Implemented by

جابتن ڤرايكانن
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Law and Regulation Reform to Support Combating IUU Fishing

Represented by:
Hamizah Piut (Policy and Legal Section)
Amela Ayu Asyiqin Haji Osman (Enforcement Section)

Practical Workshop on Strengthening Control Activities for Effective Combating of IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
27-29 October 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand

Brunei Darussalam's National Legal Framework

FISHERIES ACT (CHAPTER 61)

Main legal instrument for fisheries governance, regulates fishing activities through licensing and control measures, provide enforcement powers including penalties, for offences under the Act.

30 May 2009, S81/2010, S50/2014, S24/2020

Fisheries Limits Act (Chapter 130)

Establishes Brunei Darussalam's 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone.

Fisheries Regulations S156/1981, S25/2009

Cover regulation of fishing activities and licensing, prohibition of certain gears, control of import, export and sale of fish

Merchant Shipping (Registration of Fishing Vessels and Pleasure Craft) Regulations, 2011

Require registration of fishing vessels with the Maritime and Port Authority Brunei Darussalam (MPABD) and support vessel identification and verification.

Fisheries (Fish Landing Complex) Regulations, 2002

Requirement of vessels to land their fish at designated fish landing complexes with authority of the Director.

Recent Regulatory Measures and Preventive Controls







MONITORING

Continuous AIS tracking

- mandatory for all commercial vessels
- AIS remains switched on 24 hours a day to monitor vessel movements, locations and behaviour.

Fishing Notification

- direct notification via whatsapp.
- notify DOF of vessel departure and landing.

Catch Reporting

- mandatory catch reporting via whatsapp.

CONTROL

Pre-registration Vessel History Screening

- Screen vessel history, ownership and previous flag before registration or authorisation.
- Check relevant IUU vessel lists, previous violations and vessel identity records.

Re-delineation of Fishing Zones

- Zone 1 extended from 0-3nm to 0-7nm
- Commercial fishing vessels operate in Zone 2 - 4, starting from 7.1nm offshore.

Verification at Landing Sites

- verify catch species, size and quality of catch landed.

Catch Certification

- DOF issues catch certificates following verification.

SURVEILLANCE

Regular Sea Patrols

- Inspect vessels and fishing activities
- verify licence, fishing gear and catches.

Joint Enforcement

- Coordinate enforcement among eight agencies.
- strengthen coverage and operational effectiveness

Enforcement Follow-Up

- Record violations, investigation outcomes and repeat offences.
- Apply appropriate sanctions.

Alignment with International Legal Instruments and Regional Commitments

1 Key International Legal Instruments

UNCLOS

Brunei Darussalam has been a Party since 1996. UNCLOS provides the legal framework for maritime jurisdiction, including the EEZ, and the conservation and management of marine resources.

WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement

Brunei deposited its instrument of acceptance on 26 February 2024.

FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)

Brunei intends to pursue accession. Legal and institutional requirements are under review.

Other instruments under assessment

The FAO Compliance Agreement and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement are being considered for legal and policy assessment to determine accession requirements and implementation implications.

Alignment with International Legal Instruments and Regional Commitments

1 Key International Legal Instruments

2 Regional Commitments & Cooperation

RPOA-IUU

Participate in regional efforts to combat IUU fishing through information-sharing, coordinated responses and strengthened regional cooperation.

SEAFDEC

Strengthen fisheries management and monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) through technical cooperation, training and capacity-building.

ASEAN

Promote regional fisheries cooperation, information exchange and the sharing of best practices to prevent and combat IUU fishing.

FAO

Seek FAO technical assistance and a review of Brunei's legal and institutional readiness for accession to the PSMA.

Alignment with International Legal Instruments and Regional Commitments

1 Key International Legal Instruments

2 Regional Commitments & Cooperation

3 National Implementation & Cooperation

NPOA-IUU

Review and update Brunei's NPOA-IUU to strengthen national coordination, clarify priority actions and improve implementation and monitoring.

Legal & Policy Framework

Review national legislation and policies to identify gaps and align domestic fisheries controls with relevant international obligations and regional commitments.

Bilateral Cooperation

Strengthen fisheries cooperation and information exchange with neighbouring countries, including joint efforts to address transboundary IUU fishing and improve the verification of vessel, inspection and catch documentation.

Inter-Agency Cooperation

Clarify agency roles and strengthen coordination among relevant authorities through joint inspections, information-sharing and coordinated enforcement actions.

Legal Framework Under Development

Fisheries (Fishing Zones) Order

Provides coordinates for the zonation of fishing zones in Brunei Darussalam waters.

Fisheries (Fishing Vessels) Regulations

Regulate activities of fishing vessels within Brunei Darussalam waters and in the high seas.

Legislation for fishing port management and control

Supports PSMA implementation: port designation, legal authority for officials and inspectors, and power to deny port use.

Key Enforcement & Legal Challenges

01



Legal and Regulatory Gaps

Existing legislation may not fully address all required IUU and port State controls especially for foreign fishing vessels.

02



Vessel Authorisation and Port Controls

Vessel screening and foreign fishing vessel inspection procedures need strengthening

03



Agency Coordination and Enforcement Capacity

Overlapping responsibilities, limited patrol assets, high monitoring costs and enforcement capacity constraints.

04



Data, Monitoring and Evidence

AIS-dependent monitoring and manual records can limit verification and case development.

05



Small-scale Fisheries and Landing Coverage

Dispersed fishing activity and non-commercial landing sites make routine monitoring difficult.

Proposed/Implemented Solutions

01



Strengthen Legal Framework

- Review and update relevant laws and regulations.
- Align with international instruments and best practices
- Technical Support from FAO.

02



Develop SOP

- Screen vessel identity, ownership and compliance history.
- Verify license, registration and supporting documents.
- Develop SOPs for vessel inspections and port controls.

03



Improve enforcement and coordination

- Clarify agency mandates & focal points.
- Establish joint inspection, investigation & referral procedures.
- Use risk-based patrol planning and targeted officer training.

04



Strengthen data, digitalisation and info sharing

- Web-based data-entry platform - under development
- Standardise evidence collection and information-sharing procedures.

05



Improve awareness

- Conduct targeted checks at local landing points.
- Promote compliance through education and community awareness and compliance engagement

CONTACT US

جابتن ڤرايكانن
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Muara Fisheries Complex,
Simpang 287-53,
Jalan Peranginan Pantai Serasa,
Muara BT1728,
Brunei Darussalam.

Telephone
+673 277 0066
+673 277 0067

Email
info@fisheries.gov.bn
hamizah.piut@fisheries.gov.bn
amela.osman@fisheries.gov.bn

https://www.fisheries.gov.bn/

fisheries.brunei