

# Report of the Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific

17–19 March 2026  
Bangkok, Thailand



**REPORT OF**

**WORKSHOP ON STRENGTHENING REGIONAL FISHERIES GOVERNANCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
INTEGRATION TO COMBAT IUU FISHING IN THE INDO-PACIFIC**

**17–19 March 2026**

**Bangkok, Thailand**

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**TRAINING DEPARTMENT**

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

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## PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document was prepared by Training Department (TD) for the participants of the Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific, held from 17 to 19 March 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop was organized with the generous support of the Government of Canada and brought together fisheries officials from ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and technical experts. It aimed to strengthen the foundation for regional cooperation on Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) in combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The Workshop also provided a platform to share information on regional implementation, as well as to demonstrate MCS technologies and innovations for combating IUU fishing. In addition, it sought to promote strengthened technical and institutional cooperation among participating countries and relevant stakeholders in the region. This document is intended for reference and further use by the Workshop participants and relevant stakeholders.

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## REPORT

### Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific

*17–19 March 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand*

#### I. Introduction

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing poses a significant threat to fisheries sustainability, weakens governance, and undermines food security in Southeast Asia. Addressing IUU fishing requires strengthened regional cooperation and the adoption of advanced Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) technologies.

In alignment with Canada’s Indo-Pacific Strategy, this Workshop aims to promote regional dialogue, capacity development, and enhanced collaboration to address these challenges. Hosted by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) with financial support from the Government of Canada, the event brought together fisheries officials from ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and technical experts to strengthen the foundation for regional cooperation on MCS in combating IUU fishing.

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) organized the “Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific” from 17 to 19 March in Bangkok, Thailand. The Workshop aimed to share information on regional implementation and to demonstrate MCS technologies and innovations for combating IUU fishing. It also sought to initiate strengthened technical and institutional cooperation in this area.

The Workshop was attended by a total of 71 participants, including 64 in person and 7 via online platforms. The delegation included officials responsible for implementing Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) measures from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Distinguished representatives from several international and technical organizations also participated, including governmental and intergovernmental organizations such as Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), NOAA, FAO, and the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department, as well as technical and strategic partners such as Canada’s Archipelago Marine Research, Global Fishing Watch, the IMCS Network, TMT, C4ADS, Skylight, MDA Space, OceanMind, RPOA-IUU, and Unseenlabs. The list of participants is provided in **Annex 1**.

#### II. Opening Session of the Workshop

The Opening Session of the Workshop commenced with a statement by *Ms. Ping Kitnikone*, Ambassador of the Embassy of Canada for Thailand, as a representative of the Government of Canada, who highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and continued support under Canada’s Indo-Pacific Strategy to address IUU fishing in the region.

This was followed by the opening remarks delivered by *Ms. Sampan Panjarat*, SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Chief of the Training Department, who welcomed the participants and emphasized the significance of strengthening regional fisheries’ governance and collaboration among ASEAN Member States. She also delivered a presentation on “Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance: Measures to Prevent IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia,” which outlined key regional initiatives and efforts undertaken by SEAFDEC to combat IUU fishing. Her opening remarks and presentation are provided in **Annexes 2 and 23**.

Subsequently, *Ms. Yanida Suthipol*, Head of the IUU Fishing Countermeasure Section, introduced the objectives of the Workshop and provided an overview of its expected outcomes.

### III. Country Presentation on Combating IUU Fishing Efforts

This session provided a platform for AMSs to present and share information on their efforts to combat IUU fishing, including key actions undertaken, technologies applied, and challenges encountered in implementation. Each country delivered a presentation on the implementation of measures and the use of the MCS systems to support efforts in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia.

#### *Cambodia (Virtual)*

The presentation was delivered by *Ms. Sen Rineth*, Vice Chief of Legislation Office from the Fisheries Administration in Cambodia, virtually. She provided an overview of Cambodia's efforts in combating IUU fishing, highlighting the importance of marine fisheries for food security and livelihoods, particularly for small-scale coastal communities. She also noted the Government's commitment to sustainable fisheries management through strengthened governance and policy frameworks, including the Fisheries Law (2025), Community Fisheries (CFi), and participation in international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA), and the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).

She further described the implementation of MCS measures, including joint patrols, port inspections, and compliance activities, as well as the establishment of Marine Fisheries Management Areas (MFMA). She also highlighted the use of technologies such as the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and digital data systems to support enforcement. She noted key challenges, including limited financial and technical resources, data management constraints, and coordination among agencies, while emphasizing future priorities on strengthening monitoring systems, enhancing capacity building, and promoting regional cooperation. The presentation is provided in **Annex 3**.

#### *Indonesia*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Sirman Rajagukguk*, a Fisheries Surveillance Officer from the Directorate General (DG) of Surveillance of Marine and Fisheries Resources in the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries in Indonesia, who presented Indonesia's countermeasures in addressing IUU fishing. He described the various forms of IUU fishing activities occurring in Indonesian waters, including illegal fishing by both foreign and domestic vessels, unauthorized transshipment, and the use of prohibited fishing methods. He also outlined the country's legal and regulatory framework, including relevant fisheries laws and ministerial regulations governing fisheries management and compliance.

He further explained the implementation of MCS measures, covering monitoring through observer programs and electronic logbooks, control through licensing and regulatory systems, and surveillance through inspections, VMS, air surveillance, and fisheries patrols. He highlighted the strengthening of enforcement mechanisms and the integration of technologies to support fisheries management. He also noted ongoing efforts to enhance patrol capacity and strengthen regional cooperation in combating IUU fishing. The presentation is provided in **Annex 4**.

#### *Lao PDR*

The presentation was delivered by *Ms. Anousone Mingmeuangthong*, Fisheries Officer from the Division of Fisheries in the Department of Livestock and Fisheries in Lao PDR, who shared Lao PDR's approach to addressing IUU fishing. She highlighted the significant role of inland fisheries in supporting food security and livelihoods, particularly in rural areas, and emphasized ongoing efforts to strengthen fisheries governance through national policies and regulatory frameworks.

She also outlined key measures undertaken to manage fisheries, including licensing systems, inspection processes, and community-based management practices. Efforts to improve fisheries data collection and monitoring were also presented as important components in supporting effective management. She pointed out several constraints, particularly limited technical capacity, financial resources, and

institutional coordination, while noting the need for continued capacity development and cooperation. The presentation is provided in **Annex 5**.

### *Malaysia*

The presentation was delivered by *Ms. Lim Ai Gaik*, Head of International Section in Policy and Strategic Planning Division from the Department of Fisheries in Malaysia, who presented Malaysia's current initiatives in addressing IUU fishing. She emphasized the country's strategic direction under the National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) 2.0 (2025–2030), which outlines key principles such as transparency, integrated approaches, and strengthened regional and international cooperation. She also highlighted Malaysia's commitment to aligning national measures with international instruments and strengthening governance frameworks.

She then elaborated on key actions and systems implemented to combat IUU fishing, including stricter licensing requirements, control of transshipment activities, and enhanced MCS operations. The use of technologies such as the Electronic Port State Measures System (E-PSM), VMS, electronic licensing (E-Lesen), and electronic logbook (E-Logbook) was also highlighted to support enforcement and monitoring. She noted several challenges, particularly limited enforcement capacity, technological and skills gaps, and coordination among agencies, while underlining ongoing efforts to strengthen capacity and integrate advanced systems. The presentation is provided in **Annex 6**.

### *Myanmar*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Hlwan Moe Zaw*, Director, the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Myanmar. He introduced Myanmar's regulatory framework for combating IUU fishing, highlighting key laws and directives, including the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law and regulations on VMS installation and enforcement. He also outlined national measures to control fishing activities, particularly restrictions on unauthorized fishing in Myanmar's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and actions against illegal fishing vessels.

He then described the implementation of MCS mechanisms, including coordination among the Department of Fisheries, Navy, and regional authorities, as well as the use of VMS to monitor offshore fishing vessels. The presentation also highlighted port inspection systems, vessel identification measures, and enforcement actions in accordance with national laws. He noted ongoing efforts to strengthen regional cooperation, including information sharing through ASEAN mechanisms, while continuing to improve compliance and monitoring systems. The presentation is provided in **Annex 7**.

### *The Philippines*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Clint Salvacion Dampor*, Fishing Regulations Officer from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) from the Philippines, who presented the Philippines' efforts in addressing IUU fishing. He highlighted the country's legal and institutional framework, including key fisheries policies and regulations that support sustainable fisheries management and compliance. He also underscored the importance of strengthening governance and enforcement to address various forms of IUU fishing in Philippine waters.

He went on to present the implementation of MCS systems, including vessel registration, licensing, port inspection, and enforcement operations. The use of technologies such as VMS and electronic reporting systems was also noted as part of ongoing efforts to enhance monitoring and compliance. He also pointed to continuing challenges related to enforcement capacity and coordination, while emphasizing the importance of capacity development and regional cooperation. The presentation is provided in **Annex 8**.

## *Thailand*

The presentation was delivered by *Ms. Jitpisut Sanboonpeng*, Fishery Biologist (Professional Level) from the Department of Fisheries, Thailand. She provided an overview of Thailand's approach to combating IUU fishing, with particular emphasis on strengthening regulatory control and improving fisheries monitoring systems. She highlighted the integration of information systems to support fisheries management, including automated verification of vessel registration, licensing, crew certification, and compliance records as part of a comprehensive control framework.

She also presented key MCS measures, including port inspection systems covering vessels, crew, fishing gear, and catch verification, as well as the use of the VMS for tracking fishing activities. Risk-based inspection mechanisms and indicators were introduced to enhance enforcement efficiency, supported by data analysis and coordination among relevant agencies. She further noted ongoing efforts to improve monitoring accuracy and adopt advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, to strengthen compliance and decision-making processes. The presentation is provided in **Annex 9**.

## *Viet Nam*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Vu Van Tam*, who shared Viet Nam's ongoing efforts in combating IUU fishing. He highlighted the country's strong commitment to addressing IUU fishing through the implementation of national action plans and alignment with international requirements, particularly in response to market-related measures and compliance obligations. He also emphasized the importance of strengthening the legal framework and enhancing coordination among relevant authorities.

He outlined key MCS measures, including vessel registration and licensing, port inspection and catch certification systems, and the use of the VMS to oversee fishing activities. Efforts to improve enforcement, ensure traceability of fishery products, and address non-compliance were also presented as priority actions. He noted ongoing challenges in implementation and stressed the need for continued capacity development and inter-agency coordination. The presentation is provided in **Annex 10**.

## **IV. Regional Cooperation for Combating IUU Fishing**

This session explored the benefits, models, and mechanisms for strengthening regional cooperation in combating IUU fishing, bringing together perspectives from global, regional, and national actors, while highlighting the importance of coordinated efforts, shared responsibilities, and the exchange of experiences and best practices, including a summary of best practices in combating IUU fishing and the identification of priority areas and gaps to enhance regional coordination in support of implementation in the region.

### *Indo-Pacific Partner Supporting Regional Cooperation*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Dustin De Gagne*, Senior Program Officer of the International Fisheries Enforcement Program under Conservation and Protection, Fisheries and Oceans Canada. He introduced Canada's fisheries enforcement framework, highlighting its structured approach to compliance based on outreach and public engagement, core MCS activities, and specialized enforcement operations supported by intelligence-led decision-making. He emphasized the importance of integrating enforcement with stakeholder awareness to promote voluntary compliance alongside regulatory control.

He also presented Canada's efforts in strengthening both domestic MCS and international cooperation, including offshore patrol operations and the use of coordinated enforcement units to support monitoring activities. In addition, he highlighted Canada's strategic partnerships with international organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to enhance transparency, intelligence

sharing, and regional MCS capacity, particularly in support of Indo-Pacific partners. The presentation is provided in **Annex 11**.

#### *Global Perspective on Fisheries Governance Frameworks*

The presentation was delivered by *Ms. Angela Lentisco*, Fishery and Aquaculture Officer from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), who presented a global perspective on fisheries governance frameworks in addressing IUU fishing. She highlighted the importance of strong governance systems, including legal, institutional, and policy frameworks, to ensure sustainable fisheries management and effective compliance. She also emphasized the role of international instruments and guidelines in supporting countries to strengthen their fisheries governance and align with global standards.

She further presented the need for enhanced regional cooperation and coordinated actions among countries, particularly in areas such as information sharing, capacity development, and the implementation of MCS measures. She underscored the importance of integrating governance, enforcement, and technology to improve fisheries management outcomes, while also addressing existing gaps and challenges in implementation. The presentation is provided in **Annex 12**.

#### *Insights from International MCS Cooperation Initiatives (Virtual)*

Insights from international MCS cooperation initiatives were shared by *Mr. Youky Susaia*, a representative from the International MCS Network (IMCS Network), a global network that supports fisheries enforcement agencies through information sharing, capacity building, and operational collaboration. He highlighted the role of such networks in strengthening international coordination and enhancing the effectiveness of MCS efforts in combating IUU fishing across regions.

