

**Report of
Teleseminar on Way Forward for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
Through Zoom Webinar, Training Department
24-26 August 2020**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Teleseminar on Way Forward for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia was organized on 24-26 August by SEAFDEC Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) in collaboration with the SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (SEAFDEC/MFRDMD) and SEAFDEC Secretariat via Zoom Webinar. The Teleseminar was opened for the public and attended a total of 578 audiences.

I. OPENING OF THE TELESEMINAR

2. The Opening Remarks was delivered by *Ms. Malinee Smithritthee*, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC. She mentioned that during the decades, combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is one of the top priority issues being addressed by countries all over the world including the Southeast Asian nations to sustain utilization of our fishery resources. SEAFDEC and member countries should review our practices, identify gaps and explore new technologies to improve the efficiency of tools for combating IUU fishing to ensure that fish and fishery products from the Southeast Asian region are not derived from IUU fishing and meet the relevant international requirements. Therefore, this teleseminar will conduct to share experiences of the on-going measures undertaken for combating IUU fishing and explore new ideas and ways forward to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region. After these three days, SEAFDEC and member countries will sit down and brainstorm about how we can strengthen our practices along with updated initiatives.

II. OVERVIEW OF SEAFDEC INITIATIVES IN COMBATING IUU FISHING

3. Overview of SEAFDEC initiatives in combating IUU fishing was presented by *Mr. Kongpathai Saraphaivanich*, a person responsible for SEAFDEC combating IUU project. The presentation was focused on SEAFDEC initiatives in combating IUU fishing such as 1) ASEAN guidelines for preventing the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain, 2) traceability of fish and fishery products from fishing to plate, 3) development of the database for Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR), and 4) regional coordination to support implementation of Port State Measure. Moreover, MCS, sub-regional/bilateral cooperation, RPOA capacity through collaboration with other partners also focused in his presentation.

III. THE TOPIC PRESENTATION FROM PANELISTS

FAO

4. *Dr. Matthew Camilleri*, the Head of the Fishing Operations and Technology Branch, FAO Headquarters presented on the title of “Perspectives on the initiative of Southeast Asian region in fulfilling international requirements for combating IUU fishing”. His presentation was focused on international implementation of the instrument to combat IUU fishing such as SDG 14 (especially targets 14.4 and 14.6 that concern with IUU fishing), 1982 UNCLOS, 1993 Compliance Agreement, 1995 UNFSA, 1995 CCRF, 2001 IPOA-IUU, 2005 Rome Declaration, 2009 PSM Agreement, 2014 VG-Flag State Performance, 2017 Global Record, 2017 VG-Catch Documentation Schemes, 2018 VG-Marking of Fishing Gears.

5. The instrument should be conducted by flag state, port state, coastal state, and market state. He also presented FAO global information exchange as 1) PSMA information exchange which

consists of a) PSMA apps to share data on destination ports and national contact points and b) global information exchange system (GIES): it is a prototype under development.

6. He informed to Teleseminar that Global Record of fishing vessels can support the implementation of the PSMA and other instruments to combat IUU fishing such as verification of vessel and authorization information, risk analysis from historical and compliance information, the linkage between the vessel and PSM inspection information and result, parties and non-parties to international instruments, other surveillance information (coastal state). He also informed activities by FAO which support capacity development to SEAFDEC countries. Moreover, he mentioned to fundamental element to eliminate IUU fishing should consist of cooperation, transparency, and compliance.

DG MARE

7. The Policy Officer from the European Commission Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), *Ms.Sara Perucho Martinez* presented on the topic of “EU support to ASEAN to combat IUU fishing; E-READI; ASEAN IUU Network: EU IT CATCH”. Her presentation was focused on The EU activity to established firm global leadership on oceans which aims to cleaner, healthier oceans that are more resilient to climate change and can be a source of sustainable growth. In the context of the EU Green Deal, the fight against IUU fishing is a priority for the European Commission.

