

**The 10th Coordination Committee Meeting on the
Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating
Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing
in the Southeast Asia Region**

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
28 - 30 November 2017

Summary Report

Opening Session

The 10th Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU) Coordination Committee Meeting was attended by 8 (eight) RPOA-IUU participating countries (namely Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam). Malaysia, Philippines and Timor Leste were unable to attend the meeting. The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) also attended the meeting as an Advisory Body to the RPOA-IUU. CCAMLR, NOAA and CSIRO were the observers during the meeting. The lists of RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee are shown at **Annex 1**, and the list of participants who attended the meeting is in **Annex 2**.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Kieran Macdonell, Director, Governance and High Seas Fisheries, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Australia; Mr. Eko Djalmo Asmadi, Senior Minister Adviser of Economy, Social and Culture, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia; and Mr. Kapi Maro, Director General of the Multilateral, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Sahono Budianto on behalf of the Secretariat delivered welcoming remarks. He extended sincere gratitude to the government of Papua New Guinea for their hospitality in hosting the 10th RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee. He mentioned that the 10th RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee Meeting marks the 10th years of RPOA-IUU since it was established in 2007 by the Ministers responsible for fisheries from the 11 countries in the region. He highlighted the progresses that have been achieved by the RPOA-IUU in the past 10 years and reminded participants that IUU fishing is still one of the biggest common issues in the region. Furthermore, he noted his support for the 10th RPOA-IUU endorsing the RPOA Stateless Vessels Resolution.

Mr. Sahono Budianto also thanked the RPOA-IUU countries, advisory bodies, observers and partners for the cooperation for the last 10 years in supporting the implementation of the RPOA-IUU. He hoped that the cooperation under the RPOA-IUU could be sustained in the future. The RPOA Secretariat welcoming remarks are available in the **Annex 3**.

Mr. John Kasu, Managing Director of National Fisheries Authority, Papua New Guinea, delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea. He stated that it was a pleasure

for Papua New Guinea to host the 10th RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee Meeting, and conveyed a very warm welcome to RPOA-IUU representatives and all delegates to Papua New Guinea. He noted that the participants' attendance at this meeting is a reflection of regional solidarity in acknowledging and supporting the commitment of the ministers from 11 countries to the RPOA-IUU.

Mr. John Kasu pointed out that IUU fishing remains a serious global issue and it requires continuous commitment and cooperation through regional commitment to address this problem. He also acknowledged several significant achievements of the RPOA-IUU since it was established in 2007.

Mr. John Kasu declared the meeting open, he wished that the meeting will provide an opportunity to create greater synergies, in order to promote greater sustainability of our fisheries and marine resources. The full text of remarks from Mr. John Kasu is in **Annex 4**.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the meeting

Mr. Eko Djalmo Asmadi delivered a brief introduction and outlined the purpose of the 10th RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee Meeting

The background of the meeting presentation are in **Annex 5**.

1.2. Adoption of Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

The Adopted agenda is available in **Annex 6**.

2. Regional outlook and priorities

Mr. Kieran Macdonell, on behalf of the FAO provided regional and international update:

- He mentioned that Australia, Indonesia and Thailand have ratified the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and encouraged other RPOA-IUU countries to further progress towards ratifying the PSMA or implement PSM. He informed the first meeting of the parties of PSMA was held in Oslo, Norway, in May 2017 followed by the PSMA ad hoc working group. The PSMA meeting and Parties agreed to establish the technical working group to develop an electronic information-exchange system and that national contact points would be appointed and published on the FAO website. He also informed the meeting that the PSMA technical working group is expected to meet in April 2018. The next ad hoc working group is likely to be held back to back with COFI and the next PSMA meeting of the Parties is scheduled to take place in Chile no later than 2019.
- FAO adopted the voluntary guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) at its conference in Rome in July 2017. RPOA-IUU member are encouraged to consider these guidelines.

- The first working version of FAO's Global Record of Fishing vessel is now open for members to input vessel data.
- Indonesia recognised IUU Fishing as not only a fisheries management issue but can be associated with crimes along the fisheries chain and with trans-national organised crime.
- Viet Nam raised an interest in receiving assistance relating to its consideration in ratification and implementation of the PSMA.

Based on these discussions, delegates noted:

- The importance of promoting responsible fishing practices through implementation of good traceability systems.

