



**The Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU fishing in Southeast Asia**  
**20-21 March 2024**

# **RPOA-IUU SECRETARIAT**

**Agenda 5. Ongoing global and regional implementation through future trends on combating IUU fishing**

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*Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including combating IUU fishing  
(RPOA-IUU)*

# Overview of RPOA-IUU

*Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU)*

1. The RPOA-IUU is a **voluntary instrument** and takes its core principles from international agreements and instruments for promoting responsible fishing practices
2. Agreed on 4 May 2007, Bali-Indonesia, by 11 Ministers related to fisheries (**Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam**)
3. The objective of the RPOA-IUU is to enhance and strengthen the overall level of fisheries management in the region and to optimize the benefit of adopting responsible fishing practices. The actions cover: conservation of fisheries and their environment; managing fishing capacity; and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

## RPOA-IUU Advisory Bodies



# Background

*Regional Plan of Action to promote responsible fishing practices including combating IUU fishing (RPOA-IUU) and Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) has been a long-standing partner in advancing responsible fishing practices in the region. It was identified that several resolutions align with the RPOA-IUU objectives.*

No	The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Meeting on the Resolution and Plan of Action for ASEAN Region Toward 2030 (September 2019)	RPOA-IUU implementation status on the Resolution
1	Implement measures to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate illegal fishing practices,	Countries actively collaborate in bilateral or multilateral settings, on data-sharing and monitoring of fishing vessel movement and activities, including suspected IUU fishing in their waters.
2	Strengthen the implementation of measures and activities to combat IUU fishing by ensuring compliance with national laws and regulations, and the provisions of international instruments; encourage the development and implementation of national plans of action to combat IUU fishing; promote inter-agency coordination for effective implementation of laws and regulations; and enhance awareness and understanding of applicable international and regional instruments and agreements through information dissemination campaigns	The majority of the RPOA-IUU countries implement legislation measures to ensure that the fishing activity does comply with the provisions of national laws and regulations and international instruments, such as; UNCLOS, PSMA, and FAO Compliance Agreement 1993. Several countries has also developed NPOA-IUU which other are currently in the process of developing NPOA-IUU 2.0. <b>It was suggested that the ratification and implementation of the international instrument should be strongly encouraged.</b>

No	The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Meeting on the Resolution and Plan of Action for ASEAN Region Toward 2030 (September 2019)	RPOA-IUU implementation status on the Resolution
3	Establish and strengthen regional, sub-regional, and bi-lateral coordination on fisheries management and efforts to combat IUU fishing	<p>The member country meet annually at national, regional, and sub group forums to discuss the progress of action plan and key issues. The countries also showcase significant progress in the regional activities involvement, such as; RPOA-IUU, ASEAN, and SEAFDEC. Several countries frequently convene bilateral forums to address crucial aspects of fisheries management.</p> <p><b>Nevertheless, the regional, sub regional and bilateral coordination should be maintained and intensified</b></p>
4	Mobilize regional/sub-regional collaboration frameworks and tools for combating IUU fishing, e.g., Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU); ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity); Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR); ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), and the use of technologies to support monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities, e.g., Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), traceability systems	<p>RPOA-IUU participating countries implement regional tools and framework and sophisticated technology for enhancing their effort to combat IUU fishing. It includes the increased participation in RPOA-IUU, ACDS, and RFVR.</p> <p><b>Nevertheless, the effective implementation of regional tools and framework should be augmented.</b></p>

No	The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Meeting on the Resolution and Plan of Action for ASEAN Region Toward 2030 (September 2019)	RPOA-IUU implementation status on the Resolution
5	<p>Improve the capacity of relevant national authorities and strengthen their functions for regional and bilateral/sub-regional cooperation, to effectively implement the requirements of port State measures and flag State responsibilities, and</p>	<p>RPOA-IUU countries have diverse and wide ranges of national measures to control vessels operating in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The measures include legislative review, the installation of Vessels Monitoring System (VMS) and Automatic Identification System (AIS). Several countries also used Mobile Tracking Unit (MTU), ERS and EM systems. Countries actively engage in the capacity improvement/building of the PSMA designed by FAO or other international entities.  <b>Nevertheless, the role of Flag State should be advanced. Extensive opportunity for the Flag State capacity building is needed.</b></p>
6	<p>Apply traceability systems with mechanisms as needed to certify or validate the information for the whole supply chain, and establish regulations and enforcement schemes in line with international standards by harmonizing AMSs' inspection systems and strengthen port inspections in the process as a means to improve traceability systems</p>	<p><b>Countries have different level of implementation of traceability systems and more attention on this area should be intensified</b></p>

