

**SUMMARY REPORT OF
THE 2ND MEETING OF THE MCS SUB REGIONAL
(TIMOR & ARAFURA SEAS) GROUP
DILI, TIMOR-LESTE
27-28 MARCH 2012**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 2nd MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group meeting was convened in Dili, Timor-Leste between 27-28 March 2012 in follow up to the 1st MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group meeting held in Darwin, Australia in 2009.
2. The meeting was attended by delegates from all four member countries: Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.
3. The Chief of Fisheries Inspection Department, Timor-Leste National Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mr Lourenço dos Reis Amaral welcomed the participants and introduced the Director General, Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Lourenço Borges Fontes to open the meeting.
4. The Director General highlighted the economic impact of Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region and the importance of taking decisive action at this meeting to address this significant issue. The Director General welcomed all participants to Timor-Leste and encouraged everyone to freely discuss the issues at hand. The Director General then officially declared the meeting open.
5. The meeting discussed and adopted the provisional agenda, which appears as **Annex 2**.

II. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS RELATED TO THE MCS SUB-REGIONAL (ARAFURA AND TIMOR SEAS) GROUP

6. A summary of the background to the creation of the MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group and outcomes of the 1st MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group meeting was presented by the Chair of the meeting, Mr Lourenco dos Reis Amaral and Co-Chair, Ms Cindy Bravos.
7. The meeting reviewed the RPOA MCS Network's Terms of Reference which was adopted by the sub-group as its Terms of Reference at the 1st MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group meeting held in Darwin, Australia in 2009. The RPOA MCS Network's Terms of Reference appears as **Annex 3**.
8. The meeting also reviewed the RPOA Work Plan 2012 which was adopted by the 4th Coordination Committee (CC) Meeting of the RPOA held in Cambodia during November 2011. The RPOA Work Plan 2012 is contained in the RPOA 4th CC Summary Report which appears as **Annex 4**.

III. CURRENT SITUATION IN THE REGION

TIMOR-LESTE

9. Mr Pedro Rodrigues, delivered an educative presentation detailing the current situation in Timor-Leste waters. His presentation appears in **Annex 5**.

10. Mr Rodrigues introduced Timor-Leste's pilot program of providing spot tracking devices to fisherman. The devices allow vessel locations to be tracked via a secure website anywhere in the world and also allows users to report suspected IUU activity on the water directly to the Timor-Leste Marine Police. Mr Rodrigues also discussed the significant challenges Timor-Leste faces in pinpointing and responding to IUU activity in Timor-Leste waters due to capacity issues.

11. Issues of concern identified through Timor-Leste's presentation are reflected in the key IUU issues detailed below.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

12. Mr Gisa Komangin, delivered an informative presentation outlining the current status of activity within Papua New Guinean waters. His presentation appears in **Annex 6**.

13. Mr Komangin advised of the rollout of the Faria Watch Dog VMS system to vessels licensed to operate within the 'dog leg' area. Key IUU issues highlighted were duplicate vessel markings, reporting requirements, use of prohibited gear, use of the 'dog leg' area to avoid authorities and concerns over the beche de mere industry.

14. Issues of concern identified through Papua New Guinea's presentation are reflected in the key IUU issues detailed below.

AUSTRALIA

15. Mr Scott Clementz provided an informative presentation on the status of IUU activity within Australian waters. His presentation appears in **Annex 7**.

16. Mr Clementz introduced some cost effective compliance tools which have been used in Australian compliance activities as well as emphasising the importance of international cooperation to combat IUU fishing. Key IUU issues shared with the meeting included continued small scale incursions into the Australian Fishing Zone and mothership activity occurring north of Australia's maritime border.

17. Issues of concern identified through Australia's presentation are reflected in the key IUU issues detailed below.

INDONESIA

18. Mr Turman Hardianto Maha delivered a detailed presentation outlining the IUU fishing situation in the Arafura Sea area of the Indonesian EEZ. His presentation appears in **Annex 8**.

19. Mr Turman detailed Indonesia's inspection scheme and the results achieved from VMS monitoring and inspections. He also detailed the importance of both national and international cooperation in MCS activity. Key issues identified were the export of product direct from fishing grounds without port landing by transshipment at sea and VMS non-compliance.

20. Issues of concern identified through Indonesia's presentation are reflected in the key IUU issues identified below.

IV. KEY IUU ISSUES

21. All participants provided input during discussion on sub-regional IUU issues identified from the member country presentations and also referred to the 2009 MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group Issues and Action document to identify current Sub-Regional IUU issues for the meeting to consider.

22. The meeting identified five key IUU issues, being:

- Unlicensed fishing vessels operating in member countries' waters
- Unauthorised mothership activity
- Duplicate licenses (multiple vessels using one licence and duplicate vessel markings)
- Non-compliant VMS
- Utilisation of member countries waters to avoid enforcement activities

23. The five key issues are detailed in the 'Key IUU Issues and Action' document in **Annex 9**.

V. ACTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE KEY IUU ISSUES

24. The meeting had extensive discussions in relation to possible actions for each of the key IUU issues identified. The discussion is detailed in the 'Key IUU Issues and Action' document as it appears at **Annex 9**.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS AND FORWARD WORKING PLAN

25. The meeting decided on a number of recommendations and follow up actions which are detailed in the 2012 MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group 'Key IUU Issues and Action' document as it appears at **Annex 9**.

VII. COORDINATION OF THE MCS SUB-REGIONAL (ARAFURA AND TIMOR SEAS) GROUP

26. The meeting discussed updating the MCS Sub-Regional Coordinator Contact List. Timor-Leste advised that their Coordinator details remain current. Other members advised that they will provide updated Coordinator details to the Secretariat by 14 April 2012. The Secretariat will then distribute an updated Coordinator list to all members.

27. The meeting agreed for the Secretariat function to remain with Australia for the upcoming year.

28. Papua New Guinea will host the next MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group meeting in the first quarter of 2013.

VIII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

29. Mr Lourenço dos Reis Amaral and Ms Cindy Bravos expressed their appreciation to all participants for their active participation and contribution, which enabled the meeting to come up with viable outcomes and recommendations.

30. All member countries thanked Timor-Leste for hosting the meeting and the hospitality provided during the meeting.

31. Mr Ipolito Da Costa, Acting Director General, Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, declared that the meeting had come to an end.

- Annex 1- List of participants*
- Annex 2- Agenda*
- Annex 3- RPOA MCS Network Terms of Reference*
- Annex 4 - RPOA 4th CC Summary Report*
- Annex 5- Timor Leste – Current Situation*
- Annex 6- Papua New Guinea – Current Situation*
- Annex 7- Australia – Current Situation*
- Annex 8- Indonesia- Current Situation*
- Annex 9- Key IUU Issues and Action*