3. Presentation of Reports

3.1. RPOA-IUU Secretariat

Mr. Sahono Budianto from the RPOA-IUU Secretariat presented the RPOA-IUU Secretariat report. He reiterated the 11 core elements of the RPOA-IUU that was endorsed on 4 May 2007 in Bali. He highlighted the implementation progress of RPOA-IUU from 2007 to 2017 in the form of legal framework harmonization, data and information sharing, cooperation with other organizations and partners, and capacity building, the role and strategic position of RPOA-IUU, and reported the progress of RPOA-IUU in 2017, including the report of the Workshop on Review of the Implementation of National Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

The RPOA-IUU Secretariat presentation is in **Annex 7**.

3.2. RPOA-IUU Participating Countries

Each RPOA-IUU participating country provided a brief presentation on their progress implementing the RPOA-IUU work plan 2016-2017 based on the RPOA-IUU country report template. Overall, the key activities included:

- Continued development of the national legal, administrative and policy frameworks consistent with international and regional instruments;
- Update on the newest ratification of international and regional instruments;
- Development and implementation of National Plans of Actions to combat IUU Fishing;
- The commitment and collaboration among RPOA-IUU participating countries in combating IUU Fishing through the information sharing and regional capacity building;
- Continue to engage and strengthen regional / international cooperation, as well as collaborate and work with international / regional organization;
- Continue to implement and strengthen MCS system

Furthermore, the meeting noted recommendation proposed by countries as follow:

- Secretariat to conduct complete preparation to discuss the concept of the Joint Commitment and the signing time
- Need more collaborative action to end IUU Fishing in the region

The countries presentations and reports are in **Annex 8**.

3.3. RPOA-IUU MCS Sub-Regional Groups

The three sub-regional MCS groups reported on their activities and key issues.

a. Gulf of Thailand (Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Malaysia)

Mr. Vicharn Ingsrisawang, Director of Marine Fisheries Research and Development Division, Department of Fisheries Thailand, reported The 6th meeting of the sub-regional Gulf of Thailand was held in 28 February – 2 March 2017 in Thailand. Several agenda that have been discussed during the meeting included the management of Fishing Capacity, Combating IUU and destructive fishing, strengthen monitoring at landing sites, sharing information on fishing vessels, management of the transboundary stocks and habitats and sub-regional, framework of common target, ASEAN documentation Scheme and recommendations for the management of fisheries and fishing capacity.

b. Southern and Eastern Area of the South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas (Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and the Philippines)

Mr. Turman H. Maha, Head of Fisheries Distribution Surveillance Division, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia representing sub-regional group conveyed the update for the sub-regional group. Mr. Turman reported that the sub group did not convene any meeting in 2016 and 2017. As the outcome of the 6th sub-regional meeting on Southern and Eastern Area of the South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas which was held in Yogyakarta-Indonesia, 22-23 April 2015, it was noted that the sub group will simplify the Sub regional group work plan.

Malaysia as the sub group secretariat was expected to provide more comprehensive report of this sub group activities in the next RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee Meeting.

c. Arafura–Timor Seas (Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste)

Mr. Andrew Browne, Senior Fisheries Officer, Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), presented the progress of the Arafura–Timor Seas Sub-Regional Group, including the MCS Workplan 2017/2018. The progress of the 2016 workplan and current issues, including (i) Cooperation of Australia and Vietnam through Public Information Campaign, (ii) Coordinated patrol between Australia and Indonesia, (iii) Sharing information (sightings/license status), (iv) Coordinated work between Australia and Papua New Guinea, (v) Coordinated work between Australia, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste.

For the 2017/2018 Work Plan, the sub regional group will (i) share information about the Public Information Campaign with Vietnam, (ii) continue to share information on license status, (iii) continue of sharing data gathered by aerial surveillance, such as the data of of

suspected IUU Vessels and Fish Aggregation Devices, (iv) further explore ship rider opportunities, coordinated and informed patrol activity, and capacity building opportunities.

The MCS sub group presentations are at **Annex 9**.

3.4. RPOA-IUU Advisory Bodies/partners:

a. SEAFDEC

Mr. Sutee Rajruchithong, Assistant to Training Department Chief, SEAFDEC, highlighted challenges that confront the fisheries sectors in the Southeast Asia Region, include compliance with guidelines and regulations to combat IUU fishing, promote traceability of fish and fishery, RFMOs Catch Documentation Requirements, and on the need to address labor issues in fisheries.

