



EU support to ASEAN to combat IUU fishing

E-READI ASEAN IUU Network EU CATCH

Teleseminar on Way Forward for Combating IUU Fishing
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INTRODUCTION



Tackling IUU fishing

- *IUU fishing is a **major global problem***
- *One of the **main threats to the sustainability of oceans***
- *Depletes fish stocks, destroys marine habitats, and puts honest fishermen in an unfair disadvantage position.*
- ***22 billion dollars** is the estimated value of illegal fishing worldwide.*
- *The oceans are a **source of life on earth**. They are responsible for half the oxygen we breathe and for determining weather patterns across the globe.*
- *Combating IUU fishing worldwide must therefore be **a priority, now more than ever.***



Tackling IUU fishing – the role of the EU

zero tolerance towards IUU fishing

- *The EU is the largest importer of fishery products*
- *Key role as a market state in the fight against IUU fishing*
- *The fight against IUU fishing is a priority for the European Commission.*



Tackling IUU fishing – the role of the EU

EU IUU REGULATION

- *Does not introduce any new conservation and management measures*
 - Applies international rules: UNCLOS; UNFSA; FAO PSMA; FAO IPOA IUU; RFMOs
 - Aims at improving management and control of flag States over their vessels in line with international law

Transparent and non-discriminatory instrument



EU IUU POLICY

- ***EU IUU international cooperation***
 - Dialogues under IUU regulation: TH, VN, KH, PH
 - IUU Working Groups
 - Joint Statements on IUU fishing
 - Ocean Partnership
 - Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements
- ***Inter action with other stakeholders***
 - Exchange of information
 - Transparency
 - Investigations
- ***Concrete Results***
 - Upgrade/modernisation fisheries management system
 - Adhesion to int. instruments (ex. Port State Measures Agreement)
 - Scaling up the fight against IUU amongst national priorities
 - More info/tools available for governments and stakeholders



EU-ASEAN COOPERATION



EU-ASEAN COOPERATION

ASEAN-EU relations started in 1972

Plan of Action (2018 – 2022)

“Strengthen fisheries cooperation, including among others, supporting efforts to combat IUU fishing, and promote sustainable fisheries management and aquaculture development”

The EU and ASEAN Member States have been working together to find ways of better fighting IUU fishing in the region.



E-READI : Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument

*E-READI is a demand-driven dialogue instrument that supports **ASEAN regional integration** by drawing on European experience and facilitates ongoing or new dialogues between the EU and ASEAN in in policy areas of joint interest.*

E-READI has a budget of 20 million EUR and an implementation period of 6 years starting from 1st September 2017.



E-READI and FISHERIES

- 1. ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP)** as a platform to promoting sustainable fisheries management in the region, taking as an example the EU Common Fisheries Policy.
- 2. Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU):** it established a dialogue to exchange experiences and and explore ways of better joint coordination among impacted countries.
- 3. Labour in Fishing Industry** has intensified in the recent years in ASEAN region and need to be assessed immediately.



E-READI: ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP)

Draft a General Fisheries Policy feasibility study report.

- *Review of current state of ASEAN fisheries' resources, assess existing regional policy and institutional frameworks for fisheries management and cooperation, and evaluate the feasibility of an ASEAN General Fisheries Policy.*
- *Feasibility Assessment of an ASEAN General Fisheries Policy through current state viability, past experience, thematic areas selection, and potential outcome.*
- *Recommendations, identification of the parties, organisations, and institutions to collaborate and/or cooperate on the development of the ASEAN GFP*



E-READI: IUU DIALOGUE

First ASEAN meeting on combating IUU fishing in Partnership with the EU (Bangkok, 4-5 April 2019)

- Brought together the relevant enforcement agencies and national authorities competent on IUU fisheries;*
- Good forum to exchange information, policy activities, evidence learning, and share experiences of each ASEAN Member State and the EU.*

Main objectives

- To intensify the combating IUU fishing in the ASEAN region with an emphasis on information and intelligence-sharing on vessel registration, fishing license, illegal fishing operations, tracking data/ analysed information, fishing area, transshipment information*
- To discuss and identify priorities and best practices sharing*



