

**SUMMARY REPORT OF  
THE MCS SUB-REGIONAL (ARAFURA AND TIMOR SEAS) GROUP  
DARWIN, AUSTRALIA 2009  
28-29 April 2009**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group meeting was convened in Darwin, Australia on 28-29 April 2009 in follow up to the RPOA Workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) held in Bali, Indonesia (4-6 March 2008) and RPOA MCS and Coordination Committee meeting held in Manila, The Philippines (28-30 April 2008).
2. The meeting was attended by delegates from four member countries, namely: Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.
3. The A/General Manager, Fisheries Operations Branch, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Mr. Rohan Wilson welcomed the participants to the meeting and declared the meeting open.

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

4. The background to the creation of the MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group was introduced together with a copy of the RPOA MCS Network's Terms of Reference which had been adopted by the RPOA Coordination Committee at the first meeting of the Coordination Committee.
5. The meeting discussed the objectives and functions contained within the RPOA MCS network's Terms of Reference and agreed to apply those objectives and functions to the operations of this group.
6. The necessity of having two contact points for each member country was discussed and agreed. Each member country provided the names and contact details of two coordinators from their country and agreed that these coordinators would be the primary point of contact for the group.
7. The meeting discussed the coordination processes of the group and agreed to maintain contact on an informal and ad-hoc basis through email and telephone contact. The group identified that there may be a need for future meetings based on the progression of actions identified in the forward work plan and upon RPOA requirements. The meeting discussed the RPOA website developed by the RPOA Secretariat and agreed that this website was a suitable forum in which the group could maintain up to date contact details, meeting outcomes and success stories, however, it would be necessary to ensure that only public domain information be posted to this site and not current operational issues. Australia offered to undertake an initial support role for the group which would include approaching the RPOA Secretariat to gain agreement for the group's information to be posted on the RPOA website as well as report on outcomes to the RPOA Coordination Committee. The meeting agreed for Australia to undertake this role but that this offer is always open for review by any member of the group.

**III. CURRENT SITUATION IN THE REGION**

**INDONESIA**

8. Dr. Hartanta Tarigan delivered a detailed presentation outlining the ongoing developing Indonesian MCS strategies. His power point presentation appears in **Annex 5**.
9. Dr. Hartanta detailed a number of issues including that facilities for surveillance and control are imbalanced compared to the required coverage area and the number of vessels involved in IUU fishing, the mechanisms for catch reporting and data collection are still developing and that the port facility infrastructure to support fisheries inspections (ie landing of catch inspections) is at a low level. Dr. Hartanta also commented that any significant IUU activity within a member country's waters could significantly impact on other members within the group.
10. Issues of concern identified through Dr. Hartanta's presentation are reflected in the key IUU issues detailed below.

#### **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

11. Mr. Gisa Komangin delivered an informative presentation outlining the current status of activity within Papua New Guinean waters. His power point presentation appears in **Annex 6**.
12. Mr. Komangin detailed issues in relation to the legislative gaps in the penalty regime, issues surrounding the ability of observers to undertake activity on vessels operating in both PNG and Indonesian waters and concerns about the number of vessels licensed to operate within the 'dog leg' area.
13. Issues of concern identified through Mr. Komangin's presentation are reflected in the key IUU issues detailed below.

#### **TIMOR LESTE**

14. Mr. PeDr.o RoDr.igues delivered an educative presentation detailing the current situation in Timor Leste waters. His power point presentation appears in **Annex 7**.
15. Mr. RoDr.igues provided detail on the significant IUU activity occurring in southern Timor Leste waters which includes mother ship/transshipment activity occurring less than 600 m from the beach. Mr. Rodrigues also discussed capacity issues associated with taking action in relation to this activity.
16. Issues of concern identified through Mr. RoDr.igues' presentation are reflected in the key IUU issues detailed below.

#### **AUSTRALIA**

17. Mr. Peter Venslovas provided a detailed and informative presentation as to the status of IUU activity with Australian waters and detailed Australia's concerns about activity occurring within the sub-region. His power point presentation appears in **Annex 8**.
18. Mr. Venslovas detailed concerns about mother ship/transshipment activity occurring north of Australia's border and how this has possible impacts on all member country's stocks.
19. Issues of concern identified through Mr. Venslovas' presentation are reflected in the key IUU issues detailed below.

#### **IV. KEY IUU ISSUES**

20. All participants provided input during discussion on the sub-regional IUU Issues that were identified through the member country presentations and also referred to the

MCS results of the synthesis that was identified through the RPOA survey. The key IUU issues identified appears in the 'Key IUU Issues and Action' document in **Annex 9**.

21. The group noted that key IUU issues identified primarily focused around unauthorized mother ship/transshipment activity and illegal fishing activity. Two primary focus areas were also identified, namely the 'dog leg' area and southern Timor Leste waters.

#### **V. ACTIONS SPECIFIC TO THE KEY ISSUES**

22. The group had extensive discussions in relation to actions for each of the key IUU issues identified. The actions identified are detailed in the 'Key IUU Issues and Action' document as it appears at **Annex 9**.

#### **VI. RECOMMENDATIONS AND FORWARD WORKING PLAN**

23. The meeting came up with a number of recommendations and follow up actions. The detail of the forward work plan appears in the final column of the 'Key IUU Issues and Action' document as it appears at **Annex 9**.

#### **VII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

24. Mr. Rohan Wilson expressed his appreciation to all participants for their active participation and contribution, which enabled the meeting to come up with viable outcomes and recommendations and declared that the meeting had come to its end.

*Annex 1- List of participants*

*Annex 2- Agenda*

*Annex 3 – RPOA MCS Network Terms of Reference*

*Annex 4 – MCS Sub-Regional Coordinator Contact List*

*Annex 5- Indonesia- Current Situation*

*Annex 6- Papua New Guinea – Current Situation*

*Annex 7- Timor Leste – Current Situation*

*Annex 8 – Australia – Current Situations*

*Annex 9 - Key IUU Issues and Action*