#### *Sub-Regional Cooperation Model and Progress (Virtual)*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Yudhistira Rizky Abdillah*, Vice Executive Director of the RPOA-IUU Secretariat, who introduced the role of the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices, including Combating IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU) in strengthening regional cooperation. He highlighted the platform's function in facilitating coordination among participating countries, promoting responsible fishing practices, and supporting collective actions to address IUU fishing in the region.

He also outlined key initiatives under RPOA-IUU, including information sharing, joint activities, and capacity-building efforts to enhance MCS and enforcement cooperation among member countries. He emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration and regional commitment to effectively address transboundary IUU fishing issues and strengthen overall fisheries governance. The presentation is provided in **Annex 13**.

#### *Regional Technical Organization Facilitating Capacity Building and Collaboration*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Natthawat Chutiponglapat*, IUU Fishing Countermeasure Officer from the SEAFDEC/TD, who highlighted the role of SEAFDEC/TD as a regional technical organization in facilitating capacity building and collaboration to combat IUU fishing. He outlined SEAFDEC's mandate in supporting Member Countries through technical assistance, training programs, and the development of regional guidelines to strengthen fisheries management and MCS implementation.

He also presented key initiatives undertaken by SEAFDEC/TD, including capacity-building activities, regional knowledge sharing, and the promotion of collaborative mechanisms among AMSs. He emphasized the importance of strengthening technical cooperation, enhancing human resource development, and fostering regional partnerships to effectively address IUU fishing in the region.

Following the presentation, which several key issues were raised by AMSs regarding IUU-related initiatives, including methodologies for estimating IUU fishing losses. SEAFDEC/TD noted that a capacity-building workshop will be organized to develop context-specific approaches in collaboration with Member Countries and the FAO, recognizing that no single methodology is universally applicable. The session also addressed the differences between the FAO Global Record and the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR), highlighting their distinct scopes and data coverage, as well as the role of Member Countries in updating the information based on their capacities. The importance of strengthening and effectively utilizing existing communication platforms, such as the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU), was also emphasized, rather than establishing new systems. Updates on upcoming capacity-building activities were provided, with tentative funding support for 2026, and the session concluded with an emphasis on the need for continuous training to address evolving regulations, high personnel turnover, and emerging MCS technologies. The presentation is provided in **Annex 14**.

#### *Regional Cooperation to Combat IUU Fishing*

The presentation was delivered by *Ms. Jitpisut Sanboonpeng* from Thailand, representing the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU). She introduced AN-IUU as a regional platform established to enhance cooperation among ASEAN Member States through effective information sharing and operational coordination in combating IUU fishing.

She highlighted the AN-IUU interactive platform, which facilitates the exchange of MCS-related information, including IUU vessel lists, watch lists, and incident reporting among focal points in the region. The platform also supports capacity building and promotes the sharing of best practices to strengthen regional efforts in addressing IUU fishing.

Following the presentation, a question-and-answer session was conducted, during which clarification was sought on the differences between AN-IUU and the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices, including Combating IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU). It was noted that while both mechanisms aim to address IUU fishing, they differ in scope and governance, with RPOA-IUU involving both ASEAN and non-ASEAN countries, whereas AN-IUU is an ASEAN-led initiative under the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi). The Workshop further emphasized the importance of ensuring complementarity between the two mechanisms, while noting that any formal integration would require extensive consultation and approval within ASEAN frameworks. The presentation is provided in **Annex 15**.

#### **V. Technology Showcase and Demonstration: Satellite Vessel Monitoring, e-Logbooks, AI Analytics**

##### *In Space-based Radio-Frequency (RF) Technology for Maritime Surveillance and Dark Vessel Detection*

The presentation was delivered by *Ms. Agathe Leseur* from Unseenlabs, who introduced the application of space-based radio-frequency (RF) technology for maritime surveillance, particularly in detecting “dark vessels” that disable their Automatic Identification System (AIS). She explained the limitations of conventional monitoring tools, such as AIS, coastal radar, and optical systems, which rely on cooperative signals and are constrained by geographic and environmental factors. To address these gaps, Unseenlabs has developed a satellite constellation capable of detecting and geolocating RF emissions from vessels globally, enabling monitoring across wide maritime areas under all conditions.

She elaborated on the use of RF fingerprinting, where vessels can be identified through unique radio signal patterns emitted from onboard equipment. This approach enables authorities to track vessels over time, even when AIS is switched off, and supports operational applications such as area monitoring, detection of suspicious activities, and investigation of vessels of interest. She emphasized that integrating RF-based intelligence with existing monitoring tools can enhance enforcement capabilities and support efforts to combat IUU fishing.

Following the presentation, participants raised technical inquiries on vessel identification, the reliability of RF fingerprinting, and the system's operational application. It was clarified that while RF fingerprinting can support vessel tracking independently, its effectiveness is enhanced when combined with AIS data and larger datasets over longer monitoring periods. Although the system is not fully real-time, it is already being applied operationally in some regions, with implementation depending on specific objectives, data availability, and operational context. The presentation is provided in **Annex 16**.

#### *Canada's Archipelago Marine Research Ltd: Sustainable Fisheries Programs & Monitoring Initiatives*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Colin Bishop* from Archipelago Marine Research Ltd, who provided an overview of Electronic Monitoring (EM) initiatives to support sustainable fisheries management. He introduced Archipelago as a global provider of marine resource management services and highlighted the FishVue ecosystem, which integrates onboard hardware such as cameras, GPS, and sensors with analytical software to collect at-sea data. He emphasized that EM helps address the "context gap" in fisheries monitoring by providing verifiable information on fishing activities, complementing satellite-based vessel tracking.

He further presented the application of EM in improving data accuracy and coverage, supported by case studies from Australia, Canada, and the United States. He also highlighted the integration of AI to enhance efficiency through automated species identification, data processing, and measurement tools, while emphasizing the importance of integrating EM with other MCS tools and strengthening local capacity for data analysis and management.

Following the presentation, participants raised technical questions regarding system capabilities and operational processes, including species classification, data transmission, and data processing. It was noted that AI models are developed using various datasets to identify key species, although environmental factors may affect accuracy. While vessel positions can be monitored in near real-time, high-resolution video data is typically reviewed post-trip due to transmission constraints. Data storage, transfer, and application vary depending on national contexts, with EM outputs often used to support fisheries management and reporting. The presentation is provided in **Annex 17**.

#### *Electronic Monitoring/Electronic Logbooks*

The presentation was delivered by *Ms. Holly McBride* from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), who provided an overview of electronic technologies used in fisheries monitoring and management in the United States. She outlined the integration of tools such as EM, e-logbooks, VMS, electronic reporting, and observer systems to support data validation and compliance. She also highlighted that EM programs are tailored to specific objectives, with the United States currently implementing multiple programs across different fisheries.

She also discussed key considerations for EM implementation, including data management, confidentiality, and system design, as well as the increasing use of AI and machine learning to improve efficiency in video review and species identification. The importance of stakeholder engagement, clear program objectives, system standardization, and flexible approaches was emphasized to support effective and scalable implementation.

Following the presentation, participants raised questions regarding the application of AI, data integration, and operational challenges. It was noted that while AI can support event detection and reduce the burden of video analysis, manual validation remains necessary. She also highlighted challenges related to multi-vendor systems, including data compatibility and standardization, emphasizing the need for unified data platforms. It was further observed that EM can provide stronger evidence for compliance compared to VMS or AIS alone, and that higher monitoring coverage enhances effectiveness. The presentation is provided in **Annex 18**.

The presentation was delivered by representatives from OceanMind, led by *Mr. Pablo Trueba, Mr. Jay Bryan, and Mr. Jasper Laurente*, who introduced their implementation support and technology solutions to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia. OceanMind, a non-profit organization, utilizes AI and advanced data analytics to provide fisheries intelligence. Their Intelligence and Compliance (I&C) experts primarily use these tools to provide key actionable insights into maritime activities for authorities but also provide bespoke training in fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) to partners. They highlighted ongoing projects supporting the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in the Philippines and Cambodia, in collaboration with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Fisheries Administration (FiA), respectively, with funding support from Canada.

They presented key technology solutions, including the Dark Vessel Detection (DVD) tool and the Port State Measures Analysis Risk Tool (PSMART). The DVD tool integrates multiple satellite data sources, such as Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), Electro-Optical (EO), and RF, with AIS and VMS data to detect and track vessels, including those attempting to evade monitoring. Meanwhile, PSMART supports port State authorities by analyzing advance requests to enter port (AREPs) using machine learning to assess risks and support targeted inspections. In both projects, OceanMind I&C experts are conducting capacity building with both BFAR and FiA to support PSMA implementation, technology exploitation and wider maritime domain awareness (MDA), both in country and virtually.

Following the presentation, participants raised questions regarding data sources, system capabilities, and operational applications. It was noted that PSMART utilizes multiple datasets, including AREPs, port records, and AIS data, while the DVD platform integrates broader remote sensing inputs for vessel detection. Clarifications were also provided on the differences between DVD and RF-based technologies, as well as the meaning of near real-time data. The discussion further highlighted challenges related to data integration, legal use of monitoring data, and data confidentiality, with emphasis on secure and country-specific access. The importance of regional information sharing was also underscored to address issues such as vessel identity fraud and strengthen efforts to combat IUU fishing. The presentation is provided in **Annex 19**.

*Global Fishing Watch Provides Access to AIS Data, including Inferred Fishing, Fishing-related Activity, and Vessel Classification Analyses to Support Efforts to Combat IUU Fishing.*

The presentation was delivered by *Ms. Dhiya Sathananthan* from Global Fishing Watch (GFW), who presented on the use of AI-driven behavioral analytics to monitor fishing activities and assess transshipment risks. She highlighted GFW's approach in promoting transparency in global fisheries through three core components including satellite vessel monitoring, electronic logbooks, and AI analytics. By AIS and VMS data, machine learning models are used to infer fishing activities, distinguish between transit and active fishing, and detect suspicious or dark vessels.

She further elaborated on transshipment risk analysis, where behavioral algorithms are applied to identify loitering events at sea, which may indicate the transfer of catch between vessels. The platform also supports monitoring of marine protected areas and strengthens enforcement through open-access data. The use of AI enables large-scale and near real-time monitoring of global fishing fleets, helping to reduce information gaps and support sustainable fisheries management.

Following the presentation, participants raised questions regarding platform accessibility, accuracy, and data sharing. It was noted that while most platform features are available through free access, there are currently no plans for a mobile application, although user feedback will be considered. Clarifications were also provided on the use of machine learning models to estimate fishing activities based on vessel behavior, acknowledging potential limitations while noting ongoing improvements. The importance of data sharing was further discussed, particularly regarding VMS data, with the view that transparency can be enhanced while managing sensitivities through measures such as delayed or lower-resolution data release. The presentation is provided in **Annex 20**.

### *Triton Platform for Fisheries Beneficial Ownership Mapping in Detail, and C4ADS's Role, Responsibilities, and Activities to Combat IUU fishing*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Samuel McGovern*, who introduced the Triton platform developed by the Center for Advanced Defense Studies (C4ADS) to support the analysis of beneficial ownership in the global fishing industry. He outlined how the platform combines vessel, corporate, and individual data to enable network mapping, allowing users to uncover ownership linkages, evaluate fleet-level risks, and identify ultimate beneficial owners associated with fishing activities.

He also demonstrated the application of the platform through a case study, illustrating how the integration of vessel tracking data, corporate records, and other open-source information can reveal complex ownership structures and potential IUU fishing activities. He highlighted the role of open-source intelligence (OSINT), supported by structured search techniques, while noting key challenges such as data limitations, inconsistencies, and regulatory gaps across jurisdictions. The contribution of the Joint Analytical Cell (JAC) in providing fisheries intelligence and analytical support was also emphasized as part of broader efforts to strengthen MCS.

Following the presentation, participants sought clarification on the accessibility of the platform. It was noted that Triton is publicly available, subject to user registration and a vetting process prior to access. Participants were encouraged to explore the platform as a tool to support analysis and enforcement efforts. The presentation is provided in **Annex 21**.

### *A new User Interface (UI) and innovative tools for combating IUU fishing*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Youky Susaia* from Skylight, who introduced the Skylight platform as an AI-powered maritime monitoring and analysis tool to support efforts in combating IUU fishing. He described Skylight as a non-profit, data-driven platform that applies advanced algorithms and machine learning to analyze large volumes of maritime data in near real-time. The system integrates multiple data sources, including AIS signals and satellite-based inputs such as synthetic aperture radar, optical imagery, and radio-frequency detections, to identify anomalous vessel behavior and enhance maritime domain awareness.

He further illustrated how the platform translates complex datasets into actionable insights, enabling users to focus on suspicious activities while validating findings with additional information sources. The platform supports vessel tracking, historical data access of up to eighteen months, and integration with partner systems to facilitate operational decision-making. A live demonstration was also conducted to showcase key functionalities, including filtering tools, event detection, and user interface features, while encouraging continued collaboration and feedback to enhance system performance.

Following the presentation, participants raised technical questions regarding data accessibility, system capabilities, and future developments. It was clarified that historical tracking is available but must be accessed through specific platform features, and that current limitations prevent vessel length estimation from synthetic aperture radar, although such estimation is possible using optical imagery. It was also noted that Skylight is continuously expanding its data sources, including selected commercial satellite inputs, to improve detection and support targeted monitoring.

