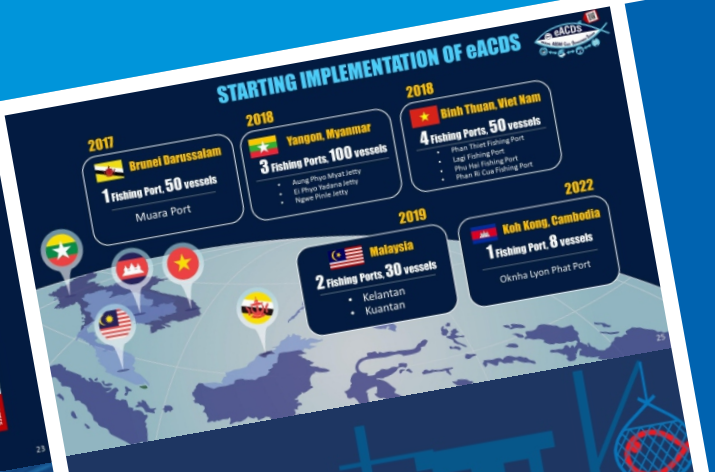
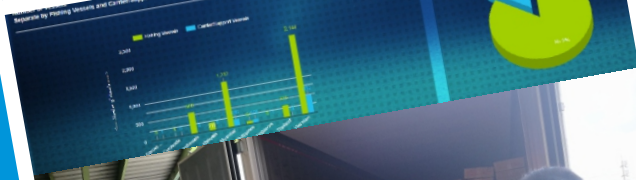


Report of The Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia 20–21 March 2024 Chonburi Province, Thailand



RFVR
Regional Fishing Vessels eCard
A primary tool to reduce the IUU fishing in Southeast Asian Region



REPORT OF

**THE WORKSHOP ON THE PROJECT END OF STRENGTHENING REGIONAL
COOPERATION AND ENHANCING NATIONAL CAPACITIES TO ELIMINATE
IUU FISHING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

20–21 March 2024

Chonburi Province, Thailand

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

TD/RP/238

April 2024

PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

Report of the Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia, Chonburi, Thailand, 20-21 March 2024 was prepared by the Training Department to participants of the workshop. The report is distributed to the SEAFDEC Member Countries, SEAFDEC Departments, and concerned institutions.

SUGGESTED CITATION

Training Department, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center. (2024). Report of the Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia. 38 pp.

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Report

The Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia 20–21 March 2024

I. Introduction

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) has been implementing a critical project titled "Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia." This project is under the JTF 6-II program, spanning the years 2020-2024.

To assess the project's effectiveness and identify recommendations for future efforts, a workshop titled "Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia" was held from 20-21 March 2024. The workshop took place at A-ONE The Royal Cruise in Pattaya, Chonburi Province, Thailand. This workshop aimed to summarize project implementation, identify recommendations, and determine the way forward for combating and eliminating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia. The prospectus of the Workshop is in **Annex 1**.

Thirty-six participants attended the Workshop. They are 18 representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam), 5 resource persons, 5 SEAFDEC/SEC staff, 5 SEAFDEC/TD staff, and 3 observers. The list of participants is in **Annex 2**.

II. Opening of the Workshop

SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn addressed participants at the Workshop, highlighting the critical urgency of tackling IUU fishing in Southeast Asia. This illegal activity threatens the region's fisheries' sustainable development. As the Project enters its final year, this Workshop serves a dual purpose: summarizing its achievements and seeking recommendations for continued progress in combating and eliminating IUU fishing across Southeast Asia. Her opening remarks appear in **Annex 3**.

III. Implementation and the Success of the Project Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia (2020-2024)

The presentation "Implementation and the Success of the Project Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia (2020-2024)" was presented by Mr. Kongpathai Saraphaivanich, Head of Training and Information Section, and Lead Technical Officer of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia project. He focused on implementation and the success of the project as follows; 1) Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR), 2) strengthening national capacities in the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM) and Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS), 3) further promoting electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS), and 4) coordinating and promoting a national/regional/ international network for collaborative activities to combat IUU fishing. Moreover, milestones of the project implementation and possible follow-up actions were presented. The presentation appears in **Annex 4**.

IV. Ongoing Implementation Activities for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

The questionnaire on ongoing implementation activities for combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia was sent to ASEAN Member States (AMSs). The reply of the questionnaire was submitted by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The summaries are as follows:

Part I: Ongoing Implementation Activities for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

Country	Implementation Activities
Brunei Darussalam	<p>Law and regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of NPOA <p>Fleet management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption and utilization of AIS on selected fishing vessels <p>MCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing fishing zonation system • Establishing marine-protected areas (MPAs) • Banning catching, landing, and trading of all shark species (since 2015) • Registration and licensing of fishing gear and import/export activities <p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcing new mesh size regulations (51mm) for commercial trawlers • Marine Police: Surveillance and prevention within 12 nautical miles. • Navy: Sea patrols beyond 12 nautical miles to address foreign vessel encroachment. • Weekly sea & river patrols in Zone 1 (0-3 nautical miles) targeting local fishermen. • Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAF) Aerial patrols using Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS) for broader coverage.
Cambodia	<p>Law and regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed the Marine Fisheries Management Plan (MFMP) for sustainable practices in coastal areas. • Drafted regulations for fishing area zoning and gear restrictions. • Adopted the new Fisheries Law to strengthen the legal framework for combating IUU fishing. • Adopted and implemented the National Plan of Action for Combating IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU). • Developed a roadmap to guide future actions against IUU fishing. • Plans to update the NPOA-IUU to address evolving challenges. <p>Fleet management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted a census validation to verify and update information on registered vessels. • Collaborates with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to improve registration data. • Significantly increased new fishing vessel registrations in 2023.

Country	Implementation Activities
	<p>MCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborates with Thailand and Viet Nam through SEAFDEC to manage shared fish stocks in the Gulf of Thailand (UNFSA and MFMP). • Established the Marine Vessel Database for detailed tracking of fishing vessels. • Conducted comprehensive mapping of sensitive marine ecosystems. • Provided training on Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for improved tracking. • Established standard operating procedures for inspections and VMS/PSMA unit operations. • Installed 125 VMS units on vessels. • Use SMART Inspection Tool for recording inspections at landing sites and at sea. • Conducts monthly catch assessments for marine species. • Digitizes provincial fisheries data in the Fisheries Information Management System (FIMS). • Reports on neritic tuna, a transboundary stock in the Gulf of Thailand. <p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully implemented National Plan to Control and Inspection (NPCI) indicators.
Indonesia	<p>Fleet management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Vessel Registration and Licensing <p>MCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Inspections • Vessel Monitoring System • Sea Patrols • Aerial Surveillance • Community-Based Surveillance • Awareness Raising Programs • Port State Measures (PSM) Implementation • Capacity Building for Fisheries Personnel and Communities such as inspectors, investigators, community surveillance group <p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Sanctions • Criminal Investigations
Lao PDR	<p>Law and regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendment aquatic and fisheries law and fisheries management regulations • Fishing regulation <p>Fleet management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boat registration <p>MCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing license • Fishers registration

Country	Implementation Activities
	<p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement aquatic and fisheries law • Patrolling fish conservation zone with other relevant enforcement agencies and fisheries management committee (FMC)
Malaysia	<p>Law and regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fisheries Act 1985 was amended in 2019 to increase fines for foreign vessels encroaching on Malaysian waters. The act is being further amended to address new issues <p>MCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A committee including Department of Fisheries (DOF), Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), Marine Police, Customs, and Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services (MAQIS) works together to combat IUU fishing. • Different agencies collaborate and participate in joint operations to tackle IUU fishing.
Myanmar	<p>Fleet management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly updates data on the SEAFDEC Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) platform to facilitate information exchange among member countries and eliminate IUU fishing. <p>MCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances cooperation and collaboration with other countries, including multi-national investigations of IUU fishing. • Shares information based on the principles of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). • Strengthens collaboration with regional and international fisheries organizations to exchange information, experiences, and best practices for combating IUU fishing. <p>Traceability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides training on the use of eACDS (Electronic Catch Document and Traceability System) software for fisheries officers and vessel owners. This strengthens their capacity to implement the traceability system and prevents IUU products from entering the supply chain. <p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements the National Plan of Action for Combating IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) by utilizing existing fisheries laws and regulations. This includes measures like: Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), Port inspections and Catch data collection and management.
Philippines	<p>Law and regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Philippine Fisheries Code (RA 10654) with stricter measures against IUU fishing. • Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the revised code. <p>Fleet management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BoatR and FishR programs for registration and licensing of municipal fishing boats and fishermen, respectively in municipal waters.

Country	Implementation Activities
	<p>MCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous monitoring, surveillance, and operations at sea and on land. • Training for Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) inspectors. • Development of tools like IUU Fishing Index and Threat (IFIT) assessments. • Regular training and workshops for law enforcement officers. • Fisheries National Administrative Register, and online platform for case management. • Installation of transponders and monitoring measures on commercial fishing vessels. • Ongoing effort to improve fisheries management systems and capacities. <p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement and full-blown administrative proceedings against violators. • Implementation of penalties including fines, confiscations, and license suspensions. • Implementation of Fisheries Administrative Orders (FAO) 267 series of 2021 and 267-1 for PSMA.
Thailand	<p>MCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing AN-IUU (details unknown, likely a national action plan) • Implementing SEA IUU program under the RPOA-IUU (Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia) • Utilizing various MCS tools including Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), Electronic Monitoring and Electronic Reporting Systems (EM&ERS), Port-in/Port-out (PIPO) controls, Port State Measures (PSM), Port Security Management and Risk Assessment Tool (PSMART), E-licensing system, Fishing information system • Joint patrols with other maritime enforcement agencies • Implementing the Global Information Exchange System (GIES) from the FAO <p>Traceability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing a Thai-flagged fishing vessel traceability system
Viet Nam	<p>Law and regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended government decrees related to IUU fishing. <p>Fleet management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured clear registration markings (registration number) on all vessels at port. <p>MCS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced control of fishing vessel landings, requiring all vessels to use designated ports. • Continued efforts to collaborate with other countries in combating IUU fishing.

