



## PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

### Practical Workshop on Strengthening Fisheries Observer Programs for Effective Combating of IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

*18-20 August 2026*

*Bangkok, Thailand*

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the most severe threats to global marine ecosystems, undermining sustainable fisheries management, jeopardizing food security, and destroying the livelihoods of millions in coastal communities. Within Southeast Asia—a region highly dependent on marine resources yet disproportionately affected by illicit fishing—the implementation of robust Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) frameworks is no longer just a regulatory ideal, but an economic and ecological necessity. Among the frontline tools of MCS, independent fisheries observers onboard fishing vessels serve as the eyes and ears of management authorities at sea. Observers provide vital, unvarnished data on catch composition, fishing effort, bycatch of protected species, and real-time compliance with conservation measures.

However, the landscape of maritime surveillance is shifting rapidly, placing unprecedented demands on observer programs such as 1) Expanding Mandates: Modern observers are transitioning from basic data collectors into critical pillars of seafood traceability, compliance verification, and regional data-sharing networks, 2) Operational & Safety Hurdles: Observer programs worldwide, and particularly across Southeast Asian waters, continue to battle low coverage rates, complex cross-border jurisdictions, data quality assurance issues, and acute risks to observer safety and welfare, and 3) The Digital Frontier: The rise of Electronic Monitoring (EM)—including onboard cameras, sensor logs, and AI-driven data analysis—presents a pivotal opportunity. Rather than replacing human observers, the future lies in building integrated, hybrid systems where technology augments human oversight.

Recognizing these evolving realities, the Practical Workshop on Surveillance to Combat IUU Fishing: Focus on Fisheries Observers Onboard offers a timely and collaborative platform for Southeast Asian fisheries officials, observer managers, and maritime enforcement agencies. By blending practical field methodologies with strategic management insights, this workshop will facilitate the exchange of localized best practices, address systemic safety challenges, and chart a path toward integrating emerging technologies. Ultimately, this initiative aims to harmonize regional observer standards, empowering member states to transform raw data collected at sea into decisive, legally robust action against IUU fishing.

#### OBJECTIVES

- Enhance the knowledge and skills of fisheries officers on the roles and functions of onboard fisheries observers in supporting Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and combating IUU fishing.
- Strengthen participants' capacity to collect, verify, and report fisheries data and compliance information through observer-based monitoring and surveillance.
- Promote regional exchange of experiences, best practices, and innovative approaches to improve the effectiveness of fisheries observer programs in Southeast Asia.

#### EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Participants are equipped with improved knowledge and practical skills on observer-based surveillance and compliance monitoring for combating IUU fishing.
- Best practices identified for strengthening fisheries observer programs and their integration into national MCS systems.
- Enhanced regional cooperation and networking among fisheries authorities and observer program personnel to support collective efforts against IUU fishing.

## DATE AND VENUE

The Workshop will be held from 18 to 20 August 2026, in Bangkok, Thailand.

## PARTICIPANTS

Fisheries Officers from ASEAN Member States (AMSs) except Lao PDR who are practitioner level and responsible for observer onboard and MCS activities to combat IUU fishing

## AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

18 August 2026

Time	Activities
08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00–09:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by GIZ</li> <li>• Opening remarks by SEAFDEC</li> <li>• Introduction and objectives of the practical workshop</li> </ul>
09:30–10:00	Plenary Discussion and Information Exchange on Implementation of Observer Onboard Activities in ASEAN Member Countries (Facilitation by SEAFDEC/TD)
10:00–10:30	<i>Refreshment and group photo</i>
10:30 –12:00	Relevance of RFMOs and Observers Onboard in Combatting High Seas IUU Fishing (by SEAFDEC Secretary-General)
12:00 –13:00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 –14:30	Identification of Commercially Important and Endangered Species in High Sea for Observer Onboard (by Dr. Supapong Pattarapongpan, SEAFDEC/TD)
14:30 –15:00	<i>Refreshment Break</i>
15:00 –16:30	Identification of Fishing Gears (purse seine, longline, etc.) and Operation (by Dr. Nopporn Manajit, SEAFDEC/TD)

19 August 2026

Time	Activities
9:00-10:30	Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Electronic Monitoring Program for Observer Onboard (by Ms. Rebecca Darcy, AFMA)
10:30-11:00	<i>Refreshment Break</i>

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
11:00–12:30	Safety and Emergency Response (by Anurak Loog-on, SEAFDEC/TD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Safety and Risk Management at Sea</li> <li>• Emergency Procedures and Incident Reporting</li> </ul>
12:30–13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30–16.00	Implementation and Best Practice on Observer Onboard (by Resource Person from BFAR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of Fisheries Observer Programs</li> <li>• Pre-deployment Procedures</li> <li>• Legally Defensible Evidence Gathering</li> <li>• De-briefing Protocols and Final Reporting</li> <li>• Lesson Learnt of observer onboard in Philippine</li> <li>• Others</li> </ul>

20 August 2026

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activities</b>
9:00 –12:00	Implementation and Best Practice on Observer Onboard (Cont') (by Resource Person from BFAR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of Fisheries Observer Programs</li> <li>• Pre-deployment Procedures</li> <li>• Legally Defensible Evidence Gathering</li> <li>• De-briefing Protocols and Final Reporting</li> <li>• Lesson Learnt of observer onboard in Philippine</li> <li>• Others</li> </ul>
12.00–13.00	<i>Lunch</i>
13:00 –15:30	Practical Exercise via Scenario (by BFAR)
15:30 –16:00	Closing Session

*Remarks: The schedule is subject to change depending on the situation.*