### *Shares AI-supported enforcement tools and practices used by members MCS agencies worldwide*

The presentation was delivered by *Mr. Youky Susaia* from the IMCS Network, who shared insights on AI-supported enforcement tools and practices applied by member agencies. He explained how the integration of machine learning with satellite data enhances the monitoring of large maritime areas, including the use of Automatic Identification System (AIS) and synthetic aperture radar (SAR) to detect dark vessels. He also highlighted the ability of AI models to analyze historical vessel behavior and identify high-risk patterns, enabling more targeted and intelligence-led enforcement actions.

He further emphasized the role of data integration and verification, including the use of global vessel records to cross-reference multi-source information and strengthen vessel identification. The presentation underscored that while advanced technologies improve detection capabilities, effective enforcement relies on strong regional cooperation and data-sharing mechanisms. He also encouraged the adoption of standardized digital reporting to enhance the usability of AI-driven insights across jurisdictions.

Following the presentation, participants sought clarification on the structure and functions of the IMCS Network. It was noted that the Network operates as a voluntary organization with membership at the agency level, requiring a formal expression of interest to join. It was also clarified that while the Network does not maintain its own IUU vessel list, it collaborates with international partners to consolidate and validate information from multiple sources, supporting more effective identification and tracking of non-compliant vessels.

#### *Canadian Space Technology Solutions: Dark Vessel Detection and Synthetic Aperture Radar Satellite Constellations*

The presentation was jointly delivered by *Mr. Michel Dion* from MDA Space Ltd. and *Mr. Dustin De Gagne*, who presented Canada's space-based technology solutions for maritime surveillance, including DVD program and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite constellations. They highlighted the limitations of relying solely on AIS data, noting the need to integrate multiple satellite-based sensors to strengthen maritime domain awareness. The system combines SAR data from the RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM), electro-optical imagery, RF signals, and Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) detections into a unified analytical platform.

They further introduced advancements in satellite capabilities, including the upcoming CHORUS constellation, which is expected to enhance detection frequency and reduce processing timelines. The DVD platform was also presented as a tool supporting enforcement through data fusion, automated detection of dark vessels, geo-fencing, alert systems, and predictive tracking. The integration of wide-area SAR and high-resolution optical imagery enables more targeted monitoring and supports evidence collection for enforcement purposes.

Following the presentation, participants raised questions regarding satellite coverage, legal applicability of satellite data, and detection capabilities. It was noted that current satellite coverage in Southeast Asia is expected to improve significantly with the deployment of new constellations. Clarifications were also provided on the use of satellite data in legal contexts, as well as limitations in detecting small-scale or non-metal vessels, with alternative approaches such as optical imagery, RF signals, and nightlight data suggested to support monitoring. The presentation is provided in **Annex 22**.

## **VI. Discussion on Feedback on Usability, Relevance, and Adaptation Potential of Technology Showcase and Demonstration**

The discussion session was facilitated by *Mr. Kongpathai Saraphaivanich*, Training and Research Supporting Division Head from SEAFDEC/TD and *Ms. Yanida Suthipol*. Following the presentations on various technology showcases, the session gathered feedback from AMSs on the usability, relevance, and adaptation potential of the demonstrated technologies. Satellite-based monitoring was widely recognized for its strong potential in covering large maritime areas, detecting dark vessels, and complementing existing national VMS. However, AMSs also identified key challenges, including high operational costs, data-sharing constraints, and the need for enhanced technical capacity and training to support effective implementation.

### *Discussion on Usability, Relevance, and Adaption Potential of Technology Showcase and Demonstration*

#### **I. Satellite Monitoring**

The region views satellite monitoring not just as a technological luxury, but as a critical strategic necessity for maritime and inland water security. While coastal nations (Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam) focus on vast ocean surveillance and "dark vessel" detection, land-linked nations like Lao PDR see emerging value for reservoir management. The transition from traditional Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) to advanced satellite-based "Dark Vessel Detection" (DVD) is the primary regional trend.

**1. Usefulness and relevance as a multi-tiered toolset**

The consensus is that satellite technology is highly relevant, but its application varies by geography.

- **Maritime surveillance** involves countries with extensive coastlines, such as Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand, which prioritize satellite use for monitoring large areas in real time. It is seen as a way to fill gaps where physical patrols cannot reach.
- **Targeting dark vessels** is a key regional focus, particularly for Malaysia and Myanmar, where detecting vessels that intentionally disable AIS or VMS transponders is critical.
- **Inland and transboundary applications** are relevant for Lao PDR and Cambodia, particularly for monitoring large reservoirs and cross-border movements to ensure compliance.
- **Efficiency gains** are highlighted by long-term users such as Canada, where satellite assets are considered significantly more cost-efficient than traditional aerial or maritime patrols across vast jurisdictions.

**2. Potential for adoption with high interest but significant barriers**

There is strong interest in adopting these technologies, but implementation remains at different stages across countries.

Stage of Adoption	Countries	Key Characteristic
Established	Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam, Thailand	Integrated VMS/AIS; now moving toward AI-driven platforms (e.g., C4ADS).
Emerging	Myanmar, Cambodia	Transitioning from basic VMS to incorporating "Dark Vessel" detection technologies.
Niche/Future	Lao PDR	Potential is currently low but increasing for specific freshwater applications.

A key cross-cutting challenge is that nearly all countries identified cost, including subscription and maintenance expenses, as well as data-sharing policies, as major barriers to full-scale adoption.

**3. Required support through a collaboration framework**

To move forward, the region requires a harmonized support system centered on three key pillars.

- **Technical capacity building**
  - Hands-on training is emphasized by Thailand and Philippines, highlighting that software effectiveness depends on the capability of operators. There is a strong need for practical workshops on data analysis rather than purely theoretical demonstrations.
  - Linking data remains a priority, with a need to connect local VMS data with global Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) detections to establish a single, integrated source of information.
- **Financial and infrastructure support**
  - Affordability is a key concern, particularly for smaller economies that require lower cost integration and more affordable licensing to ensure long-term sustainability.

- Infrastructure investment is needed to support hardware and server capacity required for processing high-resolution satellite imagery.
- **Regional policy and data sharing**
  - Mekong collaboration is specifically requested, including cross-border data-sharing agreements among Mekong countries.
  - Strengthening ASEAN data-sharing mechanisms is essential to effectively track transboundary IUU fishing activities.

## II. Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Electronic Logbooks (E-logbooks)

The regional perspectives on Electronic Monitoring (EM) and Electronic Logbooks (E-logbooks). Across Southeast Asia, these technologies are viewed as the "digital backbone" for modernizing fisheries management and closing the data gaps that allow IUU fishing to persist.

### 1. Regional utility and relevance

There is unanimous regional consensus that moving from paper-based systems to digital platforms is essential for several key reasons.

- **Transparency and verification** are emphasized by Thailand, Malaysia, and Cambodia, where these tools serve as primary drivers for catch verification. They shift fisheries from a self-reporting model to a verifiable data model, reducing underreporting.
- **Operational efficiency** is highlighted by Lao PDR, particularly through the transition to real-time data. Digitalizing databases enables faster management, customized reporting formats, and quicker responses to suspicious activities.
- **Combating dark activity** is a key concern for Myanmar, where these tools support the monitoring of foreign and dark vessels to help prevent the depletion of local fish stocks.
- **Modernizing domestic operations** is a priority for Philippines and Indonesia, which view these technologies as highly relevant for scaling up domestic oversight in line with international standards.

### 2. Adoption potential with a two-speed implementation pattern

The potential for adoption is high, but a clear distinction exists between distant-water fisheries and small-scale or artisanal fisheries.

High potential or already active	Moderate potential with challenges
<b>Distant-water fleets</b> in Philippines and Thailand already use these technologies for high-seas operations	<b>Artisanal and small-scale fisheries</b> face significant challenges due to the large number of small vessels and limited digital literacy among fishers
<b>AI Integration</b> is a priority for Indonesia and Malaysia, with interest in advanced systems such as those developed by NOAA that incorporate AI and machine learning for video analysis	<b>Infrastructure Gaps</b> include poor internet connectivity in remote areas and limited stability of database systems
<b>Policy Mandates</b> are emerging, with some countries setting timelines such as 01/07/2026 for mandatory implementation	<b>Cost Constraints</b> are cited by Myanmar and Lao PDR as key barriers to scaling beyond pilot programs

### 3. Harmonized regional requirements for success

To move from potential to full adoption, the region identifies four critical pillars of support.

- **Technology and infrastructure**
  - AI analytics supports the transition from raw data to actionable intelligence.
  - User-friendly tools are essential, with solutions that are affordable and accessible to fishers with varying levels of education.
  - Data safety must be ensured to protect the security and confidentiality of fisheries data.
- **Capacity building and training**
  - Dual training is required for both government officers and fishers to ensure proper operation and effective use of the equipment.
  - Pilot projects are particularly important, with Myanmar highlighting the need to test usability within local contexts before full-scale implementation.
- **Policy and legal frameworks**
  - Standardization is necessary, with Thailand emphasizing the need for clear technical standards and legal frameworks to ensure that electronic data is admissible in court for enforcement.
  - Incentive mechanisms are needed to mandate or encourage adoption, including subsidies or improved market access.
- **Financial and strategic partnerships**
  - Funding is essential to support system maintenance, infrastructure, and licensing costs.
  - Regional collaboration should be strengthened through partnerships with organizations such as SEAFDEC and NOAA to facilitate knowledge sharing and technology transfer.

### III. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Analytics

Regional perspectives on Artificial Intelligence (AI) analytics. Across Southeast Asia, AI is viewed as the intelligence layer that converts raw data from satellites and electronic logbooks into actionable enforcement decisions.

#### 1. Regional utility and relevance beyond human capability

The region identifies AI as a transformative force for fisheries management, primarily because it addresses the problem of data overload.

- **Automated detection** is emphasized by Thailand, Malaysia, and Cambodia, where AI enables the detection of suspicious patterns and anomalies, such as erratic vessel movements, that are difficult for human operators to identify in real time.
- **Risk-based enforcement** is highlighted by Lao PDR and Thailand, supporting a shift from random patrols to targeted, data-driven deployment of enforcement resources.
- **Biological compliance** is identified by Lao PDR as a key use case, where AI can be applied to automatically identify fish species in landing photos to ensure compliance with size and species regulations.
- **Efficiency and accuracy** are emphasized by Philippines, where AI reduces human error and provides immediate insights, enabling authorities to distinguish between legal and illegal fishing activities more effectively.

#### 2. Adoption potential from manual to automated systems

While interest is widespread, the region is currently at a crossroads between manual analysis and AI-driven automation.

<b>Current state</b>	<b>Nations or organizations</b>	<b>Key adoption drivers and barriers</b>
<b>Active integration</b>	Thailand, Indonesia	Already integrating AI into VMS platforms to analyze fishing behavior and monitoring results
<b>High potential</b>	Philippines, Malaysia	Transitioning from manual analysis and seeking to use domestic data to support AI-driven insights
<b>Policy readiness</b>	Myanmar	Has established policies to adopt essential IUU-related technologies despite existing infrastructure gaps
<b>Infrastructure limitations</b>	Cambodia, Lao PDR	Adoption potential is constrained by limited availability of large-scale datasets and technical expertise

The “Big Data” gap is significant, as while the desire for AI is high, many countries lack organized, large-scale datasets (historical fishing data) required to train effective AI models.

### **3. Harmonized Regional Requirements for AI Success**

To move toward AI-driven fisheries management, the region requests support in four specific areas.

1. The “Learning” pillar covering data and references
  - AI training sets require access to curated datasets of known IUU behavior to support algorithm learning.
  - Data quality is emphasized by Cambodia and Thailand, noting that AI performance depends on high-quality, integrated data sources.
2. Technical capacity and infrastructure
  - Skilled personnel are identified by Myanmar and Cambodia as a critical need, including technical training in data science.
  - Digital infrastructure requires investment in hardware and cloud processing capacity to support complex AI models.
3. Strategic partnerships
  - Technology vendors are highlighted by Indonesia as important partners for customizing AI tools to the Southeast Asian context.
  - Regional data sharing is noted by Myanmar as essential for tracking migratory “dark” vessels across borders.
4. Legal and ethical frameworks
  - Acceptance of AI evidence is emphasized by the Philippines, highlighting the need for legal frameworks that allow AI-generated insights to be used in fisheries enforcement cases.

### ***Discussion on the most interesting areas and the need for further enhancement in regional cooperation to combat IUU fishing***

#### **I. Legal & Policy Frameworks**

The overarching theme across the region is the harmonization of standards. Most member states emphasize that while domestic laws may exist, the lack of consistency across borders creates loopholes that IUU operators exploit.

#### 1. Regulatory Harmonization

- ASEAN alignment reflects a critical need to align national regulations with ASEAN-wide standards to address transboundary fishing effectively.
- Inland consistency is essential for landlocked or river-sharing nations such as Lao PDR, where harmonizing inland water regulations supports enforcement across shared river borders.
- Closing loopholes is identified by Myanmar and Cambodia as a primary approach to eliminating legal gaps that allow IUU activities to persist.