Country	Implementation Activities
	<p>Traceability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented Electronic Catch Document Traceability in January 2024. <p>Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased penalties for violations such as missing VMS data or fishing illegally in foreign waters.

Part II: Benefits and Lessons Learned from Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia Project

Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)

- Supporting verification of vessel information when needed.
- Supports data sharing within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- Sharing information on fishing vessels is essential for effective regional fisheries management, through crucial for identifying and combating IUU fishing in the region.
- Utilizes the RFVR to monitor foreign-flagged fishing vessels, supporting the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).
- Track the movement of fishing vessels across the region. Verify the identity of vessels requesting entry to other member state ports, and potentially identify suspicious activity and combat IUU fishing.
- Reliable source for registered/licensed vessels in Southeast Asia.

Regional capacity building and support on implementation of PSM and MCS

- Increase understanding and knowledge gained from regional capacity building and support on implementing PSM and MCS such as port inspection, UNCLOS in fisheries perspective, etc.

Promotion of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme

- Understanding and trial to use application tool (eACDS) for the traceability of fish and fisheries products as a prototype to develop an electronic traceability system in the future.

V. Ongoing Global and Regional Implementation through Future Trends on Combating IUU Fishing

Efforts combatting IUU fishing in the Asian Region

Dr. Angela Lentisco, a Fishery and Aquaculture Officer from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, delivered a presentation titled "Combating IUU Fishing in the Asian Region." She discussed common IUU activities within Asia and the organization's efforts to combat them. These efforts include developing methods to measure IUU's impact, fostering regional cooperation to establish standards and share information, and promoting international agreements like the IPOA-IUU to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing. She also highlighted the importance of IUU control for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 14 and FAO's work on implementing measures like port state controls and information sharing systems. Details of her presentation are provided in **Annex 5**.

RPOA-IUU Secretariat

Mr. Matheus Eko Rudianto, Deputy Executive Director of the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Practices including Combating IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU), presented the organization's work in tackling illegal fishing globally and regionally. The RPOA-IUU, a voluntary agreement for responsible fishing, presented its work on combating illegal fishing. Member countries fight IUU fishing through national plans, regulations, and cooperation. In 2024, they're encouraged to adopt the WTO Fisheries Agreement and improve worker conditions. The RPOA-IUU suggests focusing on fisher safety, traceability, data sharing, and stronger enforcement to further improve efforts. Details of his presentation can be found in **Annex 6**.

Current and Future Planning, and Trend Implementation Activities/Projects to Combat IUU Fishing in ASEAN

Mr. Muhammad Fikri Kodri, The ASEAN secretariat presented on the current and future planning, and trend implementation activities/projects to combat IUU fishing in ASEAN. He introduced the ASEAN fisheries cooperation framework under the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF), which includes the establishment and implementation of the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU). Regarding the ASEAN policy framework for combating IUU fishing, three approaches are 1) a Plan of Action of the AN-IUU from 2023-2025, 2) an ASEAN Roadmap on combating IUU fishing from 2021-2025, and 3) a Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries from 2021-2025. A more detailed presentation appears in **Annex 7**.

Addressing IUU Fishing in the Bay of Bengal – National Efforts and Regional Drive

Mr. Rajdeep Mukherjee, Policy Analyst of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) presented the Addressing IUU Fishing in the Bay of Bengal – National Efforts and Regional Drive. BOBP-IGO tackles the global threat of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Bay of Bengal. Their approach is comprehensive, aiming for sustainable fisheries management that considers both fish stocks and the well-being of those in the industry. BOBP-IGO utilizes key strategies like legal and policy frameworks, Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS), and stakeholder engagement to combat IUU fishing. This emphasis on cooperation mirrors the positive outlook for the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) in Asian countries. By working together, nations can create a more effective framework to ensure sustainable fisheries management across the region. Details of his presentation are provided in **Annex 8**.

VI. Group Discussion on the Way Forward and Activities to Combat IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region

The Workshop divided participants into two discussion groups. Dr. Worawit Wanchana, Policy and Program Coordinator, facilitated the first group, while Dr. Simon Funge-Smith led the second. Following productive discussions, the Workshop participants reached a consensus on the challenges of combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia as follows:

1) Policy support and improvement of institutional capacity needs on combating IUU fishing

- Limited or patchy coordination among enforcement agencies
- Inconsistent political will to address IUU
- Low financial resourcing
- Limited understanding of legal frameworks

2) Limited financial and infrastructure resources for combating IUU fishing

- Lack of assets
- Limited Patrol Funds
- Limited funding for capacity-building programs
- Limited funding and assets for enforcement activities

3) Large scales/scope to cover combating IUU fishing activities

- Vast areas
- IUU activity often around contested/uncertain maritime boundaries
- Complex value chain for a large number of fisheries products
- Incoming requirements of the fisheries subsidies agreement

4) Deliberate IUU infringements

- Fake registrations of foreign vessels
- Encroachment of foreign vessels into EEZ
- Vessels with expired licenses
- Vessels with no license
- Unauthorized joint ventures
- Illegal fishing in management areas (freshwater)
- Use of destructive fishing practices

5) Weakness of fishery management framework

- Need more effective stock assessment to understand the status of resources
- Harvest control rules
- Assess the impact of IUU fishing on resources
- Challenge to manage transboundary species

6) Weakness of catch data system

- Unreliable port landing records
- Catch landed with our sourcing information
- Unwillingness to use CDS or incomplete information

7) Non-harmonized market state requirements

- Imposing trade measures under the label of combating IUU fishing
- No harmonizes, or excessive requirements for catch documentation, fleet management, and management framework

Moreover, the discussion came up with recommendations and suggestions for key priority area, actions and ways forward to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia as following:

Priority areas	Actions and ways forward	Agencies
Vessel Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VMS system• Sharing VMS information between AMSs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop SOP/ guideline on VMS info sharing [<i>Criteria: Share information about the vessel suspected to be encroached EEZ of the coastal state (bilateral agreement)</i>]	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASEAN/AN- IUU• FAO

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of VMS (AIS/GSM) for middle-scale/ small-scale fishing vessels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore appropriate application/system for SSF (SSF is not required to have licensing in some countries) 	
<p>Strengthening MCS for commercial scale, especially small-scale fisheries and community-based</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing monitoring, control and surveillance • Capacity building on MCS • Identification of IUU fishing vessels (no/expired license, destructive practices, and gears, fake registration, illegal joint ventures, encroachment) • Conduct risk assessments on key IUU areas • Introduction of new technology to support MCS • Capacity building on enforcement approaches • Capacity building on application of PSM (port inspections, transshipment monitoring, port monitoring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building on Monitoring • Stock assessment (such as transboundary species, nation fish stock, <i>etc.</i>) • Taxonomy of fishery resources • Capacity building on Control • International fishery instruments • PSM • Application of observer on board • Explore alternative application/system to observe fishing activities • Fishing gear methods • Identification of IUU fishing vessels • Capacity building on Surveillance • Joint patrols • Risk assessment on key IUU area • Container inspection • Apply unman surveillance system • Identification of IUU fishing vessels to avoid double flag • Modernization of fishing vessels by using a General Arrangement (GA) plan • Encourages commercial fleet to use IMO number 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-READI • AFMA • SEAFDEC • ASEAN/AN- IUU
<p>AMSs/Regional Cooperation on IUU Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation from other countries on information sharing • Sharing the IUU information among members via AN-IUU interactive platform • Sharing best practices on laws and policies to combat IUU • Expand and strengthen regional/bilateral dialogues between neighbors around shared IUU issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the willingness of countries to establish hotlines • Strengthening the AN-IUU platform to share information about the suspension vessels (e.g. ensure active and responsive focal points) • Awareness raising through physical training getting the focal points together and learning how to use the AN-IUU Network • Sharing experience or success of the regional mechanism on information sharing on IUU information through SEAFDEC regional platform • Coordination with ASEAN on how SEAFDEC can support sharing experiences • SEAFDEC to organize the workshop on strengthening understanding of global instruments and their application (VG for transshipment, PSMA, C188, CDS, subsidies, <i>etc.</i>) in cooperation with FAO, IMO, ILO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN/ AN-IUU • E-READI • FAO • IMO • ILO • SEAFDEC • IMCS Network • RPOA-IUU

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC to explore cooperation with IMCS Network to provide information on fishery intelligence data joint analytical cell with IMCS Network for enforcement • Cooperation with RPOA-IUU and provide technical support to Member Countries • Encouragement AMSs to update information on the RFVR database • Strengthening cooperation between RFVR focal points via annual meeting for RFVR focal point • Continue to develop the RFVR database smaller than 24 meters in length (such as over 20 meters) in focus on carrier vessels for utilization between neighboring country 	
<p>Encroachment of foreign vessels (Enforcement control issues and registration)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium and large-scale foreign vessels • Small-scale fisheries base crossing Maritimes transboundary & conducting illegal fishing in neighboring countries. • Small-scale fishing boat registration and controls • Enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the RPOA-IUU, sharing information on best practices at sub-regional levels. • SEAFDEC to organize the regional workshop on the sharing information of best practices on actions against encroachment of foreign vessels • SEAFDEC to organize the workshop for SSF and IUU fishing relevant to VG SSF • SEAFDEC to organize the workshop on flag state responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RPOA-IUU • SEAFDEC • FAO • ASEAN/AN-IUU
<p>Strengthening traceability of fish and fishery products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study and communicate the market state requirements, align to global standards (such as FAO guidelines on CDS), and additional work on how to incorporate small-scale fisheries • Strengthen port landing information, catch landing sources • Improve functionality of eACDS system to align with market state • Capacity building Use of CDS and/or the eACDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC to organize the workshop or Capacity building on the market requirements (private sector) such as US, EU, Japan CDS • Study how the eACDS alignment with FAO CDS Guidelines (and in response to the market state requirements) • Continuing support the capacity-building on the use of CDS and/or the eACDS • SEAFDEC to organize the workshop to share experiences on the implementation of the national CDS • Apply international fish and fisheries products certification scheme e.g. MCS, national traceability system, ASEAN-Tuna ecolabelling system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC • USA • EU • Japan • FAO
<p>Development of national/regional estimation of IUU losses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing among the key stakeholders on IUU fishing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of ASEAN guidelines on how to estimate IUU losses (such as transboundary species, and national water) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC • FAO • RPOA-IUU • AMSs