Mr. Sutee Rajruchithong informed several initiatives that have been implemented by SEAFDEC to support ASEAN Member Countries in addressing mentioned issues, such as developing the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain, establishing the Regional Fishing Vessels Record, adopting of the Regional Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity, promoting the Regional Cooperation to support the Implementation of the PSMA and addressing trans-boundary issues through bilateral/multilateral dialogues. Mr. Sutee Rajruchithong also raised the issue of cooperation among the SEAFDEC Member Countries and other relevant agencies through development of the Common ASEAN Fisheries Policy.

SEAFDEC's presentation is in **Annex 10**.

3.5. Observers

a. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Special Agent John Barylsky, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, NOAA-Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) stated that NOAA-OLE continues to cooperate with the foreign countries government to combat IUU Fishing. NOAA has provided technical assistance and capacity building for international partners, in the form of government to government support and fisheries law enforcement. Currently in Southeast Asia NOAA-OLE engaged the cooperation through NOAA-USAID and through bilateral agreement with Indonesia and the Philippines to provide expertise in MCS tools and technology, PSMA implementation, as well as area of marine wildlife resources trafficking.

NOAA has provided the Philippines the technical assistance and training in combating IUU fishing through two workshops. The first workshop in Manila (2016) focused on national regulation and procedures to investigate and inspect IUU vessels. The second meeting in Cavite (2017) focused on MCS tools, investigation, inspection technique, and evidence to prosecute fisheries violations. In Indonesia, NOAA collaborated with RPOA-IUU for PSMA technical assistance training and pilot inspector training workshop. Currently, NOAA is developing manager level workshop on PSMA as requested by Indonesia.

Special Agent Murray Bauer, from NOAA, briefed the participants on Interpol fisheries crime working group. The goal of the working group is to facilitate intelligence information to member countries, and supports projects in advocacy outreach, capacity building and intelligence to support member countries in identifying and deterring transnational fisheries and related crimes beyond the traditional definition of illegal fishing. He provided the example on how collaboration and information sharing can benefit member countries based on current activities involving the case of Ayda or Sea breeze.

NOAA presentation is in **Annex 11**.

b. Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

Mr. Eldene O'Shea, from CCAMLR Secretariat, explained the objective of the Catch Documentation Scheme for toothfish which is to promote cooperation between CCAMLR non-Contracting Parties (NCPs) in respect of the voluntary implementation of the CDS. He also informed the outcome of the CDS workshop in Singapore where some RPOA-IUU countries attended the workshop: (i) Consensus of timely support by participants to participate with the CDS, (ii) Follow up with participants to obtain limited access to the electronic CDS (e-CDS), (iii) Participants to work with CCAMLR Secretariat in regards to monitoring toothfish trade through limited access to the e-CDS, (iv) Singapore to apply for further status of an NCP cooperating with CCAMLR by participating in the CDS.

Viet Nam noted that technical assistance on CDS implementation is important for Viet Nam. CCAMLR noted its willingness to support members with technical assistance in the implementation of the CDS.

CCAMLR presentation is in **Annex 12**.

c. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Ms. Jessica Ford, from CSIRO, presented that there are 4 stages in environmental and nature resource law enforcement: prevention, detection, suppression and recovery. In detection stage, fisheries agencies face many challenges. The key issues are data volume and the cost to get information.

Ms. Jessica Ford explained how science play the role in addressing some of the challenges and contribute in law enforcement. CSIRO also presented progress of the project conducted in Indonesia. The project consists of (1) Development of three case studies on IUU related issues for investigation (transshipment, landing at unauthorized port, and FADs), (2) Implementation of statistical algorithms to model operators and vessels using existing and new data sources, (3) Transmission of results from research partners to other project partners through direct involvement of the non-research partners, (4) Implementation of algorithms for operational or semi-operational use and (5) Development of research and operational capacity. Transshipment among vessels is analysed using mainly VMS data and AIS using indicators of proximity, non-compliance, and trip geometry to get risk score of the probability of transshipment occurs. CSIRO also develops risk report on irregular behavior using AIS data.

The meeting noted:

- Countries looking to similar assistance and training from CSIRO
- Indonesia acknowledged the benefit of project with CSIRO and data provided from this project for the purpose of fisheries law enforcement.

CSIRO presentation is in **Annex 13**.

