



# **Fishing Vessels Management and Combating IUU Fishing in Myanmar**

- Mr. Hlwan Moe Zaw, Director**
- Dr. Arkar Myo, Deputy Officer**
- Ms. Cho Mar Oo, Deputy Officer**

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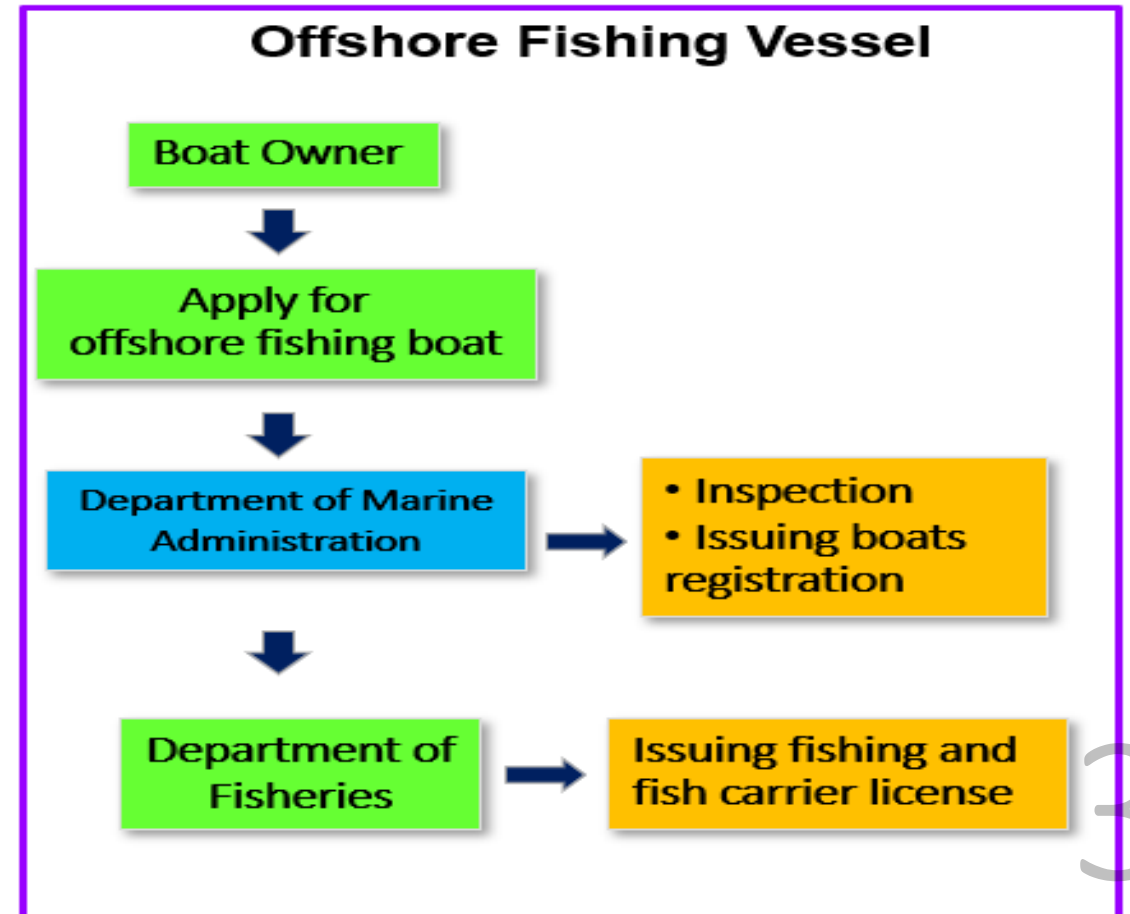
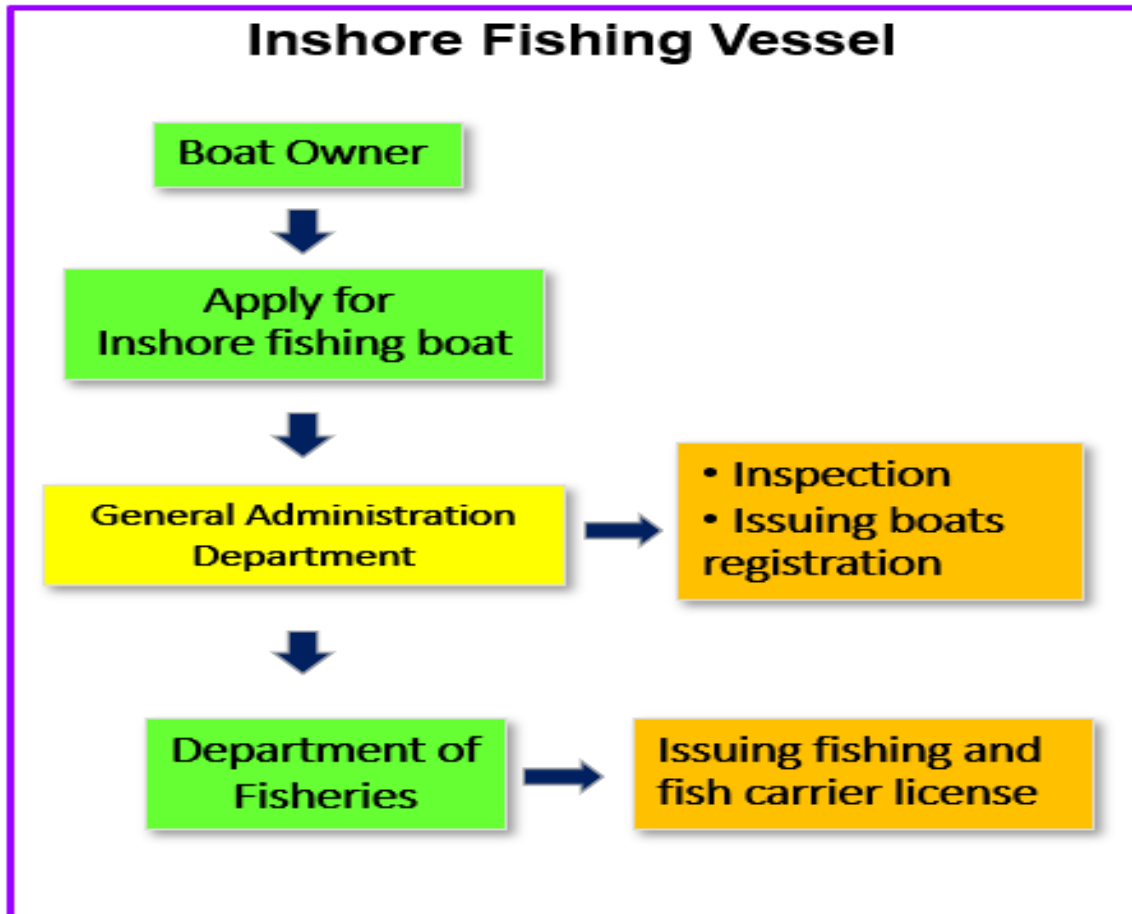
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# Vessel Registration and Fishing Licensing System in Myanmar