#### 2. Information Exchange & Coordination

- Cross-border communication is highlighted by Malaysia as necessary to improve understanding of neighboring countries' legislation and strengthen coordination and information exchange.
- Data standardization is emphasized by the Philippines as requiring a unified legal framework for fisheries data harmonization to ensure that information can be legally shared and used across the region.

#### 3. Legal Validity of Monitoring Data

- Evidence standards indicate a significant technical need for workshops on the legal standing of MCS (Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance) data.
- Judicial integration requires capacity building to ensure that monitoring results, such as VMS tracks, have the legal validity needed to serve as admissible evidence in court proceedings.

#### 4. Enforcement and Compliance Tools

- Vessel monitoring highlights the priority of strengthening laws on vessel registration and licensing, including legal mandates for technologies such as VMS on larger vessels, for example, those over 15 meters.
- Enforcement capacity reveals a gap between "law on paper" and "enforcement in practice," particularly noted in Myanmar, indicating the need for training on legislative implementation.

## **II. Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) in preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU**

The region is shifting toward a high-tech, integrated approach to fisheries management. While countries like Vietnam and Indonesia are focusing on infrastructure, others like the Philippines and Thailand are prioritizing the "soft" infrastructure of data sharing and inter-agency coordination.

#### 1. Technological Advancement & Digital Integration

- Next-generation monitoring reflects a strong push to move beyond basic tracking toward satellite analytics, AI, and digital integration, as highlighted by Malaysia, Cambodia, and Indonesia.
- Mandatory tracking establishes the implementation of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for larger vessels, such as those over 15 meters, as a baseline requirement, alongside the adoption of electronic logbooks to improve catch traceability, as noted by Viet Nam.
- Infrastructure development highlights the need for digitally integrated systems to centralize data from multiple surveillance sources, as emphasized by Indonesia.

2. Regional Coordination & Data Sharing
  - Breaking data silos addresses the challenge of MCS data confidentiality, which limits effective regional sharing, with the Philippines identifying the establishment of protocols for sharing sensitive information as a top priority.
  - FMC interconnectivity emphasizes the importance of strengthening coordination between national Fisheries Monitoring Centers to enable real-time information exchange and enforcement, as noted by Thailand.
  - A unified regional approach is stressed by Myanmar and Cambodia, indicating that a well-coordinated regional MCS system is essential to effectively deter transboundary IUU fishing.
3. Localization and Community-Based MCS
  - Inland adaptation highlights the need for countries with significant inland fisheries, such as Lao PDR, to adapt marine-focused MCS principles to community-based models.
  - Village-to-national linkages emphasize the importance of connecting village-level monitoring units directly to national databases so that local data contributes to national enforcement efforts.
4. Addressing Specific Enforcement Challenges
  - Illegal gear and MPAs require targeted surveillance to detect the use of prohibited fishing gear and unauthorized entry into Marine Protected Areas, as identified by Myanmar.
  - Technical capacity building reflects a broader regional need to strengthen expertise so that all ASEAN Member States can effectively operate advanced MCS tools, as highlighted by Malaysia.

### **III. The importance of traceability in combating IUU fishing, including national experiences and challenges.**

The consensus among ASEAN Member States is that traceability is the primary defense against "laundering" IUU fish into the global supply chain. However, the region faces a "digital divide" between large-scale commercial operations and the massive small-scale sector.

1. Strategic Objectives
  - Market access and value are priorities for countries such as Lao PDR and Viet Nam, where traceability is directly linked to increasing export value and meeting international certification standards.
  - Policy and resource management are emphasized by Indonesia and the Philippines, which view traceability data as a vital input for analyzing fish stock status and identifying high-risk fishing zones.
  - Supply chain integrity is highlighted by Thailand and Cambodia, emphasizing that robust systems are essential to prevent IUU products from entering domestic and international supply chains.
2. Digital Transformation & Integration
  - Electronic traceability reflects a clear shift toward Electronic Catch Documentation Schemes (e-CDS), with Viet Nam leading through the development of digital platforms that link catch data directly to Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS).
  - Interoperability highlights the need for interoperable digital tools, meaning systems that can communicate across borders to track vessels operating in multiple jurisdictions, as noted by Lao PDR and Myanmar.
3. Key Regional Challenges

- Fragmented supply chains are identified by Cambodia as a major obstacle, with limited data systems hindering end-to-end transparency.
  - Informal trade remains a challenge in regions with porous borders or inland fisheries, where activities often bypass official checkpoints and weaken traceability, as noted by Lao PDR.
  - Small-scale vulnerability is emphasized by Malaysia and Lao PDR, where small-scale fishers often lack the technical capacity or financial resources to adopt complex digital documentation systems.
4. Capacity Building Priorities
- Technical training is identified by Myanmar and Malaysia as a key need, with emphasis on regional support for training and technology transfer.
  - Verification mechanisms focus on strengthening data reliability through improved validation and cross-checking of digital records.
  - Regional information exchange highlights the need to move beyond national silos and enable sharing of traceability data across ASEAN Member States to track transboundary vessel movements.

#### **IV. Regional and international cooperation mechanisms and strengthening coordination and information exchange among AMSs**

Regional needs focus on shifting from passive diplomatic agreements to active, operational collaboration, with priorities centered on real-time data flow, operational synergy, and the building of institutional trust.

1. Operational Synergy and Joint Action
- Joint operations are specifically requested by Cambodia and Thailand, highlighting the need for shared maritime assets and coordinated enforcement at sea to address transboundary issues.
  - Collaboration with international bodies is emphasized by Myanmar, particularly engagement with specialized organizations such as SEAFDEC and other international partners to leverage enforcement expertise.
2. Real-Time Information Exchange
- Moving beyond static reports is emphasized by Lao PDR, Cambodia, and the Philippines, highlighting the critical need for real-time information sharing. Data on vessel movements and suspected IUU activity quickly loses value if not shared promptly across borders.
  - Addressing transboundary threats is identified by the Philippines and Cambodia, noting that timely data sharing is essential for tracking IUU activities moving between national jurisdictions.
3. Institutional Strength and Trust
- Building trust is highlighted by Malaysia as a fundamental requirement among ASEAN Member States, as information sharing is often constrained by confidentiality concerns and requires a culture of transparency.
  - Institutional capacity needs strengthening, particularly for organizations and departments responsible for regional coordination, so they can manage continuous communication effectively, as noted by Malaysia and Indonesia.
4. Knowledge Transfer
- Sharing lessons learned is emphasized by Lao PDR, noting that cooperation extends beyond enforcement to include regional workshops and knowledge-sharing platforms where countries can adopt successful practices.

- Unified development reflects the broader goal of ensuring sustainable fisheries development across the region, rather than in isolated national efforts.

## **VII. Closing Session of the Workshop**

The Closing Session was delivered by *Ms. Sampan Panjarat*, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, who expressed her appreciation to all distinguished guests, resource persons, and participants from Southeast Asia for their active engagement and valuable contributions throughout the Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific. She highlighted that the presentations and technology demonstrations provided practical insights to strengthen fisheries monitoring, control, and enforcement, while the exchanges among participants contributed to enhanced cooperation in the region.

She also conveyed her gratitude to the Government of Canada for its generous support, as well as to all resource persons for sharing their expertise. Acknowledging the participants' active involvement as a key factor in the success of the Workshop, she expressed hope that the knowledge gained and networks established would contribute to continued regional collaboration in combating IUU fishing. Her closing remarks is in **Annex 24**.

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<b>Phoottipong Boonnork (Mr.)</b> Administrative Officer	e-mail: phoottipong@seafdec.org
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## OPENING REMARKS

*By Ms. Sampan Panjarat*  
Secretary-General and Chief of the Training Department

Distinguished representative from the Canadian Government, Ms. Ping Kitnikone; Representatives of the ASEAN Member States; Esteemed resource persons from the Canadian Government, FAO/RAP, IMCS Network, RPOA-IUU, Unseenlabs, Canada’s Archipelago Marine Research Ltd, NOAA, OceanMind, Global Fishing Watch, C4ADS, MDA Ltd, and Skylight; SEAFDEC staff, ladies, and gentlemen. Good morning.

It is a great honor to welcome you to the Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific, being held from 17 to 19 March 2026.

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to pose a serious threat to fisheries sustainability, weaken governance frameworks, and undermine food security in Southeast Asia, and addressing these complex challenges requires not only strong regional cooperation among countries but also the adoption and effective use of advanced Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) technologies.

In alignment with Canada’s Indo-Pacific Strategy, this workshop aims to promote regional dialogue, strengthen capacity development, and enhance collaboration among countries in the region to address these challenges, and the workshop, hosted by SEAFDEC with funding support from the Government of Canada, brings together fisheries officials from ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and technical experts in order to build a stronger foundation for regional cooperation on the implementation of MCS measures to combat IUU fishing.

Through this workshop, we aim to share updated information on regional efforts to combat IUU fishing, introduce and promote innovative MCS technologies, and strengthen institutional cooperation among countries in the region to enhance the effectiveness of implementation.

In addition, the workshop will provide opportunities to demonstrate and document various MCS technologies and innovations, including electronic reporting systems, satellite tracking tools, and AI-driven analytics, while also encouraging discussions that can help initiate and strengthen technical and institutional cooperation among ASEAN Member States and relevant partners in advancing regional efforts to combat IUU fishing.

On this occasion, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Canadian Government for its support of the “Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific”. I also wish to thank our resource persons from the Canadian Government, FAO/RAP, IMCS Network, RPOA-IUU, Unseenlabs, Canada’s Archipelago Marine Research Ltd, NOAA, OceanMind, Global Fishing Watch, C4ADS, MDA Ltd, and Skylight for their invaluable cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am now pleased to declare this workshop officially open. I wish you all a fruitful and productive experience.

Thank you very much

**SEAFDEC Canada**

## Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance: Measures to Prevent IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

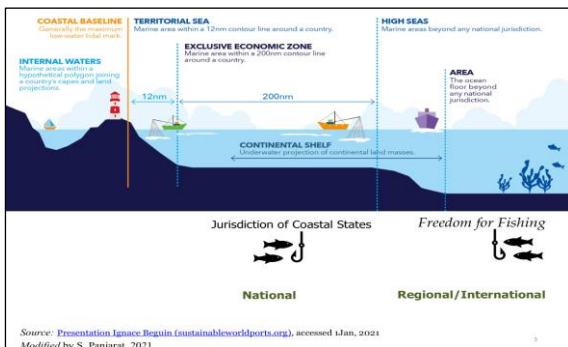
SAMPAN PANJARAT  
SEAFDEC Secretary General

Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific, 17–19 March 2026, Bangkok, Thailand

### Fisheries Resources

- Renewable
- Mobile
- Blind/half-blind
- Common Property
- Common pool resources

the exploitation of a user reduce the share to the other users



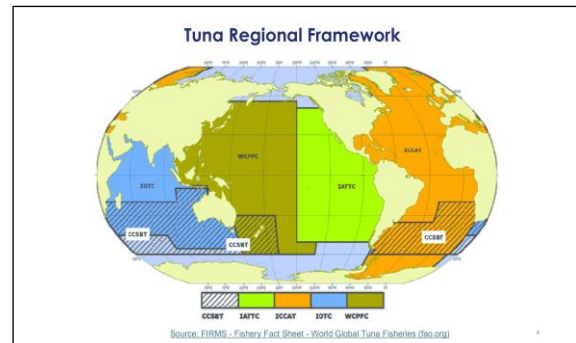
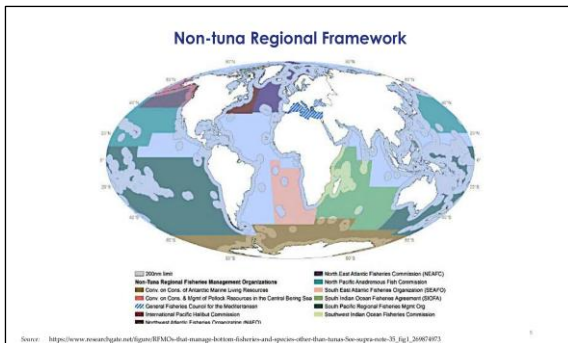
### 1982 Law of the Sea Convention

**Areas in National Jurisdiction**

- Establish Law and Regulation; Conservation and Management Measures
- Use the available scientific data to determine the Optimum Utilization; MSY, TAC or other reference points
- **Shall cooperate** with other States in conservation of the fish stocks that are transboundary species

**High Sea**

- Rights of fishing (with conditions)
- Duties to conserve resources
- **Shall cooperate** with other in conservation and management of resources (establishment of RFMOs)



