



**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CORE EXPERT MEETING ON “COMBATING
IUU FISHING IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION THROUGH APPLICATION
OF CATCH CERTIFICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FISH AND
FISHERY PRODUCTS” (JAPANESE TRUST FUND VI)**

07-09 October 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ADOPTED DRAFT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Core Expert Meeting on Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products was organized by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 07 to 09 October 2013. The meeting was attended by the representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam as well as the Deputy Secretary General of SEAFDEC, the representatives from SEAFDEC/Secretariat, the Chief, Deputy Chief and Officials from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD. The meeting was also attended by local participants from Fisheries Development Authorities Malaysia (LKIM) and the Malaysian Royal Customs Department. The List of Participants appeared in Annex 1.

II. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Ms. Mahyam Mohd Isa, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She expressed her gratitude to all SEAFDEC member countries for overwhelming response and attendance to this meeting. She gave a brief overview on the previous Regional Core Expert Meetings (RCEMs) objectives which were held in 2011 and 2012, the outcome of these RCEMs that brings the initiation of the current project on “Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products”.
3. The meeting was officially opened by the Deputy Secretary General of SEAFDEC, Mr. Hajime Kawamura. He highlighted that IUU fishing is a big problem worldwide, addressing such concern is a great challenge for the Southeast Asian countries and SEAFDEC. He also recognized that many countries in the region had been exerting much effort to adopt various measures initiated by many organizations in combating IUU fishing. Since 2011, the project which is funded by the Japanese Trust Fund included the need to “prevent IUU fishing and its products from being exported”. The task ahead is gigantic, but can be accomplished through a step-by-step process, in order to eventually come up with desired guidelines for preventing IUU fish and

fishery products of the region from exported. The Deputy Secretary General's Opening Address appeared in [Annex 2](#).

III. OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM AND PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

4. The Chairperson, Ms. Mahyam Mohd. Isa (Chief of MFRDMD) introduced the Provisional Agenda and Timetable as proposed by the meeting secretariat. The proposed agenda was adopted after some clarification and amendment on certain items of the agenda. The Agenda 5 was changed to 'Drafting of the Regional Guidelines to Prevent Landing of IUU Fish and Fishery Products' and Agenda 6 was changed to 'Concept Note of ASEAN Catch Documentation System'.
5. Mr. Abdul Razak Latun, the Project Coordinator presented an overview of the project on combating IUU fishing from 2011-2013. He highlighted that in October 2011, SEAFDEC convened the first 'Regional Core Experts Meeting on Fishing License, Boats Registration and Information Gathering on Export of Fisheries Products in Southeast Asia' in Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting had reviewed status of fishing license, boats registration as well as trading of fish and fishery products in Southeast Asia; discussed the information on fishing license and boats registration in Southeast Asia and also information required for the regional guidelines to prevent IUU fishing and the trading of its products in Southeast Asia and beyond; and the way forward on the implementation of the project. While in 2012, information gathering on issues, processes and procedures for exporting fish and fishery products were undertaken through country visits and feedbacks from questionnaire sent to the SEAFDEC member countries. Subsequently, the Second 'Regional Core Expert Meeting on Preventing Export of IUU Fishing Products' was organized by MFRDMD in November 2012 in Malaysia with the objectives to; (a) review issues, processes and procedures in the export of fish and fishery products from Southeast Asia; (b) formulate draft regional guidelines to prevent export of IUU fish and fishery products. The output of the said meeting is an outline of the draft regional guidelines for preventing the landing, export and import of the IUU fish and fishery products. The Overview appeared in [Annex 3](#).
6. Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon, Policy and Program Coordinator of SEAFDEC/Secretariat presented "Challenges and Way Forward on Prevention of Trade of IUU Fish and Fisheries Products in the ASEAN Region". He highlighted the impacts of IUU fishing on economics, social and environment. He also briefly described the forms of IUU fishing in the region, what drives them and what need to be done to tackle these problems. The Presentation appeared in [Annex 4](#).
7. Mr. Hidenao Watanabe from SEAFDEC Secretariat highlighted also that IUU fishing take negative impacts to fishermen complied with rules and regulations of resource management. He informed the meeting that SEAFDEC/TD is developing a regional