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimation of losses due to IUU fishing • Sharing on estimation methods for IUU losses (e.g. I-FIT) • Provide knowledge on fishery intelligence to member countries as it is an effective tool to attribute to eliminate IUU fishing • Linkage to stock assessment to assess impacts • Improve information on transboundary species and harmonize framework • Provides the argument for improved resourcing and political support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a national assessment of estimation of IUU loss (such as transboundary species, national water) • Share the results of the assessment of IUU loss in the annual meeting of AN-IUU • Inform policy maker about the results of IUU loss through AN-IUU, ASWGF, SO MAMAF and AMAF 	
<p>Strengthening evidence and procedures prosecutions to improve the deterrence effect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness within and across the agencies • Improve the efficiency of the use of maritime MCS/patrols • Coordination in CDS (in port, on board, <i>etc.</i>), between competent authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC to organize the workshop to share information on the evidence and procedures and secure effective prosecutions to improve the deterrence effect (IMCS NETWORK, INTERPOL, <i>etc.</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC • IMCS Network • INTERPOL • AMSs
<p>Monitoring Transshipment activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding carrier vessels (smaller size activity) scale and frequency • Tools to address activity (transshipment declaration, landing declaration, and port monitoring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen port inspection at both coastal states and flag states (<i>Bilateral arrangement</i>) • To establish bilateral arrangements to understand carrier vessels • To implement the certification form for transshipment developed by FAO (transshipment guideline) • Share the best practices on carrier vessels • Regional review on carrier definition in AMS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO • ASEAN economic working group
<p>Legal reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating and/or amending national legal frameworks • Development/Updating of NPOA-IUU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC to organize the workshop on sharing best practices on laws and policies • SEAFDEC to organize the workshop to share information and best practices in development of the comprehensive NPOA-IUU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC

VII. Conclusion

The Workshop identified key areas for progress. While setting clear timelines for future actions remains crucial, participants emphasized the need for overarching guidance from the SEAFDEC Council. This guidance will be instrumental in maintaining momentum for information sharing and collaborative efforts among ASEAN Member States (AMSs).

The Workshop highlighted the value of existing information sharing initiatives like the RFVR database and eACDS. Encouragement AMSs to update information on the RFVR database, through continue to develop RFVR database smaller than 24 meters in length in focus of carrier vessels for utilization between neighboring countries. To enhance these platforms, participants proposed expanding them to include data on small-scale and medium-scale fish carriers across countries. Additionally, the Workshop requested SEAFDEC to continue providing capacity-building support to AMSs in areas critical to combating IUU fishing.

Moving forward, integrating these recommendations into SEAFDEC's future programs and activities is essential. By providing overarching guidance and continued technical assistance, the SEAFDEC Council can ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to combating IUU fishing in the region.

VIII. Closing of the Workshop

Dr. Tomoko Nakazato, Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, extended gratitude on behalf of SEAFDEC to participants for their active engagement in the Workshop. She highlighted the potential of the established regional network to facilitate information exchange on IUU fishing concerns and countermeasures. Following expressions of appreciation to the resource persons, participants, and SEAFDEC staff for their contributions, then Dr. Nakazato declared the Workshop closed. Her closing remarks are in **Annex 9**.



PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

The Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia 20–21 March 2024

IUU fishing can take place in all capture fisheries. Efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks are undermined by IUU fishing, which can lead to the collapse of fisheries or can seriously impair efforts to rebuild fish stocks that have already been depleted. This may result in the loss of both short- and long-term social and economic opportunities and could have negative impacts on food security. The international organization emphasizes and implements activities relevant to combat IUU fishing such as the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Support Vessels; Global Information Exchange System (GIES) by FAO; ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing (2021–2025) which aims to enhance and strengthen collaborative efforts to combat IUU fishing in the region thereby improving fisheries management, sustaining fish resources, and optimizing the benefit of adopting responsible fishing practices.

In the Southeast Asian region, SEAFDEC organized the “High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development Towards the ASEAN Economic Community: Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products” in Bangkok, Thailand, on 3 August 2016. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries declared and planned under relevant international laws and arrangements to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region and enhance the competitiveness of ASEAN fish and fishery products in the region and internationally.

Moreover, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Meeting on the Resolution and Plan of Action for ASEAN Region Towards 2030 held in September 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, also emphasized on 1) Implement measures to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate illegal fishing practices, 2) Strengthen the implementation of measures and activities to combat IUU fishing by ensuring compliance with national laws and regulations, and the provisions of international instruments; encourage the development and implementation of national plans of action to combat IUU fishing; promote inter-agency coordination for effective implementation of laws and regulations; and enhance awareness and understanding of applicable international and regional instruments and agreements through information dissemination campaigns, 3) Establish and strengthen regional, sub-regional, and bi-lateral coordination on fisheries management and efforts to combat IUU fishing, 4) Mobilize regional/sub-regional collaboration frameworks and tools for combating IUU fishing, e.g., Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU); ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity); Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR); ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), and the use of technologies to support monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities, e.g., Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), traceability systems, 5) Improve the capacity of relevant national authorities and strengthen their functions for regional and bilateral/sub-regional cooperation, to effectively implement the requirements of port State measures and flag State responsibilities, and 6) Apply traceability systems with mechanisms as needed to certify or validate the information for the whole supply chain, and establish regulations and enforcement schemes in line with international standards by harmonizing



AMSs' inspection systems and strengthen port inspections in the process as a means to improve traceability systems.

Following the directions of the “Resolution and Plan of Action for 2030” and the abovementioned Declaration, the SEAFDEC Training Department (SEAFDEDC/TD) has been implementing the project of “Strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing national capacities to eliminate IUU fishing in Southeast Asia” under the JTF 6-II for the year 2020–2024. Under the overall objectives “Sustainable utilization and sound management of fisheries resources in Southeast Asia”, the project expects four outputs; 1) enhancing the utilization and improvement of RFVR, 2) strengthening national capacities in the implementation of PSM and national capacity development of MCS in Southeast Asia, 3) Application of the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation System (eACDS) for traceability to eliminate IUU fisheries products, and 4) coordinating a national/regional/international network for collaborative activities to combat IUU fishing.

To summarize project implementation and find recommendations and the way forward for implementation activities to combat and eliminate IUU fishing in Southeast Asia, the Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia will be organized.

OBJECTIVES

1. Summarize project implementation in the Southeast Asian region.
2. Share the ongoing activities for combating IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.
3. Identify new areas and ways forward to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Conclusion on the success of project implementation in the Southeast Asian region.
2. Updated information and progress of activities to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.
3. Recommendations on the way forward to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.

PARTICIPANTS

1. Two (2) manager levels of each AMS who are responsible for combating IUU fishing.
2. Relevant staff of the SEAFDEC/TD and Secretariat.

DATE AND VENUE

The Workshop will be held on 20–21 March 2024 in Pattaya, Chonburi Province, Thailand.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

20 March 2024 (Wednesday)

0830-0900 Registration

0900-0920 **Agenda 1:** Opening of the workshop
• Opening address by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC

0920-0940 **Agenda 2:** Introduction and objectives of the workshop/ Adoption of the agenda



0940-1040 **Agenda 3:** Implementation and the success of the project Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia (2020-2024)

1040-1110 *Coffee/Tea break and group photo*

1110-1230 **Agenda 4:** Ongoing implementation activities for combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia (summarized by SEAFDEC/TD)

1230-1400 *Lunch break*

1400-1530 **Agenda 5:** Ongoing global and regional implementation through future trends on combating IUU fishing

- FAO
- RPOA-IUU
- ASEAN and AN-IUU
- BOBP-IGO

1530-1600 *Coffee/Tea break*

1600-1700 **Agenda 6:** Group discussion on the way forward and activities to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.

- Identification of new areas and strategies to enhance combat against IUU fishing. Formulation of recommendations for future actions and improvements in combating IUU fishing in the region. (innovation tools for combating IUU fishing through MCS activities, capacity building needs to support combating IUU fishing activities, activities need support combating IUU fishing activities, and so on)
- Development of a roadmap or action plan for continued efforts beyond the current project timeline
- Exploration of potential collaborations, partnerships, or amendments to existing frameworks to strengthen regional cooperation.

1800-2000 *Reception Dinner*

21 March 2024 (Thursday)

0900-1200 **Agenda 6:** Group discussion on the way forward and activities to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region (continue)

1200-1330 *Lunch break*

1330-1600 **Agenda 6:** Group discussion on the way forward and activities to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region (continue)

1600-1630 **Agenda 7:** Recommendations and conclusions

1630-1700 **Agenda 8:** Closing of the workshop
Closing Address by the Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC



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OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn

Secretary-General and Chief of the Training Department

*Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
20–21 March 2024
Pattaya, Chonburi Province, Thailand*

Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN Member States,

Resource person and facilitator, Dr. Simon Funge-Smith,

SEAFDEC staff,

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

I am delighted to welcome you to the "Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia" which is organized from 20 to 21 March 2024 in Pattaya, Chonburi Province, Thailand.

As you are aware, IUU fishing can take place in capture fisheries. Efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks are undermined by IUU fishing. This may result in the loss of both short- and long-term social and economic opportunities and could negatively impact food security. the

To combat IUU fishing, relevant activities such as the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels, and Support Vessels; Global Information Exchange System (GIES), and so on were conducted at the global level.

At the regional level, SEAFDEC organized the "High-level Consultation on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development Towards the ASEAN Economic Community: Combating IUU Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products" in Bangkok, Thailand in 2016. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries declared and planned under relevant international laws and arrangements to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region and enhance the competitiveness of fish and fishery products in the region and internationally.