### 14 THE OCEANS

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Target By 2020

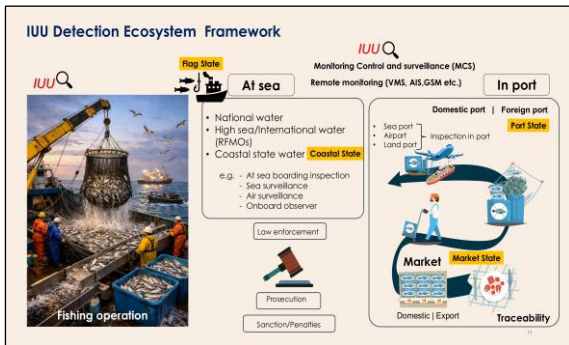
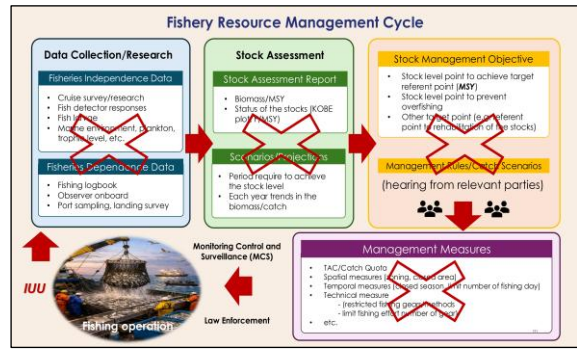
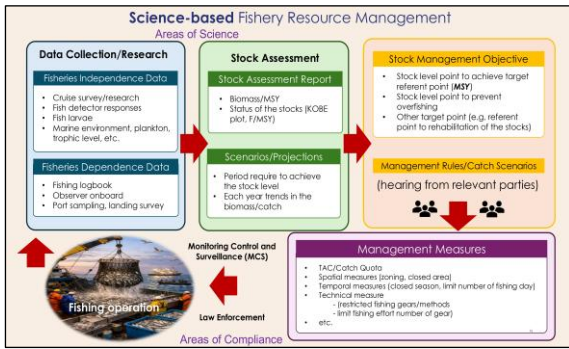
- **14.4** effectively regulate harvesting and **end** overfishing, **IUU fishing** and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans in order to restore **fish stocks** in the shortest time feasible, at least to **levels that can produce MSY** as determined by their biological characteristics...
- **14.6** prohibit **certain forms of fisheries subsidies** which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, **eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing** and **refrain from introducing new such subsidies**...

### Fisheries Resources

- Renewable
- Mobile
- Blind/half-blind
- Common Property
- Common pool resources

the exploitation of a user reduce the share to the other users

**To ensure the sustainable use of the fisheries resources The implementation of science-based management is required**



### Levels of Frameworks and Cooperation in Fisheries Management and in Combating IUU

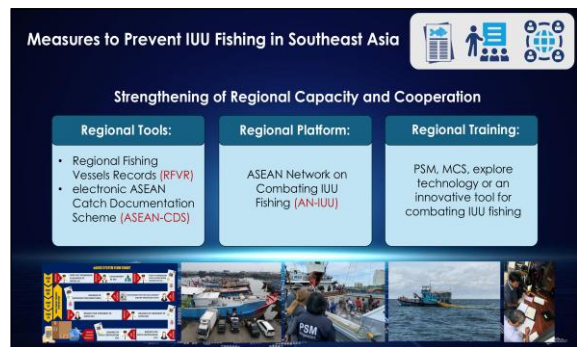
Framework Level	Agreement/Instrument	Member Countries
Global framework	UN Fish Stock Agreement (14 parties)	(8) Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam
	FAO FMA (32 parties)	(7) Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
	FAO Compliance Agreement (47 parties)	(2) Myanmar, Philippines
	WTO Fisheries Subsidies (112 parties)	(8) Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
Regional Framework and Regional Cooperation	FAO POA-IBR (voluntary adoption)	
	Legal binding by conservation and management measures of Regional organizations in their of Competent - RFMOs: e.g. IOTC (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand) WCPFC SIOFA CCSBT - Regional conservation organizations: e.g. CCAMLR	
National Framework	Regional cooperation with non-legal binding and no area of competent: e.g. - RPOA-IUU: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Singapore, Timor-Leste, Thailand, Viet Nam and Australia	
	- ASEAN Network on Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU)	
National Framework	e.g. - NPOA-IUU - FMP - National Plan of Inspection	



### SEAFDEC Roles in Southeast Asia Toward 2030


**Vision:**  
Sustainable Management and Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture to contribute food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of the people in Southeast Asia region

**Mission:**  
"To promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia"




**Regional Tools: Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)**

- Online system jointly developed by ASEAN Member States (AMS) under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)
- Provides **essential vessel information** to support fishing vessel inspections
- Serves as an effective tool to **reduce IUU fishing vessels**
- Enables authorities to **verify vessel data and monitor compliance**
- Supports **corrective actions against non-compliant fishing vessels**
- Contributes to the **elimination of IUU fishing in Southeast Asia**



**Regional Tools: electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS)**


- **ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS)**, a regional initiative to enhance the traceability of capture fisheries adopted in 2017.
- Primary goal is to prevent fish and fishery products obtained IUU fishing activities from entering the supply chain.
- To further strengthen traceability efforts in Southeast Asia, SEAFDEC developed the **electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS)**
- Key benefits of the eACDS include:
  - ✓ Enhanced Data Validity and Efficiency
  - ✓ Improved Monitoring and Control
  - ✓ Facilitated Trade



**Regional Platform**

**AN-IUU**  
 (ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing)  
 Advancing Partnership for IUU-FREE ASEAN

- **AN-IUU established in 2019**
- **Core role** is to enhance the effectiveness of AMS in tackling IUU fishing.
- **Thailand as Host of ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU)**
- Development of the **AN-IUU Interactive Platform**
- Facilitates **timely information exchange** on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)
- Supports **vessel monitoring** to prevent IUU fishing activities in Southeast Asia
- Promotes **sharing of good practices and operational experiences** among ASEAN Member States
- Enhances **coordination among MCS agencies**
- Strengthens **regional collaboration and collective action** to combat IUU fishing.



**Regional Training :**

- Regional capacity-building initiatives conducted to strengthen efforts against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Southeast Asia
- Implemented through collaboration among **ASEAN, SEAFDEC**, and international partners such as **FAO**
- Enhance knowledge and technical skills on **Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)**
- Training on **Port State Measures (PSM)** implementation and inspection procedures
- Capacity development in **Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)** and fisheries data management
- Strengthening **regional information sharing and inter-agency coordination**
- Promoting **compliance with international fisheries regulations and standards**
- Sharing **best practices and operational experiences** among ASEAN Member States
- Supporting **harmonized regional approaches** to prevent and deter IUU fishing
- Contributing to **sustainable fisheries management and marine resource conservation**

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**THANK YOU**

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center



Country presentations

## Combating IUU Fishing Efforts

### Cambodia

Mr. Chhun Kimchea Deputy Director of Fisheries Affairs Department  
 Dr. Chin Leakhena Deputy Director of Administrative Affairs and Litigation Department  
 Ms. Sen Rineth Vice-Chief of Legislation office

Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific, 17 - 19 March 2026

Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific, 17 - 19 March 2026

## Presentation Outline

1. Overview of marine fisheries in Cambodia
2. Current situation of combating IUU fishing
  - ✓ Key national actions
  - ✓ Technologies used
3. Implementation challenges
4. Future priorities and regional cooperation

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## Overview of Marine Fisheries in Cambodia

- Marine fisheries play an important role in food security and livelihoods
- Thousands of coastal fishers depend on small-scale fisheries
- Government prioritizes sustainable fisheries management
- Strengthening governance to address IUU fishing

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## Policy and Legal Framework

- Fisheries Law (2025) supporting sustainable fisheries management
- Sub-decrees and regulations for marine fisheries governance
- Community Fisheries (CFI) legal framework
- Ratification of International Fisheries Instruments (UNCLOS, UNFSA, PSMA, Fisheries Subsidy, ...)
- Alignment with international fisheries management principles
- Commitment to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

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## Current Situation of Combating IUU Fishing

- Improved fisheries monitoring and enforcement activities
- Implementation of Marine Fisheries Management Areas (MFMA)
- Strengthening cooperation among national enforcement agencies
- Increased focus on sea and in port inspections and monitoring
- Enhanced collaboration with regional partners

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## Marine Fisheries Management Areas (MFMA)

- Four Marine Fisheries Management Areas established
- Management plans developed for priority fisheries (blue swimming crab, mackerel)
- Ecosystem-based fisheries management approach
- Involvement of local communities and stakeholders
- Support for sustainable fish stock management

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## Key Actions to Combat IUU Fishing

- Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems
- Joint patrols with Navy, Maritime Police and local authorities
- Strengthening inspection at landing sites and fishing ports
- Promoting compliance with fisheries regulations (registration, licensing...)
- Raising awareness among fishers and communities

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## Technologies Used for Monitoring

- Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for tracking fishing vessels
- Use of SMART patrol tools for enforcement monitoring
- Catch logbooks and fisheries data collection systems (Fishstat)
- Electronic communication systems for reporting
- Use of digital platforms for fisheries information management

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### Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)

- Designated PSMA port in Kong Kong Province
- Created an official email address (psma\_cambodia@maff.gov.kh) and national PSMA webpage
- Developed national SOP for port inspection (PSMA implementation)
- Exchange information through PSMA communication channels, i.e GIES
- Capacity building supported by FAO, OceanMind-Canada and international partners
- Strengthening control of foreign fishing vessels

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### Regional Cooperation

- Participation in FAO, RPOA-IUU and SEAFDEC regional initiatives
- Collaboration with sub-regional countries
- Joint activities with international organizations
- Technical cooperation and training programs with AFMA, OceanMind-Canada, IMCS-JAC,
- Information sharing on IUU fishing activities

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### Challenges in Combating IUU Fishing

- Limited financial and technical resources
- Need for expanded monitoring technologies
- Capacity constraints in fisheries data management
- Coordination among multiple enforcement agencies
- Transboundary fishing and regional enforcement issues

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### Opportunities and Future Priorities

- Strengthening digital monitoring and vessel tracking systems
- Improving fisheries data and catch documentation
- Enhancing training for enforcement officers
- Expanding regional and international cooperation on IUU fishing (bilateral agreement: CM and OceanMind-Canada; AFMA, IMCS/JAC, others)
- Promoting sustainable fisheries management

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### Key Messages

- Strong governance is essential to combat IUU fishing
- Technology plays an important role in monitoring fisheries
- Regional cooperation is critical for effective enforcement
- Community participation strengthens fisheries management
- Cambodia remains committed to sustainable fisheries

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<https://www.maff.gov.kh/fia?lang=kh>

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Thank you!

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MCS Tools	Re. 2023	2023	2024	2025	Total
Vessel Registration	1439	1196	1156	35	3826
Fishing vessel license		104	778	751	1633
VMS		125	800	590	1515

Biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) in September 2025

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in January 2026

**THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT'S COUNTERMEASURES TO COMBAT IUU FISHING**

Delivered by:  
**Erik Sostenes**  
**Sirman Rajagukguk**  
Fisheries Surveillance Officer  
DG of Surveillance of Marine and Fisheries Resources,  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries,  
Republic of Indonesia

The Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific  
Bangkok, 17-19 March 2026

**Modi Operandi of IUU Fishing in Indonesia's Waters**

**Foreign Fishing Vessel**

- ❑ Fishing without authorization (poaching)
- ❑ Blast Fishing

**Domestic Fishing Vessel**

- ❑ Fishing without license, expired fishing license, incomplete documents
- ❑ Fishing in unauthorized fishing zones
- ❑ Fishing in conservation areas/MPAs
- ❑ Fishing using restricted fishing gears
- ❑ Blast fishing
- ❑ Unauthorized transshipment
- ❑ Unloading catches at unauthorized port
- ❑ Detaching / Switching of VMS device

**1. Indonesia's Legal and Regulatory Framework for Fisheries**

- Law No. 45 of 2009 on Amendment to Law No. 31 of 2004 regarding Fisheries.
- Law No. 6 of 2023 on the Enactment of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law No. 2 of 2022 regarding Job Creation into Law (Omnibus Law).
- MMAF Regulation No. 23 of 2021 on Operational Feasibility Standards and Fishing Vessel Monitoring System.
- MMAF Regulation No. 33 of 2021 on Fishing Logbook, Monitoring on Board Vessels, Inspection, Testing, and Marking of Fishing Vessels, as well as Crewing Governance.
- Government Regulation No. 11 of 2023 on Measured Fish Catching (*Penangkapan Ikan Terukur*).