- Fishing Vessel Registration must be renew every year.
- Currently, no new fishing vessel are allow to be build. Only damaged and sunken vessel can be rebuild.
- License (implement) fee According to the type of fishing gear and number used.



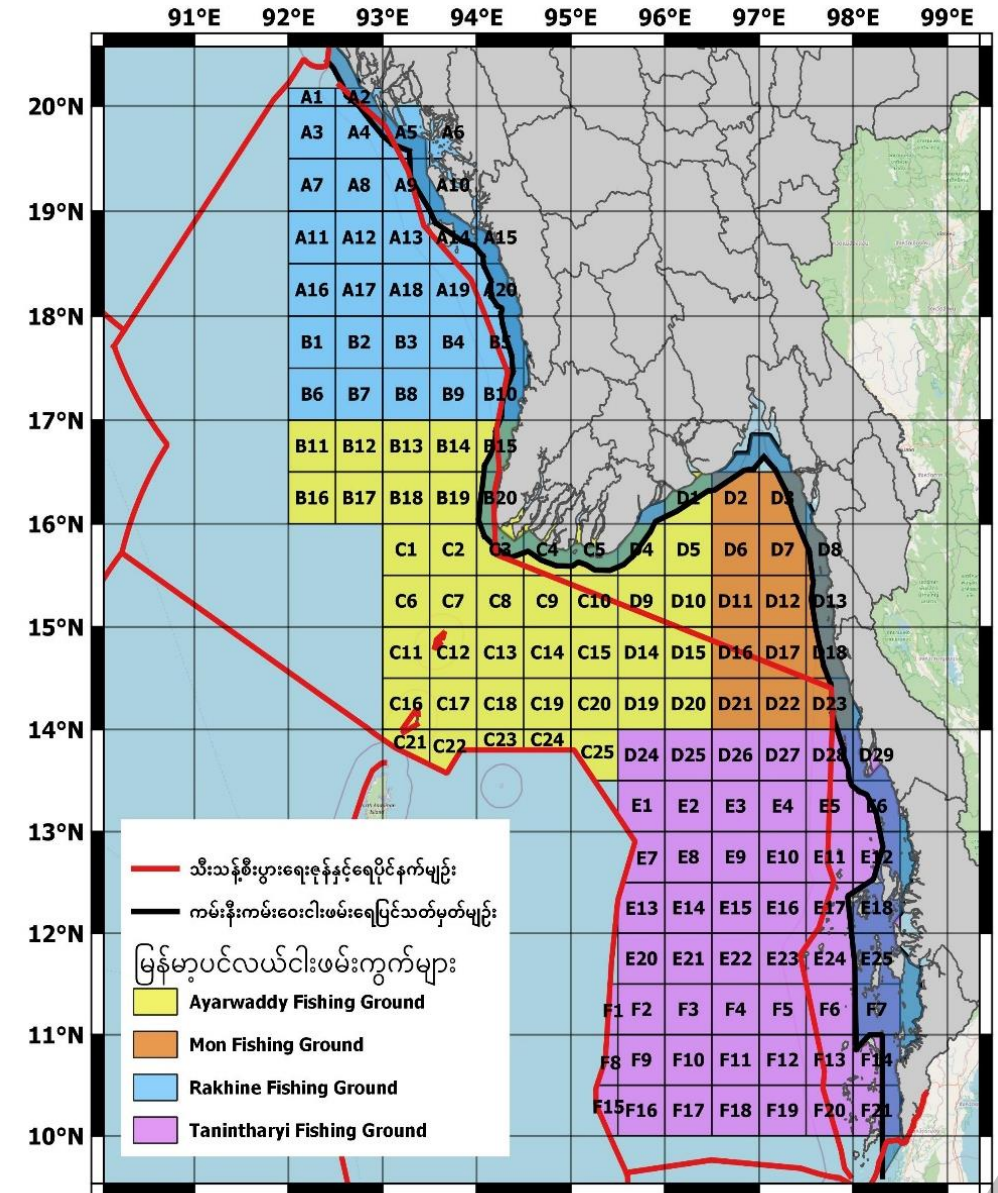
# Vessel Identification Marking by Fishing Areas

Myanmar is demarcated 4 fishing ground

Total Fishing Ground Area = 486,000 sq-km  
Coastal Length = 2,832 km

Vessel Markings and color coding must be needed according to the place of license Issue

Description	Place of Licence Issue	Word color on Line Color of Hull
Off Shore Fishing Vessel	Tanintharyi	White
	Head Office Yangon/Ayeyarwady/Mon	White
	Rakhing	White
Off Shore Carrier	Local Carrier	Red



# Fishing Vessel Characteristics, and Mesh Sized

## In-shore Fishing Vessel (Small Scale)

- < 50 HP engine, < 40 feet length of the vessel,
- Fishing Area - 10 nautical mile from shore



## Off-shore Fishing Vessel (Commercial Scale)

- > 50 HP engine, > 40 feet length of the vessel
- Trawl, Purse seine, Surrounding net,  
Drift net, Long line, Stow net & Giant set-bag net.
- Outer area from inshore line to end of EEZ



