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

Law and Regulation Reform to Support Combating IUU Fishing

MALAYSIA

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

Malaysia



Malaysia is a country in Southeast Asia.

A federal constitutional monarchy, it consists of 13 states and three federal territories, separated by the South China Sea into two regions: Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia.

Peninsular Malaysia shares land and maritime borders with Thailand, as well as maritime borders with Singapore, Vietnam, and Indonesia; East Malaysia shares land borders with Brunei and Indonesia, and a maritime border with the Philippines and Vietnam.

Visit Malaysia 2026 Truly Asia™







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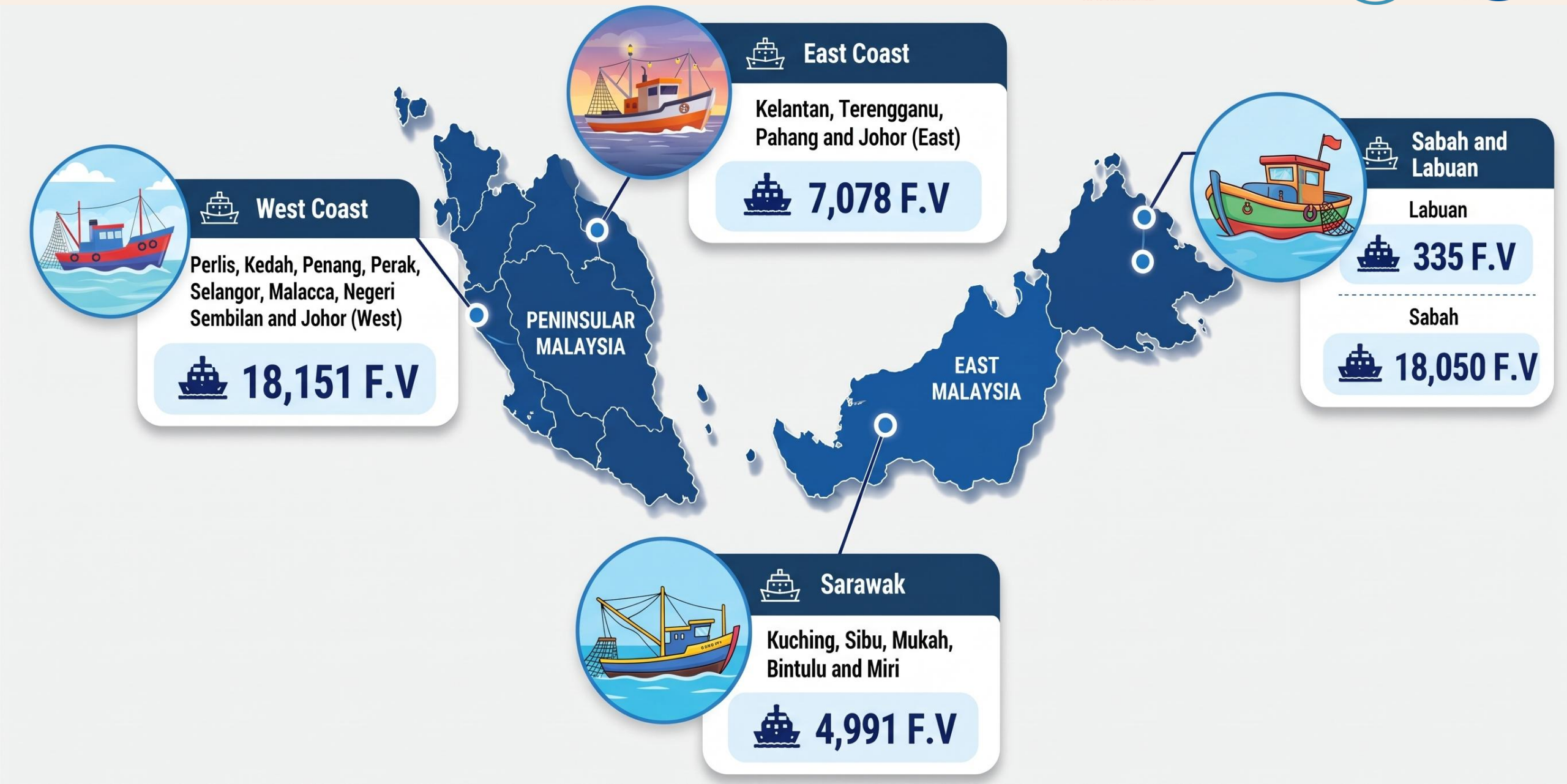