Moreover, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Meeting on the Resolution and Plan of Action for ASEAN Region Towards 2030 held in 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand, also emphasized several actions, including 1) Implement measures to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate illegal fishing practices, 2) Strengthen the implementation of measures and activities to combat IUU fishing by ensuring compliance with national laws and regulations, and the provisions of international instruments; encourage the development and implementation of national plans of action to combat IUU fishing; promote inter-agency coordination for effective implementation of laws and regulations; and enhance awareness and understanding of applicable international and regional instruments and agreements through information dissemination campaigns, 3) Establish and strengthen regional, sub-regional, and bi-lateral coordination on fisheries management and efforts to combat IUU fishing, 4) Mobilize regional/sub-regional collaboration frameworks and tools for combating IUU fishing, 5) Improve the capacity of relevant national authorities and strengthen their functions for regional and bilateral/sub-regional cooperation, to effectively implement the requirements of port State measures and flag State responsibilities, and 6) Apply traceability systems with mechanisms as needed to certify or validate the information for the whole supply chain, and establish regulations and enforcement schemes in line with



international standards by harmonizing AMSs' inspection systems and strengthen port inspections in the process as a means to improve traceability systems.

Following the recommendations of the “Resolution and Plan of Action for 2030” and the abovementioned Declaration, the SEAFDEC Training Department implemented the project “Strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing national capacities to eliminate IUU fishing in Southeast Asia” from 2020 to 2024 with the overall objective “Sustainable utilization and sound management of fisheries resources in Southeast Asia.”

This year is the last final year of implementation of the Project. Therefore, this Workshop is organized to summarize the achievements of the Project and seek recommendations and way forward to combat and eliminate IUU fishing in Southeast Asia.

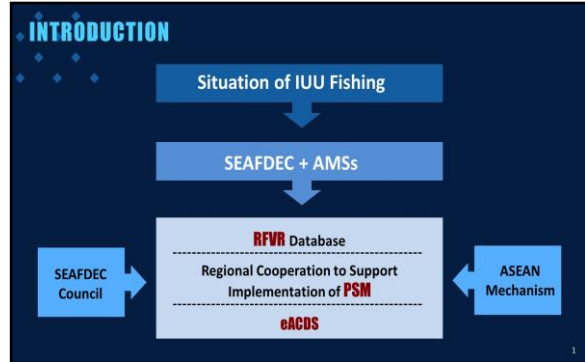
I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Japanese Trust Fund for its support to this Project this Workshop. Moreover, I would like to encourage the representatives from the AMSs to share your experience and information to come up with recommendations and way forward to combat and eliminate IUU fishing in the region.

With that, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to declare this Workshop officially open.

Thank you very much and have a good day!

Implementation and the Success of the Project
Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
[2020 – 2024]

Present by: Mr. Kangathai Saraphavanich
SEAFDEC Training Department



REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD (RFVR DATABASE)

Web address: www.seafdec.or.th/rfvr/index.php

STATUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The RFVR Database

- Basic information required effective tools to support the fishing vessel inspection to reduce IUU fishing vessels
- Enhancing transparency, traceability, and support inspection in relation to PSM activities.
- Information in the RFVR database is available for the vessel 24 meters in length and over
- There were 28 Key Data Elements (KDEs)

28 KDEs IN THE RFVR DATABASE

Name of Vessel	Vessel Registration Number	Owner Name
Type of Fishing Method/Gear	Fishing License Number	Expiration Date of Fishing Licenses
Port of Registry	Gross Tonnage	Length
Shipyard/Ship Builder	Date of Launching/Year of Built	International Radio Call Sign
Date of Registration	Area of Fishing Operation	Nationality of Vessel
Nationality of Captain	Number of Crew	Nationality of Crew
Breadth	Depth	Engine Power
Engine Brand	Serial Number of Engine	Hull Material
Previous Name	Previous Flag	Name of Captain
IMO Number		

5,375 Vessels

NUMBER OF VESSELS IN THE RFVR DATABASE

Country	Fishing Vessels	Carrier Vessels/Supporting Boats/Processing Vessels	Total	Data Updated
Brunei Darussalam	9	1	10	2 May 2023
Cambodia	5	-	5	1 Nov 2023
Indonesia	866	-	568	8 Jan 2024
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	211	-	227	31 Jan 2024
Myanmar	1,204	186	1,418	19 Dec 2023
Philippines	67	93	167	1 Nov 2021
Singapore	-	1	1	1 Nov 2021
Thailand	329	14	343	18 Apr 2023
Viet Nam	2,144	492	2,636	1 Nov 2021

Remarks: Information from the Database of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record updated in February 2024

MILESTONE AND SUCCESS IMPLEMENTATION OF RFVR (2020-2024)

- 2020**: Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
- 2021**: Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
- 2022**: Monitoring and Facilitation for AMSs to Upload the KDEs in the RFVR Database
- 2023**: Development of Questionnaire on Utilization and Information Update of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database

2020: ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Tools for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia was organized from 27 to 28 August 2020, via online platform

agreed that a new dataset of RFVR database for vessels sizes smaller than 24 meters (range of 18-23.99 meters)

The results from the discussion during the 43rd PCM (November 2020) and subsequently at the 53rd Council Meeting (April 2021)

The 53rd Council Meeting suggested that this matter should be discussed clearly further at the technical level.

For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_3_Implementation_Success_IUU_Project_2020-2024.pdf

2021: ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

"Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Combating IUU fishing in the Southeast Asia"
was organized from 27 to 30 September 2021, via online platform

1. Updated information of vessels registration and fishing license through the implementation of activities to combat IUU fishing among AMSs
2. Understanding of the introduced template/format for uploading the KDEs of RFVR database by country themselves

AMSs can update information in RFVR Database since 1 November 2021

2022: ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Monitoring and facilitation for AMSs to upload the KDEs in the RFVR database

AMSs updated the KDEs in the RFVR database by themselves

2023 ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Development of questionnaire on utilization and information update of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database

Utilization and information update of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database

PSM & MCS

REGIONAL COOPERATION TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PORT STATE MEASURES (PSM) and Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS)

Web address: www.seafdec.or.th/psm

PSM & MCS

MILESTONE AND SUCCESS IMPLEMENTATION OF PSM & MCS (2020-2024)

The Online Regional Training Course to Support Implementation of PSM for Inspector

Regional Training Course on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS 1982) in Fisheries Perspective

- 2021: The Regional Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
- 2022: The Regional Training Course on Port State Measures Inspection in Focus of Shipping Container for Fish and Fisheries Product
- 2023: (No specific event listed for 2023 in this diagram)

PSM : 2021 ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Online Regional Training Course to Support Implementation of PSM for Inspector
was organized from 26 to 29 October 2021

1. Understanding on the status and the implementation of the PSMA;
2. Increasing knowledge, skills, and experience of participants on inspection to support Port State Measures and port control implementation; and
3. Further strengthening of regional cooperation to support the implementation of PSM in Southeast Asia.

MCS : 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Regional Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
23-24 August 2022

- Updated information on MCS implementation activities to combat IUU fishing
- Understanding fisheries management tools for combating IUU fishing
- Capacity building needs on relevant MCS for combating IUU fishing
 - Technical assistance on NPOA capacity;
 - Capacity building on the electronic traceability;
 - Training on risk analysis of the pattern of fishing operation in each fishing gear by using VMS and AIS;
 - Technical assistance on data collection, stock assessment, and research survey of marine resources;
- Training on inspection for foreign flag vessels (PSMA);
- Sharing information on port inspection;
- Fisheries intelligence/technology/application with notification

PSM : 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Regional Training Course on Port State Measures Inspection in Focus of Shipping Container for Fish and Fisheries Product
was organized from 13-15 September 2022

Increasing knowledge, skills, and experience of participants on inspection of fish and fisheries product importation via sea in container vessels, land and air transportation

For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_3_Implementation_Success_IUU_Project_2020-2024.pdf

MCS : 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

51 participants from the AMSs

Regional Training Course on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS 1982) in Fisheries Perspective
6-9 November 2023

Objectives

- Enhance the capacity and knowledge of fisheries officers from ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in relation to UNCLOS 1982 and its implications for fisheries
- Share information on the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (NPOA-IUU) and international agreements related to IUU fishing

THE LAW OF THE SEA

MCS : 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Regional Training Course on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS 1982) in Fisheries Perspective
6-9 November 2023

Partners:



Topics

- UNCLOS and UN Fish Stock
- International and Domestic Fisheries Laws: Case Studies
- Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement
- International Instruments of the Implementation of the Provision of the UNCLOS Relating to Fisheries Perspective through Prevent Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing
- Implementation of FAO and fishery bodies of UNCLOS and other agreements



eACDS

Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme

DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF AN ELECTRONIC ASEAN CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (eACDS)



WHAT'S eACDS ?

- A software for enhancing a traceability of fish and fishery products from fishing to plate
- Implementing eACDS required good governance in fisheries management: port control, catch reporting, recording movement of fish in the supply chain, export-import, etc.



OBJECTIVES

- To introduce the eACDS as a **prototype** for useful management tools for sustainable fisheries and combating IUU fishing;
- To reduce the burden of paper-works in the implementation for enhancing the traceability system for fish and fishery product;
- To strengthen the cooperation among for private-public sectors in all supply chains;
- To increase responsible and regulated fishing.



