



Policy Actions and Implementation Activities to Combat IUU Fishing: Lao PDR

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National Context: The Inland Fishery & Transit Reality

Geographic & Sectoral Dichotomy



100% Landlocked

Marine fishing fleet. Capture fisheries rely entirely on inland freshwater ecosystems like the Mekong basin, streams, and wetlands.



Small-Scale & Artisanal Sector

Subsistence-driven operations utilizing traditional gears (cast nets, gill nets, hook lines, lift nets) rather than commercial trawlers.



Food Security Focus

Harvest is dedicated to household consumption and local domestic markets.



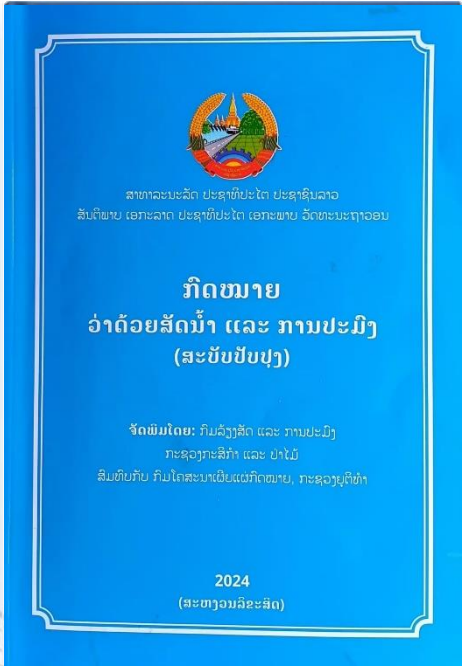
Regional Transit Chokepoint

Serves as a critical cross-border transit nation for seafood, shifting the national anti-IUU focus entirely to import controls and land-border traceability.



Legal Framework: The 2023 Revised Law on Aquatic Animals and Fisheries

Promulgated August 17,2023- The primary legal basis for national aquatic protection and IUU deterrence.



Diagnostic Table of Prohibitions (Article 82)

 Destructive Methods	 Habitat & Temporal Protection	 Species & Trade Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strict ban on explosives, chemical poisons, and electrical devices.• Prohibition of weapons and artificial light/sound attractors.• Ban on large-scale obstructive fishing gear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ban on blocking migratory streams and canals.• Prohibition against pond draining or encroaching on conservation zones.• Strict prohibition of hunting during closed spawning seasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ban on illegal possession, trade, or transport of List I protected aquatic species.• Prohibition on introducing invasive or exotic alien species.• Protection of native Mekong ecosystems from ecological disruption.

Implementation Progress: Inland MCS & Cross-Border Chokepoints



Operational Gaps: Friction Points in Current Implementation



Dissemination & Geography

Limited reach of law dissemination and public awareness campaigns due to challenging geographical terrain and budgetary constraints in remote rural river communities.



The Digital Data Gap

Complete lack of standardized, automated digital data collection systems for catch reporting, preventing accurate quantification of small-scale catches and regional IUU loss.



Persistent Remote Violations

Ongoing, occasional illegal use of destructive fishing gear (poisons, electricity) in isolated freshwater habitats that remain highly difficult to patrol.



Human Resource Constraints

Insufficient specialized training for border inspectors. Critical need for enhanced capacity to verify complex catch certificates and origin documentation at land ports.

Strategic Way Forward: Aligning National Action with Regional Support

National Policy Commitments (Internal Action)

- Expand law dissemination and enforcement operations across all provincial and remote riverine communities.
- Establish dedicated national focal points for streamlined IUU reporting and regional communication
- Strengthen physical land-border inspection protocols for all transiting fish products.

Regional Support Needs (SEAFDEC / JICA)

- Capacity Building: Technical training for border inspectors focused on catch certification, document verification, and traceability protocols.
- Digital Infrastructure: Technical and financial assistance to establish robust digital freshwater fisheries databases and standardized IUU reporting.



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