

**Report of the 6th Sub regional Meeting on Regional Plan of Action
(RPOA) and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the
Southern and Eastern Areas of the South China Sea and
The Sulu-Sulawesi Seas**

**Yogyakarta, Republic of Indonesia
22-23 April 2015**

I. OPENING SESSION

1. The 6th Sub-Regional Meeting on the Southern and Eastern Area of the South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas was organised by Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia, 22 – 23 April 2015 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
2. The meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines. Representative from partners and observers also attended the meeting including from the RPOA Secretariat. The list of delegates appears as Annex 1.
3. The meeting was officially opened by Mr. Abdur Rouf Sam, Executive Secretary of Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries. He stressed that the RPOA IUU have contributed positively towards management of sustainable fishing and IUU fishing at the regional level and highlighted some Indonesia's improvements on the initiatives to combat IUU Fishing to work towards management of fisheries in Indonesia. The initiatives undertaken include the establishment of new rules and regulations to prevent transshipment at sea, moratorium on issuance of license, establishment of IUU Fishing Task Force, prohibit the use of destructive fishing gear, limit the catching of specific fish species and by area etc. He urged member countries to improve the surveillance of IUU fishing and establish coordination among agencies at the national level. He also reiterated that IUU Fishing needs collective effort and to be effective, eradication of IUU fishing needs strong collaboration among member countries and strategic partnership. His speech appears as Annex II.
4. The Chairman of the meeting, Ms. Tan Geik Hong, Director of Resource Protection, Department of Fisheries Malaysia, and co-chaired by Mrs. Erni Widjajanti, Deputy Director of Fisheries Resources Management in Indonesia EEZ and High Seas, Directorate General of Capture Fisheries, MMAF Indonesia welcomed the delegates to the meeting. The Chairman in her remarks, stated that the delegates of this meeting shared one common goal to address global issues on sustainable fisheries holistically, and to protect our fisheries resources through sustainable fisheries management as well as to promote cooperation among the member states in combating IUU fishing especially in the Southern and Eastern Areas of the South China Seas and the Sulu Sulawesi Seas.
5. She highlighted the recent global and regional developments in relation to IUU fishing such as the US Presidential Task Force on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing and Seafood Fraud which was established on June 17, 2014. This task force came up with 15 recommendations and detailed plans which will affect the sub regional grouping directly and indirectly. Members of this sub regional

group should engage and participate actively in capacity building programmes and information sharing to collectively address IUU fishing. At the ASEAN Regional Forum there is also a proposal to address IUU fishing as one of the pillars on maritime security.

6. She informed the meeting that Malaysia had also requested member countries to deny the use of ports by Malaysian fishing vessels that land their catches in their ports. Malaysia fishing vessels are not permitted to land their catch in other countries. It is a condition of the Malaysian fishing vessel licence that landing of the fish catch is only permitted at designated local fishing ports. This request is to assist Malaysia to promote compliance to domestic laws.
7. She hoped that delegates will take this opportunity to review out simplified work matrix and the explore new prospects in order to achieve the goals and objectives of the meeting.

II. INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA

8. The Chairman highlighted the background, objectives and the expected outcome of the meeting. The meeting was conducted in plenary and the adopted agenda of the meeting appears as Annex III.

III. SUB REGIONAL REPORT

9. Ms. Tan Geik Hong, reported the outcome of previous meeting – the 5th sub regional meeting on Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Southern and Eastern Areas of the South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, which held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, 18 June 2014. An update of the simplified work plan matrix was also presented. The meeting was informed that a detailed discussion of the simplified work plan matrix would be discussed further under Agenda V.
10. Mr. Zul-Faisal Hj Saherin, the representative from Brunei Darussalam presented the legal framework for the management of fisheries in Brunei Darussalam. He also present the current initiatives in Brunei Darussalam to combat IUU Fishing including conducting routine patrols by various enforcement agencies, were conducted, transhipment of fish is not permitted, cooperation in ensuring fishing vessel is registered before a licence is issued and the implementation of log book system. The presentation appears as Annex IV.
11. Mr. Turman Hadianto Maha, the representative from the Republic of Indonesia presented the update on National Development of Surveillance and Law Enforcement Capacities, the strategies including establishing soft and hard structures to combat IUU fishing in Indonesia, surveillance capability and capacity in Indonesia, interagency cooperation in combating IUU Fishing, Indonesia's effort to ratify Port State Measures Agreement, case study of handling RPOA IUU fishing vessels and an update of Indonesia's fisheries policy. The presentation appears as Annex V.
12. Ms. Tan Geik Hong, the representative from Malaysia reiterated that Malaysia is committed to implement activities and take proactive actions as promoted under the RPOA IUU. She highlighted that from 2012-2015, Malaysia has received a total of 32 notifications from the RPOA IUU Secretariat, RPOA IUU participating countries and Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), on foreign IUU fishing