# Trends on modus operandi on IUU fishing identified within the RPOA-IUU's work area

- Falsification of document
- Fishing in areas outside the permit
- Other crimes related to fisheries sectors; drug and commodity smuggling and human trafficking
- Encroachment by foreign fishing Vessel.
- Unreported and underreported catch and not accurate catch report
- Lack of traceability report and varied traceability system
- Extensive incidental bycatch
- Violation of the transshipment and
- Violation of the decent work

# Effective measures to address modus operandi implemented by RPOA-IUU countries

- Developing national plans of action on IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU) and separate units to control and regulate IUU fishing
- Adopting and implementing the international and regional instruments
- Establishing community-based IUU reporting system
- Enhancing monitoring, control, and surveillance measures
- Strengthening bilateral, regional, and international cooperation
- Increasing multi agency cooperation and multi door approach
- Assessing and reviewing national legislation and laws to combat IUU fishing

## RPOA-IUU's progress in 2023

Several activities which align with the RPOA-IUU Work Plan had been concluded throughout 2023:

1. The study on international and regional implementation status of international and regional instruments by countries, **with support from USAID-SUFIA TS**
2. A preliminary study on Data Sharing Mechanism and MCS Training needs, **with support from ATSEA-2 Project**
3. The specific list of MCS Training subjects, delivered in the MCS Training Course **with support the Australian Government** and
4. An initial discussion on data-sharing mechanism **with support from USAID-SUFIA TS**
5. An initial discussion on fisheries intelligence cooperation/fisheries information-sharing, **with support from ATSEA-2 Project**

## RPOA-IUU's activity in early 2024

In collaboration with the ATSEA-2 Project, the RPOA-IUU organized the Advanced Fisheries Intelligence Training in February 2024 in hybrid mode, with 42 participants attending the training.



# 2024 RPOA-IUU Work Plan to address recent trends of modus operandi on IUU fishing

1. Country are encouraged to possibly deposit their national instruments of acceptance of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement as early as possible and report on their progress

## **Rationale:**

WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement serves as a reference of regulation for prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies. The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies prohibits subsidies contributing to IUU fishing (FAO, 2023)

## **Progress in RPOA-IUU :**

Several countries have deposited the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement into their national instruments and some countries is in the process of ratifying

## 2024 RPOA-IUU Work Plan to address recent trends of modus operandi on IUU fishing

2. Each country to evaluate the implementation of international and regional standards concerning working conditions on their fishing vessels with a view to addressing these gaps in the future.

### **Rationale:**

it was found that IUU fishing correlates with human trafficking and slavery. The standard for working condition on their fishing vessels plays a vital role in addressing those interconnected activities.

### **Progress in RPOA-IUU :**

Most of the participating countries have various level of the implementation of international and regional standards concerning working condition in the fishing vessels.

# 2024 RPOA-IUU Work Plan to address recent trends of modus operandi on IUU fishing

3. Countries to continue to report on their progress with ratification or implementation, as appropriate, of international and regional instruments concerning responsible fishing practices and combating IUU fishing

## Rationale:

International and regional instruments serves as a compliance tools for country to manage and regulate its fisheries resources responsibly

## Progress in RPOA-IUU :

Countries continue to strive toward the adoption, ratification, and implementation of international and regional instruments, such as **UNFSA, UNCLOS, PSMA, FAO Compliance Agreement 1993, WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, Biodiversity and Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty, 2012 Cape Town Agreement**

# Recommendation and A Way Forward

*Enhancing the effectiveness of combating IUU fishing could be achieved by following approaches*

1. Promoting the safety of fishers working on board and with focus on forced labor on fishing vessels
2. Enhancing robust traceability system and more focus on the market measures
3. Advancing data-sharing mechanism into intelligence-information sharing
4. Designing collaborative and coordinated capacity building activities among regional organization to avoid duplication
5. Strengthening the implementation of international instruments at national level
6. Intensifying the implementation of regional tools and frameworks, such as RPOA-IUU watch list, RFVR, and ACDS
7. Boosting the Regional Flag State measures implementation



# THANK YOU

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