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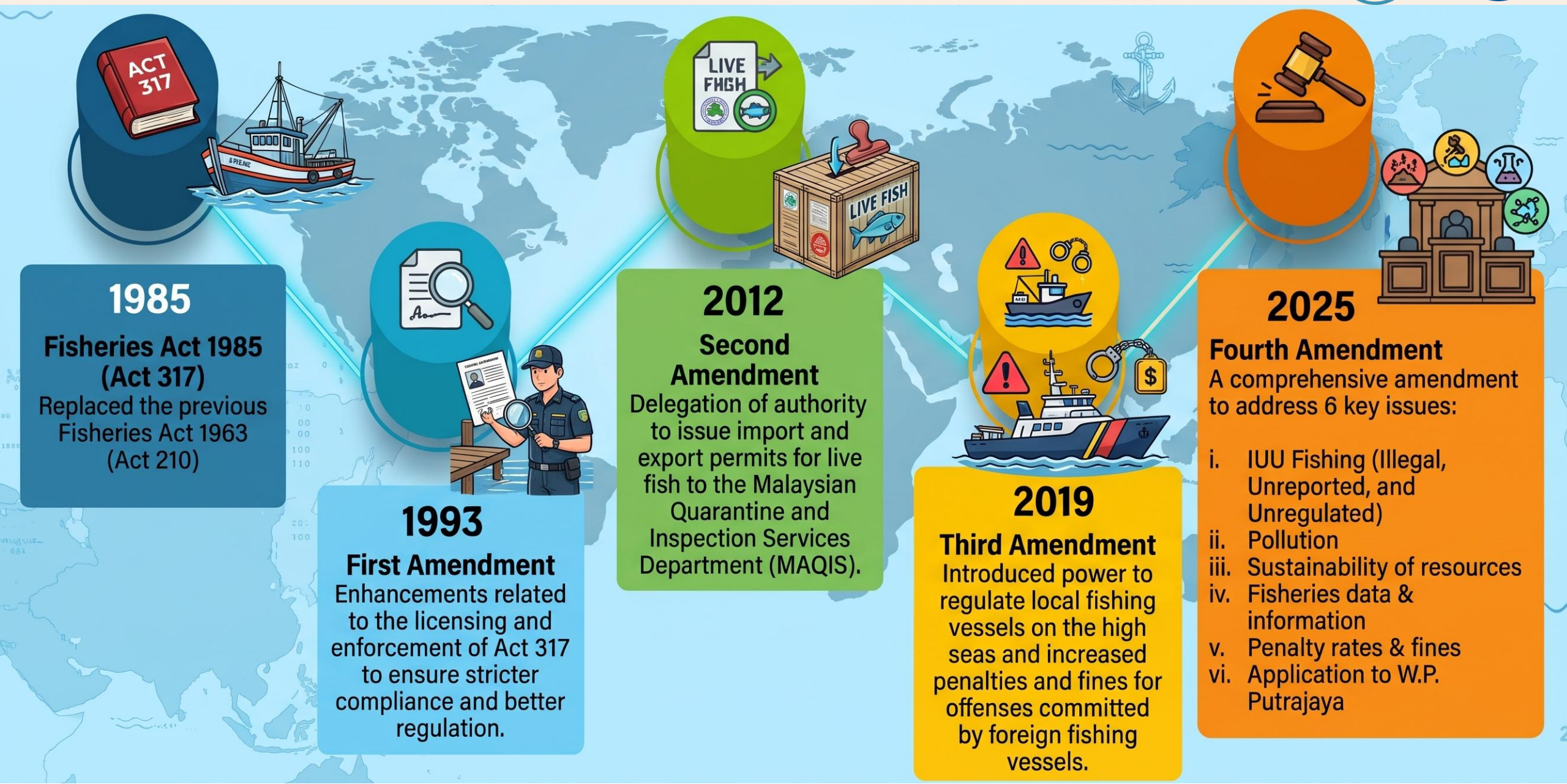


1985

Fisheries Act 1985 (Act 317)

Replaced the previous Fisheries Act 1963 (Act 210)

1993

First Amendment

Enhancements related to the licensing and enforcement of Act 317 to ensure stricter compliance and better regulation.

2012

Second Amendment

Delegation of authority to issue import and export permits for live fish to the Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services Department (MAQIS).