KEY DATA ELEMENTS (KDEs)



ACDS DATABASE

- Fishing Boat License
- Fishing Port
- Fish Species
- Fish Buyer
- Boat Owner/ Fishing Master
- Processor
- Importer/ Exporter
- HS Product Code
- Logistic Info.
- Others

eACDS APPLICATIONS

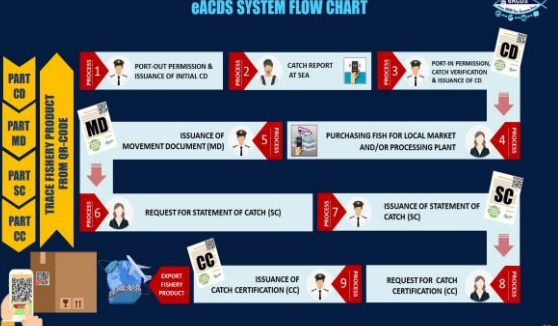
eACDS on Web-based Application

- Vessel Owner/Fishing Master**
Request Port-out and Port-in
- Processor**
Request Statement of Catch
Request Catch Certificate Document
- Officer**
Approve Port-out / Port-in and Verify Weight
Issuance Catch Declaration (CD)
Issuance Movement Document (MD)
Issuance Statement of Catch (SC)
Issuance Catch Certificate Document (CC)
View Reports and Manage KDEs

eACDS on Mobile Application

- eACDS-Catch Report App.**
Fishing Master/ Vessel Owner
- eACDS-Market App.**
Seller and Buyer

eACDS SYSTEM FLOW CHART



TRACE FISHERY PRODUCT FROM QR-CODE

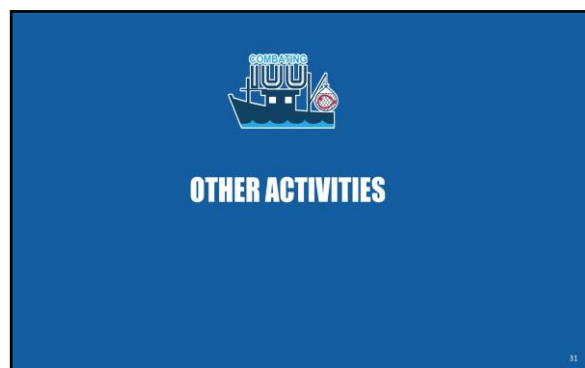
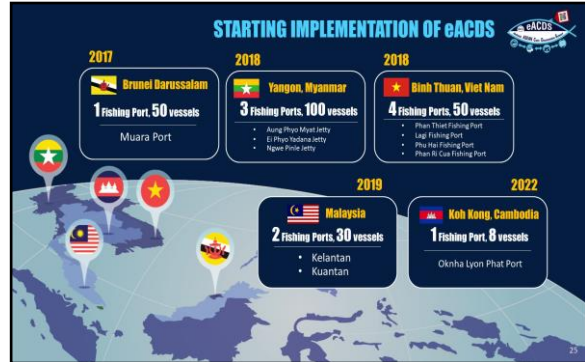
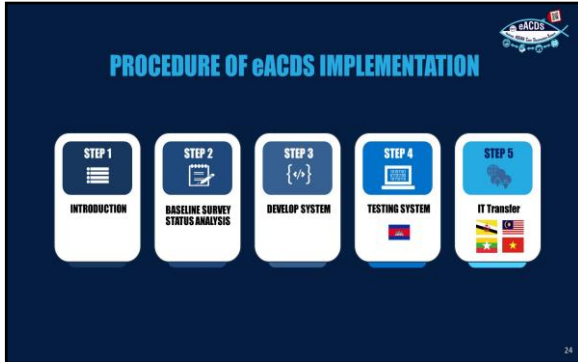
PART CD: PORT OUT PERMISSION & ISSUANCE OF INITIAL CD

PART MD: ISSUANCE OF MOVEMENT DOCUMENT (MD)

PART SC: REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF CATCH (SC)

PART CC: ISSUANCE OF CATCH CERTIFICATION (CC)

For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_3_Implementation_Success_IUU_Project_2020-2024.pdf



Other Activities : 2020

ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Teleseminar on Way Forward for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

was organized on 24-26 August 2020

↓

Way Forward for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia




Other Activities

2022: ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Regional Workshop to Exchange Information on Catch Documentation Scheme and Traceability of Fish and Fishery Products

29 – 30 November 2022

- Updated information and effective implementation on traceability of fish and fishery products activities to combating IUU fishing
- Way forward to implement traceability of fish and fishery products of SEAFDEC Member Countries





PROJECT CONCERNS

Gender-Inclusive Participation

The project ensured that participation in all activities was open to men, women, and others, fostering diversity and inclusivity in capacity-building initiatives. Gender issues were not specifically encountered during the implementation of project activities.

Adaptation to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic from 2020-2021 required the adjustment and rescheduling of planned activities to teleworkshops or online training sessions. Despite challenges, the project adapted and adjusted to the circumstances, ensuring continuity in capacity-building efforts while acknowledging the limitations of online meetings and training. However, the outcomes of online meetings and training were not always as expected compared to traditional face-to-face interactions.

STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AND COOPERATION AMONG AMSs AND OTHER AGENCIES

Coordination and cooperation with national/regional/international agencies such as FAO, USAID, IMCS, NOAA, AFMA, etc.



MILESTONE OF THE PROJECT

- 2020**
 - Teleseminar on Way Forward for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
 - Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Tools for Combating IUU fishing in the Southeast Asia
- 2021**
 - Developed Template/Format for Uploading the KDEs of RFVR Database by Country Themselves
 - Online Regional Training Course on Implementation of **Port State Measures** for Inspection
- 2022**
 - Training Completed on Transfer & Installation of the eACDS Application to Server for Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Viet Nam
 - Regional Training Course on **Port State Measures** Inspection in Focus of Shipping Container for Fish and Fisheries Product
 - The Regional Workshop on **Monitoring Control and Surveillance** for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
 - The Regional Workshop to Exchange Information on Catch Documentation Scheme and **Traceability of Fish and Fishery Products**
- 2023**
 - Training Completed on Transfer & Installation of the eACDS Application to Server for Myanmar
 - The Regional Training Course on the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS 1982)** in Fisheries Perspective

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS 2020 - 2024

Total = 827 participants from 29 Activities

Gender: Male 62% (504 participants), Female 38% (323 participants)

45 participants	19 participants	15 participants
Brunei Darussalam	Lao PDR	Singapore
56 participants	148 participants	61 participants
Cambodia	Malaysia	Thailand
37 participants	50 participants	62 participants
Indonesia	Myanmar	Viet Nam
7 participants	136 participants	72 participants
Japan	Philippines	Others

POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

- Continued Capacity Building**
Through the regular training sessions and workshops on MCS, eCDS, traceability system, and risk assessment for national VMS, and emerging fish trade-related issues.
- Sustaining Regional Partnerships**
Continuing collaboration among international/ regional organizations, and relevant stakeholders through existing mechanisms for dialogue, information exchange, joint initiatives, and sharing best practices to support MCS.
- Adapting to Emerging Challenges**
Developing contingency plans and protocols for responding to future emergencies and developing technological innovations to enhance fisheries MCS capabilities.

POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS (cont.)

- Dissemination of Knowledge and Best Practices**
Publishing policy/technical reports, guidelines, manuals. Organizing knowledge-sharing events and workshops, and leveraging digital platforms to reach a broader audience.
- Resource Mobilization**
Exploring diverse funding sources, engaging with donor agencies and international partners, and advocating for increased investment in fisheries management and surveillance efforts at the regional and national levels.
- Monitoring and Evaluation**
Establishing appropriate M&E frameworks for regular assessments of project outcomes and impacts, and incorporating feedback from stakeholders to inform future project activities and strategic planning.

For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_3_Implementation_Success_IUU_Project_2020-2024.pdf

Efforts combatting IUU fishing in the Asian region

Angela Lentisco
 Fishery and Aquaculture Officer,
 FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

What forms of IUU fishing do we have in the Asian region?

Typical IUU activities – with focus on “illegal” or “non-compliance” dimension

- Vessel/operational documentation
 - Fishing without a license, with falsified license
 - Falsified vessel registration
 - Duplicate (dual flag), falsified registrations
- Catch reporting
 - Non-reporting, misreporting, under-reporting of catch
- Landings and transshipment
 - Unauthorized landing of fish, or landing other than authorized port
 - Unauthorized transshipment
 - Transshipping to country port of beneficial ownership
- Use of destructive fishing gears and methods (e.g cyanide/ blast-fishing)
- Catching of prohibited/protected species (e.g. grouper, reef fish, coral etc.) non compliance (shark finning)

IUU fishing between Asian countries

- Fishing in waters without permission, or in areas where fishing is restricted/prohibited
 - Large-scale/commercial vessels operating in restricted (e.g. SSF/nearshore zone)
 - SSF vessels ‘straying’ across borders
 - Deliberate or accidental encroachment across maritime boundaries, or fishing in areas of disputed or uncertain jurisdiction
- Access arrangements with neighbouring countries are now increasingly rare
 - Access arrangements may be established at sub-national level between adjoining provinces/jurisdictions
- Poor coordination between national and provincial regulatory mechanisms

What has driven these different forms of IUU?

- Expansion of effort & capacity
 - Post 1945 expansion
 - 1970’s intensification (trawling & motorization of SSF)
 - 1990’s improved technology & globalization of markets
- Led to over-capacity in fisheries & processing
- Enormous numbers of vessels in the region (>1.9 million, 80% <12m)
- General failure of centralized fisheries management measures
 - Limitations on capacity to regulate
 - Political or commercial interference
 - Inappropriate, inflexible measures

IUU fishing is opportunistic as well as calculated/deliberate

- Taking a risk for economic opportunity (LSF)
- Taking a risk for likelihood of income against the likelihood of penalty or capture (SSF)
 - partly driven by a need to make a basic income
- Opportunity of uncertain maritime boundaries in the region
 - most coastal fisheries have limited MCS
 - risk of capture/fines are relatively low
- Limited number of successful prosecutions (low deterrence)
 - Even if caught, limited prosecution
 - IUU not viewed as a serious criminal activity (not worth paperwork)
 - How to get evidence to the courts?
 - Hard to prosecute across provincial boundaries

FAO-CSIRO study

- Used national government respondents to indicate known IUU activity
- Media analysis of IUU-type reports
- Types of infraction, species, locations, estimates of volume, regularity etc.
- Incorporated prices
- Mapped
- Modelled

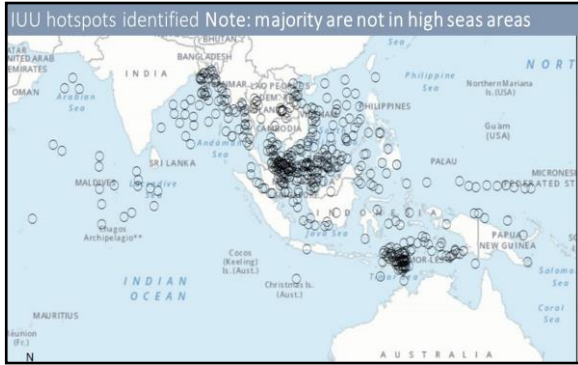
<http://www.fao.org/3/cb2640en/cb2640en.pdf>

Results: Estimate of volume and costs of IUU fishing in Asia

- Hotspots found across Asia region
 - 33 identified
 - Almost every country in the region has some sort of IUU issues with foreign or foreign beneficially owned vessels.
- Estimated illegal-fishing landings across EEZ and high seas in ‘APFIC area’
 - Totalled catch 6.6 million tonnes (MT) in 2019
 - The value estimated was USD 23.3 billion
- IUU catch results broadly consistent with previous studies
 - But other studies covered IUU (this study only the “I”)
- Key differences on values due to prices used

Study	Billion USD
FAO CSIRO (2020)	23.3
Sumaila et al. (2020)	3.8 - 7.5
FAO-APFIC (2016)	3.3 - 5.5
FAO Bay of Bengal LME project (2015)	3.5 - 11.5

For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_5_FAO_Efforts_combating_IUU_fishing.pdf



Type of illegal activity identified

- Typically a mixture of several inter-related issues
 - Crossing boundaries
 - Lack of documents/authorization
 - Transhipping
 - Misdeclaration of landings
- This means that effectively combatting IUU will require a combination of actions.