8. The EU has established IUU bilateral dialogues with the majority of the ASEAN Member States. However, experience has shown that fighting IUU fishing is much more effective if it is done adding synergies at the regional level, rather than independently by each country. Whenever a country strengthens its control systems to fight IUU fishing, there is a risk that those who do not respect the rules move to other countries with less stringent laws and controls.

9. In the framework of the cooperation EU-ASEAN, the EU created the E-READI instrument. The first meeting of the E-READI dialogue on IUU had a very positive outcome, with a concrete result: the ASEAN agreement on the creation of an ASEAN IUU Network. The EU strongly supports the creation of the ASEAN IUU network and looks forward to this IUU Network to start working.

10. IT CATCH: The EU catch certification scheme requires flag States to certify the legality of the fish, thereby ensuring the full traceability of all marine fishery products traded from and into the EU. This system has been paper-based since 2010 and while it has been useful, it has also shown its limits in terms of the potential risk of fraud as well as burdensome verifications for Member States’ authorities, and an uneven level of implementation in the Member States.

11. The limitations of the paper-based system led to the creating a unique IT system to manage catch certificates and reduce opportunities for fraudulent imports: the IT CATCH. The system is now available to EU IUU authorities and EU stakeholders’ voluntarily basis. The legal basis for compulsory use of CATCH by EU authorities and EU operators are foreseen in 2021.

Sustainable Fisheries Research and Development Foundation

12. *Dr.Adisorn Promthep*, Sustainable Fisheries Research and Development Foundation, Thailand presented on the topic “Challenges on sustainable marine fisheries management in Southeast Asia: Adaptation to the New Normal (after COVID 19)”. His presentation was focused on the situation of world fisheries and aquaculture production including top exporters and importers of fish and fish products in terms of value. He also mentioned the situation of COVID-19 brought further challenges for all countries in the world including the AMSs efforts in combating IUU fishing. As COVID-19 has resulted in drastic economic crisis for countries all over the world, there is a need to balance the need to fight against IUU fishing and achieving sustainable fisheries, while also recovering from impacts of COVID-19 and economic crisis

RPOA-IUU

13. *Mr. Didik Agus Suwarsono*, the Alternate Secretariat Coordinator of RPOA-IUU presented on the topic “Development of regional IUU fishing vessels watchlist: the experience of the RPAO-IUU”. His presentation was focus on the introduction of RPOA-IUU, role, and activities implemented in the region. RPOA-IUU (established in 2009) is a regional collaborative framework to promote responsible fishing practices including prevent deter and eliminate IUU fishing. AMSs that are RPOA-IUU members are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. However, the RPOA-IUU does not have full coverage of the Southeast Asian countries (*not incl. Lao PDR and Myanmar*).

14. RPOA-IUU developed the draft “**RPOA-IUU Vessel Watch List**” in 2012 (include definition and mechanism for listing and delisting of vessels). IUU fishing vessel data and information were reported from Member Countries, organizations, and partners to the RPOA-IUU Secretariat to further request relevant participating countries to take appropriate actions. However, on the website, only summary information on actions taken by countries on the vessels is provided, but details are confidential and only provided to the Member Countries. The IUU fishing vessel watchlist webpage was shown to the Teleseminar via www.rpoaiuu.org/iuu-vessel/

OceanMind

15. *Ms. Natalie Tellwright*, Senior Fisheries Analyst from OceanMind presented on “Innovations for combating IUU fishing”. Her presentation is focused on the use of remote sensing data from the satellite to identify vessels and types of activity/behavior, then match these with regulations applied that particular area in order to see if the vessels do not comply with the regulations. The information would be transformed into intelligence.

16. Develop Machine Learning to reduce the burden of manual monitoring, considering a large number of fishing vessels and diverse fisheries regulations. The Machine was trained to learn to identify certain activity, and layered with management regulation in the areas (e.g. closed areas, gear restriction, time restriction) to determine compliance; and from the pattern of the activities, the machine will “*alert*” when suspicious activities occur, and suggest “*actions*” to be taken.

