that violate existing laws and regulations in line with the International Plan of Action-IUU. For first offence, fishing vessel must pay fines and punished by installing VMS, and for the second offence, the vessel must be confiscated by DoF. VMS system has also been initiated for local fishing vessels which are not allowed to fish in high seas and other countries' EEZs. Sharing of information on blacklisted fishing vessels has not yet been initiated, although Myanmar provides data to RFVR Database at SEAFDEC, and agrees to continue updating the information annually. There are no mutual and bilateral agreements between Myanmar and neighbouring countries for permission to fish in Myanmar's EEZ. DoF has the authority to confiscate fishing vessels that operate without licence in Myanmar's EEZ.

Controlling Illegal Fishing and Trading Practices of Live Reef Food Fish, Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species

Myanmar Fisheries Federation conducts regular inter- and intra-agency meeting every Tuesday among relevant authorities and fisheries stakeholders to address problems on fisheries-related issues. Data compilation is carried out by DoF through logbooks and data collection at landing sites, and is trying to seek the assistance of IGOs such as FAO or Italian Government for the development of data compilation system and analysis. Export or import of aquatic species needs prior permission from DoF, and such export or import must be attached with Country of Origin, Health Certificate and Catch Certificate issued by importing or exporting countries, although importing or exporting as well as trading of endangered species including CITES-listed species is prohibited without CITES permit. The Department of Trade issues an import and export license based on the recommendations from DoF. Awareness is promoted to fishers on prohibition against use of destructive fishing gears, especially using explosives, toxic substances and electricity, and promotion of responsible fishing practices. Fisheries co-management in small-scale fisheries has been initiated in the Delta Area through the implementation of a project funded by FAO and the Italian Government.

Strengthening the Management of Fishing in the High Seas and RFMO Areas

Myanmar signed the PSMA in 2010 for instrument accession, and local fishing vessels are not allowed to fish in the high seas and RFMO areas until now. In the country's law relating to fishing rights of foreign fishing vessels (1989), the contexts on port State measures are already prescribed. DoF has set up the licence conditions with regards to ports inspection for local and foreign fishing vessels which are operating in the country's EEZ. Although observers' onboard program has not yet been initiated, this program would need employment and training of more DoF staff.

Philippines

Managing Fishing Activities

Fishing access is controlled through the issuance of fishing vessel registration, gear license and special fishing permit, and municipal fishing boat license. The two types of municipal registration system are: Municipal Fisherfolk Registration System (FishR) and Municipal Boat Registration System (BoatR). FishR was created as a national database across the country and accessed by all local government units. To date, there are 1,656,174 fisherfolks already in the registry system, and counting. BoatR is a centralized database system to guide local government in the nationwide registration of fishing boats 3 GT and below. There are now 151,550 municipal fishing vessels registered in the system. Mobile applications for BoatR are used to validate and transmit information on registered fishing vessels. Responsible fishing practices are promoted through establishment of temporal closed fishing season in certain areas, i.e. East Sulu Sea, Basilan Strait, Sibuguey Bay, Visayan Sea, Davao Gulf, and Palawan; regulations on mesh size; fishing closure in fish aggregating devices (FADs); and using Remote Sensing for resource protection. Under existing regulations, RA 10654 "An Act to Prevent, Deter, Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing", all fishing vessels must declare their catch and online reporting of estimated catch could be made through Marlin Pro. The Philippines implements the National Inspection Plan FLE-QRTF for monitoring the fishing vessels, with Multi-Mission Vessels and Inspection at landing. VMS is in place for fishing vessels above 30 GT operating in HSP1/EEZs of other countries. The law that provides various stringent measures to conserve and protect fishery resources and prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing has been amended, in accordance with regional resolutions and international conventions, i.e. EO 154, s. 2013, National Plan of Action against IUU Fishing, and RA 10654 (February 2015) amended the 1998 Fisheries Code that indicates increased penalties of up to PhP45 Million (USD 1M), based on gross tonnage. The amended law expresses the serious efforts of national government in managing and rehabilitating Philippine fishery resources.

The passage of the law has largely been attributed as one of the factors leading to the lifting of the "yellow card" imposed by the European Union. The implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the said law provides for a staggered or phased implementation of the Fisheries Observer and Vessel Monitoring Measures for a period of 6 months to 2 years and for a period of 6 months to 4 years, respectively, based on gross tonnage of the fishing vessel. Development of a fully operational, on-line VMS for all vessels above 30 GT, in particular for fishing vessels operating in the high seas, RFMO areas and EEZ of third countries regulated by RA 10654 that requires VMS for commercial vessels, on a phased approach. For intensifying surveillance during fishing operation under the existing National Inspection Plan based on FAO IPOA-IUU Fishing and using law and technology for strengthened law enforcement, a dedicated enforcement office and quick response teams had been created to serve as National Coast Watch that integrates and strengthens Philippine maritime security initiatives by creating a central inter-agency mechanism for a coordinated and coherent approach on maritime issues and maritime security operations towards enhancing governance of Philippines' maritime domain.