Category	Number of Case examples	% of Total Case examples
Encroachment	33	100
Absence of Authentic Documentation	29	88
Non-compliance with technical measures	28	85
Illegal Trans-shipment	13	39
Illegal ETPs	19	58
Degree of premeditation	26	79

Domestic or foreign vessels?

- Bilateral violations most common
- For around half the countries in the region, >25% up to 100% of the IUU activity was undertaken by vessels flagged by other countries
- This may be higher if we consider domestically flagged, but foreign-beneficial ownership vessels

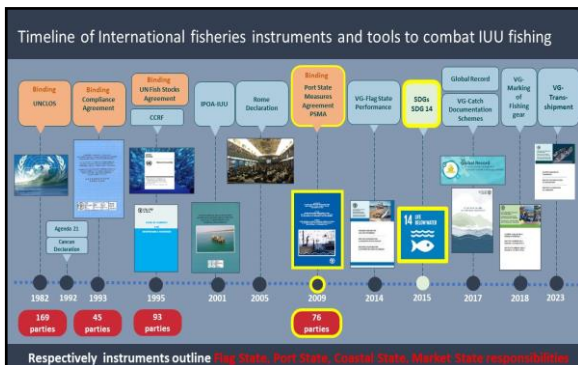
FAO is developing methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing

Regional and international cooperation is essential for combatting IUU fishing

- Builds consensus and enables the development of common norms and standards
- Provides a framework for sharing information and agreeing on action
- Sets out obligations of states and other actors
- Binding and non-binding
- Brief overview of some of the international processes which contribute to combatting IUU fishing

Why cooperate?

Cooperation on eliminating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing contributes directly to national commitment on Sustainable Development Goal 14




2001 IPOA-IUU

IPOA-IUU

- Global initiative developed by FAO to address the problem of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.
- Strategies for preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing, including:
 - improving monitoring, control, and surveillance of fishing activities,
 - strengthening legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, and
 - promoting sustainable fishing practices.

For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_5_FAO_Efforts_combating_IUU_fishing.pdf

2009 – Port State Measures Agreement



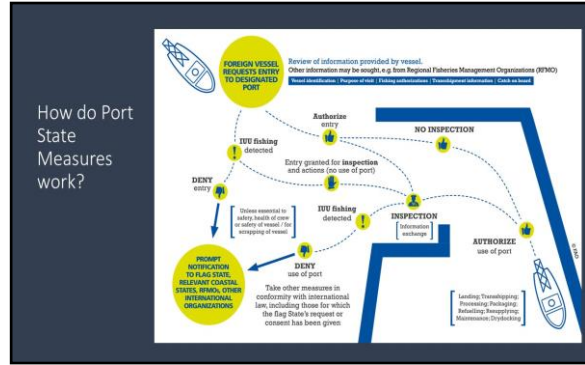
Adoption of effective port State measures as a means to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources.

Applied to:

- foreign vessels when seeking entry to port entry or when they are in the port –


Exceptions include:

- artisanal fishing vessels of neighboring countries, provided the Port State and the flag state cooperate to ensure not engaged in IUU fishing or related activities.
- containers vessels that are not carrying fish, and if they are, it has been previously landed, and no suspecting they are involved in IUU fishing or related activities.





- Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels
- Combat IUU fishing by gathering and sharing certified information about the world's fleet of fishing (and related) vessels.
- It closes the global information gap on vessels involved in IUU fishing
- Promotes transparency, traceability and dissemination of on the global fishing fleet and its operations

VG Marking of Fishing Gear




- Address issues related to abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and facilitating the identification and recovery of such gear.
- Assist fisheries management and help address IUU fishing activities

VG Catch Documentation Schemes



- System to help determine throughout the supply chain whether fish originate from "legal and sustainable" catches


2023 – VG for Transshipment




In short:

- The Voluntary Guidelines provide minimum international standards for transshipment operations.
- They establish definitions, processes and responsibilities for transshipment activities to be regulated, monitored, and controlled.
- They consider specific needs of developing States in view of transshipment activities.
- States and RFMOs can transpose the guidelines into national and regional regulations.

2023 – Global Information Exchange System



<https://www.gisx.org/> (only for accredited users)



FAO website on IUU fishing
<https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/>

Thank you!!

Angela.Lentisco@fao.org

For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_5_FAO_Efforts_combating_IUU_fishing.pdf

The Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU fishing in Southeast Asia
20-21 March 2024

RPOA-IUU SECRETARIAT

Agenda 5. Ongoing global and regional implementation through future trends on combating IUU fishing

[Presented by Matheus Eko Rudianto]

Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU)

Overview of RPOA-IUU

Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU)

- The RPOA-IUU is a **voluntary instrument** and takes its core principles from international agreements and instruments for promoting responsible fishing practices
- Agreed on 4 May 2007, Bali-Indonesia, by 11 Ministers related to fisheries (**Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam**)
- The objective of the RPOA-IUU is to enhance and strengthen the overall level of fisheries management in the region and to optimize the benefit of adopting responsible fishing practices. The actions cover: conservation of fisheries and their environment; managing fishing capacity; and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

RPOA-IUU Advisory Bodies

Background

Regional Plan of Action to promote responsible fishing practices including combating IUU fishing (RPOA-IUU) and Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) has been a long-standing partner in advancing responsible fishing practices in the region. It was identified that several resolutions align with the RPOA-IUU objectives.

No	The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Meeting on the Resolution and Plan of Action for ASEAN Region Toward 2030 (September 2019)	RPOA-IUU implementation status on the Resolution
1	Implement measures to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate illegal fishing practices.	Countries actively collaborate in bilateral or multilateral settings, on data-sharing and monitoring of fishing vessel movement and activities, including suspected IUU fishing in their waters.
2	Strengthen the implementation of measures and activities to combat IUU fishing by ensuring compliance with national laws and regulations, and the provisions of international instruments; encourage the development and implementation of national plans of action to combat IUU fishing; promote inter-agency coordination for effective implementation of laws and regulations; and enhance awareness and understanding of applicable international and regional instruments and agreements through information dissemination campaigns	The majority of the RPOA-IUU countries implement legislation measures to ensure that the fishing activity does comply with the provisions of national laws and regulations and international instruments, such as; UNCLOS, PSMA, and FAO Compliance Agreement 1993. Several countries has also developed NPOA-IUU which other are currently in the process of developing NPOA-IUU 2.0. It was suggested that the ratification and implementation of the international instrument should be strongly encouraged.

No	The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Meeting on the Resolution and Plan of Action for ASEAN Region Toward 2030 (September 2019)	RPOA-IUU implementation status on the Resolution
3	Establish and strengthen regional, sub-regional and bi-lateral coordination on fisheries management and efforts to combat IUU fishing	The member country meet annually at national, regional, and sub-group forums to discuss the progress of action plan and key issues. The countries also showcase significant progress in the regional activities involvement, such as; RPOA-IUU, ASEAN, and SEAFDEC. Several countries frequently convene bilateral forums to address crucial aspects of fisheries management. Nevertheless, the regional, sub-regional and bilateral coordination should be maintained and intensified
4	Mobilize regional/sub-regional collaboration frameworks and tools for combating IUU fishing, e.g., Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU), ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity), Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR), ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), and the use of technologies to support monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities, e.g., Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), traceability systems	RPOA-IUU participating countries implement regional tools and framework and sophisticated technology for enhancing their effort to combat IUU fishing. It includes the increased participation in RPOA-IUU, ACDS, and RFVR. Nevertheless, the effective implementation of regional tools and framework should be augmented.