17. PSM analysis tool to conduct “pre-arrival risk assessment” by comparing observed data from the tracking system and others with data reported by the vessel, and use “*indicators of non-compliance*” before vessels arrive at the port. She also mentioned that information exchange and sharing are important for combating IUU fishing.

IMCS Network

18. *Mr. Gary Orr* from the International MCS Network presented on the topic “Available tools and future activities for MCS implementation” He introduced about IMCS network has 67 member States, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), and regional economic integration organizations. The establishment of the IMCS Network provided a global platform that had never existed before for fisheries law enforcement officers and MCS professionals to share information and experiences on suspected IUU fishing activities and to join forces in enforcing fisheries legislation. Identifying and pursuing IUU activities requires resources and capabilities that are often beyond the reach of any individual nation.

19. The IMCS Network pursues the following three strategic objectives to achieve its mission: Coordinate and encourage international cooperation on MCS and raise awareness of MCS issues; Facilitate increased information exchanges and collaborative MCS activities among Members; Assist

in strengthening the human and technical capacity of Members to implement and maintain effective and efficient MCS schemes.

20. To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of MCS, the Network facilitates cooperation and information sharing among all member states and organizations, as well as between Network Members and third parties. IMCS Network activities include: Encourage and facilitate cooperation and communication between fisheries MCS and enforcement agencies and raise awareness of international MCS issues, primarily through the IMCS Network website; Organize Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshops and Stop IUU Fishing Awards; Facilitate, strengthen, and improve the MCS capacity of Members by Coordinating, participating in, or otherwise facilitating MCS capacity building activities; Maintaining an updated Register of Vetted MCS Experts for access and use by Members; Facilitating opportunities for exchanges of MCS Equipment between Members; Supporting and/or conducting MCS research and studies that support Members; and Facilitating the work of the Tuna Compliance Network comprised of the Compliance Officers of the five global tuna RFMOs.

NOAA

21. *Dr. Katheryn Patterson*, Foreign Affairs Specialist from the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) presented “NOAA’s Counter-IUU Fishing Efforts in Southeast Asia”. Her presentation was focused on The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) which seeks to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fishing-related activities in support of such fishing through the implementation of effective port State measures. The PSMA provides specific requirements and guidelines for implementation including but not limited to the screening of fishing and fishing-support vessels before arrival, vessel inspection requirements, inspector training guidelines, and information-sharing requirements.

22. Consistent with the United States’ support for efforts promoting broad and effective implementation of the Port State Measures Act (PSMA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) has developed a PSMA Inspector Training Program to provide technical assistance to key global partners. This training program focuses on the operational aspects of implementing the PSMA with emphasis on roles and responsibilities of fisheries/PSMA inspectors, methods to detect IUU fishing activity, and the ability to conduct thorough inspections of foreign-flagged fishing and fishing-support vessels that enter the ports of our global partners. Beyond conducting the trainings, NOAA OLE strives to develop long-term partnerships and promote institutionalizing the PSMA inspector curriculum within each nation’s competencies, develop legal and policy frameworks to support PSMA implementation, and continue training activities focused on conducting IUU fishing investigations and complementary activities to combat IUU fishing and crimes associated with IUU fishing, as needed. Specific activities are listed above in the capacity building section. Her presentation also focused on NOAA OLE’s efforts in Southeast Asia to combat IUU fishing and implement the PSMA with the support of several partners, as well as lessons learned and next steps.

IV. WAY FORWARD FOR COMBATING IUU FISHING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

23. *Dr. Worawit Wanchana*, Policy and Program Coordination from SEAFDEC Secretariat presented the conclusion and way forward for combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia which summarize and concrete from the Teleseminar. The conclusions and way forwards are as follows:

Conclusions

24. In the Southeast Asian region: AMSs that already adopted their respective NPOA-IUU are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Since August 2020, AMSs that are Parties to PSM Agreement namely; Cambodia, Indonesia,

Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Under the ASEAN Mechanism, AMSs are having continued dialogues on the establishment of regional fisheries policy, *i.e.* ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP) and AN-IUU. This is also with the support of the EU through E-READI.