vessels and has taken actions to reject their applications to call into Malaysia's port as in the standard operation procedure (SOP) to handle foreign IUU vessels entering Malaysian fisheries waters. She also highlighted that on 11 March 2015, Malaysia had requested RPOA IUU Member countries to deny the use of ports by Malaysian fishing vessel that land their catch in member countries. Malaysia seeks the cooperation for members to conduct inspection in accordance with national laws and regulations if any Malaysian fishing vessel enters RPOA member ports and report is to be made to RPOA focal point for Malaysia. The capacity-building programmes related to IUU Fishing for 2014 were highlighted including planned national capacity building programmes for 2015. The presentation appears as Annex VI.

13. Dr. Nilo Selim Katada, the representative from the Philippines presented an update on action plan on fisheries resources in the Philippines. He informed the meeting that Philippines has established a hotline with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on 27 March 2015, as the outcome of the 4th Meeting of the Fisheries Joint Committee under the Memorandum of Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in the Field of Fisheries. The bilateral agreement is based on the framework of the Regional Plan of Action against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA IUU); information exchange and coordination between the two countries on fishery-related matters including response to emergencies during calamities and disasters at sea. The Fisheries Code of the Philippines had been amended to provide for installation of VMS or AIS for large scale commercial fishing boats. Fisheries observers for distant water fishing was implemented to monitor bunkering activities involving Philippines flagged fishing vessels. The presentation appears as Annex VII.
14. Dr. Chumnarm Pongsri, Secretary General of SEAFDEC presented the SEAFDEC's initiatives related to combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asian region. The initiatives include enhancing sub-regional and bilateral collaboration towards improved fisheries managing and combating IUU fishing; establishment of Regional Fishing Vessels Records (RFVR) for vessels starting from 24 meters in length and over; improving information collection on small-scale fisheries; development of the Regional Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products From IUU Fishing Activities to the Supply Chain; development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme and initiatives to supporting the implementation of the Port-State Measures. The presentation appears as Annex VIII.
15. The RPOA Secretariat reported the current activities implemented and future works of other 2 (two) sub-regional groups under RPOA IUU namely the sub-regional Gulf of Thailand and sub-regional of Arafura-Timor Seas, for the information of the meeting. The presentation appears as Annex IX.

Observers/partners presentation

16. Dr. Ahsanal Kasasiah, Deputy Director for Networks, Data and Information Conservation/SSME National Secretariat – Indonesia presented the achievements of the Sulu-Celebes Sea Sustainable Fisheries Management (SCS-SFM) regional project under the Sulu and Sulawesi Marine Ecoregion (SSME). Including Combating IUU Fishing programs which also stated in the goals of the SSME Comprehensive Action Plan. The presentation appears as Annex X.
17. Mr. M. Maskur Tamanyira, the representative from WWF-Indonesia presented the WWF activities to reduce IUU fishing. Some of the activities was highlighted including research to support the development of National Strategy on Sharks Fishing; Sea Turtle: MCS activities, Research, and Public Awareness in West

Kalimantan; Tuna Bombing, East Flores, East Nusa Tenggara. The presentation appears as Annex XI.