2019

Third Amendment

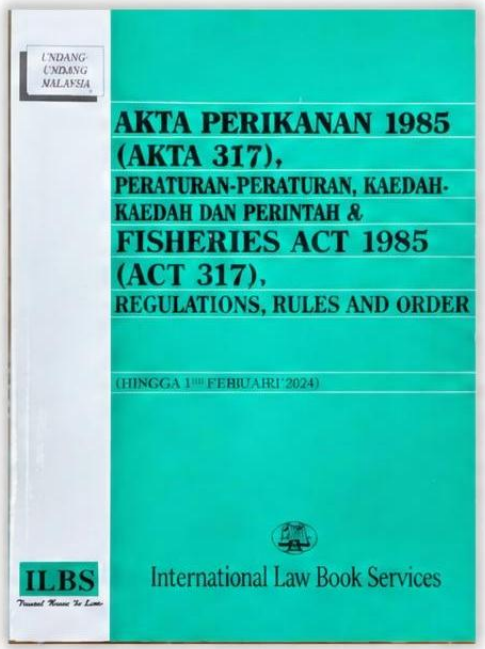
Introduced power to regulate local fishing vessels on the high seas and increased penalties and fines for offenses committed by foreign fishing vessels.

2025

Fourth Amendment

A comprehensive amendment to address 6 key issues:

i. IUU Fishing (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated)
ii. Pollution
iii. Sustainability of resources
iv. Fisheries data & information
v. Penalty rates & fines
vi. Application to W.P. Putrajaya



Quick Win: Fisheries Act 1985 (Amendment 2019)

Component

- High Sea
- Increase fine for Foreign Fishing Vessel
- Monitoring, Control & Surveillance (MCS)

(RPOA-IUU)

1. Combating IUU fishing.
2. Pollution to fishing activities
3. Guarantee the sustainability of fisheries resources.
4. Supporting interventions to the people & national food security

2020-2025
Amendment Progress

The Fisheries Act 1985 (Amendment) 2025 was gazette on **16 December 2025** with the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and fully in force since **15 June 2026**

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COMBATTING IUU FISHING ACTIVITIES

10A

Addition of a new section to regulate **landing, unloading, transshipment, maintenance & repairing** activities involving **local fishing vessels**



15(2)

Amendment to regulate **transshipment, loading, unloading & maintenance** activities involving **foreign fishing vessels**



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A modern system for monitoring, controlling, and approving foreign fishing vessels entering Malaysian ports!





PORT INSPECTION & COMPLIANCE



ONLINE REGISTRATION

Agents or operators can register vessel entries online 24/7.



AUTOMATIC & MANUAL APPROVAL

Supports automatic approval for regular applications & manual approval for special cases.