## Mesh Sized Measures

- ❖ Closed mesh sized for trawl and stow net – not less than 2 inches (Fish)  
1.5 inches (shrimp), For Drift Net not less than 4 inches



# Fishing Vessel Record System

## Related Department

- **Department of Marine Administrative:** Offshore Fishing Vessel Registration and construction Record
- **General Administrative Department:** Inshore Fishing Vessel Registration Record
- **Department of Fisheries:** Offshore/ Inshore Fishing License & other relative information

## Type of recorded information

- Photo of the fishing vessel
- The Owner's information: photo, name, ID card, address & contact number
- Vessel Information: size, type of vessel, year of build, engine HP, GT (offshore), hull type
- Navigation devices: Sonar, Rada, VMS, AIS etc..

# Management on Fishing Practices & Methods

- Director General may delegated his powers conferred under the fisheries laws to any officer of the Department
- All DOF officers in Region and States shall carry out fisheries management such as licensing, data collecting and inspection for freshwater, marine water and aquaculture fisheries.
- One Stop Service (OSS) which includes Department of Custom, Port Authority, Marine Administration, Trade, National Registration and Immigration and DOF has formed since 1996

## Main Responsibilities

- (1) Monitoring Control & Surveillance
- (2) Fisheries management regulations
- (3) Traceability & Logistic
- (5) International Cooperation and Compliance
- (6) Capacity Building



# Monitoring Control & Surveillance System

VMS, Research & Logbook



Logbook

Research

Measures

- Closed Area
- Prohibited Gears
- Closed Season
- Closed Species

Inspection at Port & Sea  
(Check in, Check out & Fishing activities)



DOF controlled the marine fishing vessels based on research and data. Based on the research results, measures such as closed season, closed area, closed species and prohibited gears criteria and monitoring and control are carried out. Navy and maritime police force inspected at the sea and One Stop Service team inspected at the port catch data and other requirement documents.

# National Plan of Action to Combat IUU (NPOA)

National Plan of Action (NPOAs) to Combat IUU Fishing in Myanmar, 2015

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

Monitoring Control Surveillance (MCS)

Data Collection (DC)

Law

➤ Myanmar has developed the National Plan of Action –IUU with the assistance of EU Trade in 2015

➤ The National Plan of Action includes the 122 recommendations-

➤ 12 for VMS

➤ 69 for MCS

➤ 12 for law amendment

➤ 29 for data collecting

- VMS has been initiated in November 2019

- DOF has been implemented over 85 % NPOA

The Republic of the Union Myanmar

National Plan of Action to Combat, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Prepared by:  
Gilles Hosch  
MCS Consultant

