



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) IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM'S CURRENT NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT IUU FISHING

- In 2011, Brunei launched its National Plan of Action (NPOA) to combat IUU fishing in agreement with a broader Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) for the South China Sea, Sulawesi Sea, and Arafura-Timor Seas.
- Key actions include:
 - Licensing and registration of fishing vessels and gears;
 - Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) through marine police, navy and aerial patrols;
 - Enforcement of fishing zones and gear restrictions;
 - Protection of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs);
 - Initial steps toward catch documentation and traceability, in line with ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme.

KEY MEASURES TO COMBAT IUU FISHING

- **Enhanced enforcement:** The Fisheries Act (Chapter 61) and its regulations outline licensing requirements, fishing restrictions, and penalties for violators. The Department of Fisheries has also taken enforcement actions against illegal fishers.
- **Fisheries management that includes:**
 - Implementing a moratorium on new commercial bottom trawler licenses since 2000;
 - Enforcing new mesh size regulations for commercial trawlers since 2002;
 - Restricting fishing gears and fishing operations in certain zones since 2008;
 - Redelineation of Fishing Zones in 2024.
- **Habitat restoration:** Deployment of artificial reefs help restore degraded habitats and create new fish breeding grounds. Artificial reefs also serve as anti-trawling devices.
- **International cooperation:** Brunei recognizes the need for enhanced regional cooperation and better surveillance to protect its marine resources.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND INITIATIVES



2000

Discontinue the issuance of new fishing license for commercial bottom trawlers

2008

Moratorium on fishing operations:
No additional fishing licenses in Zone 1 issued and restrictions on certain types of fishing gears.

License issued based on Maximum Sustainable Yield below 21,300 metric tonnes per year

Marine Biodiversity Survey on coral cover

2020

Deployment of additional artificial reefs

2024

Implement nationwide AIS tracking for all commercial fishing vessels

2002

Imposed new mesh size requirement for trawl cod end net from 38mm to 51mm

2009

Prohibitions of fishing with explosive, poison, pollutant etc.

2015

Establishment of Marine Protected Areas (1,208.07km²)

Imposed shark ban

2023

Marine stock assessment in collaboration with SEAFDEC

Re-delineation of Fishing Zones

2026

To implement size restriction for lobster and crab catch including egg-bearers

POLICY ACTION TO IMPLEMENT COMBATING IUU ACTIVITIES

Short Term (1-2 years)

- Strengthen MCS capacity:
 - Increase frequency of sea and aerial patrols (navy, marine police).
 - Pilot use of drones and satellite monitoring (AIS integration).
- Enhance licensing and registration for all fishing vessels, including small-scale fishers.
- Introduce electronic catch documentation system (e-CDS) to ensure traceability.
- Conduct awareness programs for local fishers on IUU regulations.
- In the process of accession into the Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA).

POLICY ACTION TO IMPLEMENT COMBATING IUU ACTIVITIES

Medium Term (3-5 years)

- Fully implement nationwide AIS tracking for all commercial fishing vessels.
- Expand electronic traceability system (from landing to export).
- Establish joint task force for fisheries enforcement (DoF, Navy, Police, Customs, Port Authority).
- Upgrade legal framework:
 - o Include expanded definitions for combating IUU fishing in the Amended Fisheries Act (Chapter 61).
 - o Strengthen penalties for IUU offences.
- Enhance port state measures: inspections of foreign vessels, port entry conditions, and denial of access for IUU suspects.
- Strengthen regional cooperation with ASEAN, RPOA-IUU, and neighboring states for intelligence and information sharing of IUU fishing activities.

POLICY ACTION TO IMPLEMENT COMBATING IUU ACTIVITIES

Long Term (5-10 years)

- Restore marine habitats by deploying more artificial reefs, which act as fish breeding grounds and anti-trawling mechanisms;
- Fully integrate catch-to-market electronic traceability system;
- Ensure legal deterrence through higher penalties, swift prosecution, and forfeiture measures;
- Provide continuous training for enforcement officers.

LAW AND REGULATIONS TO SUPPORT NPOA- IUU AND TRANSSHIPMENT

Existing Laws

- Brunei Darussalam Fishery Limits Act (Cap. 130) - establishes Brunei's EEZ (200 NM).
- Fisheries Act (Cap. 61) - enforcement powers, presumptions, core fisheries management law (licensing, offences, penalties)
- Subsidiary regulations (for fish culture farms, fish landing complexes, fish processing establishments).

Transshipment Laws

- Brunei does not allow the sea transshipment of fish.
- The handling of transshipment goods in Brunei is governed by its legal system which aligned to the international maritime standards for customs procedures.

CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES OF NPOA-IUU IMPLEMENTATION

- **Limited enforcement capacity:** Few patrol vessels vs high cost of monitoring EEZ.
- **Data and technology gaps:** No real-time data and location detection of vessels provided by the existing AIS app; lack of integrated enforcement database.
- **Jurisdictional overlaps:** Multiple agencies involved, leading to coordination challenges.
- **Regional dynamics:** Transboundary incursions by foreign vessels remain persistent.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Small-scale fishers may lack awareness and compliance capacity.



THANK YOU