

**The Report of the Sub Regional Meeting on Regional Plan of Action (RPOA)
And Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in
The Southern and Eastern Area of the South China Sea and The Sulu-Sulawesi Seas**

Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

26-28 August 2008

I. Introduction

1. The Sub-Regional meeting on the Southern and Eastern of the South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas was organized by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia from 26-28 August 2008 at Kuching, Malaysia.
2. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, and Malaysia. The meeting was also attended by representatives from SEAFDEC.
3. Dato' Junaidi bin Che Ayub, Director General of Fisheries Malaysia, welcomed the delegates to the meeting. After underlining the objectives and expected output of the meeting, he expressed his wish for successful deliberations and declared the meeting open.

II. Background of the Meeting

The delegates of the meeting was given a brief introduction on the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to promote responsible fishing practices including combating IUU fishing in the region, followed by a review of the meetings held in Malaysia on the 13 August 2007, Bali from 4-6 of March 2008 and finally the Coordination Committee Meeting held in Manila from 28-30 April 2008 where Regional Plan of Action-Illegal Unreported and Unregulated-Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (RPOA-IUU-MCS) issues were focused. During the meeting in Bali, an action oriented MCS Matrix was developed where it was emphasized that the needs/gaps identification should be developed for the three sub-regions of the RPOA-IUU (Timor-Arafura Seas; The gulf of Thailand and adjacent waters; and the Southern and Eastern Areas of the South China Seas and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas). The Meeting was informed that the sub-regional exercises had been conducted for Arafura-Timor Seas and The Gulf of Thailand and Adjacent waters Sub Region.

III. Discussion on the matrix of the southern and eastern area of the South China Sea and the Sulu Sulawesi Seas

All delegates provided inputs during discussion on the "sub-regional" issues that were developed during the meeting in Bali while working on the matrix of southern and Eastern are of South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.

IV. Discussion on Specific Issues

1. MCS Network
The meeting agreed that there was a need for exchange of information on the name of focal point in charge of enforcement with the telephone and contacts among the RPOA member countries. The meeting agreed to establish the **Ad-Hoc Technical Working Group (TWG) for MCS Network**. The focal point for the

TWG would be from the fisheries agencies would co-ordinate within the country to include other relevant enforcement agencies in this Ad-Hoc TWG.

2. Fisheries Resources and Management

For fisheries resource assessment and management, the meeting agreed that the Ad Hoc Technical Working Group (TWG) for Fishery Resource and Management to be established. Each member countries were requested to nominate their focal points. The meeting agreed that the Ad Hoc TWG would be led by SEAFDEC.

3. Boundary of the Sub Region of the Southern and Eastern area of the South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.

The meeting proposed that the boundary of the southern and eastern of the south China sea and Sulu Sulawesi Seas Sub Region to be defined to include the exclusive economic zones of Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia. The meeting requested the Secretariat of the RPOA to demarcate in a Map the areas in the South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas to be covered by this sub regional group.

V. Date and Venue of the next meeting

The meeting agreed that the next meeting of this sub regional group would be held tentatively in February 2009 in Indonesia. Confirmation on date and venue would be informed in due course.

VI. Acknowledgement

The delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Philippines, and SEAFDEC expressed their appreciation to the Government of Malaysia, in particular the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

VII. Closing Of The Meeting

Tn. Hj Suhaili bin Lee, Deputy Director-General of Fisheries (Operations) Malaysia expressed his appreciation to all delegates for their active participation and valuable contribution, which enable the meeting to come up with fruitful outcomes and recommendations, and declared the meeting closed.