No	The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Meeting on the Resolution and Plan of Action for ASEAN Region Toward 2030 (September 2019)	RPOA-IUU implementation status on the Resolution
5	Improve the capacity of relevant national authorities and strengthen their functions for regional and bilateral/sub-regional cooperation, to effectively implement the requirements of port State measures and flag State responsibilities, and	RPOA-IUU countries have diverse and wide ranges of national measures to control vessels operating in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The measures include legislative review, the installation of Vessels Monitoring System (VMS) and Automatic Identification System (AIS). Several countries also used Mobile Tracking Unit (MTU), ERS and EM systems. Countries actively engage in the capacity improvement/building of the PSMA designed by FAO or other international entities. Nevertheless, the role of Flag State should be advanced. Extensive opportunity for the Flag State capacity building is needed.
6	Apply traceability systems with mechanisms as needed to certify or validate the information for the whole supply chain, and establish regulations and enforcement schemes in line with international standards by harmonizing AMS's inspection systems and strengthen port inspections in the process as a means to improve traceability systems	Countries have different level of implementation of traceability systems and more attention on this area should be intensified

Trends on modus operandi on IUU fishing identified within the RPOA-IUU's work area

- Falsification of document
- Fishing in areas outside the permit
- Other crimes related to fisheries sectors; drug and commodity smuggling and human trafficking
- Encroachment by foreign fishing Vessel.
- Unreported and underreported catch and not accurate catch report
- Lack of traceability report and varied traceability system
- Extensive incidental bycatch
- Violation of the transshipment and
- Violation of the decent work

Source: Country report for the 16th RPOA-IUU CCM and the Advanced Fisheries Intelligence Training

Effective measures to address modus operandi implemented by RPOA-IUU countries

- Developing national plans of action on IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU) and separate units to control and regulate IUU fishing
- Adopting and implementing the international and regional instruments
- Establishing community-based IUU reporting system
- Enhancing monitoring, control, and surveillance measures
- Strengthening bilateral, regional, and international cooperation
- Increasing multi agency cooperation and multi door approach
- Assessing and reviewing national legislation and laws to combat IUU fishing

Source: Country report for the 16th RPOA-IUU CCM and the Advanced Fisheries Intelligence Training

RPOA-IUU's progress in 2023

Several activities which align with the RPOA-IUU Work Plan had been concluded throughout 2023:

- The study on international and regional implementation status of international and regional instruments by countries, **with support from USAID-SUFIA TS**
- A preliminary study on Data Sharing Mechanism and MCS Training needs, **with support from ATSEA-2 Project**
- The specific list of MCS Training subjects, delivered in the MCS Training Course **with support the Australian Government** and
- An initial discussion on data-sharing mechanism **with support from USAID-SUFIA TS**
- An initial discussion on fisheries intelligence cooperation/fisheries information-sharing, **with support from ATSEA-2 Project**

RPOA-IUU's activity in early 2024

In collaboration with the ATSEA-2 Project, the RPOA-IUU organized the Advanced Fisheries Intelligence Training in February 2024 in hybrid mode, with 42 participants attending the training.

2024 RPOA-IUU Work Plan to address recent trends of modus operandi on IUU fishing

1. Country are encouraged to possibly deposit their national instruments of acceptance of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement as early as possible and report on their progress

Rationale:

WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement serves as a reference of regulation for prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies. The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies prohibits subsidies contributing to IUU fishing (FAO, 2023)

Progress in RPOA-IUU:

Several countries have deposited the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement into their national instruments and some countries is in the process of ratifying

2024 RPOA-IUU Work Plan to address recent trends of modus operandi on IUU fishing

2. Each country to evaluate the implementation of international and regional standards concerning working conditions on their fishing vessels with a view to addressing these gaps in the future.

Rationale:

it was found that IUU fishing correlates with human trafficking and slavery. The standard for working condition on their fishing vessels plays a vital role in addressing those interconnected activities.

Progress in RPOA-IUU:

Most of the participating countries have various level of the implementation of international and regional standards concerning working condition in the fishing vessels.

2024 RPOA-IUU Work Plan to address recent trends of modus operandi on IUU fishing

3. Countries to continue to report on their progress with ratification or implementation, as appropriate, of international and regional instruments concerning responsible fishing practices and combating IUU fishing

Rationale:

International and regional instruments serves as a compliance tools for country to manage and regulate its fisheries resources responsibly

Progress in RPOA-IUU:

Countries continue to strive toward the adoption, ratification, and implementation of international and regional instruments, such as **UNFSA, UNCLOS, PSMA, FAO Compliance Agreement 1993, WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, Biodiversity and Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty, 2012 Cape Town Agreement**

Recommendation and A Way Forward

Enhancing the effectiveness of combating IUU fishing could be achieved by following approaches

1. Promoting the safety of fishers working on board and with focus on forced labor on fishing vessels
2. Enhancing robust traceability system and more focus on the market measures
3. Advancing data-sharing mechanism into intelligence-information sharing
4. Designing collaborative and coordinated capacity building activities among regional organization to avoid duplication
5. Strengthening the implementation of international instruments at national level
6. Intensifying the implementation of regional tools and frameworks, such as RPOA-IUU watch list, RFVR, and ACDS
7. Boosting the Regional Flag State measures implementation



12

THANK YOU

RPOA-IUU Secretariat

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia
 Mina Bahari Building IV, 10th floor
 Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No 16 Jakarta Pusat 10110 Indonesia



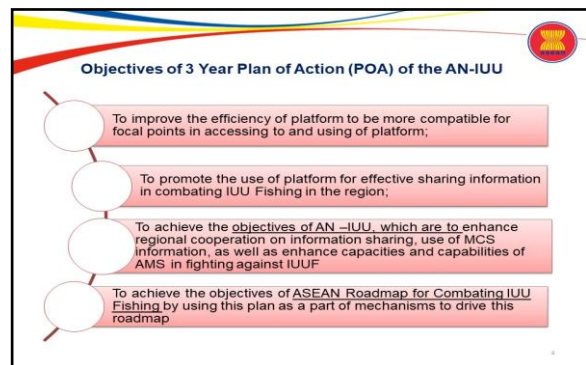
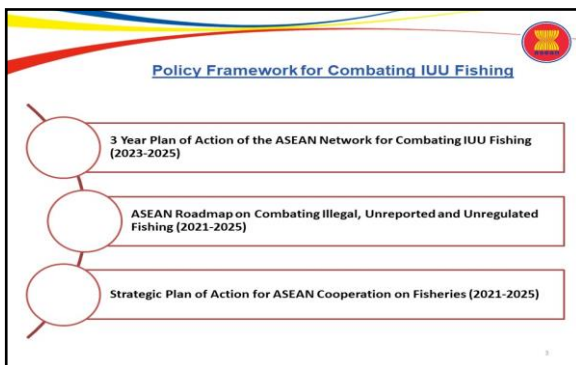
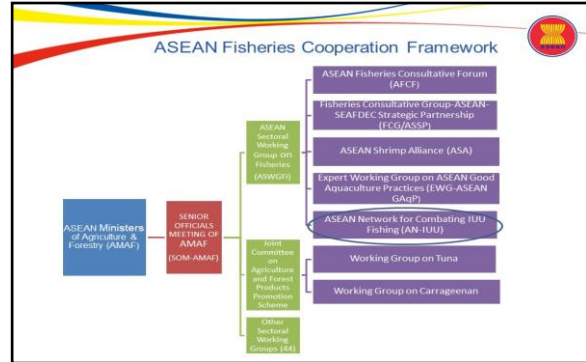
For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_5_2_RPOA-IUU.pdf

Ongoing Global and Regional Implementation through Future Trends on Combating IUU Fishing

: Current and Future Planning, and Trend Implementation Activities/Projects to Combat IUU Fishing in ASEAN

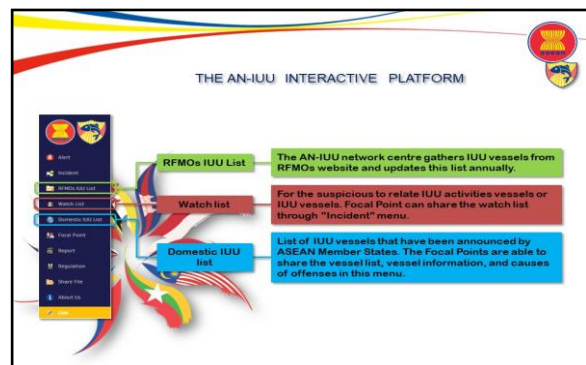


Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Division
 ASEAN Economic Community Department
 ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia



Progress of ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU)

- ✓ Established an interactive platform for sharing of information on IUU fishing activities.
- ✓ Developed guidelines on sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information, as well as the inclusion of AN-IUU Focal Points in the AN-IUU Platform.
- ✓ Progress of the AN-IUU Interactive Platform wherein exchanges of information on IUU fishing vessels were conducted between the AN-IUU Center (Thailand), AMS and International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (IMCS).
- ✓ AMS shared information on their fisheries laws and regulations.
- ✓ Thailand conducted the Training Workshop on the use of AN-IUU Interactive Platform on 18 July 2023.



Progress SPA-ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021-2025

The SPA-Fisheries (2021-2025) contains 60 activities and sub-activities, in which fifteen (15) activities have been implemented, sixteen (16) activities are ongoing, five (5) activities are pending or under project appraisal and approval process, and twenty-four (24) activities requiring further action from ASWGF.

Activity in 2022 and 2023 :

1. Regional Workshop regarding the Implementation of the Regional Guidelines on the Prudent Use of Antimicrobial and its Resistance in Aquaculture held on 22 November 2022 through videoconference (hosted by Indonesia).
2. Organise capacity building for AMSs in implementing the specific measures to support more sustainable fisheries; OECD-ASEAN Workshop on Food Security: Sharing Evidence and Policy Experiences was organised on 2 February 2023. Discussion focused on sustainable fisheries management and fisheries subsidies.

ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2021-2025)

- ✓ Endorsed during the ASWGF Virtual Meeting on the finalization of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing (2021-2025) during 9-10 November 2022, and adopted by ad-referendum by AMAF on 30 November 2020.
- ✓ Contains 7 programmes and 24 activities.
- ✓ As of July 2023, two (2) activities were completed activity, six (6) activities are ongoing activities, six (6) activities are pending, and ten (10) activities require further actions from ASWGF.

For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_5_3_ASEAN_Sec_Eliminate_IUU_Fishing.pdf

ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2021-2025)

- ✓ The overarching objective of the Roadmap is to enhance and strengthen collaborative efforts to combat IUU fishing in the region thereby improving fisheries management, sustaining fish resources, and optimizing the benefit of adopting responsible fishing practices.
- ✓ To help address IUU fishing in the region, the ASEAN roadmap for combating IUU for the period 2021 - 2025 is based on three broad objectives:
 - i. To identify priority issues for addressing IUU fishing.
 - ii. To ensure a shared understanding of identified cooperation areas and action plans agreed by AMS to address IUU fishing.
 - iii. To strengthen institutional capacities and compliance with domestic and international instruments to combat IUU fishing.

ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2021-2025) Completed Activity:

2.1 Facilitate dialogues among fisheries officers to share, at the sub-regional/regional level, best practices (e.g. MCS) and share lessons in efforts to combat IUU fishing.

