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# Current Implementation on Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance of Combating IUU Fishing in Myanmar

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Regional Workshop on Information Exchange on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia, 24–26 February 2026 Bangkok, Thailand

# Content

- ❖ **Overview of Myanmar Fisheries**
- ❖ **National Fisheries Management Framework**
- ❖ **Current Situation, issues and challenges in the implementation of MCS**
- ❖ **Current Situation, issues and challenges in the implementation of PSM**
- ❖ **Law and regulations to support the implementation of MCS activities**
- ❖ **Challenges and Future Plans**
- ❖ **Conclusion**

# Overview of Myanmar Fisheries

- **Myanmar has a coastline of about 2,832 km along the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea.**
- **The fisheries sector plays a vital role in food security, employment, and export earnings.**
- **Marine fisheries are mainly conducted by small-scale and offshore vessels.**
- **Foreign fishing vessels are not entered to operate in Myanmar waters without permission.**

# Types of Marine Fisheries in Myanmar

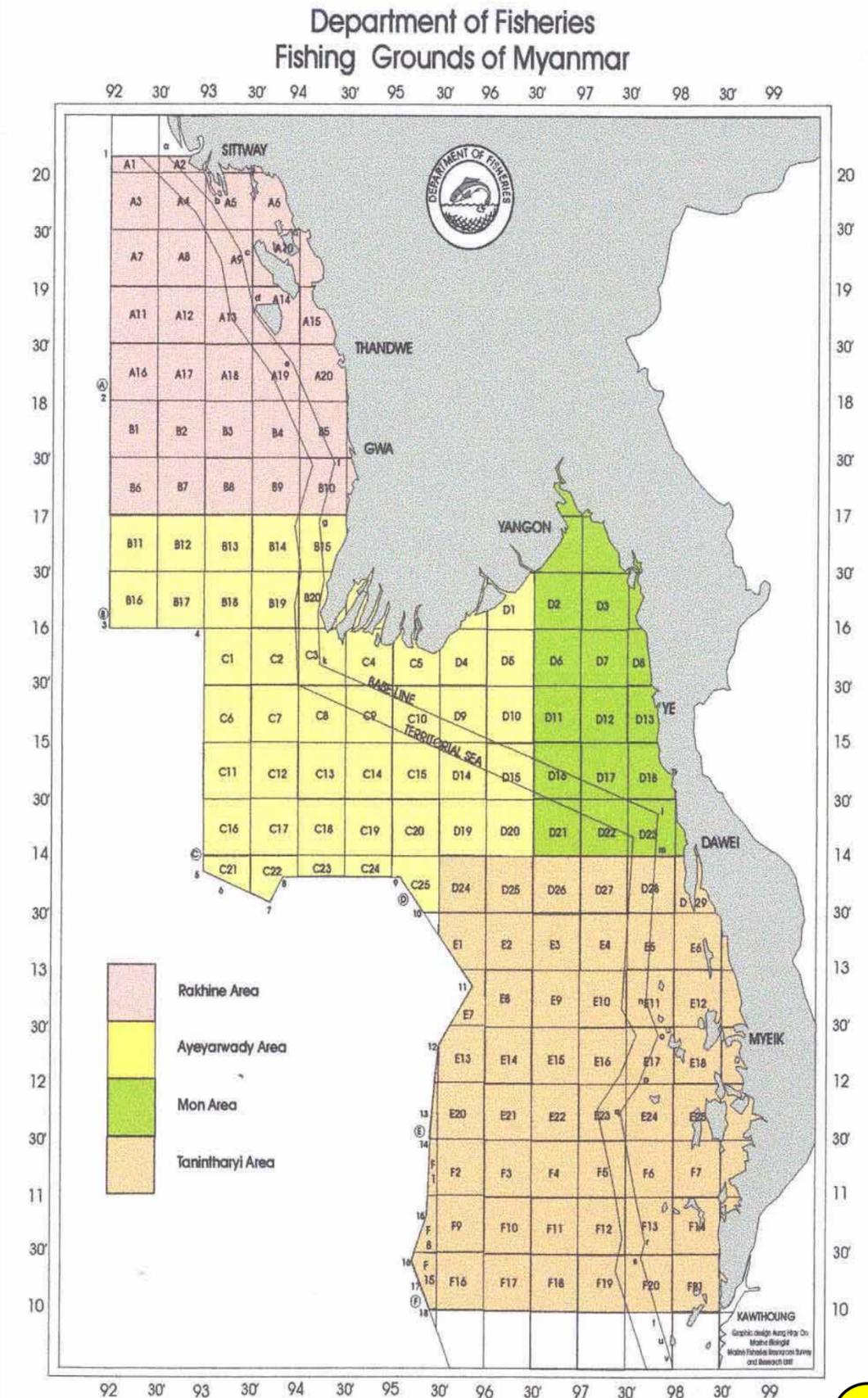
## A. In-shore Fisheries

- 10 nautical mile from shore
- Not more 50 HP engine & 40 feet length of the boat.



## B. Off-shore Fisheries

- Outer area of inshore to end of EEZ
- More than 50 HP engine & 40 feet length
- Bottom trawl, Purse seine, Surrounding net, Drift net, Squid net, Trap & Long line.



