



## **Course Curriculum**

### **Training on the Implementation of Thailand's National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU), Second Edition**

#### **The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project Phase II (BOBLME II) Project: GCP/RAS/305/GFF**

**14 August 2025  
Bangkok, Thailand**

Global trade in food commodities plays a critical role in sustaining livelihoods, ensuring food security, and supporting national economies. Among these, fish and fishery products are among the most widely traded, particularly for developing countries that rely heavily on the sector for employment, income, and exports. In 2022, the global trade in fishery products reached 70 million tons, accounting for 38 percent of the total fisheries and aquaculture production, with a trade value amounting to USD 195 billion (FAO, 2024<sup>1</sup>). This trend reflects both the growing global demand for aquatic products and the increasing complexity of international fish supply chains.

Given this economic importance, fisheries have become an integral part of both local and global economies. However, the sustainability of fishery resources is increasingly threatened by overfishing, resource depletion, and governance challenges. Among these, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing remains one of the most persistent problems. IUU activities undermine the effectiveness of fisheries management, distort markets, disadvantage legal fishers, and contribute to the degradation of marine ecosystems. Moreover, the lack of transparency and traceability in fisheries supply chains increases the risk that products derived from IUU fishing enter international markets undetected.

Without effective management systems, countries face not only the degradation of their natural resources but also reputational and economic consequences on the global stage. For example, the European Union (EU), as one of the largest seafood markets, has implemented a rigorous carding system to combat IUU fishing. Countries failing to comply with international standards on fisheries governance may receive a yellow or red card, which can lead to import bans and significant trade losses.

Thailand, as a major exporter of fishery products, has experienced such scrutiny in the past, particularly through the European Union's carding system, which led to significant reputational and trade-related consequences. In response, the country has taken considerable steps to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. One of the key initiatives was the development and implementation of the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) from 2015–2019. To keep up with the changing in fisheries situation in Thailand, there is a need to improve and update led to enhance the NPOA–IUU, second edition, in 2021, based on the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), in line with the International Plan of Action on Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA–IUU) developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), intending to signify the policy and obligation of Thailand in the global efforts to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

Following these national efforts and in recognition of the need for broader regional collaboration, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) together with the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) and the International Union for

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<sup>1</sup> FAO. (2024). The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0683en>

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will implement a regional project titled “Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of the Coastal States and Communities” or BOBLME II. The project is being carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with funding support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and will be implemented in seven countries, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Its principal objective is to contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources, and associated habitats in the Bay of Bengal, with the aim of reducing environmental stress and improving ecosystem conditions for the benefit of coastal states and communities. This will be achieved through five interrelated components that focus on 1) Sustainable fisheries management, 2) Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and biodiversity, 3) Management of Coastal and Marine Pollution to Improve Ecosystem Health, 4) Improved livelihoods and resilience of BOBLME, and 5) Regional Mechanism for Planning, Coordination, and Monitoring of BOBLME. As the Executing Agency, SEAFDEC will take the lead in coordinating activities in Southeast Asia, offering technical guidance and capacity building on relevant fishery issues under components one, three, and five. These activities will be carried out in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand over the period from 2024 to 2028.

As part of its ongoing support for capacity building under the BOBLME II project, SEAFDEC focuses on strengthening the capabilities of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in MCS. In Thailand, SEAFDEC/TD is supporting the organization of a national training course titled Training on the Implementation of Thailand’s National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU), Second Edition. The course aims to enhance understanding of the updated NPOA-IUU and its key components, including All State Responsibilities, The Responsibilities of Thailand as a Flag State, Thailand’s Coastal State Responsibilities, Thailand’s Port State Measures, and Internationally-Agreed Market Related Measures. By deepening technical knowledge and promoting effective implementation among relevant Thai authorities, this initiative contributes to strengthening national fisheries governance and encouraging the sustainable development of the fisheries sector.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To enhance the knowledge and understanding of relevant officers regarding the content, structure, and implementation framework of Thailand’s NPOA-IUU, second edition.
2. To promote awareness of Thailand’s roles and responsibilities as a Flag State, Coastal State, and Port State under international obligations.

## **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

1. Increased understanding of the objectives, structure, and implementation mechanisms of Thailand’s NPOA-IUU, second edition.
2. Development of shared understanding and coordination pathways between agencies for effective implementation.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Participants will consist of 80 officers from Department of Fisheries who are relevant to implementing Thailand’s NPOA-IUU. The training encourages inclusive participation and welcomes individuals of all genders.

## **DATE AND VENUE**

The training will be held on 14 August 2025, at Department of Fisheries, Bangkok, Thailand

## TIMETABLE

14 August 2025

| Time      | Activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0830-0900 | Registration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 0900-0920 | Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement by Director of Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division</li> <li>• Statement by SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Chief of the Training Department</li> <li>• Opening Address by Director General of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand</li> <li>• Group photo</li> </ul> |
| 0920-1030 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of Thailand's NPOA-IUU, Second Edition (Background, IPOA-IUU, RPOA-IUU, Concept/ Definition, Marine Fisheries in Thailand, IUU Fishing, Fisheries Management, Relevant National Legislations, Policies or Plans, Framework and Scope, Objectives)</li> </ul>                    |
| 1030-1100 | <i>Refreshment</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Responsibilities of Thailand               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Flag State</li> <li>○ Coastal State</li> <li>○ Port State Measures</li> <li>○ Internationally Agreed Market-Related Measures</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                  |
| 1200-1300 | <i>Lunch</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1300-1430 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Responsibilities of Thailand               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Port State Measures</li> <li>○ Internationally Agreed Market-Related Measures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Preparation for the Implementation under the NPOA-IUU</li> </ul>                                |
| 1430-1500 | <i>Refreshment</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1500-1600 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Cooperation with the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the International Community in Combating IUU Fishing</li> <li>• Special Requirements of Developing Countries</li> <li>• Reporting</li> </ul>                                                |
| 1600      | Closing Ceremony<br>By Director of Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |