

Course Curriculum

Regional Training Course on Enhancing Capacity for Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) of Domestic and International Fishing Vessels to Combat IUU Fishing

The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project Phase II (BOBLME II)

Project: GCP/RAS/305/GFF

6–8 October 2026

Putrajaya, Malaysia

According to an FAO report, global marine fishery production has diminished, with Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing identified as a pivotal contributing factor. IUU fishing constitutes a significant international issue, adversely impacting fisheries within national jurisdictions and on the high seas. This illicit practice undermines sustainable fisheries management by circumventing legal frameworks, leading to the depletion of fish stocks and impeding sustainability efforts. Southeast Asian countries are encountering increasing pressure on their fisheries resources due to IUU fishing, often linked to inadequate management of monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS). These nations must prioritize preventive measures such as regulating fishing vessels, addressing overcapacity, and implementing effective rights-based fisheries systems. IUU fishing undermines national and regional conservation efforts, placing responsible fishers at a considerable disadvantage and necessitating urgent, transparent action.

In response, SEAFDEC, along with the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), will be executing the 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 (BOBLME II) project, implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) under the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in seven countries, namely Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

The principal objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources, and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region, thereby reducing environmental stress and enhancing environmental status for the benefit of coastal states and communities. This will be accomplished through five interlinked components: 1) Sustainable Management of Fisheries, 2) Restoration and Conservation of Critical Marine Habitats and Conservation of Biodiversity, 3) Management of Coastal and Marine Pollution to Improve Ecosystem Health, 4) Improved Livelihoods and Enhanced Resilience of BOBLME, and 5) Regional Mechanism for Planning, Coordination, and Monitoring of BOBLME. SEAFDEC, as Executing Agency (EA), will lead Southeast Asia subregional coordination, provide technical advice, and enhance capacity building on related fishery issues under components 1, 3, and 5, which will be implemented in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand from 2024 to 2028.

Accordingly, the project activities emphasize and support the capacity building for Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in MCS activities. This includes organizing activities to share information and develop innovative tools. Despite these efforts, further development in knowledge and experience is necessary to effectively combat IUU fishing. To build capacity through increasing knowledge, skill, and experience for participating in countries, SEAFDEC/TD will organize a regional training on relevant MCS subjects for the participating countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. The program aims to enhance participants' knowledge and skills, foster information sharing, and strengthen regional cooperation to combat IUU fishing for sustainable fisheries and marine resource management.

OBJECTIVES

Capacity Building: Enhance the knowledge of fisheries officers of three countries on the following by

1. Building up knowledge on the implementation of MCS activities for domestic and foreign fishing vessels for combating IUU Fishing.
2. Lessons learned on the implementation and use of innovative technology for MCS activities to combat IUU fishing.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Enhanced capacity to implement effective MCS measures on both domestic and foreign fishing vessels, leading to reduced IUU fishing activities and improved fisheries management within participating countries.
2. Increased knowledge and experience in MCS activities.

PARTICIPANTS

Fisheries officers of all genders from the BOBLME II project participating countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand) who are responsible for MCS activities.

DATE AND VENUE

The Regional Training will be held on 6–8 October 2026 in Putrajaya, Malaysia

TIMETABLE

Remark: The timetable of the subject might be changed depending on the suitable and available resource person

6 October 2026 (*Lecture Session – Understanding MCS Implementation and Innovative Technologies*)

Time	Subject
08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00–09:30	Opening remarks • Statement by SEAFDEC • Opening Ceremony by DOF Malaysia • Group Photo
09:30–10:00	Implementation and Supporting MCS for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
10:00–10:30	Refreshment
10:30–12:00	Malaysia's Legal and Institutional Framework for Combating IUU Fishing
12:00–13:00	Lunch
13:00–14:30	Implementation of MCS Measures for Domestic and Foreign Fishing Vessels
14:30–15:00	Refreshment
15:00–16:00	Application of Innovative Technologies for MCS Activities

Time	Subject
16:00–16:30	Lessons Learned, Challenges, and Best Practices in MCS Implementation
18:00–20:00	Reception Dinner hosted by SEAFDEC/TD

7 October 2026 (*Site Visit – Fisheries Monitoring and Surveillance Operations*)

Time	Subject
09:00–12:00	Visiting Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC)- Department of Fisheries Malaysia <i>Topics to observe:</i> • <i>Real-time Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) operations</i> • <i>Automatic Identification System (AIS) integration</i> • <i>Monitoring of domestic and foreign fishing vessels</i> • <i>Risk profiling and vessel tracking systems</i> • <i>Information sharing and inter-agency coordination mechanisms</i>
12:00–13:30	Lunch
13:30–15:00	Visiting Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) Headquarters/Operations Center <i>Topics to observe:</i> • <i>Coordination among fisheries authorities, coast guard, and maritime agencies</i> • <i>Surveillance operations and enforcement responses</i> • <i>Intelligence gathering and risk assessment procedures</i>
15:00–15:30	Refreshment
15:30–16:00	Back to the hotel

8 October 2026 (*Site Visit – Port Inspection and Fisheries Traceability Operations*)

Time	Subject
09:00–12:00	Trip to Fisheries Landing Port/Fishing Port Complex <i>Topics to observe:</i> • <i>Landing inspection procedures</i> • <i>Catch verification processes</i> • <i>Port State Measures implementation</i> • <i>Documentation and licensing verification</i> • <i>Traceability systems and catch documentation</i> • <i>Electronic reporting systems</i>
12:00–13:00	Lunch
13:00–16:00	Trip to Fisheries Landing Port/Fishing Port Complex (cont.) <i>Topics to observe:</i>

Time	Subject
	• <i>Landing inspection procedures</i> • <i>Catch verification processes</i> • <i>Port State Measures implementation</i> • <i>Documentation and licensing verification</i> • <i>Traceability systems and catch documentation</i> <i>Electronic reporting systems</i>