18. Mr. Tony McSweeney, Counselor of Australian Customs and Border Protection Service presented a lesson learnt from the implementation program of Indonesia-Australia Fisheries Surveillance Forum (IAFSF). IAFSF is a bilateral cooperation of fisheries surveillance on information sharing, coordinated patrol activities and capacity building. The activities under IAFSF are focused on combating IUU fishing in the border area between Indonesia and Australia and it has been conducted since 2007. Mr. McSweeney also mentioned the benefits and drawbacks in conducting these activities.
19. Mr. Stuart Cory, Special Agent Interpol Liaison, the representative from NOAA Law Enforcement Office presented the Fisheries Crime Working Group of INTERPOL which focuses on transnational crime issue. The Interpol Fisheries Crime Working Group (FCWG) initiates and leads a number of projects to detect and combat fisheries crime. It is Chaired by Norway and Vice Chaired by the U.S. Two such projects were launched In 2013: one focusing on intelligence and the other on capacity building and advocacy. The Working Group has four strategic goals:
 - Enhance and develop the capacity, capability and cooperation of member countries to effectively enforce fisheries and crossover crimes;
 - Encourage and assist the exchange of information and intelligence related to fisheries crime among member countries;
 - Provide analytical and operational support to member countries in the enforcement of fisheries laws and regulations;
 - Encourage and facilitate networking, channels of communication and exchange of technical expertise between member countries for the purpose of fisheries law enforcement
20. Indonesia and Malaysia presented their activities on community based surveillance for lesson learned. Mr. Turman Hadianto Maha, the representative from the Republic of Indonesia presented the lessons learned from the implementation of [POKWASMAS (Kelompok Masyarakat Pengawas)] (Community Based Surveillance Group). Ms Tan Geik Hong, the representative from Malaysia presented on the Fisheries Volunteer Programme [SUKARELAWAN PERIKANAN (SUPER)]. The presentation appears as Annex XII and Annex XIII.
21. Ms. Laura Cramer representative from US Embassy Jakarta presented the related US program and support and Ms. Celly Catharina the representative from the USAID Indonesia, presented the USAID Indonesia Marine Program and NOAA Night Light Satellite Data for Combating IUU Fishing. The project has 3 components; developing a catch documentation and traceability system; conserving marine biodiversity through regional cooperation and enhancing private-public partnership and investments. The outcome of the project was presented. The presentation appears as Annex XIV.

IV. REVIEW SUBREGIONAL PRIORITIES AND DEVELOPMENT FUTURE PROGRAMS

22. The meeting discussed the existing future programs of the Subregional Groups that agreed on during 5th SESCO SSS meeting and took into consideration the subregional member country's progress reports, current activities and future works of other 2 (two) sub-regional groups under RPOA IUU namely the sub-regional Gulf of Thailand and sub-regional of Arafura-Timor Seas as references.
23. Philippines proposed a capacity building for combating destructive fishing as a new future program. The updated of future programs as appears in Annex XV.

V. REVIEW OF THE SIMPLIFIED WORKPLAN MATRIX SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AREAS OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND THE SULU-SULAWESI SEAS

24. The participants of the meeting reviewed progress implementation of the Simplified Workplan Matrix and provided some changes for further improvement. The agreed of workplan matrix appears in Annex XVI.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

25. Mr. Zul-Faizal Haji Saherin, the representative from Brunei Darussalam informed the meeting that the next RPOA Coordination Committee Meeting will be held in Brunei Darussalam in October/November 2015.
26. SEAFDEC was also requested to share with member countries on the Regional Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products From IUU Fishing Activities to the Supply Chain during the next RPOA Coordination Committee Meeting.
27. Mr. Benny P. Tambunan, the representative from Indonesia informed the meeting that the 5th International MCS Network Meeting will be held on 7-11 March 2016 in New Zealand and encourage RPOA member countries to participate. The RPOA Secretariat will inform any update on this meeting to RPOA Member Countries.
28. The representative from Malaysia, Ms. Tan Geik Hong informed the meeting that due to unforeseen circumstances, Malaysia will not be able to host the 7th Sub-Regional Meeting on the Southern and Eastern Area of the South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas in 2016. She also proposed that there should be a terms of reference (TOR) for the sub regional grouping – SESCO SSS. The meeting agreed that Malaysia will draft a TOR and to be delivered to the RPOA Secretariat and the draft will be circulated to member countries for comments.
29. The meeting proposed that the 7th Sub Regional Group Meeting will be held in Philippines. The confirmation of the date and venue of the meeting will be notified in due course.

VII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

30. Ms. Tan Geik Hong, expressed her appreciation to all delegates for their active participation and valuable contribution, which enable the meeting to come up with fruitful outcomes and recommendations. She also thanked Indonesian government for hosting the meeting and grateful for their hospitality. She declared the meeting closed.

VIII. MEETING DOCUMENT

31. The meeting document can be accessed at RPOA IUU web: www.rpoaiuu.org