



**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE ASEAN  
GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTING THE ENTRY OF FISH AND  
FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM IUU FISHING ACTIVITIES  
INTO THE SUPPLY CHAIN**





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## Preface

During the past decade, attempts had been made to improve fisheries management with the fundamental objective of reducing illegal and destructive fishing. The seriousness of this concern has been increasingly expressed through discussions and recommendations in various meetings and consultations such as those of the Council of Directors of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), SEAFDEC Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) on Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia, Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia (RPOA-IUU), as well as meetings of the ASEAN Heads of States including during the launching of the roadmap for ASEAN Economic Community.

On the part of SEAFDEC, collaborative projects under the Fisheries Consultative Working Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) mechanism paved the way for the conduct of consultations and discussions at the regional and sub-regional levels to find the ways and means of promoting effective fisheries management as well as managing fishing capacity in order to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region. For their efforts to combat IUU fishing, the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) had requested SEAFDEC to assist them in the development of guidelines to prevent the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain of the inter- and intra-regional as well as international fishery trade system.

In response, the SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Research Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) together with the SEAFDEC Secretariat conducted a series of consultative meetings involving the ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries as well as experts from national and regional organizations, to identify the issues related to IUU fishing activities that occur in the Southeast Asian waters. Through such meetings and consultations, the Guidelines were developed, reviewed and finalized for endorsement through processes under the ASEAN protocol. After incorporating the suggestions made during the 17th Meeting of FCG/ASSP in December 2014 and 47th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2015, the final draft of the Guidelines was endorsed by the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>) in June 2015 for consideration at high level meetings of the ASEAN 2015. Finally, the Guidelines were endorsed by the 37th Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) in September 2015.

During the series of meetings and consultations for the development of the Guidelines, the AMSs provided information on the status of their respective countries' initiatives to attain sustainable development of fisheries through the improvement of fisheries management, including combating IUU fishing. The countries' efforts to improve fisheries management and combating IUU fishing for sustainable fisheries have been summarized based on their inputs during the consultations and meetings, and during the Stakeholders Consultation and Meeting of Drafting Committee on Regional Cooperation in Sustainable Fisheries Development towards the ASEAN Economic Community organized by SEAFDEC (SEAFDEC, 2016) and the Regional Technical Consultation on Promotion of the "ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain" in March 2016 (SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, 2016).

# RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEAN GUIDELINES

## **ACTION 1: MANAGING FISHING ACTIVITIES WITHIN AN ASEAN MEMBER STATE (AMS)**

### **1.1 Controlling fishing access**

- Evaluate existing systems that control fishing access
- Conduct capacity building to share / exchange experience among AMSs for controlling fishing access
- Revise policy, fisheries regulation, legal framework and procedures when and where appropriate
- Request SEAFDEC for capacity building on electronic database system
- Encourage AMS to share their experience to help other member states developing their national electronic database system including for fishing license

### **1.2 Promotion of responsible fishing practices / methods**

- Promote responsible fishing practices / methods in the region in accordance to CCRF
- Consider developing and implementing NPOA – IUU and NPOA – Capacity
- Review and strengthen capacity building for MCS
- Promote awareness program on responsible fishing practices / methods

### **1.3 States are encouraged to:**

#### **1.3.1 Update related laws and regulations as well as system of reporting catch and compiling appropriate logbook information**

- Evaluate and strengthen the regulations on catch declaration
- Develop, implement and improve a systematic catch declaration through logbook / e-logbook

**1.3.2 Monitor all fishing vessels by maintaining records and their performance with respect to compliance to national laws and regulations**

- Strengthen fishing vessel inspection and enforcement program

**1.3.3 MCS for implementation of VMS**

- Consider developing the national strategic plan to monitor fishing vessels movement and activities
- Consider equipping appropriate fishing vessels with suitable fishing vessels monitoring system
- Request SEAFDEC for advice on the principle of fishing vessel monitoring systems

**1.3.4 Intensify efforts to address IUU fishing, including destructive fishing and promote co – management approach**

- Promote co-management approach for fisheries management
- Strengthen capability of fisheries enforcement staff and agency to combat IUU fishing

**1.4 Intensify surveillance during fishing operations and port state control at designated landing ports**

- Enhance capacity building for MCS
- Consider intensifying surveillance during fishing operations by increasing the frequency of inspection at sea
- Consider implementation of relevant port state measures.