vessel record and requested member countries to share the information on vessel registration as an effort to combat IUU fishing especially in preventing double flagging of vessels. The Meeting also agreed that the usage of logbook system is only applicable for commercial fishing vessel but not for small-scale fishing vessels. In response to the status of the development of National Plan of Action for IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU), Brunei and Indonesia had published their action plans to combat IUU fishing while Malaysia and the Philippines have reached the finalization of the document. Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are still at drafting stage. As for Lao PDR and Myanmar, they have not started in developing the NPOA-IUU.

8. Mr. Hidenao Watanabe had presented 'Japan's Export of Fisheries Products to EU Countries and Difficulty'. He highlighted that Japan is one of the biggest importer of seafood in the world. The direct exports to EU markets are only pearl and scallops. The number of catch certification issued from 2011-2013 did not increase significantly. Two difficulties existed on export fish and fishery products to EU; one is catch certification and the other is HACCP certification, especially small scale fishing vessels and small scale aquaculture facilities almost impossible to get EU HACCP certification. That means fish and fishery products by small scale vessels and the small scale aquaculture are hardly able to export to EU. The presentation appeared in Annex 5. The representative from Vietnam had informed the meeting that the Catch Documentation and hygiene standard are two important parameters to comply with the EU export requirement. However, it is difficult to comply with EU hygiene standard for the small-scale fisheries.
9. Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon had presented 'Concept Note on Development of ASEAN Catch Documentation System'. The development of ASEAN Catch Certification System was recommended during the 45th SEAFDEC Council Meeting in April 2013. The endorsement was done during the 21st ASWGF in July 2013. The 'ASEAN Catch Certification' was changed to 'ASEAN Catch Documentation System' during the Special Senior Official Meeting in August 2013. Singapore had agreed to be the ASEAN lead country for the JTF VI project: Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products. The presentation appeared in Annex 6.

IV. EXISTING FISHING AND TRADING PRACTICES IN SMALL SCALE FISHERIES IN SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES

10. Mr. Abdul Razak Latun, Project Coordinator, presented 'Analysis of Existing Fishing and Trading Practices in Small Scale Fisheries in SEAFDEC Member Countries'. He summarized all the information gathered from ASEAN member countries and indicated that most ASEAN member countries are ready for the formulation and

usage of Regional Catch Documentation System. The presentation appeared in [Annex 7](#).

11. Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan, Special Departmental Coordinator of MFRDMD had facilitated the discussion on Existing Fishing and Trading Practices in Small Scale Fisheries in SEAFDEC Member Countries. The meeting had reviewed and updated the document pertaining to the existing fishing and trading practices in small scale fisheries in ASEAN Member Countries. The document appeared in [Annex 8](#).

V. IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF EC REGULATION 1005/2008 IN SMALL AND LARGE SCALE FISHERIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION

12. Ms. Mazalina Ali, Research Officer of MFRDMD, presented 'Impact of Implementation of EC Regulation 1005/2008 in Small and Large Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region'. The presentation appeared in [Annex 9](#).
13. Dr. Masaya Katoh, Deputy Chief of MFRDMD facilitated the discussion on the Impact of Implementation of EC Regulation 1005/2008 in Small and Large Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region. The meeting reviewed and updated the document. Singapore agreed to submit their feedbacks after the meeting. The document appeared in [Annex 10](#).

