



PROSPECTUS

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

14–16 October 2026

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. Operating outside legal frameworks, this illegal practice undermines sustainable fisheries management, depletes fish stocks, and hinders conservation efforts. Southeast Asian countries face increasing pressure on their fisheries resources due to IUU fishing, which is often linked to insufficient management and a lack of Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS). Consequently, these countries must prioritize preventive measures, such as regulating fishing vessels, addressing fleet overcapacity, and implementing effective rights-based fisheries systems. Because IUU fishing undermines national and regional conservation efforts and places responsible fishers at a disadvantage, urgent and transparent action is required.

ASEAN Member States (AMSs) need to strengthen their initiatives to combat IUU fishing. However, because IUU fishing is a complex, multi-faceted problem, it cannot be solved by any single country alone. It requires close inter-country cooperation to execute effective countermeasures. More importantly, enhancing the capacity of fisheries officers in AMSs who are involved in these processes is essential to ensure successful implementation.

In support of these efforts, the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia was established 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 AMSs' understanding of the practices and actions necessary to deter IUU fishing, encourage tangible countermeasures tailored to each country, and strengthen concrete responses based on specific national issues through targeted training and capacity-building workshops.

In 2024, SEAFDEC in collaboration with AMSs identified nine priority areas for future action to combat IUU fishing for future actions. The nine priority areas for future action as follows: 1) Vessel monitoring systems, 2) Strengthening MCS, 3) Enhancing regional cooperation on IUU information sharing, 4) Addressing encroachment of foreign vessels, 5) Strengthening traceability of fish and fishery products, 6) Developing national and regional estimates of IUU losses, 7) Strengthening evidence collection and prosecution procedures to improve the deterrence effect, 8) Monitoring transshipment activity, and 9) Legal and regulatory reform.

SEAFDEC has utilized several of these priority areas to guide its implementation and support for AMSs. To harmonize these efforts and continue addressing the direct needs of AMSs, a review of these future policies and actions will be conducted through the "Regional Workshop on Enhancing Policies and Countermeasures Against IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia."

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a regional platform for ASEAN Member States (AMSs) to share national updates, policy actions, and key implementation challenges in combating IUU fishing.

2. To evaluate regional support mechanisms, tools, and ongoing training programs provided by SEAFDEC/TD.
3. To review and align national actions with the nine regional priority areas identified for combating IUU fishing.
4. To establish concrete, synchronized policy actions and multi-country operational roadmaps to strengthen regional deterrence against IUU fishing.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. A consolidated summary detailing the current policy actions, implementation statuses, and national operational gaps across all ASEAN Member States.
2. A detailed evaluation report identifying regional readiness, gaps, and technical support needs within the nine core focus areas.
3. A strategic roadmap and action plan ("Way Forward") detailing joint regional countermeasures and policy commitments to combat IUU fishing.

PARTICIPANTS

1. Representatives from ASEAN Member Countries who are manager and policy level engage to combat IUU fishing
2. Relevant staff of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC/TD

DATE AND VENUE

The workshop will be held from 14 to 16 October 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand

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

14 October 2026

Time	Activities - Day 1
08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00–09:30	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
09:30–10:00	<i>Refreshment and Group Photo</i>
10:00–12:00	Agenda 4: Policy Action and Implementation Activities to Combat IUU Fishing by AMSs (20 minutes per country) • Brunei Darussalam • Cambodia • Indonesia • Lao PDR • Malaysia • Myanmar
12:00–13:30	<i>Lunch</i>

Time	Activities - Day 1
13:30–15:00	Agenda 4: Policy Action and Implementation Activities to Combat IUU Fishing by AMSs (20 minutes per country) (Continue) • Philippines • Singapore • Thailand • Timor-Leste • Viet Nam
15:00–15:30	<i>Refreshment</i>
15:30–16:30	Agenda 5: Implementation and Capacity Building to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia (by SEAFDEC/TD)
18:00–20:00	<i>Reception Dinner</i>

15 October 2026

Time	Activities - Day 2
09:00–12:00	Agenda 6: Initiatives Enhancing Policies to Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Efforts to Eliminate IUU Fishing • Green Flag Standard for Fish and Fishery Products from Small-Scale Fisheries (Department of Fisheries, Thailand) • Sustainable Seafood Business (Virtual, Nissui Corporation, Japan) • Sustainable Seafood Business: Practices and Operational Perspectives (Nissui Thailand)
12:00–13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30–16:30	Agenda 7: Group Discussion • Review of Nine Priority Area to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia • Regional Policies and Actions to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

16 October 2026

Time	Activities - Day 3
09:00–12:00	Agenda 8: Result of the Discussion • Presentation of Group Discussion • Consolidation of the Result from the Group Discussion
12:00–13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30–15:30	Agenda 9: Way Forward of Regional Policies and Actions to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
15:30–16:00	Agenda 10: Closing Ceremony

Remark: The timetable will be changed depend on the situation