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1. Information session on the CRIMARIO II Project's IORIS Maritime Coordination Platform was held on 17 June 2021.
2. Project on Establishing Cooperation on Combating IUU Fishing under EREAD. The 3rd ASEAN Meeting Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Partnership with the European Union (EU) was held virtually from 23-24 February 2021.

1.1 Support the operation of AN-IUU in accordance with the Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

↓

1. Training Workshop on the Use of the AN-IUU Interactive Platform. was organised by Thailand on 18 July 2023.
2. The regional guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing related information for the AN-IUU were adopted by the 44th AMAF in October 2022.
3. Virtual Workshop on the Guidelines for Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-Related Information for the AN-IUU Interactive Platform was organised on 9 February 2020.

Projects on Combating IUU Fishing in ASEAN

BlueFairFish – Combating Illegal Fishing in ASEAN

This upcoming project will focus on:

- ✓ To support the ASEAN member states (AMS) in combatting illegal fishing in the region
- ✓ Development and updating of sustainable fisheries management plans and instruments
- ✓ Knowledge exchange and communication, diversify livelihoods and business opportunities for small-scale fisherfolk,

ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia

The project will focus on:

- ✓ Training on responsible fishing technologies and practices
- ✓ Training on ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS)
- ✓ Regional capacity building workshop on enhancing policies and measures against IUU fishing in Southeast Asia
- ✓ Training for fisheries inspectors in the implementation of Port State Measure

Opportunities for Cooperation

- Promote awareness and understanding of the detrimental impacts of IUU fishing and applicable international and regional instruments and agreements through information dissemination campaigns targeting fishers and seafood businesses
- Leverage a public-private partnership to improve the implementation of fisheries traceability systems.
- Conduct of training for port inspections including legal and operational aspects with emphasis on the practical hands-on component.
- Implement Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for commercial fishing vessels licensed by the AMS.
- Technical assistances in combating IUU Fishing; use of regulatory measures, use of methodologies and operational fisheries enforcement procedures, use of technology to identify and combat IUU Fishing and related activities

Opportunities for Cooperation

- Training on using AN – IUU interactive platform, and promote the use of the interactive platform
- Capacity building on the implementation Guidelines on sharing, access and use of IUU fishing related information
- Exchange of best practice on on-board observers programme
- Information exchange on fisheries/port laws and regulations for designated ports for foreign fishing vessels, and best practices on fishing vessel inspection
- Application of digital technologies and innovative approaches to combat IUU.
- Technical support for AMS to implement the requirements of Port State Measures Agreement

For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_5_3_ASEAN_Sec_Eliminate_IUU_Fishing.pdf

Addressing IUU Fishing in the Bay of Bengal – National Efforts and Regional Drive

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BOBP: Inter-Governmental Organisation
A Regional Think Tank committed to facilitate evidence-based fisheries management

Contracting parties: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka

Cooperating parties: Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand

Themes:
- Fisheries Resource Management
- Ecosystem & Biodiversity Conservation
- Livelihoods and Occupational Safety

Verticals:
- Research & Development
- Policy Advocacy
- Capacity Development

Fishing: Characteristics of the Region

- BOB Region comprises lower middle to middle income countries.
- Multiple fishing points- diverse fisheries.
- Large number of fishing vessels.
- Fisheries is seen as a livelihood activity – with focus on increasing production.
- Co-existence of formal and informal governance mechanism – inadequate bridging process.

Total fishing craft in the region

Country	Vessels (in thousands)
Bangladesh	67.90
India	193.59
Indonesia	625.71
Malaysia	50.95
Maldives	22.41
Myanmar	58.85
Sri Lanka	11.24
Thailand	11.24

Over 1 million fishing vessels ply in the region. There are about 2.6 million fishing vessels in the world.
(FAO Fisheries & Aquaculture Yearbook 2019)

BOB – Paradox of Plenty

Problems:

- A part of the northern Indian Ocean bordered by 06 developing countries and 02 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) = **resource constraint**
- About 23% stocks are over-exploited and 6.6% stocks are collapsed = **Not so healthy fish stocks**
- Average 5-6 tropical cyclones/year, IMD = **Disaster prone**
- Warming faster than other seas. **Climate vulnerability**

Prospects:

- Fisheries is the most prominent activity. Oil and gas exploration and shipping are developing rapidly.
- Over 400 million people in the Bay of Bengal area are dependent on coastal and marine resources for their food, livelihood and security (BOBLME Project).
- Large catch: 4,514 thousand tonnes valued at USD 6,658.47 million in 2010 USD (SeaAroundUs).

IUU Fishing – a global threat to sustainability

A major impediment for sustainability of marine fisheries sector

Undermines management and conservation measures; severely impact livelihoods of millions of people

Globally, up to 20% of traded fisheries products are from IUU fishing; about US\$ 23 billion per year.

A 2016 USA National Intelligence Council Report termed IUU a bigger problem than piracy

Food Security & Loss of Livelihoods	Tension between the countries	Undermines rule of law	Likely to contribute to piracy, risky working condition, etc.
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IUU Fishing – Emerging global discourse

Fisheries Management Issue ↔ Law and Order Issue

Global experience shows that IUU fishing can be graduated to fisheries crime

Fisheries Crime Problems → IUU Fishing

- Unregulated Fishing
- Forced Labor and Human Trafficking
- Drug Trafficking
- Corruption
- Using forced labor
- Transport illegal drugs
- Bribery and corruption

The challenge is to address it at the fisheries management level

South Asia's United Front Against IUU Fishing

- The definition of IUU fishing, as provided by FAO in IPOA-IUU serves as a basis for international understanding and action against such practices.
- However, specific aspects and emphases may vary slightly from one national context to another, as countries adapt the definition to their legal and regulatory frameworks, marine environments, and fishing practices.

For more information, please download the document here:
http://www.seafdec.or.th/iuu-projectend-2024/downloads/Agenda_5_4_BOBP-IGO.pdf

Strategic Considerations in the National Initiatives

- Key Strategies:**
 - Legal and Policy Frameworks:** Strengthening of legal frameworks, including adherence to international agreements like the FAO Port State Measures Agreement.
 - Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS):** Enhancing MCS capabilities, utilizing technology such as Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), and strengthening regional cooperation for more effective surveillance and enforcement.
 - Stakeholder Engagement:** Promoting community-based management, public awareness, and stakeholder participation in combating IUU fishing.
- Challenges and Opportunities:**
 - Common Challenges:** Monitoring vast marine areas and ensuring compliance among a diverse and dispersed fishing community.
 - Collaborative Opportunities:** Sharing best practices, leveraging technology, and enhancing regional cooperation to strengthen surveillance and law enforcement against IUU fishing activities.

Scope of further strengthening the NPOA-IUUs

Scope of Regional Cooperation in NPOA-IUU

Country	Scope of Regional Cooperation in NPOA-IUU
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with regional bodies Bilateral and multilateral agreements with neighboring countries for joint patrols, information sharing, and enforcement actions. Participation in regional workshops, training, and capacity-building initiatives.
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active participation in IORA and the IOTC Collaborative research and data sharing on fish stocks and marine ecosystems. Regional dialogues and agreements to address cross-border IUU fishing.
Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong emphasis on cooperation within the framework of the IOTC. Partnerships with regional organizations for the development of MCS strategies. Regional collaboration for capacity building and technology transfer.
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with the RFBs for enhanced regional fisheries management. Bilateral agreements with neighboring countries. Initiatives for regional capacity building, including MCS, and joint research.

Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU) for the Bay of Bengal region

- Enhanced Data Sharing and Transparency
- Strengthening MCS
- Harmonization of Legal Frameworks and Standards
- Capacity Building and Technical Assistance
- Inclusion of Small-Scale Fisheries and Community Engagement
- Addressing IUU Fishing in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) (Needs strengthening)
- Approach for Gender and Working Conditions (Needs strengthening)

Enters BOBLME Project: Sustainable Management of Fisheries

Outcome 1.2: IUU catch in the BOBLME reduced.

Output 1.2.1 BOBLME countries join and implement a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) on IUU fishing.

Output 1.2.2 National POAs-JUU and national IUU MCS systems and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) strengthened.

Output 1.2.3 Tools for promoting best practice to combat IUU developed and implemented. (MCS, PSM and traceability, and policies and national actions to combat IUU fishing developed and implemented in national pilot/investment project)

Output 1.2.4 Regional Capacity Building Program on port inspections, MCS, and traceability implemented.

BOBP-IGO: To matching of project & policy

Project Targets:

- 20% reduction in IUU fishing from 2014.
- Implement RPOA-IUU.
- Strengthen NPOA-IUU, MCS, VMS.
- Tools for promoting best practices to combat IUU fishing developed and implemented in national pilot/investment projects.
- Advance training for 20 national fisheries staff trained in each country.
- Gender is mainstreamed.

Does project and national targets marry?

Are the current efforts enough to contain and solve IUU fishing within fisheries sector and stopping it from escalating to a law and order problem?

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CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Tomoko Nakazato

Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of the Training Department

*The Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
20–21 March 2024, Pattaya, Chonburi Province, Thailand*

Distinguished Delegates from the ASEAN Member States, SEAFDEC staff, a Resource person Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon!

While “The Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia” is coming to an end, please allow me to express my appreciation to all of you for your attention and support during the Workshop.

Firstly, I would like to thank the representatives from the ASEAN Member States and SEAFDEC staff for your attention, active participation and cooperation during the Workshop. Your efforts have indeed led to the success of this Workshop, and I would also like to thank those who have worked hard for the smooth arrangements of this Workshop.

Secondly, I would like to thank a resource person/facilitator, Dr. Simon Funge-Smith for your very valuable information, and for sharing your experiences in the Workshop.

I hope that the knowledge and experience that participants gained from this Workshop will be applied and utilized in your respective countries as relevant activities through reducing and combating IUU fishing.

Considering that our two days of Workshop have been very successful, I am indeed very grateful to all of you and allow me now to declare this “The Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia” closed. I wish you all safe travel back to your country and look forward to seeing you again soon.

Thank you.



**Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
Training Department**

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