**2. Indonesia's Fisheries Management & MCS Measures**

**MONITORING**

- Observer Program: record catch, collect biological data of fish, collect effort data, monitor transshipment
- Electronic Fishing Log Book: Catches are reported through smartphone
- Fish landing record, catches record by port officers

**CONTROL**

- National Fisheries Regulatory Framework
- Management measures: input control, technical control, and output control
- Fishing Vessel Registration: Buying or Building Vessel Permit, Marking, Vessel Record
- Licensing and Authorization to Fish: online system of owner license and individual vessel license
- Port State Measures

**SURVEILLANCE**

- Inspection before fishing and Port Clearance: Inspection by fisheries inspectors (technical aspects) and Port Masters (safety and manning aspects)
- Vessel Monitoring System (VMS): for national-licensed fishing boats, in 2025 will be mandatory for provincial-licensed fishing boats
- Air Surveillance: monitor fishing activities and collect evidence through patrol aircraft
- Fisheries Patrol: conducted by Fisheries Inspectors onboard Fisheries Patrol Vessels
- Landing Inspection: verify the legality of catches by Fisheries Inspectors
- Community-based Surveillance: assist government in conducting fisheries surveillance and reporting violation
- Fisheries Enforcement: administrative sanctions and judicial proceedings

**3. Integrated Surveillance System**

**4. The Integrated Maritime Intelligent Platform**

Automatic notification to PVU owners through Whatsapp

- Monitoring**: Monitoring of vessels movement through VMS and AIS
- Alert**: Automatic violation detection using geofencing feature
- Dashboard**: A feature to watch the actual fishing productivity

**5. The Development of the Integrated Fishing apps "e-PIT"**

**Integrated Services**

1. SILAT : License Data
2. SIPALKA : Fishing Vessels Registration Data
3. TemanSPB : Sail Permit
4. eSLO : Legal Operation Standard of Fishing Vessels
5. Simponi : Notification of billing payment of non-tax revenues
6. PIPP : Fish landing data
7. SILOPI : Electronic fishing log book

**Platform**

1. Web base : <https://integrasi.djpt.kkp.go.id/pit>
2. Android Base : <https://bit.ly/e-PIT>

**The Development of the Integrated Fishing apps "e-PIT"**



### RPOA-IUU & AN-IUU




**RPOA-IUU: 11 participating countries**  
Regular meeting, information sharing, capacity building

Indonesia active participation as RPOA-IUU Secretariat and member of Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) & Southeast Asian Seas and Coastal States, Sulu-Sulawesi Seas (SSS) MCS Subregional Group

**ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU)**

Sharing information and strengthening regional collaboration against IUU fishing

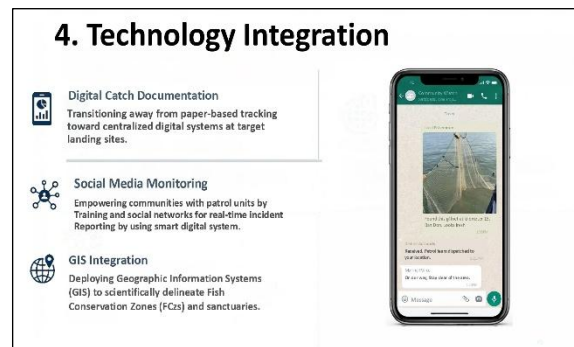
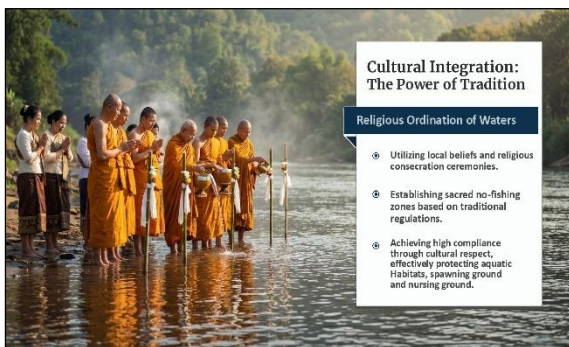
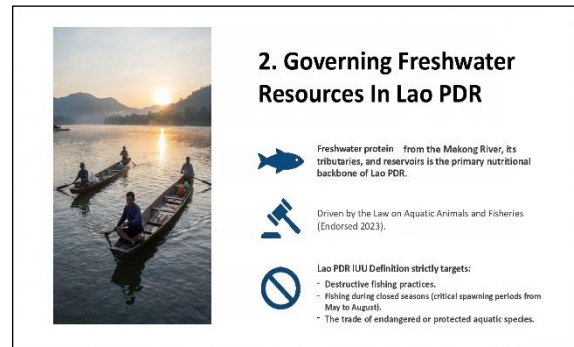
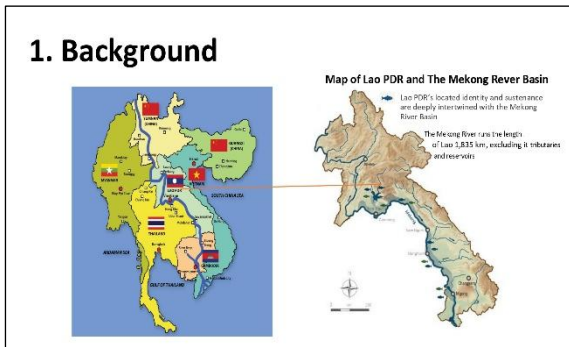
### Conclusion

- ❖ Indonesia has implemented various measures to combat IUU fishing.
- ❖ Indonesia continues to strengthen monitoring systems, law enforcement, and technological innovation.
- ❖ Stronger regional cooperation is key to combating IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific.



Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
Republic of Indonesia


## THANK YOU



### 5. Challenges

-  **Geographical Constraints**  
Extensive river borders make Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) difficult.
-  **Technical Gaps**  
Limited technical knowledge regarding new technologies among local officers and fishers.
-  **Infrastructure**  
Internet connectivity constraints in remote areas hinder the consistency of online reporting.
-  **Financial Resources**  
Limited budget for the procurement of equipment and the long-term maintenance of database systems.
-  **Law enforcement**  
Enforcement of the Law on Aquatic Animals and Fisheries remains insufficient, particularly among rural fishers and in areas with limited access to technology.

### 6. Way Forward



- Law and regulations Dissemination**  
Aggressively expanding public awareness and enforcement of the Law on Aquatic Animals and Fisheries, fisheries regulations also expanding FCZs.
- Digital Transformation**  
Fully upgrading fragmented databases into a singular, Centralized Digital Platform.
- Capacity Building**  
Delivering focused technical training on emerging technologies for both fisheries and law enforcement officers.
- Regional Collaboration**  
Deepening the active exchange of information and technology with partner countries across the Indo-Pacific region.



Thank you for your kind attention.

**Q&A Session**  
 արդար-տես

**The Regional Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific**

Malaysia's Current Initiatives in Combating IUU Fishing

Presented By: Malaysia

www.dof.gov.my

**DELEGATION**

**MR. PANG NYUKANG**  
Director of Fisheries Terengganu, Department of Fisheries Malaysia

**MDM. LIM AI GAIK**  
Head, International Section, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, Department of Fisheries Malaysia

**MR. MUHAMMAD ASRAF BIN MOHD GHAS**  
Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Conservation and Protection Division, Department of Fisheries Malaysia

**Introduction**

**East Coast**  
Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Johor (East)  
2,078 F.V

**West Coast**  
Perlis, Kedah, Penang, Perak, Selangor, Malacca, Negeri Sembilan and Johor (West)  
18,151 F.V

**Sabah and Labuan**  
Labuan  
336 F.V  
Sabah  
18,050 F.V

**Sarawak**  
Kuching, Sibu, Mukah, Bintulu and Miri  
4,991 F.V

**NPOA IUU 2.0**  
2025–2030

The NPOA-IUU 2.0 builds upon Malaysia's 2013–2017 plan, reflecting advancements in national measures and the country's commitment to international instruments. It establishes the strategic direction for the next five years to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing, and has been formally endorsed by the National IUU Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry.

**Core Principles and Strategic Priorities**

- Engagement and Coordination
- Regional and International Cooperation
- Phased Implementation
- Comprehensive and Integrated Approach
- Transparency and Non-Discrimination
- Conservation

**State Responsibility**

Malaysia takes measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing in line with various international initiatives, using binding and non-binding instruments and agreements as the foundation for its plans and actions. In addition, Malaysia enforces controls on its nationals and stateless vessels, strengthens MCS activities, and enhances regional cooperation.

- Flag State**
  - All fishery vessels must be registered with the Registrar of Fisheries Malaysia.
  - Malaysia Fishing Vessel Records (MFVR).
  - Port State Control (PSC) and other international agreements.
  - Control of transshipment activities by PSCs.
- Coastal State**
  - Strengthening MCS activities.
  - Cooperation and information exchange with the states and PSCs.
  - Enforcing laws and local fishing control comply with Act.
- Port State**
  - Control of foreign fishing vessels (see below).
  - SOF PSC State Measures.
  - SOF Port Foreign Fishing Vessels (see below).
  - Harmonized measures for the handling of fish cargo at the Port for Inland and Deep Purposes.
- Market State**
  - Import and export of fish must comply with CITES requirements.
  - Information sharing with other states on IUU-related products.
  - Implementation of C-20 for BCT and Shoufiah.

**Transshipment**

The Fisheries Act 1985 (Amendment) 2025 was gazetted with the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on 16 December 2025 and will come fully into force on 15 June 2026.

**Section 10A (New Provision)**

*"No person shall conduct transshipment activities in Malaysian fisheries waters or on the high seas under any circumstances, except for activities licensed under this Act, unless the person has obtained written approval from the Director-General of Fisheries."*

**Key Action**

- Track analysis of abnormal local fishing vessel behavior via VMS
- Establishment of IUU community platform and Focal Points
- Prevent the entry of fish products originating from IUU fishing activities through National Entry Port
- Sharing of VMS data analysis with enforcement agencies for the detection of fishing zone encroachments
- Enhancing MCS capacity and awareness through professional engagement

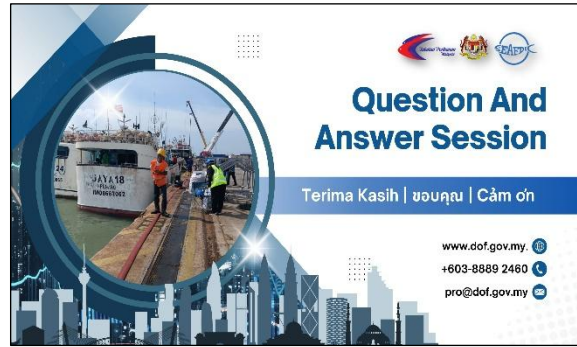
**TECHNOLOGIES USED**


Malaysia has strategically integrated advanced systems and technology to strengthen Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) operations in a decisive effort to combat IUU fishing.

- ePSM MALAYSIA**  
Electronic Port State Measures System (E-PSM)
- VMS**  
Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)
- E-Lesen**  
Electronic Licensing System (E-Lesen)
- eLOGBOOK**  
Electronic Logbook System (E-Logbook)

### Challenges

1	<b>LIMITED ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY</b> <small>Inefficient assets such as patrol vessels, drones, and monitoring equipment</small>	3	<b>LIMITED INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION</b> <small>An incomplete delivery system cause multiple agencies may perform similar tasks and wasting resources</small>
2	<b>TECHNOLOGICAL AND SKILLS GAPS</b> <small>Limited training, experience, and expertise in analyzing VMS data</small>	4	<b>AI-DRIVEN ANALYSIS</b> <small>Integrating all existing operational systems with AI-powered analytics for enhanced decision-making</small>





## Question And Answer Session

Terima Kasih | ထူးကျ | Cảm ơn

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### Fishing Vessels Management and Combating IUU Fishing in Myanmar

- Mr. Hlwan Moe Zaw, Director
- Dr. Arkar Myo, Deputy Officer
- Ms. Cho Mar Oo, Deputy Officer

Date- 17-19/Mar/2026

### Contents

1. Managing Fishing Vessel/ Carrier
2. Monitoring Control & Surveillance
3. Port Inspection & Surveillance System
4. Challenges to combating IUU fishing
5. International Cooperation & Compliance

### Vessel Registration and Fishing Licensing System in Myanmar

- Fishing Vessel Registration must be renewed every year.
- Currently, no new fishing vessels are allowed to be built. Only damaged and sunken vessels can be rebuilt.
- License (implement) fee according to the type of fishing gear and number used.

#### Inshore Fishing Vessel

Boat Owner → Apply for Inshore fishing boat → General Administration Department → Inspection → Issuing boats registration → Department of Fisheries → Issuing fishing and fish carrier license

#### Offshore Fishing Vessel

Boat Owner → Apply for offshore fishing boat → Department of Marine Administration → Inspection → Issuing boats registration → Department of Fisheries → Issuing fishing and fish carrier license

### Vessel Identification Marking by Fishing Areas

Myanmar is demarcated 4 fishing ground

Total Fishing Ground Area = 486,000 sq-km  
Coastal Length = 2,832 km

Vessel Markings and color coding must be needed according to the place of license issue

Description	Place of License Issue	Word color on Line Color of Hull
Off Shore Fishing Vessel	Tanintharyi Head Office	White
	Yangon/Ayeyarwady/Mon	White
	Bahking	White
Off Shore Carrier	Local Carrier	Red

### Fishing Vessel Characteristics, and Mesh Sized

**Inshore Fishing Vessel (Small Scale)**

- < 50 HP engine, < 40 feet length of the vessel,
- Fishing Area - 10 nautical mile from shore

**Off-shore Fishing Vessel (Commercial Scale)**

- > 50 HP engine, > 40 feet length of the vessel
- Trawl, Purse seine, Surrounding net, Drift net, Long line, Stow net & Giant set-bag net.
- Outer area from inshore line to end of EEZ

**Mesh Sized Measures**

- Closed mesh sized for trawl and stow net – not less than 2 inches (Fish) 1.5 inches (shrimp), For Drift Net not less than 4 inches

### Fishing Vessel Record System

**Related Department**

- Department of Marine Administrative: Offshore Fishing Vessel Registration and construction Record
- General Administrative Department: Inshore Fishing Vessel Registration Record
- Department of Fisheries: Offshore/ Inshore Fishing License & other relative information

**Type of recorded information**

- Photo of the fishing vessel
- The Owner's information: photo, name, ID card, address & contact number
- Vessel Information: size, type of vessel, year of build, engine HP, GT (offshore), hull type
- Navigation devices: Sonar, Rada, VMS, AIS etc..

