PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

Practical Workshop on Strengthening Control Activities for Effective Combating of IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

27−29 October 2026

Bangkok, Thailand

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remains a critical threat to marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries management, and coastal livelihoods across Southeast Asia. Addressing this complex regional challenge requires robust legal frameworks, alignment with international instruments, and seamless operational coordination.

Central to combating IUU fishing effectively is a comprehensive Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) framework. While Monitoring tracks fishing activities and Surveillance maintains continuous observation over marine spaces, it is Control that serves as the critical regulatory backbone. Control activities enforce national legislation and international agreements by establishing clear conditions for fishing operations, setting vessel registration and licensing standards, and mandating strict inspection regimes both at sea and at port—such as Port-In Port-Out (PIPO) mechanisms, catch documentation schemes, and gear regulations. Without rigorous control measures, monitoring data and surveillance efforts fail to translate into tangible enforcement outcomes.

Recognizing that strengthening control capabilities is essential to bridging the gap between legal policy and operational enforcement, the SEAFDEC Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD), in partnership with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) through the Blue Fair Fish Project, is convening a three-day regional practical workshop from 27 to 29 October 2026. This workshop provides a dedicated platform for Southeast Asian Member Countries to share national regulatory reforms, analyze global treaties—such as the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, the FAO Compliance Agreement, and UNCLOS—and examine operational best practices, using Thailand's Port-In Port-Out (PIPO) control mechanisms as practical lessons learned. By focusing directly on the "Control" dimension of MCS, the workshop aims to assist participating countries in identifying solutions to operational bottlenecks, mitigating enforcement challenges at ports and at sea, and fostering cohesive regional action against IUU fishing.

OBJECTIVES

- Review national legal and regulatory reforms supporting IUU fishing mitigation across ASEAN member states.
- Understanding of key international legal instruments governing sustainable fisheries and anti-IUU controls, including UNCLOS, the FAO Compliance Agreement, and the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
- Analyze operational control systems at sea and port to establish effective inspection and monitoring practices.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- A synthesis of national legal reforms, regulatory status, and legal readiness across participating Southeast Asian countries regarding anti-IUU measures and international compliance.
- Identify key challenges, obstacles, and practical solutions related to sea and port controls.

DATE AND VENUE

The workshop will be held from 27 to 29 October 2026 Bangkok, Thailand. The venue and participation arrangements are currently being finalized and will be communicated to participants in due course. For virtual participants, the meeting link will be provided prior to the workshop.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants included fisheries officers from eleven ASEAN Member States (AMSs), who are responsible for activities to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing at the practitioner level. Representatives from SEAFDEC, and GIZ through the Blue Fair Fish Project will be invited to participate in the workshop as co-organizer.

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Day1 – 27 October 2026

Time	Activities
08:30–09:00	**Registration**
09:00–09:20	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** • Welcome by GIZ • Opening Remarks by SEAFDEC Secretary-General
09:20–09:30	**Blue Fair Fish Project Introduction** *GIZ-regional Team*
09:30–10:00	**Overview of the Practical Workshop** • Introduction of the Participants • Introduction of the Practical Workshop • Participants' Expectation from Practical Workshop *SEAFDEC/TD*
10:00–10:30	*Refreshment and group photo*
10:30–12:00	**UNCLOS in Fisheries Perspective** *Mr. Woramate Chatinakrob, DOF Thailand*
12:00–13:00	*Lunch*
13:00–13:45	**FAO Compliance Agreement** *(Online Presentation)* *Ms. Esther Boy Carmona, FAO*
13:45–14:30	**FAO Compliance Agreement in Thailand Perspective** *Mr. Woramate Chatinakrob, DOF Thailand*
14:30–15:00	*Refreshment*

Time	Activities
15:00–16:30	**WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies to Combat IUU Fishing** *(Online Presentation)* *Mr. Tristan Irschlinger, International Institute Sustainable Development: IISD*
16:30–17:00	**Discussion and Wrap-up of Key-take-away from Day 1** *GIZ*
18:00–20:00	**Reception Dinner**

Day 2 – 28 October 2026 (Venue: Samut Sakhon)

Time	Activities
06:30	Leave from Hotel to Samut Sakhon
09:00–12:00	**Control Activities for Effective Combating IUU Fishing in Thailand** • Port-In Port-Out Control • Observation of the Samut Sakhon Port-in and Port-out Control Center *DOF Thailand*
12.00–13.00	*Lunch*
13:00–16:00	**Discussion on Challenges and Issues for Practical Application in Effective Control Activities at Sea and Port** *SEAFDEC/TD*
16:30–17:00	**Discussion and Wrap-up of Key-take-away from Day 2** *GIZ*

Day 3 – 29 October 2026

Time	Activities
09:00–09:05	Recap of Day 2
09:05–12:00	**Country Presentation on Law and Regulation Reform to Support Combating IUU Fishing (*15 minutes per country including Q&A*)** • Brunei Darussalam • Cambodia • Indonesia • Lao PDR • Malaysia • Myanmar
12:00–13:00	*Lunch*

Time	Activities
13:00–14:30	**Country Presentation on Law and Regulation Reform to Support Combating IUU Fishing (*15 minutes per country including Q&A*)** • Philippines • Singapore • Thailand • Timor-Leste • Viet Nam
14:30–15:00	**Overview and Discussion on Common Issues in Control Activities among ASEAN Member States (AMSs)** *GIZ*
15:00–15:30	*Refreshment*
15:30–16:00	**Workshop Evaluation and Wrap-up** • Expected Action after the Practical Workshop • Summary of Key Takeaways and Recommendations • Participant Evaluation *GIZ*
16:00–16:30	**Closing Ceremony** • Certificate Distribution by GIZ • Closing Remarks by SEAFDEC Secretary-General

Remark: The subject will be changed depending on the situation.