25. Fundamental elements for eliminating IUU fishing are as follows;

- *Political will and commitment* -- Strong political will is very important for each country to combat IUU fishing, particularly in establishing necessary legal frameworks and mechanisms for combating IUU fishing, and allocation of necessary resources
- *Cooperation and collaboration* -- Each country cannot work alone and cooperation among countries is necessary, *e.g.* in exchange for information among flag states, coastal states, and port states, etc.
- *Transparency* – Sharing plans and strategies among countries
- *Law enforcement* – ensure monitoring of compliances
- *Mechanism* -- for results from detection of IUU fishing activities in to have ACTIONS, including sanction to discourage IUU fishing (but penalty should be reasonable and comparable among countries in the region)
- *Capacity development* –requires needs assessment to have proper capacity building program, and to translate capacity building into actual implementation
- *Technologies and innovations* – that could facilitate monitoring of a large number of vessels including small-scale fishers
- *Sustainability* of the initiatives and mechanisms for combating IUU fishing

Way forward for combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia

26. *National Level*

- Strengthening country's capacity in the undertaking of flag State, coastal State and port State's responsibilities, as well as market-related measures for combating IUU fishing
- Applying multiple tools for combating IUU fishing, taking into consideration in different scenarios and requirements, *e.g.* in a domestic environment, territorial seas, EEZs, RFMO areas, etc.
- Considering not only combating IUU fishing in commercial/large-scale fisheries but also exploring appropriate approaches in dealing with IUU fishing in small-scale fisheries in coastal and inland waters
- Focusing not only on illegal fishing but also on unreported and unregulated fishing
- Adopting innovations for more effective MCS programs, including the use of RS data and AI to alert possible IUU fishing activities, and risk assessment before entering into port of fishing vessels
- Enhancing effective implementation of the PSMA with implementation protocols, and identification of designated ports. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination with relevant countries are necessary for effective implementation.
- Development/improvement of a country's traceability system that could exchange with systems of importing countries
- Enhancing cooperation and collaboration, including multi-national engagement in the investigation of IUU fishing, and public-private partnership in combating IUU fishing
- (*for countries that do not have NPOA-IUU*) Development of NPOA-IUU that fits with the country's major roles, *e.g.* whether the country mainly plays roles as flag State, coastal State or port State, to assist the implementation

27. *Regional Level*

- Strengthening global and regional information exchange, *e.g.* linking regional systems (*e.g.* RFVR) with global system for combating IUU fishing, *e.g.* PSMA information systems, Global Record;
- Enhancing collaboration between organizations in the region for information exchange, *e.g.* linking with RPOA-IUU Watchlist and RFVR (to enhance reporting of IUU fishing activities occurs in the region), and moving toward on-line reporting of information by the respective countries
- Furthering harmonization of catch documentation scheme importer's requirements (paper-based and electronic), including IT Catch, and moving toward ensuring compatibility and linking of data in the future.
- Improving unregulated fishing especially of shared stocks by establishing a monitoring plan (*e.g.* stock assessment) and management plan among concerned countries
- Facilitating the exchanging of information on the progress of initiatives in combating IUU fishing undertaken by the AMSs
- Continuing dialogues on the establishment of ASEAN policies, AGFP, AN-IUU

V. **CLOSING OF THE TELESEMINAR**

The Teleseminar was closed by *Mr. Akito Sato*, Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC. He extended his sincere gratitude and appreciation to all panelists as well as to the representatives from the ASEAN Member States for sharing the updated information and progress of activities on combating IUU fishing at various levels through good collaboration with partners to conduct activities to combating IUU fishing in the region. He hopes and looks forward to enhancing the close cooperation among relevant stakeholders including the ASEAN Member States, relevant international/regional organizations, NGOs, associations, and the private sector for the betterment of fisheries in Southeast Asia in the future.