

On-site Training on Traceability for Fish and Fishery Products in Lao PDR

18-20 March 2025

Vientiane, Lao PDR

The European Union (EU) has implemented stringent measures to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which poses a significant threat to marine ecosystems and sustainable fisheries management. The EU IUU Regulation (EC) No. 1005/2008 established a community system to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing, including provisions for Catch Documentation Schemes (CDSs) in importing countries. The Catch Certification Scheme (CCS) was introduced in 2010 to require marine fishery products entering the EU market to be accompanied by a Catch Certificate (CC) verifying that the catch was produced in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The CCS serves as a crucial tool to combat IUU fishing by ensuring product traceability and preventing the entry of illegally caught fish into the EU market.

While the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (VGCDS) were developed by the FAO in 2017 to provide guidance to States, regional fisheries management organizations, regional economic integration organizations, and other intergovernmental organizations in their efforts to develop, implement, harmonize, or review CDSs for wild capture fish. The VGCDS is designed to be voluntary and align with international law, including the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU). By adopting the VGCDS, countries can contribute to global efforts to combat IUU fishing and promote sustainable fisheries management.

A traceability system is one of the most recent trade requirements being put into force in response to the pressing needs expressed by the markets to ensure that fish and fishery products in the supply chain are not derived from IUU fishing activities. It is also being used to facilitate the tracking of the flow of products through the production processes or the supply chain to ensure that these are safe for human consumption.

A traceability system requires fisheries companies to record the source, volume, form, and certificate numbers of all products received under a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS). Operators must keep the same type of records for all products leaving a company, whether these are meant for international export or as business-to-business transfer/sale of products within the national supply chain. Therefore, a trace is created that indicates the complete information of a batch of products flowing through the supply chain, which could be accessed by authorities for inspection purposes, if necessary. Specifically, the benefits of traceability systems could be seen from three main aspects, i.e. ensuring food safety, promoting better process controls, and securing better market niches.

To strengthen the knowledge of Southeast Asian countries to combat IUU fishing, the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project has been implemented by SEAFDEC/TD which is sponsored by JICA. One of the key components of the project is on-site training in traceability for fish and fishery products. This training aims to equip relevant staff and stakeholders with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement effective traceability systems and contribute to the fight against IUU fishing at the national and regional levels.

OBJECTIVES

To impart the knowledge of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries staff to combat IUU fishing through effective traceability management tools for fish and fishery products.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Understanding the traceability of fish and fishery products is imparted and enhanced to fishery officers through applying for engagement activities in the future.

PARTICIPANTS

Twenty-five (25) participants from the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Lao PDR who engage and/or conduct traceability of fish and fishery products. All genders are welcome.

DATE AND VENUE

The training will be held from 18 to 20 March 2025 at Vientiane, Lao PDR

TIMETABLE

18 March 2025

Time	Activities
0830-0900	Registration
0900-0930	Opening Ceremony and Group photo
0930-1230	Importance of Catch Documentation Scheme for fisheries management and traceability of fish and fishery products (by Mr. Kongpathai Saraphaivanich, SEAFDEC/TD)
1230-1400	<i>Lunch</i>
1400-1700	Overviews of the Catch Document and Traceability System under the Supervision of the Department of Fisheries (by DOF, Thailand) • Traceability system for domestic catch and imported fish • Requirements from the international markets (EU, China, Japan, <i>etc.</i>)

19 March 2025

Time	Activities
0900-0930	Wrap-up Day1
0930-1230	Overviews of the Traceability System for Inland Aquaculture (by DOF, Thailand) • Control Measures • Certification • Traceability system for aquaculture

Time	Activities
1230-1400	<i>Lunch</i>
1400-1700	Export and Import Control of Fish and Fishery Products (by DOF, Thailand) • Export and import control of fish and fishery products by air, land, <i>etc.</i>

20 March 2025

Time	Activities
0900-0930	Wrap-up Day2
0930-1230	Regional Traceability Tools for Fish and Fishery Products: Introduction of a concept on electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (by Ms. Yanida Suthipol, SEAFDEC/TD)
1230-1400	<i>Lunch</i>
1400-1430	Conclusion and discussion
1430-1500	Closing Ceremony