December 2015



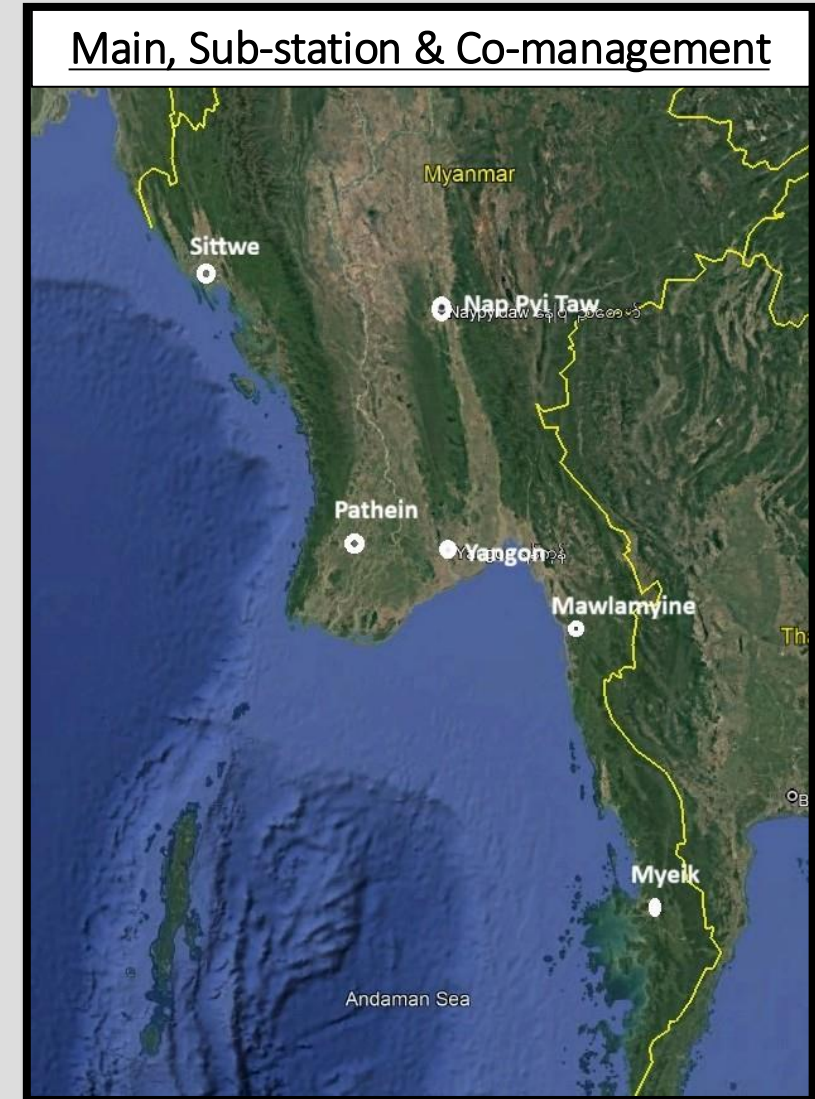
# Vessel Monitoring System in Myanmar

- In 2019, the installation of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on all offshore fishing vessels began to be implemented. Installation began on September 1st, and by January 31st, 2020, all carrier vessels engaged in off-shore fishing were equipped with VMS equipment.

## Main, Sub-station & Co-management



VMS Main Control Center (1)	(1) Nay Pyi Taw
VMS Sub-Station (5)	Yangon
	Patheingyi
	Sittwe
	Mawlamyine
Co-Management on MCS (3)	Navy, Maritime Police Force, Coastal Guard Force



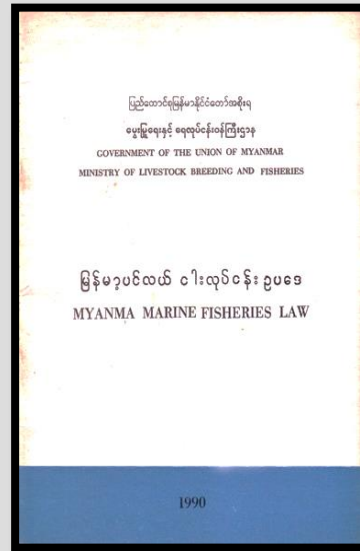
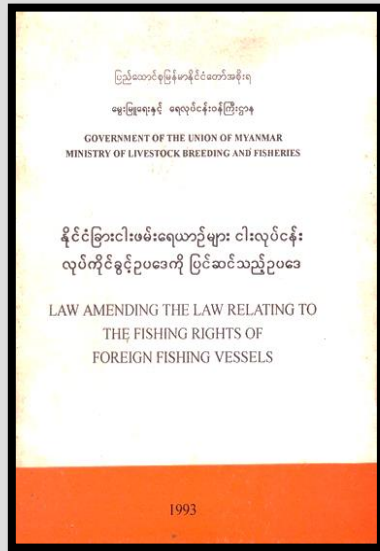
# Managing IUU Fishing Through VMS



- **VMS team of DOF watching 24 hour on silence vessels and IUU fishing**
- **Notification to the vessel owner about silence vessel for more than 4 hour**
- **Verification and reporting to the team led by the Director General the suspicious fishing vessel information received from Navy and maritime police force**
- **Reporting IUU fishing regarding fishing laws and VMS rules to the Director General by VMS records**
- **The MCS team led by the Director General imposes penalties in accordance with the rules by VMS records**



# Myanmar Marine Fisheries Laws , Directives & Regulation



MCS Team  
(Lead by DG  
DoF)