Box 1. Initiatives of AMSs in improving fisheries management and combating IUU fishing (Cont'd)

Regulating Transshipment and Landing of Fish/Catch across Borders

The Joint Committee on Fisheries Cooperation between the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (PH-BFAR) and the Papua New Guinea's National Fisheries Authority (PNG-NFA) agreed to share data or information relating to transshipment and landing of catches between bordering countries. The Philippines has also developed its Fishing Vessel Electronic Licensing System for sharing information among neighboring countries if required. The Philippines already ratify the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) and amended the Philippine Fisheries Code to strengthen measures for bilateral fisheries cooperation; traceability/fish accountancy for sharing of data/information, inspection and monitoring of landings and National Inspection Plan; and validation/issuance of Catch Origin Landing Declaration (COLD).

Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of ASEAN Member States

The Catch Certification had been implemented under Fisheries Administrative Order 238 and BFAR Administrative Circular 251 (Traceability System for Fish and Fishery Products) to prevent entry of products from IUU fishing. Bilateral agreements/MOUs had also been established with the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Viet Nam and Taiwan ROC. The installation of VMS, implementation of fisheries observers' program, and FLE-QRT had been carried out to prevent poaching in the EEZs of neighboring countries.

Controlling Illegal Fishing and Trading Practices of Live Reef Food Fish, Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species

The Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Services had been implemented as well as the Regional Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee to control inappropriate export of endangered aquatic species. The Philippines also has conducted the National Stock Assessment Program for monitoring and compilation of data with expanded data collection points from 173 to 739 landing sites. Operators maintaining LRFF and ornamentals are also required to submit production data annually.

Strengthening the Management of Fishing in the High Seas and RFMO Areas

The Philippines has implemented PSM/NIP based on 2001 FAO-IPOA, FOP and has already submitted its ratification of UNFSA. Management of fishing in the high seas has been strengthened by existing Fisheries Observers Program, *i.e.* high seas pocket 1 and during FAD closure period. Cooperation with other flag States had also been enhanced through exchange of relevant data and information.

Singapore

Managing Fishing Activities

Singapore has an established system for vessel registration and licensing of fishing gears, where all fishing vessels and fishing gears used onboard fishing vessels need to be licensed by the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore, and to be renewed annually. Singapore prohibits the use of poisons and explosives in fishing practices/methods. Although Singapore does not have fishing vessels more than 70 GRT, a system is in place whereby all commercial fishing vessels declare their catch landed. Singapore closely monitors all its commercial fishing vessels, and ensures that such vessels do not engage in IUU fishing activities and are fishing at designated fishing areas. All licensed commercial fishing vessels are installed with VMS. Foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to fish in Singapore waters while sites for landing fish had been designated where inspections are carried out.

Regulating Transshipment and Landing of Fish/Catch across Borders

The country's licensed commercial fishing vessels can only operate in its waters and land fish only in Singapore. Actively participating and supporting regional fisheries meetings to discuss mutual agreements on licensing system, Singapore maintains data recording and supports sharing of information on licensing system and regulations, *e.g.* to the RFVR Database, and also actively monitors RFMOs' IUU lists. Foreign fishing vessels in such IUU vessels lists are denied entry and provision of port services in Singapore as the lead country for the development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS). Singapore is a cooperating non-contracting party to CCAMLR, IOTC and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) but cooperates with these RFMOs to comply with their catch documentation requirements. Singapore has designated sites for landing fish where surveillance and inspections are carried out. A comprehensive review of its fisheries legislation is being carried out to strengthen existing laws and regulations for preventing entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain.

Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of ASEAN Member States

All Singapore licensed commercial fishing vessels have been installed with VMS and are licensed to fish only in Singapore waters. Only licensed fishing vessels are allowed to operate in Singapore waters, and non-compliance could lead to revocation of licenses, fines and imprisonment. Singapore cooperates with the programs of the RPOA-IUU, which include setting up of a watch list for illegal vessels. Where there is a requirement to establish formal arrangements, the country would cooperate with the relevant neighboring countries to establish mutual bilateral/multilateral agreements for permission to fish in each other's fishing areas.