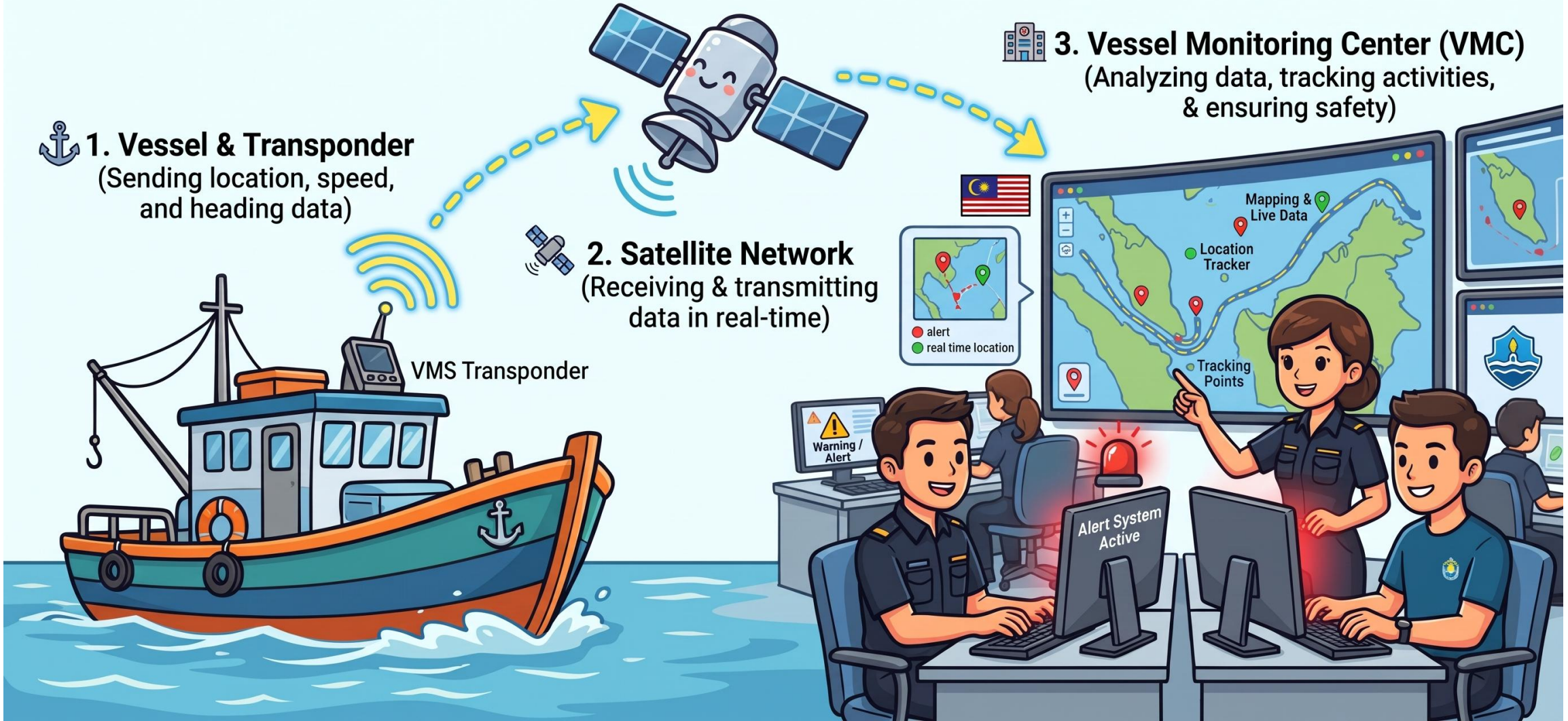


INSTANT NOTIFICATION

Receive instant email notifications about application status.

VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS)

How it works to monitor, control, and protect our waters!



Centralized Control

Movement analysis, MTU verification, additional catch case documents, etc.

Hardware Upgrades

New procurement of VMS hardware to improve VMS data processing capabilities.

Field Inspections of MTU

HQ will prepare new MTU Inspection Forms. Inspections will focus on device status, installation, and verification in the Department's VMS.



SOP for Non-Compliance of VNT in VMS

Implementation of this SOP to ensure vessel owners are given administrative warnings.

SOP for MTU/AIS Registration

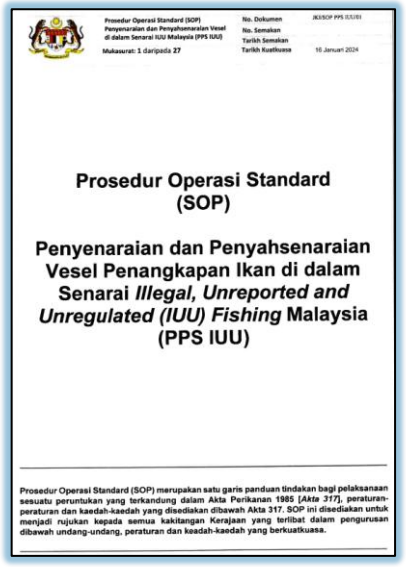
Ensuring the roles of the Department and Vendors are at their best. Resolving MTU device activity and damaged device issues.

VMS Regulations

In the process of harmonization, taking into account implementation in other countries.