IUU Report from  
Navy

IUU Report from  
VMS team

IUU Report from  
State/Regional  
DoF



Imposing penalties to IUU vessel in  
accordance with the law & Directive

1. Law relating to the Fishing Rights of Foreign Fishing Vessels (Law No.11/1993)
2. Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law (Law No. 9/1990)
3. Directive on VMS device Installation & Regulation (5/2020)
4. Directive on Penalties by VMS records (3/2023)

# Port Inspection & Surveillance of Fishing Vessels

- ❖ When Fishing vessels want to go-out to the fishing ground, have to apply the sailing order to the DOF.
- ❖ The members of OSS ( One Stop Service) inspect the fishing vessels just before depart to the fishing ground-

- (1) Fishing License
- (2) Fisherman Registration Card.
- (3) National Registration Card .
- (4) Vessel Registration Certificate.
- (5) Life Saving Appliance (LSA )
- (6) Navigation Certificate.
- (7) Mesh size of Fishing Net.
- (8) Fishing log book
- (9) Communication equipment
- (10)Vessel Monitoring Device



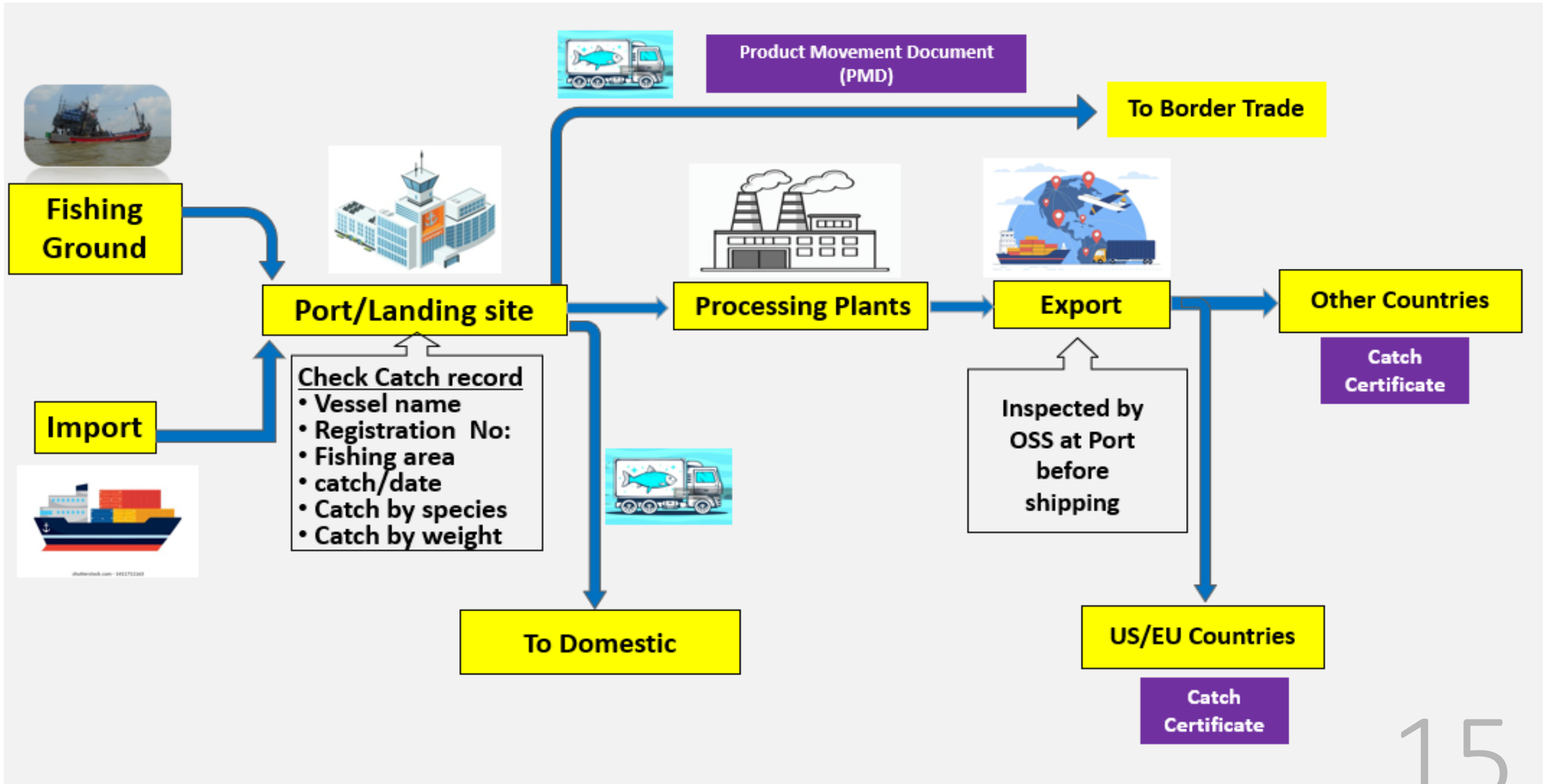
# Port Inspection & Surveillance of Export Carrier Vessel