Controlling Illegal Fishing and Trading Practices of Live Reef Food Fish, Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species

Singapore participated in inter- and intra- agency coordination meetings on trade and data reporting of LRFF, reef-based ornamentals, and endangered aquatic species, when necessary. A system is in place whereby all commercial fishing vessels declare their catch landed, and all import and export of reef-based ornamentals should be declared. Singapore is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and has zero tolerance on the use of Singapore as a conduit to smuggle endangered species and their parts and products. The country will continue to cooperate and collaborate with partner enforcement agencies nationally and internationally to ensure that export of endangered aquatic species is avoided, except for research and experimental purposes for which such export should be accompanied by appropriate documents. Singapore supports a network between the LRFF importing and exporting countries, to strengthen LRFF management at the regional level, where applicable.

Box 1. Initiatives of AMSs in improving fisheries management and combating IUU fishing (Cont'd)

Strengthening the Management of Fishing in the High Seas and RFMO Areas

Singapore requires all foreign fishing vessels to provide advance notification for pre-port entry. IUU vessels are denied entry into Singapore, especially at its designated fishery ports for fishing vessels. Singapore fishing carriers plying the high seas have implemented observers' onboard program, where necessary as per the requirements of relevant RFMOs. Singapore is a cooperating non-contracting party to CCAMLR, IOTC and ICCAT but work closely with these RFMOs to comply with their catch documentation requirements.

Thailand

Managing Fishing Activities

The Royal Ordinance on Fisheries 2015 prescribes that all Thai fishing vessels must have authorization to fish both in Thai waters and outside Thai waters from the Department of Fisheries (DOF). The regulation requires all important information to be submitted during application. All fishing vessels are registered and licensed by the Marine Department while fishing gears are licensed by the DOF. Thailand's marine fisheries are reformed into a limited access regime. An e-licensing system and vessel marking system had been developed. Destructive fishing gears are prohibited under the law. Port-In Port-Out (PIPO) centers had been set-up to control port in and port out of Thai fishing vessels 30 GT and over. NPOA-IUU had been established, adopted and implemented starting end of 2015, as well as Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) promoting responsible fishing practices and methods to both commercial fisheries and small-scale fisheries. The Royal Ordinance on Fisheries 2015 was entered into force on 14 November 2015, and Sub-ordinate laws following the Royal Ordinance prescribe that catch reporting information is a requirement for fishing license issuance. Fishing logbook is applied to fishing vessels 30 GT and over. Thailand has established National Plan for Control and Inspection to monitor fishing vessels through PIPO centers, inspection at port and inspection at sea. Fishing vessels of 30 GT and over are prescribed to install VMS System and there are now 5,200 vessels of 30 GT and over that have installed functioning VMS. There are 2,076 vessels 60 GT and over, and 2,000 other fishing vessels operating in Thai waters and 76 fishing vessels operate outside Thai waters. There are 3,124 fishing vessels between 30-60 GT. The newly established Royal Ordinance on Fisheries is aimed at combating IUU fishing and complies with the international conservation and management measures. Fisheries Management Plan, NPOA-IUU and MCS have been established focusing on combating IUU fishing. Destructive fishing gears have been banned while control of some fishing gears such as trawl with 4 cm cod-end mesh size must be used for trawlers. Community-based management approach has been promoted for sustainable fisheries management. For surveillance, VMS monitoring is functioning 24 hours a day and fisheries patrol is in place as sea control units by DOF for surveillance along the coastal areas. Thailand has been designated ports to IOTC and other RFMOs. In addition, PSM operations for foreign fishing vessels started in September 2015, and there are now 27 designated ports implementing PSM for foreign vessels.

Regulating Transshipment and Landing of Fish/Catch across Borders

Thailand has fishery cooperation with bordering countries in terms of MOU or implementing arrangements to exchange information of landings, e.g. Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Viet Nam, PNG, and has regular bilateral/multi-lateral arrangements with neighboring countries via the Gulf of Thailand Project. Thailand also supports the RFVR Database. The country had implemented PSM since September 2015 based on IOTC resolutions in 27 designated ports covering 22 coastal provinces. List of foreign IUU fishing vessels had been provided to Thailand, and it had established a catch certification system for fish and fishery products implemented since 1 January 2010. A program on fish inspection at landing site and PIPO control had been implemented since 2015. The Royal Ordinance on Fisheries 2015 was established to put more focus in conservation and management measures, combating IUU fishing, sanctions and labour issues including the prevention of entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain.

Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of ASEAN Member States

Using VMS, Thailand has established Fishery Operational and Monitoring Center to monitor fishing vessels. All fishing vessels 30 GT and over must be equipped with functioning VMS. NPOA-IUU as well as the FMP prescribed the activities such as flag State, port State and coastal State measures. NPOA-IUU has already been adopted by the Thai Cabinet. Thailand has compiled and shared the list of foreign IUU fishing vessels from RPOA-IUU and those that had notified the IUU vessels lists. Sharing of blacklisted fishing vessels among the relevant countries is not yet done. Information on fishing vessels 24 m and over has been sent to SEAFDEC for the RFVR Database, and would updated once a year. MOU on fishing cooperation has been developed between Thailand and coastal countries, i.e. Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, PNG, and Viet Nam.