ASEAN IUU network

In the first ASEAN meeting on combating IUU fishing in Partnership with the EU, the ASEAN delegates agreed to create an "IUU network"

- *Platform to exchange information on IUU fishing activities*
- *A very cost-efficient and operational tool with good results proven in other areas*
- *First step for a more comprehensive cooperation to fight IUU fishing in the region*
- *Complements the existing efforts at regional level to fight against IUU fishing, notably the RPOA-IUU and SEAFDEC.*
- *EU encourages ASEAN Member States to commit to this regional initiative that will reinforce regional cooperation on fighting IUU in the region*



ASEAN IUU network

Benefits of an ASEAN IUU network

- 1. To enhance regional cooperation,*
- 2. To develop and use common investigative tools for information and intelligence sharing on a real-time basis, to track and identify vessels suspected of IUU fishing*
- 3. To analyse the information gathered to build robust cases and ensure appropriate follow-up action*
- 4. To reinforce capacity on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance*
- 5. To establish of a level playing field in the region*



E-READI: IUU DIALOGUE

Second ASEAN meeting on combating IUU fishing in Partnership with the EU (Bangkok 13-14 December 2019)

This second meeting was a good opportunity to exchange information regarding activities carried out by the AMS

Main objective

To reach an agreement on this three documents with the final intention to make it operational as soon as possible. However, this objective has not been reached and the discussions between the AMS will continue via email.

EU-ASEAN Cooperation on IUU

CONCLUSIONS:

- *EU is committed to continue supporting ASEAN to improve regional cooperation to fight against IUU fishing*
- *EU strongly supports the creation of the ASEAN IUU network*
- *EU looks forward to receiving confirmation of the establishment an IUU Network at ASEAN level*



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IT CATCH



CATCH CERTIFICATION SCHEME

- *Tool to fight IUU fishing: certify the legality of the fish*
- *Required for all consignments of fishery products destined to EU market*
- *Ensures the full traceability of all marine fishery products traded from and into the EU*
- *Ensures that countries comply with their own conservation and management rules as well as with internationally agreed rules.*
- *Paper-based system*
 - **potential risk of fraud**
 - **burdensome verifications for Member States' authorities**
 - **uneven level of implementation in Member States**



IT CATCH

➤ *Current project: move from paper-based system to an IT system (**CATCH**):*

- *Facilitates and **harmonises controls** and verifications at EU borders*
- *Facilitates **cooperation among competent authorities**: better communication and sharing of information*
- *Avoids **abusive use of Catch certificates**: EU-wide **quantity management** in order to avoid overshooting of catch certificate quantities*
- *Basic **risk analysis***
- *Creates **level playing field for all operators***
- *Reduction of **administrative burden** for Member States and other stakeholders*

CATCH – for who and when?

- *CATCH - developed to be used all through the supply chain to the end market i.e. EU (it does not intervene on the EU internal market itself)*
- *Now available to **EU IUU authorities and EU stakeholders on a voluntary basis***
- *Legal basis for **compulsory use** of CATCH by EU authorities and EU operators and single window integration: adoption foreseen in 2021, entry into force depending on outcome of the ordinary legislative procedure*

USE OF CATCH	Before the entry into force of the legal basis	After the entry into force of the legal basis
EU Member States (authorities)	Voluntary use	Mandatory use
EU importers/ stakeholders	Voluntary use	Mandatory use
Third countries authorities	Voluntary use	Voluntary use
Third countries stakeholders/ exporters	Voluntary use	Voluntary use

The more it will be used by third countries, the less burdensome it will be for all.

The more reliable information will be.



IT CATCH REGIONAL SEMINAR

- *The European Commission (DG MARE B4) planned a regional conference to present to South-East Asian and Pacific countries the EU IT CATCH system in March 2020, in Bangkok POSTPONED tentatively for December 2020.*
- *This regional conference will be an opportunity for the industry and authorities in the area to receive information on this system.*
- *It will be a “hands on” seminar where the participants will have the opportunity to work on the training environment of the IT system.*



**Thank you for your
attention !**