❖ The members of OSS ( One Stop Service) will inspect the following documents of the Export vessels just before Issuing catch certificate-

- (1) Catch Certification Application
- (2) Carrier Vessel registration.
- (3) Carrier License issued by DOF.
- (4) Export Declaration.
- (5) Package List Invoice
- (6) Transshipment record at sea or landing site
- (7) Undertaking of Company
- (8) Prior Notification
- (9) Sailing Order



# Fish Traceability and Logistic System to Prevent IUU-Catch Fish from Entering Market (Catch Flow System)



# Challenges of Implementation in Combating IUU Fishing

## ❑ **Limited Monitoring and Enforcement Capacity**

Fisheries authorities lack sufficient patrol vessels, surveillance equipment, and trained personnel to monitor large maritime areas. As a result, illegal fishing vessels can operate undetected, especially in offshore and remote waters.

## ❑ **Insufficient Financial and Technical Resources**

As a developing country, government and vessel owner struggle with limited budgets and technical capacity to implement VMS and AIS electronic reporting systems.

## ❑ **Transshipment at Sea**

Illegal vessels often transfer their catch to carrier vessels at sea. This practice hides the origin of the catch and allows illegally caught fish to enter international markets without proper documentation.

# Challenges of Implementation in Combating IUU Fishing

**Some of the challenges faced in combating illegal fishing after the electronic reporting system is implemented are as follows -**

- **Deployment of excessive number of fishing gear stationary unit (traps, stow nets, rafts, etc...)**
- **Fishing with explosive substances, poisons, chemicals, and other substances such as negative impact on marine mammals**
- **Fishing without license (including copy vessels)**
- **Fishing with illegal gears (e.g. prohibited fishing gears, small mesh size...)**
- **Remove Vessel Monitoring System Devices without permission**

# Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of Myanmar

- **local fishing vessels are not allowed to fish in High Sea and other country's EEZ.**
- **Collaboration ASEAN countries to share Information for the blacklist of fishing vessel by using AN-IUU software.**
- **Myanmar will seizes the fishing vessel which operates without licence in Myanmar EEZ.**
- **Myanmar supports the data of RFVR and questionaries to SEAFDEC . It will be continued to update annually.**
- **Myanmar has no multilateral and bilateral agreement with neighboring countries for permission to fish in Myanmar EEZ or other EEZ.**

# International Cooperation and Compliance

- **Myanmar became a member country of Port Stat Measure Agreement (PSMA) in 2010.**
- **Myanmar is complying with the regulations of the EU and US countries where it exports.**
- **Myanmar is not yet a member of the RPOA (2017), but is currently cooperating with member countries.**
- **Thailand and Myanmar have signed MOU and are cooperating in the fisheries sector.**
- **Myanmar is also working with the FAO to comply with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.**



# Thank You

**Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture,  
Livestock and Irrigation, Office No (36), Nay Pyi Taw.**

**Phone: +067-408473 / 067-418536**

**Email; [irnp.dof2@gmail.com](mailto:irnp.dof2@gmail.com)**

**[arkar.molf2012@gmail.com](mailto:arkar.molf2012@gmail.com)**