### Management on Fishing Practices & Methods

- Director General may delegated his powers conferred under the fisheries laws to any officer of the Department
- All DOF officers in Region and States shall carry out fisheries management such as licensing, data collecting and inspection for freshwater, marine water and aquaculture fisheries.
- One Stop Service (OSS) which includes Department of Custom, Port Authority, Marine Administration, Trade, National Registration and Immigration and DOF has formed since 1996

**Main Responsibilities**

- (1) Monitoring Control & Surveillance
- (2) Fisheries management regulations
- (3) Traceability & Logistic
- (5) International Cooperation and Compliance
- (6) Capacity Building

### Monitoring Control & Surveillance System

VMS, Research & Logbook → Measures → Inspection at Port & Sea (Check in, Check out & Fishing activities)

- Closed Area
- Prohibited Gears
- Closed Season
- Closed Species

DOF controlled the marine fishing vessels based on research and data. Based on the research results, measured such as closed season, closed area, closed species, and prohibited gears criteria and monitoring and control are carried out. Navy and maritime police force inspected at the sea and One Stop Service team inspected at the port catch data and other requirement documents.

### National Plan of Action to Combat IUU (NPOA)

- Myanmar has developed the National Plan of Action –IUU with the assistance of EU Trade in 2015
- The National Plan of Action includes the 122 recommendations-
  - >12 for VMS
  - >69 for MCS
  - >12 for law amendment
  - >29 for data collecting
- VMS has been initiated in November 2019
- DOF has been implemented over 85 % NPOA

### Vessel Monitoring System in Myanmar

In 2019, the installation of a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on all offshore fishing vessels began to be implemented. Installation began on September 1st, and by January 31st, 2020, all carrier vessels engaged in off-shore fishing were equipped with VMS equipment.

#### Main, Sub-station & Co-management

VMS Main Control Center (1)	(1) Nay Pyi Taw
	Yangon
	Patheingyi
VMS Sub-Station (5)	Sittwe
	Mawlamyine
Co-Management on MCS (3)	Myeik
	Navy,
	Maritime Police Force,
	Coastal Guard Force

### Managing IUU Fishing Through VMS

- VMS team of DOF watching 24 hour on silence vessels and IUU fishing
- Notification to the vessel owner about silence vessel for more than 4 hour
- Verification and reporting to the team led by the Director General the suspicious fishing vessel information received from Navy and maritime police force
- Reporting IUU fishing regarding fishing laws and VMS rules to the Director General by VMS records
- The MCS team led by the Director General imposes penalties in accordance with the rules by VMS records

### Myanmar Marine Fisheries Laws, Directives & Regulation

MCS Team (Lead by DG DoF) receives reports from Navy, VMS team, and State/Regional DoF. Imposing penalties to IUU vessel in accordance with the law & Directive.

- Law relating to the Fishing Rights of Foreign Fishing Vessels (Law No.11/1993)
- Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law (Law No. 9/1990)
- Directive on VMS device installation & Regulation (5/2020)
- Directive on Penalties by VMS records (3/2023)

### Port Inspection & Surveillance of Fishing Vessels

- When Fishing vessels want to go-out to the fishing ground, have to apply the sailing order to the DOF.
- The members of OSS ( One Stop Service) inspect the fishing vessels just before depart to the fishing ground-
  - Fishing License
  - Fisherman Registration Card.
  - National Registration Card .
  - Vessel Registration Certificate.
  - Life Saving Appliance (LSA)
  - Navigation Certificate.
  - Mesh size of Fishing Net.
  - Fishing log book
  - Communication equipment
  - Vessel Monitoring Device

### Port Inspection & Surveillance of Export Carrier Vessel

- The members of OSS ( One Stop Service) will inspect the following documents of the Export vessels just before Issuing catch certificate-
  - Catch Certification Application
  - Carrier Vessel registration.
  - Carrier License issued by DOF.
  - Export Declaration.
  - Package List Invoice
  - Transshipment record at sea or landing site
  - Undertaking of Company
  - Prior Notification
  - Sailing Order

### Fish Traceability and Logistic System to Prevent IUU-Catch Fish from Entering Market (Catch Flow System)

Check Catch record at Port/Landing site:

- Vessel name
- Registration No.
- Fishing area
- Catch/date
- Catch by species
- Catch by weight

### Challenges of Implementation in Combating IUU Fishing

- Limited Monitoring and Enforcement Capacity**  
Fisheries authorities lack sufficient patrol vessels, surveillance equipment, and trained personnel to monitor large maritime areas. As a result, illegal fishing vessels can operate undetected, especially in offshore and remote waters.
- Insufficient Financial and Technical Resources**  
As a developing country, government and vessel owner struggle with limited budgets and technical capacity to implement VMS and AIS electronic reporting systems.
- Transshipment at Sea**  
Illegal vessels often transfer their catch to carrier vessels at sea. This practice hides the origin of the catch and allows illegally caught fish to enter international markets without proper documentation.

### Challenges of Implementation in Combating IUU Fishing

Some of the challenges faced in combating illegal fishing after the electronic reporting system is implemented are as follows -

- Deployment of excessive number of fishing gear stationary unit (traps, stow nets, rafts, etc...)
- Fishing with explosive substances, poisons, chemicals, and other substances such as negative impact on marine mammals
- Fishing without license (including copy vessels)
- Fishing with illegal gears (e.g. prohibited fishing gears, small mesh size...)
- Remove Vessel Monitoring System Devices without permission

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### Preventing Poaching in the EEZs of Myanmar


- local fishing vessels are not allowed to fish in High Sea and other country's EEZ.
- Collaboration ASEAN countries to share information for the blacklist of fishing vessel by using AN-IUU software.
- Myanmar will seize the fishing vessel which operates without licence in Myanmar EEZ.
- Myanmar supports the data of RFVR and questionnaires to SEAFDEC . It will be continued to update annually.
- Myanmar has no multilateral and bilateral agreement with neighboring countries for permission to fish in Myanmar EEZ or other EEZ.

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### International Cooperation and Compliance

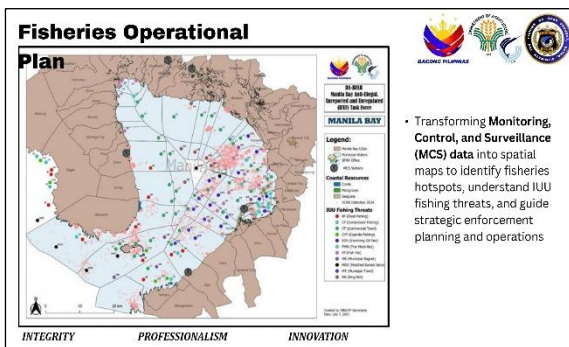
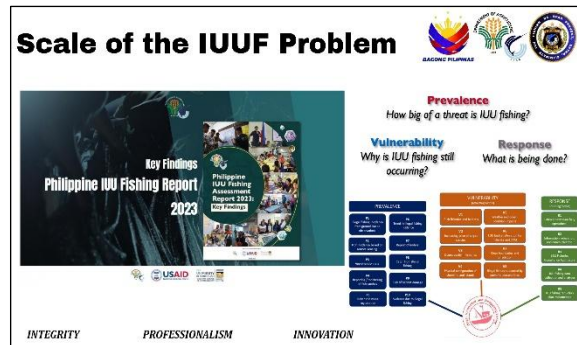
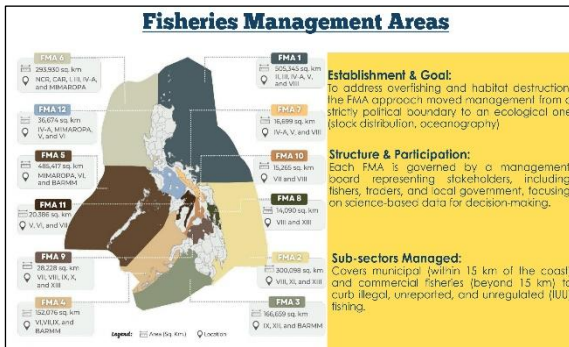
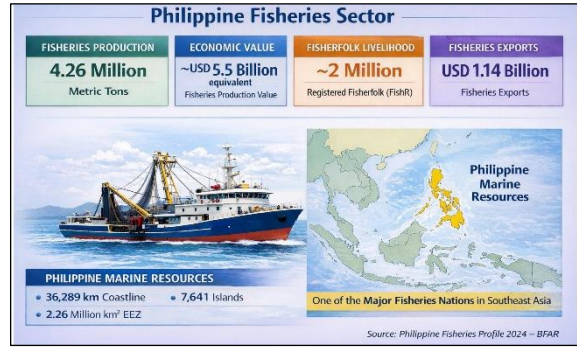
- Myanmar became a member country of Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) in 2010.
- Myanmar is complying with the regulations of the EU and US countries where it exports.
- Myanmar is not yet a member of the RPOA (2017), but is currently cooperating with member countries.
- Thailand and Myanmar have signed MOU and are cooperating in the fisheries sector.
- Myanmar is also working with the FAO to comply with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

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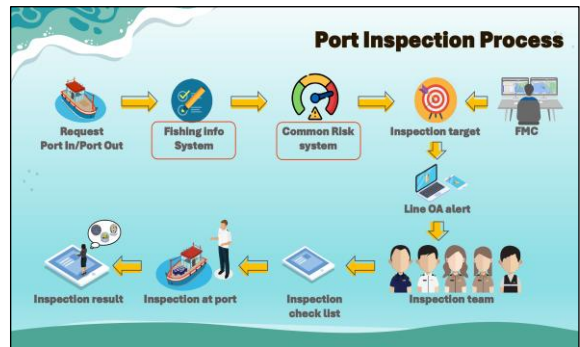
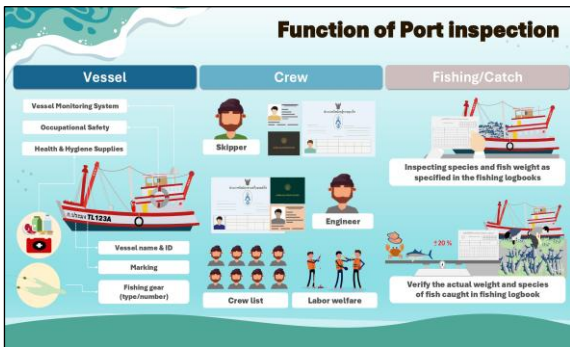
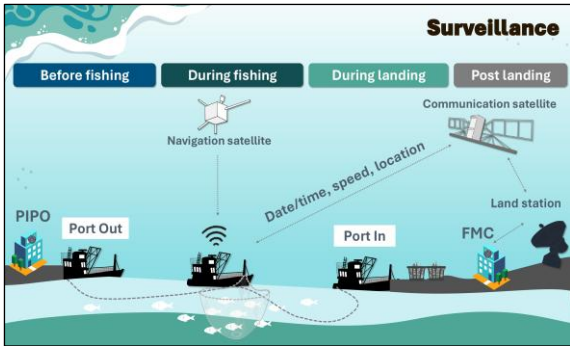
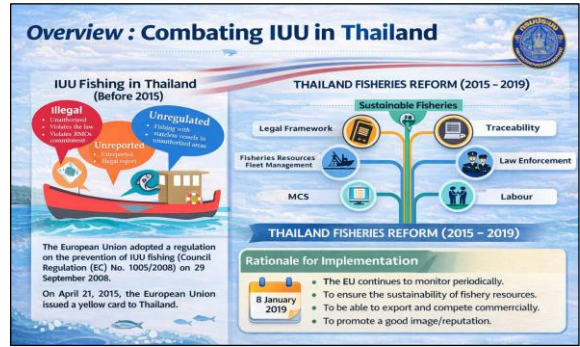


## Thank You

Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture,  
Livestock and Irrigation, Office No (36), Nay Pyi Taw.  
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### Automatic checking by fishing info system

1. Ship registration
2. Ship operating license
3. Master certificate level
4. Engineer certificate level
5. Ship operating license
6. Vessel lock status
7. Fishing license
8. Vessel Monitoring system (VMS)
9. Remaining fishing days
10. Estimated fishing days
11. Return to port within allowed period (30 days)
12. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) signal history
13. Fishing port status
14. Offense record data
15. Seabook
16. Work permit
17. Fishing area (Andaman Sea / GOT)
18. Fishing vessel hygiene standard certificate
19. Inspection of fishing equipment standards
20. Objectives of PI/PO notification
21. Types and quantities of catch

### Common Risk Assessment

8 risk issues (24 Risk indicators)

Inspection target (7 Rules)

Send to Common Risk System

Result

Display VMS Tracking

Request Port out-Port to

Fishing info

Inspection target

Inspection team

Vessel inspection at port

### Inspection rules & Risk indicators

- Vessel has not reported port departure to the PIMO center in the last three months
- VMS signal loss
- Landing declaration results for LB and LD differ by more than 20%
- Overseas vessels
- Number of fishing days does not match the reported fishing days
- Urgent target as suspicious behaviour by FMC
- Consistency between the Fishing operation position in the logbook and VMS
- History of fishing offenses committed by the vessel owner and skipper
- History of the ship owner being ordered and committing an administrative offence regarding labor laws
- History of discrepancies between the total catch weight in the fishing logbook
- Time spent fishing
- Change in the actual port of entry from the designated port after advancing port entry notification
- History of unstable VMS equipment installation based on PIMO centre port site inspections

### Future plan

#### Risk assessment using artificial intelligence (AI)

Improve the assessment accuracy, Reduce human decisions etc.

