

**SUMMARY REPORT OF
THE 3rd MEETING OF THE MCS SUB REGIONAL
(TIMOR & ARAFURA SEAS) GROUP
PORT MORESBY, PNG**

25 - 26 FEBRUARY 2013

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 3rd MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group meeting was convened in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea on 25 - 26 February 2013 in follow up to the 2nd MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group meeting held in Dili, Timor Leste in March 2012.
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. Mr Noan Pakop, the Executive Manager of Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance for Papua New Guinea's National Fisheries Authority welcomed the delegates and officially opened the meeting.
4. Mr Pakop emphasised that IUU fishing was a global concern, not for countries individually to address alone. Fishing on the high seas is highly organised and continues to undermine countries' efforts to have sustainable fisheries. International cooperation, such as the sharing of information was vital in combating the serious problem of IUU fishing. To do this, countries must work together to take control of IUU fishing issues in the region.
5. The meeting discussed the agenda and altered the order for presentations. The agenda was then adopted and appears as **Annex 2**.

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

6. A summary of the outcomes and the Action Plan for 2012 resulting from the 2nd MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group meeting, held in Dili, Timor Leste was presented by Ms Cindy Bravos. Ms Bravos expressed the benefits of the continuity of participants in the Group.

III. CURRENT SITUATION IN THE REGION – PAPUA NEW GUINEA

7. Mr Gisa Komangin delivered a presentation detailing the current situation in PNG waters. His presentation appears in **Annex 3**.
8. Mr Komangin commented on the lack of man power and assets available in PNG for surveillance activity and thanked Australia for the provision of aerial surveillance support in the dog leg area. The dog leg waters were commonly used for illegal activities such as transshipment, bunkering and re provisioning. Mr Komangin advised that the moratorium on bech-de-mer has been extended for a further three years and the illegal fishing activity is generating other illegal activities including human trafficking and fire arm smuggling.

Mr Komangin noted the benefits of the current capacity building activities which are underway between PNG and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the need for these to continue. Mr Komangin also commented on whether a need existed to formalise a MCS enforcement arrangement or can effective activities to combat IUU fishing be addressed through the auspices of the MCS Sub-Regional Group.

TIMOR-LESTE

9. Mr Lourenço dos Reis Amaral delivered a presentation outlining the current situation in Timor-Leste waters. His presentation appears in **Annex 4**.
10. Mr Amaral advised of the development of Timor-Leste's NPOA-IUU fishing and the ongoing officer exchange programme, both supported by Australia. He also identified Timor-Leste's risk areas and identification of illegal fishing activities occurring in their waters. Mr Amaral advised the Group on Timor-Leste's consideration of the development of modules on Interagency Forums, Agreements, a National Maritime Operations Centre, bilateral multilateral cooperation, and international agreements.

AUSTRALIA

11. Ms Cindy Bravos delivered a presentation on IUU fishing in northern Australian waters. Her presentation appears in **Annex 5**.
12. Ms Bravos advised that although illegal foreign fishing vessel incursions had decreased significantly since 2005, incursions were still occurring along Australia's northern maritime boundary and there is a continuing need for Australia to remain vigilant. Ms Bravos discussed the MCS tools utilised by Australia to combat IUU fishing including voluntary compliance and deterrence activities.

INDONESIA

13. Mr Ardiansyah Hasyim provided a presentation on Indonesian's current fisheries development. His presentation appears in **Annex 6**.
14. Mr Hasyim updated the Group on the implementation of new fisheries legislation adopted during 2012 as well as the enactment by Ministerial Decree of the Indonesian NPOA-IUU fishing in December 2012. Mr Hasyim also detailed the development of a data sharing system, bilateral and regional cooperation and Indonesia's development of surveillance and law enforcement capabilities.

Mr Hasyim discussed whether a need exists to develop a data exchange framework and the need to continue to improve monitoring of transshipment activities and increasing capacity to undertake port inspections.

IV. AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OPERATION RESULTS

15. AFMA Officer Nicki Alber provided a presentation on the outcome of the Aerial Surveillance Operation conducted in September 2012. Details of vessels sighted and identified during the operation were provided to the

Group and linkages between vessels were identified and provided to the Group. Ms Alber's presentation appears in **Annex 7**.

16. AFMA Officer Patrick Spinney also provided a presentation detailing an overview of analysis of aerial surveillance data for 2012 pertaining to the waters north of Australia in and adjoining the area known as the Joint Petroleum Development Area.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS AND FORWARD WORKING PLAN

17. The meeting had extensive discussions in relation to possible actions for the vessels identified as being possible IUU vessels during the Operation. The meeting also discussed action to be taken as a result of Timor-Leste's IUU fishing concerns. As a result of discussions, action agreed to be taken by the Group are detailed in the 'Key IUU Issues and Action' document as it appears at **Annex 8**.

18. It was evident from the results of the Aerial Surveillance Operation that the Key IUU Issues identified at the 2nd MCS Sub-Regional (Arafura and Timor Seas) Group meeting in Dili were continuing to occur in the Arafura and Timor Seas.

19. Those key issues are:

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

20. The Group discussed the positive outcomes that can be achieved through Public Information Campaigns between members of the Sub-Group.

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

21. Indonesia kindly agreed to host the 4th MCS Sub-Regional Group (Arafura and Timor Seas) meeting with dates and location to be advised. The Group agreed for Australia to continue as the Sub-Group's Secretariat.

22. The outcomes of this meeting will be reported to the RPOA members through the RPOA-IUU Fishing Secretariat. Activities undertaken throughout 2013 will also be reported to the Coordination Committee at the next RPOA Coordination Committee meeting.

VIII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

23. Mr Pakop expressed their appreciation to all participants for their active participation and contribution, which enabled the meeting to come up with viable outcomes and recommendations.

24. All member countries thanked PNG for hosting the meeting and the hospitality provided during the meeting.
25. Mr Noan Pakop declared that the meeting had come to an end.

Annex 1 - List of participants

Annex 2 - Agenda

Annex 3 - Papua New Guinea - Current Situation

Annex 4 - Timor Leste - Current Situation

Annex 5 - Australia - Current Situation

Annex 6 - Indonesia - Current Situation

Annex 7 - Aerial Surveillance Operation Results

Annex 8 - 2013 Key IUU Issues and Action Plan