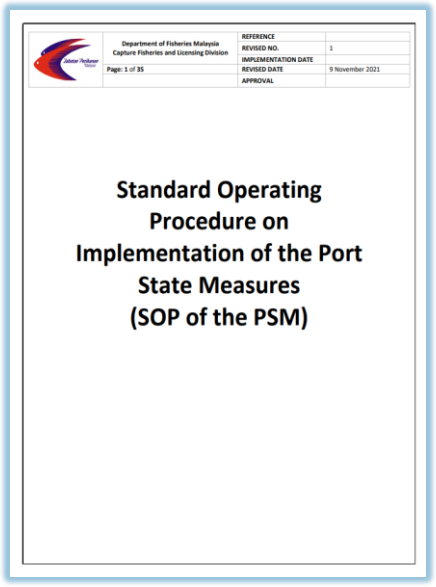


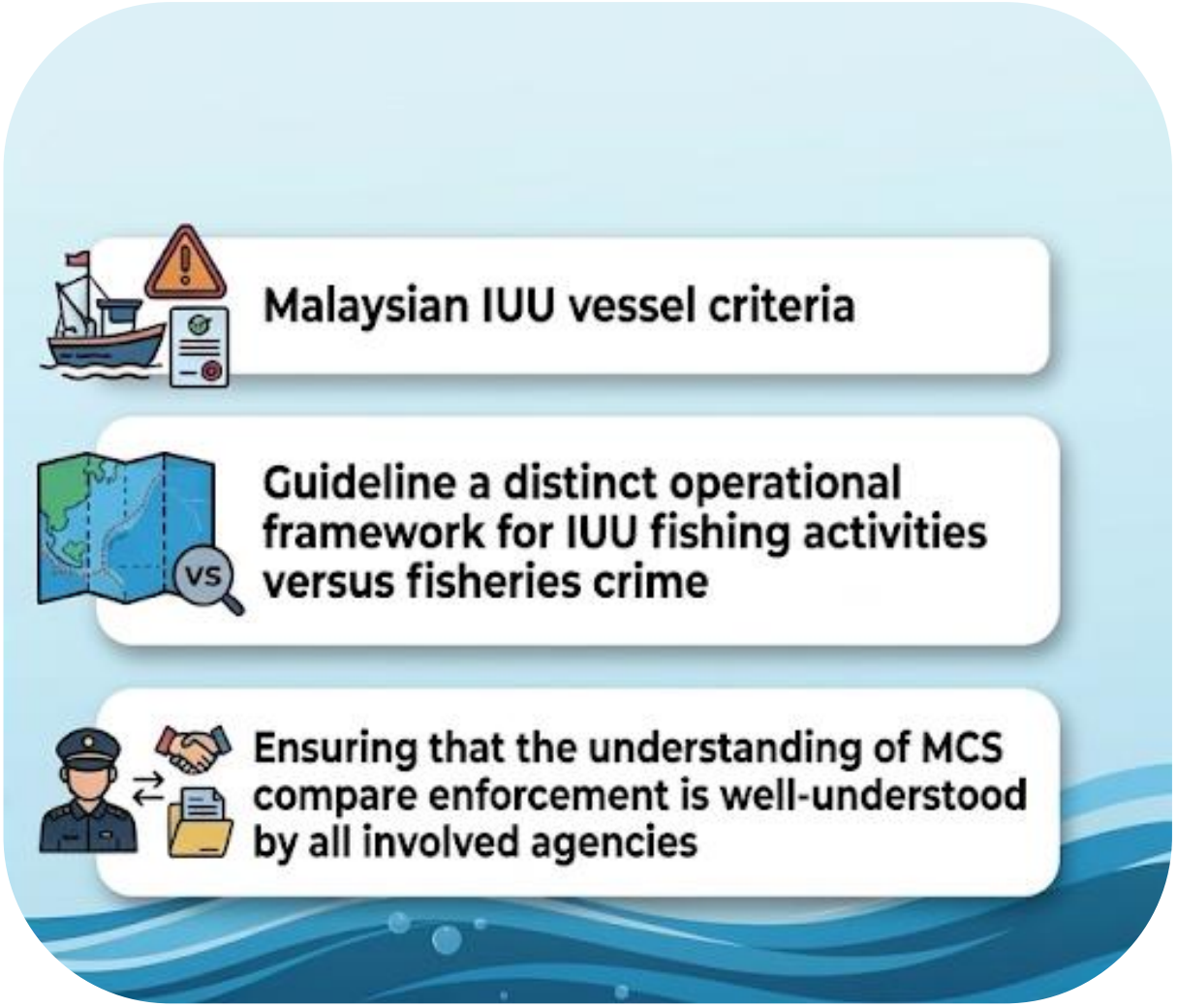



Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP)

Penyenaraian dan Penyahsenaraian Vesel Penangkapan Ikan di dalam Senarai *Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing* Malaysia (PPS IUU)

Prosedur Operasi Standard (SOP) merupakan satu garis panduan tindakan bagi pelaksanaan sesuatu peruntukan yang terkandung dalam Akta Perikanan 1985 [*Akta 317*], peraturan-peraturan dan kaedah-kaedah yang disediakan dibawah Akta 317. SOP ini disediakan untuk menjadi rujukan kepada semua kakitangan Kerajaan yang terlibat dalam pengurusan dibawah undang-undang, peraturan dan kaedah-kaedah yang berkuatkuasa.


Standard Operating Procedure on Implementation of the Port State Measures (SOP of the PSM)





Thank You For Your Attention

"The planning and actions taken today are a fundamental investment in ensuring sustainable fisheries for the future."

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