

Integration and Interagency Coordination for Implementation of the PSMA

Regional Training on PSM Implementation in Southeast Asia

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Role of interagency cooperation for PSM

- Identify port entry and inspection responsibilities of the various national agencies
- Promote cooperation and information-sharing through agreed procedures and mechanisms for cooperation/coordination

Interagency instrument

- Determine if any existing arrangement could be used for PSM (e.g. MCS arrangement)
- Better to have a **formal** interagency instrument (e.g. a letter of agreement or a MoU)

Objectives of the MoU

- **Establish a process and framework** for notification, consultation and coordination among agencies in the procedures to be taken in relation to vessels that are seeking entry to, or are in port
- Clearly **define the general role** of various national agencies based on mandates in relevant national legislation
- Acknowledge the **lead authority and responsibility of the Fisheries Agency** in relation to the implementation of PSM for fishing and fishing related activities and combating IUU fishing

Agencies involved in port control and mandates

- **Port authorities** control entry into port and may facilitate inspections and control use of port services (including private ports, if relevant)
- **Maritime/Transport authorities** inspect vessels for compliance with safety and marine environment requirements (IMO standards)
- **Customs authorities** inspect and provide customs clearance for fish, fish products and other items to be landed or transshipped in port
- **Health authorities** inspect the vessel and crew for infectious diseases

Agencies involved in port control and mandates

- **Immigration authorities** clear the vessel and crew after port entry
- **Police/defense authorities** investigate and enforce national laws and transnational crimes
- **Labor authorities** inspect vessels for compliance with working and living conditions on board fishing vessels and merchant vessels (ILO standards) and related international standard (e.g. use of forced labor)

Mechanisms for cooperation/coordination

- Objective: Avoid overlap and enhance synergies
- Build mechanisms for cooperation and coordination in the interagency instrument addressing the following issues:
 - Establish a process to develop interagency procedures
 - Agreement to implement procedures
 - Develop an annual work plan to identify priorities in implementing the interagency instrument
 - Procedures for interagency coordination (e.g. meetings, focal points)

Mechanisms for cooperation/coordination

- Mechanism for resolution of interagency legal or policy issues
- Information and data exchange
- Inspections – may be conducted jointly and in accordance with work plan
- Interagency training personnel

Inadequate interagency cooperation: consequences

- **From the vessel perspective:** the vessel used for fishing or fishing related activities must report to, and be inspected by, several different agencies. Inspections are not always coordinated and may cause delays and confusion to the vessel's planned port activities and timetable.
- **Fishing related activities**, such as transshipment and supply, which could involve carrier or merchant vessels. This may create a procedural complication as the port authorities might consider that the vessel is a cargo vessel and not one that should be subject to control by the fisheries agency

Advance request of entry into port

- Require relevant information from a vessel requesting entry into port
- Receive and exchange information promptly
- Liaise as appropriate with organizations, States or other contacts outside the country
- Decide whether to allow port entry, and if so whether it is conditional
- Issuance of authorization

Entry into port and inspection

- Submit authorization to port authorities (by master or agent)
- identify which vessels to inspect based on risk assessment
- Carry out inspections
- Report on inspections
- Decide whether to refuse use of port after inspection and communicate the decision

Enforcement

- Enforce refusal of use of port
- Decide whether to take other measures
- Transmit inspection reports and communicate any measures taken
- Take legal or administrative action, and communicate the decision
- Establish and maintain a database to record and facilitate the action

Thank you for your attention