Controlling Illegal Fishing and Trading Practices of Live Reef Food Fish, Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species

MOU among agencies on sharing information (Marine Department, Maritime Enforcement Coordinating Center, Royal Thai Navy, Marine Police Division, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security) to establish a fishing information network to be used at PIPO Center. Cooperation with Customs Department on import, export and transit of fish and fishery products is established. DOF has also set up the mechanism for monitoring and data collection on import, export and transit of fish and fishery products. Thailand complies with CITES regulation and Thai Wildlife Reservation and Protection Act 1992, e.g. permit system is regulated to control import and export transit of endangered aquatic species. Small-scale/artisanal fishers are involved in co-management activities. Awareness program on the impacts of IUU fishing and trading of such fish and products are being implemented. A network between the LRFFT importing and exporting countries has not yet been implemented.

Strengthening the Management of Fishing in the High Seas and RFMO Areas

Thailand started implementation of PSM since September 2015 at 27 designated ports and PSM Manual has also been developed. Thailand started its observers' onboard program with its first implementation in February 2016 and a training program for 40 observers.

Viet Nam

Managing Fishing Activities

Fishing access is controlled through legislations that require licensing for fishing vessels, vessels marking and setting up of zoning system, but quota systems are not yet in place. Registrations for trawlers had been held in abeyance since November 2015 while changing to other gears from trawlers was not allowed. The NPOA-IUU has been approved by the Minister on 5 April 2014. Logbook provision is compulsory for all fishing vessels under the Fisheries Law however compliance is still a problem. Fisheries Surveillance

Box 1. Initiatives of AMSs in improving fisheries management and combating IUU fishing (Cont'd)

Department was established recently with port sampling activities carried out especially for tuna fisheries. Initially, VMS had been installed on 3,000 offshore vessels but legislation that makes VMS installation compulsory has not yet been promulgated. Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) concepts were introduced to some provinces under a national project and some pilot sites were selected to implement the EBM approach. NPOA-IUU considers the implementation and approval of PSM but unfortunately, designated landing port regulations have not been established and Catch Certificate is only for export to EU countries and not for other destinations.

Regulating Transshipment and Landing of Fish/Catch across Borders

MoUs were signed with some countries in the region such as Cambodia, Thailand, and Philippines but the actions in these MoUs are very broad and not specific. Viet Nam participated in the RFVR Database managed by SEAFDEC, and is a Member of RPOA-IUU. The Fisheries Law provides that local authorities must furnish the Central Government with blacklisted vessels for publicity.

Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of ASEAN Member States

To date, Viet Nam has not yet approved the port State measures and flag State measures. Viet Nam is involved and participated in RPOA-IUU, and has also established regulations on national blacklisted IUU vessels.

Controlling Illegal Fishing and Trading Practices of Live Reef Food Fish, Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species

Viet Nam conducted inter- and intra- meetings annually among relevant authorities on harvesting practices and data reporting of LRFF, reef-based ornamentals, and endangered aquatic species. Data collection mechanisms are included in the MPAs regulations following the CITES regulations. The country also convenes meetings to discuss fisheries management. Trials at selected pilot sites have been conducted to implement co-management and the Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) approaches.

Strengthening the Management of Fishing in the High Seas and RFMO Areas

Provisions on PSM have been reflected in the country's NPOA-IUU. Viet Nam has established its national observers' program with the first implementation in February 2016 and already conducted some trials with observers' onboard fishing vessels. Viet Nam has also implemented effectively the EC Regulation but partly implements ICCAT's big-eye tuna (BET) and swordfish (SWO) catch statistics document.

levels. In order to promote the Guidelines and assist the AMSs in developing effective and practical national implementation plans, domestic circumstances in fishing and trading should be carefully examined taking into consideration each country's situation. Promotion for the implementation of the Guidelines in the AMSs also requires that strategies and recommended appropriate measures are established to prevent the entry of IUU fish and fishery products into the supply chain. As the situations surrounding fisheries and trading in the AMSs are different country by country, this should be carefully taken into consideration when establishing the strategies. Thus, countries' self-initiatives to develop appropriate national implementation plans must be esteemed for the Guidelines based on their own legal and governance frameworks. For smooth and effective implementation, active participation of all stakeholders in decision-making processes is also essential. In addition, sharing information among countries would also facilitate discussion for further consideration of the effective, practical, appropriate actions/protocols at national/domestic levels. Sharing of information would also contribute further harmonization of the commercial measures among ASEAN countries to combat IUU fishing by preventing the trade of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing.

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