**ACTION 2: REGULATING TRANSSHIPMENT AND LANDING OF FISH / CATCH ACROSS BORDERS**

**2.1 Establish formal arrangements with respect to landings between bordering countries**

- Strengthen cooperation and collaboration between bordering countries with respect to landing
- Request assistance from SEAFDEC to facilitate formal arrangement with respect to landing between bordering countries

## **2.2 Regular bilateral/multi-lateral meetings to agree on licensing system/data recording and to share relevant information and fishing vessel registration database**

- Consider active participation in bilateral / multi-lateral meetings with bordering countries in licensing system / data recording and sharing of relevant information
- Consider sharing relevant information among AMSs especially RFVR program including vessel less than 24 meters in length

## **2.3 Port states should strengthen measures to regulate fishing vessels accessing their ports for trans-shipping and/or landing catch and collect and exchange relevant information including origin of catch, among neighbouring countries**

- Consider developing and implementing an appropriate regional catch documentation scheme (ACDS) including an electronic system
- Enhance capacity building on port state measures and catch documentation scheme
- Consider formulating SOP / manual for better understanding and implementation of FSM, PSM and CSM
- Consider strengthening effective monitoring at landing sites including preventing entry of fish and fishery product from IUU fishing

## **ACTION 3: PREVENTING POACHING IN THE EEZS OF ASEAN MEMBER STATES**

### **3.1 Actions against fishing vessels operating illegally beyond their designated areas, for example by using some system of vessel monitoring system (VMS), implementation and strengthening of flag states measures, port state measures and coastal state measures**

- Encourage cooperation with other AMSs on VMS data sharing upon request.
- Strengthen inspection and surveillance against fishing vessels operating illegally beyond their designated areas



- Enhance cooperation among national management and enforcement agencies
- 3.2 Cooperate in compiling a black list of illegal vessels operating beyond their respective EEZs and sharing the black list among amss**
- Share information among AMSs on the black listed vessels engaged in IUU fishing
- 3.3 Regular update of information for the regional fishing vessels record (RFVR)**
- Share and update regularly information for fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over to the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database System
  - Request SEAFDEC to consider developing the RFVR Database System for fishing vessels less than 24 meters in length
- 3.4 ESTABLISH BILATERAL / MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS FOR PERMISSION TO FISH IN EACH OTHER'S FISHING AREAS**
- Consider establishing bilateral / multilateral agreements for permission to fish in AMSs waters

**ACTION 4: CONTROLLING ILLEGAL FISHING AND TRADING PRACTICES OF LIVE REEF FOOD FISH (LRFF), REEF- BASED ORNAMENTALS AND ENDANGERED AQUATIC SPECIES**

- 4.1 Conduct regular inter- and intra- meetings among relevant authorities (including customs departments) and exporting companies for agreements on harvesting practices and data reporting of live reef food fish, reef- based ornamentals, and endangered aquatic species**
- Strengthen collaboration among relevant agencies and stakeholders including exporting company for agreements on harvesting practices and data reporting of live reef food fish, reef- based ornamentals, and endangered aquatic species.
- 4.2 Appropriate mechanisms for the monitoring and data collection of live reef food fish and reef- based ornamentals trades**
- Apply co-management mechanisms for collecting information on live reef food fish and reef-based ornamentals trades
  - Strengthen data collection and analysis of live reef food fish and reef-based ornamentals trades

**4.3 State should ensure that export of endangered aquatic species is avoided, except for research and experimental purposes for which such export should be accompanied by appropriate documents**

- Strengthen regular monitoring and surveillance on the export of endangered aquatic species
- Encourage AMSs to review existing regulation to comply with CITES and strengthen awareness building program for stakeholders
- Enhance collaboration among relevant agencies monitoring and surveillance on the export of endangered aquatic species

**4.4 ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION OF SMALL- SCALE / ARTISANAL FISHERS, WHO ACCOUNT FOR MAJORITY OF LRFF PRODUCTION, IN CO-MANAGEMENT AND TO ENHANCE THEIR AWARENESS OF THE IMPACTS OF IUU FISHING AND TRADING OF SUCH AQUATIC SPECIES**

- Encourage development of co-management program for participation of small – scale or artisanal fishers in LRFF production
- Create, promote and implement the awareness program on the impact of IUU fishing and trading of such aquatic species

**4.5 SHOULD CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A NETWORK BETWEEN THE LRFF IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES, ALSO TO STRENGTHEN LRFF MANAGEMENT AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL**

- Request SEAFDEC to expedite establishment of the regional LRFF network
- Encourage AMSs to join and actively participate in the regional LRFF network once it has been established

**ACTION 5: STRENGTHENING THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING IN THE HIGH SEAS AND RFMO AREAS**

**5.1 STRENGTHENING PORT STATE MEASURES**

- Request capacity building for better understanding and implementation of PSM for relevant AMS officials

**5.2 IMPLEMENT, WHERE APPROPRIATE, OBSERVER PROGRAMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT NATIONAL, REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO HIGH SEAS FISHERIES**

- Encourage AMSs to develop and implement observer programs in accordance with relevant national, regional or international regulations with respect to high seas fisheries
- Enhance capacity building for implementation of observer programs

### **5.3 COOPERATE WITH THE RELEVANT RFMOS IN COMPLYING WITH THEIR CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEMES TO PREVENT THE LANDING OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM IUU FISHING IN THE RFMO AREAS**

- Encourage AMSs to cooperate with the relevant RFMOs in complying with the RFMOs Catch Documentation Schemes
- Explore the possibility of harmonizing the Catch Documentation Schemes

### **ACTION 6: REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES**

#### **6.1 GUIDELINES SHOULD BE REVIEWED REGULARLY WHEN NECESSARY AS PROPOSED BY AMSs.**

- The guidelines should be reviewed as requested by AMSs during the annual council meeting



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