VI. DRAFTING OF THE REGIONAL GUIDELINES

14. The outline of the 'Draft Regional Guidelines for Preventing Landing, Import and Export of IUU Fish and Fishery Products' was presented by Mr. Abdul Razak Latun of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD. His presentation appeared in [Annex 11](#). He explained that minor changes were made to the guidelines and participants can review the guidelines and make necessary amendments during discussion which was led by Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan. The meeting decided to use the outline of the draft regional guideline as agreed in the last Regional Core Expert Meeting in November 2012. The Deputy Secretary General suggested making clear the target stakeholders that will use the guideline in each member country.
15. Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan, Special Departmental Coordinator of MFRDMD led the discussion on Drafting of the Regional Guidelines for Preventing Landing, Import and Export of IUU Fish and Fishery Products. The meeting further discussed the Regional Guidelines for Preventing Landing, Import and Export of IUU Fish and Fishery Products. The updated Draft Guideline appeared in [Annex 12](#).

16. The timeline for finalisation of the ‘Regional Guidelines for Preventing Landing, Import and Export of IUU Fish and Fishery Products’ was discussed and agreed by all participants. The timeline is tabulated as below:

No.	Action	Deadline	Implementer
1.	Second draft of Regional Guideline	31 Jan 2014	MFRDMD & Secretariat
2.	Review by member countries	31 March 2014	Member Countries
3.	Core Expert Meeting: Finalise the draft and initial development of regional catch documentation system	31 June 2014	Member Countries & MFRDMD
4.	Completion of Regional Guideline (include public engagement)	31 Aug 2014	Member Countries
5.	Presentation of Regional Guideline to PCM	Nov 2014	MFRDMD
6.	First draft of development of regional catch documentation system	December 2014	SEAFDEC & Member Countries
7.	Presentation of Regional Guideline to SEAFDEC Council Meeting	April 2015	Secretariat
8.	Presentation of Regional Guideline to ASWGF	2015	Secretariat

VII. CONCEPT OF ASEAN CATCH DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM

17. Dr. Masaya Katoh, Deputy Chief of MFRDMD, presented Issues in ASEAN Catch Documentation System (ACDS). Basic requirements in the development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation System were discussed. The meeting agreed on four basic requirements and another four as supporting document (Annex 13). Many countries expressed difficulties to implement an ASEAN Catch Documentation System especially in small scale fisheries and it will take time to implement. Some countries also expressed difficulties to implement ASEAN Catch Documentation System in inland / freshwater fisheries.
18. Ms. Mahyam Mohd. Isa, Chief of MFRDMD led the discussion on summary of minimum requirements in ACDS. The summary appeared in Annex 14. Mr Hajime Kawamura, The Deputy Secretary General of SEAFDEC expressed the need to confirm which types of regional IUU forms existed, the purpose of the ACDS and how to develop ACDS practically. The representative from Singapore mentioned that the ACDS does not guarantee that IUU fishing will be eliminated completely but it is a big step towards our commitment to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and there should be other measures such as VMS, port state measures and strengthened law enforcement. Mr. Hidenao Watanabe suggested that ACDS is one of the monitoring measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and the member countries should strengthen other MCS activities.

19. The representative from Vietnam proposed the establishment of hotline network in Member Countries for information sharing and solving problems at sea to prevent IUU fishing activities. The representative from Indonesia suggested that all commercial / large fishing vessels should use Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) so that officers can track the movement of the vessel during their fishing operation. Many countries expressed readiness of using ACDS to tackle IUU fishing in the high seas as well as the Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) areas.
20. All member countries agreed to develop and use ACDS to further improve the role of Flag State. The meeting also agreed to the proposed basic requirements for ACDS (Annex 14). The representative from the Philippines suggested that additional information on the FAO area to be included into the basic requirements of ACDS. Considering the current scenario, the usage of ACDS can initially be applied to large or commercial scale fisheries.

VIII. ADOPTION OF REPORT

21. The report of the Regional Core Expert Meeting on ‘Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products’ was adopted on 09 October 2013.

IX. CLOSING SESSION

22. Ms. Mahyam Mohd. Isa, the Chief of MFRDMD, expressed her sincere appreciation to everyone for their cooperation and active participations during the meeting. She also emphasized on the need for member countries to support MFRDMD in combating IUU fishing. She then thanked the Japanese government for funding this project, to all participants as well as members of the secretariat for making this meeting a success. Lastly, Chief wished everyone a safe journey home. She then declared the meeting closed.