4. RPOA-IUU Issues

a. ASEAN IUU Workshop

Ms. Kylie Tonon, from Australia, informed the result of the ASEAN-Australia Civil-Military-Police Leaders Workshop held in Canberra-Australia, 17-20 September 2017. The discussion of the workshop covered the countries' national ability to combat IUU Fishing including domestic political support, sufficient capacity and resources, good cooperations among related agencies. The workshop also discussed about the regional ability to address IUU Fishing and some issues of regional coordination including regular sharing information, joint exercise, and officer exchanges. On her presentation, it was also mentioned how to improve the regional cooperations. Ms. Kylie Tonon acknowledged that RPOA-IUU and its sub groups actually have addressed most of the issues identified from the workshop.

The full report of the workshop is available in **Annex 14**.

b. Discussion on the Role of the RPOA Sub-Regional Groups

Ms. Sophie Fisher and Mr. Andrew Browne from Australia, led the discussion on the role, the effectiveness of RPOA-IUU sub groups, and future direction. This discussion was brought as this year marks the 10 years of RPOA-IUU which provided perfect timing in reviewing the effectiveness of RPOA-IUU Sub groups.

For Arafura–Timor Seas sub-regional Group (ATSEA), Mr. Andrew Browne, from Australia, acknowledged the effectiveness of the Sub regional Arafura–Timor Seas especially on information sharing which is critical in combatting IUU fishing. However, he stated that Arafura-Timor Seas sub group still has challenges especially in maintain the collaboration since the officer and agencies changes. One of the success stories of ATSEA Sub-group is Operation Dog Leg where vessels conducting IUU fishing could be dealt with. Indonesia and PNG as the members of this sub-regional group acknowledged Australian assistance in sharing information, and good cooperation among the sub group member countries

For Gulf of Thailand sub-regional group, Mr. Vicharn Ingsrisawang, from Thailand, acknowledged that this sub-regional group was not as active as the Arafura–Timor Seas sub-regional group, as some of its member countries have been occupied in addressing the warning (yellow card) from the European Union.

For Southern and Eastern Area of the South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas (SESCS SSS), Mr. Turman H. Maha, from Indonesia, recognized the different characteristics of each sub-regional groups. He informed that the range of activities in the previous workplan of the

SESCS SSS had been too wide and difficult to be implemented. In regards to this problem, the member countries have agreed to simplify the workplan.

The discussion paper is in **Annex 15**.

c. RPOA Resolution on Vessels Without Nationality:

Australia presented the fourth version of the draft of resolution, and mentioned that some countries have provided some comments on the draft. Australia also pointed out that this resolution is a non-binding document.

The meeting acknowledged that some countries still needed more time to conduct internal discussion of the resolution. It was agreed that the countries will collaborate to finalise the text on the resolution inter-sessionally. It was also agreed that The RPOA Resolution on Vessels Without Nationality will be adopted inter-sessionally or adopted during the next meeting.

Brunei Darussalam shared concern about the number of double flag fishing vessels in respective EEZ.

The meeting noted:

- That any input or feedback from any countries on this resolution provided to the secretariat will be also distributed to all member countries.

The latest version of the draft is in the **Annex 16**.

5. 2016-2017 RPOA-IUU Work Plan-Progress and further priorities

The meeting reviewed progress of the implementation of the 2016-17 RPOA-IUU workplan. The outcome of this discussion is in **Annex 17**.

6. Development of the 2017-2018 RPOA-IUU Work Plan

Building on (i) the progress of the 2016-2017 RPOA-IUU Workplan, (ii) presentation from RPOA-IUU Advisory Bodies and Observer's, and (iii) regional outlook and priorities, the meeting identified and consider the priorities for 2018. Members endorsed the 2018 RPOA-IUU Workplan as appears in **Annex 18**.

7. Other Business

Cambodia confirmed updating the contact details of CC member to Secretariat. Other member also acknowledged the importance of updating the contact details of CC member.

Papua New Guinea discussed receiving capacity building assistance from CSIRO in relation to its data tools.

Indonesia announced the Our Ocean Conference that will be conducted in Bali – Indonesia on 29-31 October 2018. Indonesia hoped that RPOA-IUU member countries are able to participate in the conference.

8. Next Meeting

Secretariat will write letter to Timor Leste to host the 11th RPOA CC Meeting in 2018. Secretariat will also write letter to Cambodia to host the 12th RPOA CC Meeting in 2019.

9. Closing Session

Co-chairs delivered their closing remarks and closed the meeting.