



PROSPECTUS

The Regional Workshop on Enhancing Policies and Countermeasures Against IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

6-8 October 2025

Bangkok, Thailand

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major international issue affecting the sustainability of fisheries resources, both within national jurisdictions and on the high seas. This illegal practice undermines sustainable fisheries management by operating outside legal frameworks, leading to the depletion of fish stocks and hindering sustainability efforts. Southeast Asian countries face increasing pressure on their fisheries resources due to IUU fishing, often linked to insufficient management and lack of monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS). These countries must prioritize preventive measures, such as regulating fishing vessels, addressing overcapacity, and implementing effective rights-based fisheries systems. IUU fishing undermines national and regional conservation efforts, putting responsible fishers at a disadvantage and requiring urgent, transparent action.

ASEAN Member State needs to strengthen their activities to combat IUU fishing. However, the problem of IUU fishing is complicated and cannot be solved by one country alone. It would require cooperation among countries to implement several measures. More importantly, strengthening the capacity of fisheries officers in AMSs who are involved in the process is necessary to ensure success in the implementation of these measures.

In support of these efforts, the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia has been implemented under the Agreement on Technical Cooperation between ASEAN and the Government of Japan (the ASEAN-JICA cooperation framework), in collaboration with SEAFDEC. This project aims to improve AMS's understanding of the practices and action necessary to deter IUU fishing and to think about the tangible countermeasures that could be adopted in their own countries, as well as to strengthen concrete countermeasures based on specific issues and concerns for eliminating IUU fishing in the AMSs through the training/capacity building workshop activities.

Therefore, the “Regional Workshop on Enhancing Policies and Countermeasures Against IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia” will be conducted. The primary aim of the workshop is to provide an update on the implementation status of the National Plans of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) across ASEAN Member States. Additionally, the workshop seeks to improve understanding of international, regional, and national countermeasures and to address urgent concerns related to the prevention and elimination of IUU fishing in the region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To share on the implementation of the National Plans of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) among ASEAN Member States.
2. To enhance understanding and address international concerns related to IUU fishing countermeasures.
3. To discuss the initiative to develop ASEAN Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment for strengthening regional cooperation and regulatory frameworks.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Updated on the implementation status of NPOA-IUU across the ASEAN Member States.
2. Improved understanding of international concerns related to IUU fishing countermeasures.
3. Initial recommendations from the ASEAN Member States on the development of ASEAN Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.

PARTICIPANTS

1. Representatives from ASEAN Member Countries
2. Relevant staff of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC/TD
3. Other regional and international organizations

DATE AND VENUE

The workshop will be held from 6 to 8 October 2025 at Mandarin Hotel Bangkok, Thailand

Timetable (*The time can be changed as appropriate*)

6 October 2025 (Monday)

Time	Activities
0830-0900	Registration
0900-0930	Agenda 1: Opening Ceremony Session • Statement by JICA Thailand Office • Opening remarks by SEAFDEC Secretary-General Agenda 2: Introduction and Objectives of the Workshop Agenda 3: Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Workshop
0930-1000	<i>Refreshment</i>
1000-1200	Agenda 4: Current Situation of the National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) and Policy Action to Implement Combating IUU Activities (Short, Medium, and Long Term) by AMSs (30 minutes per country) • Brunei Darussalam • Cambodia • Indonesia • Lao PDR
1200-1300	<i>Lunch</i>
1300-1600	Agenda 4: Current Situation of the National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) and Policy Action to Implement Combating IUU Activities (Short, Medium, and Long Term) by AMSs (Continue)

	• Malaysia • Myanmar • Philippines • Thailand • Viet Nam
1800-2000	<i>Reception Dinner</i>

7 October 2025 (Tuesday)

Time	Activities - Day 2
0900-1030	Agenda 5: Urgent Concerns Related to IUU Fishing Countermeasures (by Ms. Shelley Clark, FAO/Rome) • Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) ○ Overview of the PSMA ○ Global Information Exchange System (GIES) ○ Bali Strategy for effective implementation of the PSMA ○ The PSMA indicators to quantify implementation and/or effectiveness
1030-1100	<i>Refreshment</i>
1100-1200	Agenda 5: Urgent Concerns Related to IUU Fishing Countermeasures (by Ms. Shelley Clark, FAO/Rome) • The FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment • Others
1200-1300	<i>Lunch</i>
1300-1600	Agenda 6: Discussion for the Initiative of the ASEAN Voluntary Guideline for Transshipment • Transshipment issues in the region • Assessment of the regulation of transshipment in the region • Initiative development of a regional manual for the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guideline for Transshipment. • Initiative development of regional guidelines to facilitate capacity building and support national implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guideline for Transshipment.

8 October 2025 (Wednesday)

Time	Activities - Day 3
0900-1000	Presentation of group discussion
1000-1030	<i>Refreshment</i>
1030-1200	Agenda 7: Cross-cutting Issues • Introduction of the Ship to Shore Rights Southeast Asia programme (Ms. Angela Lentisco, FAO/RAP)
1200-1300	<i>Lunch</i>
1300-1430	Agenda 8: Conclusion and ways forward
1430-1500	<i>Refreshment</i>
1500-1600	Agenda 9: Closing Ceremony