# National Fisheries Management Framework

- **Department of Fisheries (DoF) is the main authority for fisheries management.**
- **Key laws: Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law (1990) and its amendments.**
- **Fishing activities are regulated through licensing, data collection, and enforcement.**
- **Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) carried out by central and regional offices.**



# Current Situation, issues and challenges in the implementation of MCS in Myanmar



# MCS Network in Myanmar

**Concerned Departments/Organizations as follows -**

- **Myanmar Maritime Police Force**
- **Myanmar Port Authority**
- **Custom Department**
- **Department of Immigration**
- **Department of Trade**
- **Department of General Administration**
- **Department of Marine Administration**



# Monitoring and Inspection Measures

- Regular inspections of vessels at sea and at landing sites.
- Port inspections focus on catch documentation, logbooks, and fishing gear checks.
- MCS relies on cooperation between DoF, Navy, and enforcement agencies.
- Aim: Prevent IUU fishing and ensure compliance with national laws.



# MCS Measure for local vessel

## All vessel owner (Fishing or carrier)

- shall have the vessel registration issued by Department of Marine Administration (DMA).
- shall have the licence
- shall appoint on board his vessel only those fishermen who are registered in the Department.
- shall operate in the permitted fishing ground fishing day
- shall comply with the regulations and directives prescribed by the Department.
- shall install the vessel monitoring system-VMS



# MCS Measure for foreign vessel

For all fishing vessel, the company -

- shall apply prior permission of DoF to enter Myanma Marine waters.
- shall use the vessel route which is permitted by DoF in prior permission.
- shall operate in the permitted fishing ground.
- shall be inspected in designated check points and shall land in designated landing site in Myanmar.
- shall install the vessel monitoring system-VMS



# Prohibition of fishing gear

➤ Under "Law Relating To The Fishing Rights Of Foreign Fishing Vessels", "Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law" and related regulations, fishing gear that is destructive to the environment and the fisheries resources are banned.

➤ These gears includes pair trawl fishing, electric fishing, fishing using poisons, chemicals, explosives, Purse seine net less than 3.5 inch mesh size, for trawl net cod-end mesh size less than 2 inches.



# Issues & Challenges

- Weakness of multilateral cooperation for information sharing to address the IUU fishing
- Insufficient scientific data collection and research for marine capture fisheries to improve MCS for sustainable fisheries management
- Insufficient HRD for effective reporting and research for development of MCS.



# MCS for IUU Fishing Activities in 2025



**54 Tiger Raft Net were burned at the sea**

# MCS for IUU Fishing Activities in 2026



- Illegal trawlers that have caused significant damage to the marine ecosystem will be burned and destroyed in 2026.
- Currently, a total of (51) trawlers were burned and destroyed

The list of Illegal Fishing vessel

No.	Location	Vessels
1	Kaungtaung	24
2	Myeik	1
3	Boatpyin	26
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>



# Current Situation, issues and challenges in the implementation of PSMA in Myanmar



# Port State Measures (PSMA) Implementation

- Myanmar participates FAO GIES (Global Information Exchange System) for the implementation of FAO Port State Measure Agreement (2009).
- Designated ports currently handle domestic vessel landings only.
- Foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to enter Myanmar ports without permission.
- Ongoing efforts to build capacity for PSMA compliance and regional cooperation.

# Constraints

- ❖ **More commitments on International and regional agreement for each department /organization**

**Needs of -**

- ❖ **Human resource and capacity development**
- ❖ **Legal frame work**
- ❖ **Action plan**
- ❖ **Coordination among the concerned agencies**
- ❖ **Procedures for permission**





# Law and regulations to support the implementation of MCS activities



# National Fisheries and Port Laws

- **Marine Fisheries Law (1990):** licensing, fishing zones, enforcement.
- **Freshwater Fisheries Law (1991):** inland fisheries management.
- **Port entry and inspections follow national administrative procedures.**
- **DoF reviews and updates these laws to meet international standards.**



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# Suggested recommendation and support needed at national and regional level

# Regional Cooperation Efforts

- Myanmar engages in ASEAN and SEAFDEC regional fisheries programs.
- Workshops and training promote exchange of experiences and information.
- Cooperation with Thailand focuses on IUU prevention and traceability.
- Myanmar supports regional data sharing on vessel monitoring and port controls.

# Suggested Recommendation

- To improve cooperation among relevant agency such as NGOs, local and international Organization.
- To develop the efficient MCS system is essential for effective controlling of fishing capacity and IUU fishing.
- Need training and capacity building for the use and application of regulatory measures to support MCS.

# Challenges and Future Plans

- **Human and technical capacity remain limited for observers and port inspections.**
- **Strengthening data collection, verification, and e-reporting systems.**
- **Capacity building ongoing with ASEAN and international partners.**
- **Plans to develop a national observer framework and expand PSMA inspections.**

# Conclusion

- **Myanmar is committed to sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU fishing.**
- **Regional cooperation is key to transparency and compliance.**
- **Myanmar looks forward to continued ASEAN collaboration with the encouragement of GIZ and best practice sharing especially with SEAFDEC and technical assist from FAO.**



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