#### Increase the risk indicators

- History of accidents on board
- Comprehensive prosecution history
- Crew transshipment
- Intern on board
- New employee on board
- Unavailable safety equipment history

### Fisheries Monitoring Center

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

### Mission

- To regulate, monitor, and inspect the fishing operations of Thai flagged fishing vessels and Thai flagged carrier vessels, both within Thai waters distant waters.
- To monitor and inspect foreign fishing vessels engaged in fishing activities entering the Kingdom of Thailand.
- To undertake legal proceedings upon detection of violations and to compile and document case outcomes in accordance with the law.

### Royal Ordinance on Fisheries 2015 : Article 81

#### VMS Installation Requirements for Thai Fishing Vessels

1. Install VMS & Seal by PIMO Center Officer On Vessels Over 30 Gross Tons
2. Transmit Signal Every 1 Hour Send Location Report Automatically

UPDATE SENT EVERY HOUR

VMS anti-tampering safeguard device

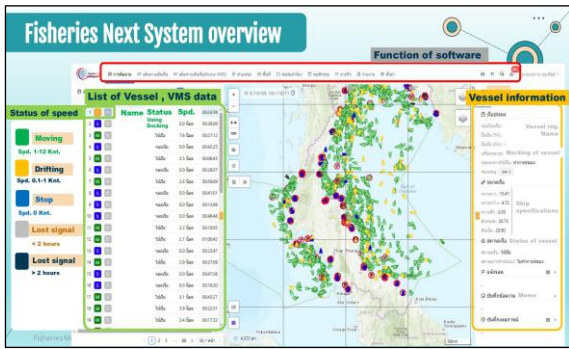
### FMC: Operation areas

#### No. of FVs as of January 2026

Total of Commercial FVs

3,937 (10-29.99 GT)

4,339 (30 GT and above) \*\* Installed VMS \*\*



### Control measures For Thai Overseas Vessels

- 1 The Thai overseas fleet operates in distant fishing grounds that exceed the capacity of officials to monitor while they are at sea.
- 2 The Thai overseas fleet operates for extended periods of time.
- 3 The Thai overseas fleet must comply not only with Thai fisheries laws, but also with the laws and regulations of RFMOs and coastal States.

### Control measures For Thai Overseas Vessels

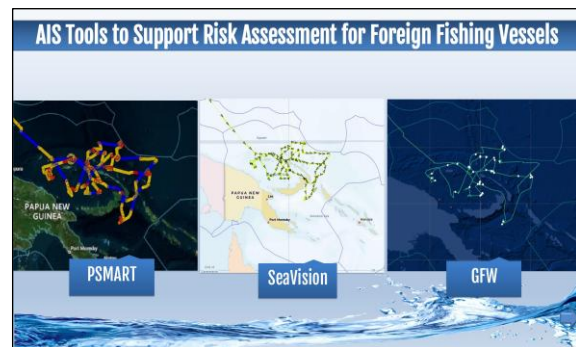
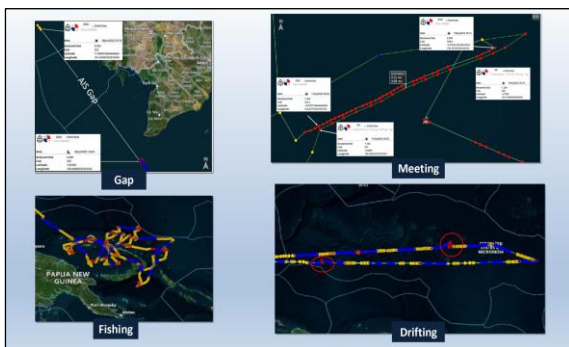
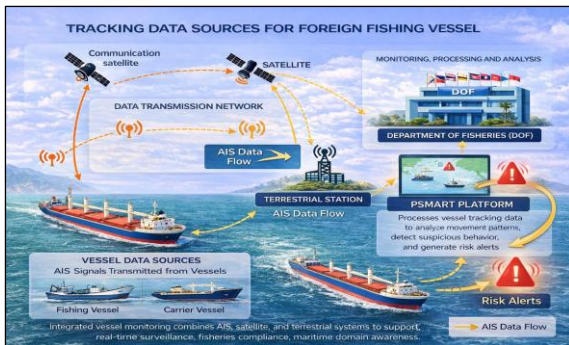
Technology involve

- VMS/AIS: track vessel route and position of vessels
- CCTV: record activities related to fishing and transshipment at all time
- Hatch sensors: monitoring usage hatch and fish hold
- ERS: Request and report transshipment / loading
- Drone-operation sensors: monitor fishing gear usage to indicate fishing activity only (TPO)
- Observer report application: Daily report, Transshipment report

Electronic Monitoring system : EM

Electronic Reporting system : ERS

Transter : Daily report to FMC



**Our CHALLENGES**



**THAILAND'S Efforts to Combat IUU Fishing**

**CHALLENGES**

1. TECHNOLOGY LIMITATIONS
2. STAKEHOLDER INTERESTS

**CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS**

1. IUU – INVESTIGATIONS BY EXPERTS.
2. SURVEILLANCE TOOLS FOR SMALL SCALE (10–29.99 GT)



### Viet Nam's effort in Combating IUUF

**Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific**



Vu Van Tam  
17-19 March 2026 Bangkok, Thailand

### COMBATING IUU FISHING

Vietnam's Commitment Against IUU Fishing

- Urgent & long-term priority for sustainable fisheries
- Shared responsibility: government, agencies, businesses, communities
- Linked to modernizing management, resource protection, and fishermen's livelihoods
- Full compliance with international recommendations & legal frameworks
- Updated laws and regulations (2025) to strengthen enforcement

### Improving the legal framework for fisheries management

**Vietnam's Fisheries Legal Framework**

- **Completed system:** Fisheries Law 2017, 2 Decrees, 8 Circulars
- Covers **fishing activities, vessel control, traceability, violations**
- **Amended & supplemented** to strengthen enforcement
- Aligns with **international commitments & practices**
- Supports **IUU combat & sustainable fisheries development**

### MONITORING

**Fleet Management**

- All fishing vessels registered in **VNFishbase**, linked to **VNeID**
- **No new vessels** allowed in the near future
- Vessels at sea must have **licenses & VMS devices**
- Vessels >15m must have VMS (max 2 if joint fishing)
- Non-compliant vessels will be **strictly monitored**
- By **01/07/2026**, vessels >24m must use **eCDT system**

### Control

**Port Departure Control**

- All fishing vessels must **notify Port Authority 1 hour before departure**
- **Inspectors** (management agencies, Port Authority) check vessel eligibility
- Documents reviewed:
  - Registration & operating license
  - Submitted logbook
  - VMS equipment
  - Ship markings
  - Crew documents

### Control

**Fishing Port Development**

- **86 fishing ports** nationwide now operational
- Ongoing **investment & upgrades** to planned ports
- Enhances **control of fishing vessel operations**

### Surveillance

- FMC will provide information to all management/surveillance agencies if the FV loses its position or is operating near the border of other countries.



**MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS) IN VIET**  
 A Nationwide Core Measure to Combat IUU Fishing

### Surveillance

**At-Sea Vessel Inspection**

- Inspectors check vessel compliance during operations
- Key items reviewed:
  - Registration & fishing license
  - Submitted logbook
  - Captain's certificates
  - VMS equipment
  - Vessel markings
  - Crew documents
  - Fishing gear
- **Inspection report will be submitted to DOF**

### Technology used for combating IUUF

#### VMS System



- **Satellite communication:** identify location, speed, direction
- **Real-time tracking** of vessels on digital maps
- **Automatic alerts** when entering restricted waters
- **Monitoring routes & activities** of FV
- **Data storage** maintained for 36 months

Central software: managed by Ministry of Agriculture & Environment

### Key challenges: VMS disconnection

- **Signal interruptions** during fishing trips are a key indicator of potential IUU activity
- **Enforcement difficulty:** hard to distinguish between technical errors (e.g., satellite blind spots) and intentional interference
- Leads to **delays in penalties** and weaker enforcement: Penalty rates at local/provincial level remain lower than detected violations due to burden of evidence

### Key challenges: VMS disconnection

#### Main Causes of VMS disconnection

1. **Technical issues** related to onboard VMS equipment
2. **Signal limitations** in distant fishing areas
3. **Operational capacity of fishers** in using and maintenance the VMS device

### VMS Disconnection: Scope and Trends

1. VMS disconnection cases account for a small proportion of monitored vessels
2. Year-on-year reduction of over 80% in VMS disconnection cases
3. Most cases are temporary or technical in nature
4. A limited number of cases show recurrent or intentional patterns

### Handling Measures for VMS Disconnection Cases

- Short-term or first-time disconnection:
  - Warning, technical support, corrective actions
- Repeated disconnection cases:
  - Enhanced monitoring, administrative handling
- Suspected intentional interference:
  - Investigation, evidence collection, sanctions
- Serious violations:
  - License suspension; criminal proceedings

### Areas for Further Improvement

#### Ongoing Efforts and Needs

1. Improving reliability and standards of VMS equipment
2. Clarifying legal treatment of VMS disconnection cases
3. Enhancing data integration between VMS and other MCS tools
4. Strengthening cooperation and experience sharing at the regional level



#### CONTACT US

- DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND SURVEILLANCE
- <https://tongcucthuysan.gov.vn/en-us/Home>

**CANADA'S FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORK: DOMESTIC MCS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

MARCH 16, 2025 – SEAFDEC – BANGKOK, THAILAND  
 DUSTIN DE GAGNE - C&P INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER

Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada

**AGENDA**

1. About DFO
2. DFO's fisheries enforcement program
3. Our three-pronged approach to promote compliance
4. Canada's international enforcement efforts
5. International Cooperation
6. Indo-Pacific Strategy initiatives

**ABOUT FISHERIES & OCEANS CANADA**

- Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) is the federal department responsible for the conservation and sustainable use of Canada's fisheries and aquatic ecosystems, both marine and inland.
  - Formed in **1868**
- Until recently, responsible for Canada's civilian Coast Guard mandated with marine SAR and navigation safety.
- Canada has the **world's longest coastline** spanning three different oceans – Atlantic, Arctic and the Pacific.
- Oversight over the fisheries resources found within the exclusive economic zone, covering **5.6M km<sup>2</sup>**
- Value to Canadian economy worth over **\$5.7B annually**
  - Commercial landings is \$3.6B (wild capture in 2023)
  - Aquaculture contributes \$2.1B
  - Canada is the 5th largest fish and seafood exporter in the world.

**ABOUT OUR ENFORCEMENT AGENCY - C&P**

- DFO possesses one of the world's largest dedicated fisheries enforcement agency, the **Directorate of Conservation & Protection (C&P)** - currently comprised of nearly 800 officers and program staff nationwide deployed at over 100 locations.
- Mandated with ensuring compliance of **Canada's federal fisheries and oceans protection legislation** in order safeguard fisheries, fish habitat, and vulnerable aquatic species.
  - Domestic fisheries, endangered species, marine mammal protection, EEZ and high seas fisheries compliance and marine protected areas.
- **Armed regulatory law enforcement** agency responsible for delivering inspection and enforcement activities over land, sea, and air.

**CANADA'S FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM MODEL**

- C&P's fisheries enforcement model is based on **3 pillars**:
  - Outreach and public engagement - seeks to promote voluntary compliance of stakeholders.
  - Core fisheries MCS program to verify compliance and enforce legislation.
  - Specialized enforcement activities to support investigations.
- Activities are **intelligence informed**.

Education, Stewardship & Stakeholder Engagement

Monitoring, Control & Surveillance

Major Cases/ Special Investigations

**National Fisheries Intelligence Service (NFIS)**

**CANADA'S REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

- Canada relies on a **robust statutory legal framework** to ensure compliance with fisheries requirements and provide **strong regulatory enforcement powers**, including for inspections and investigations, to federal fishery officers, via:
  - Federal Legislation - Acts and regulations
  - Legally-binding conditions of licence (linked to Acts/regulations)
  - All based upon federal legislation - which can result in criminal prosecution if serious.

**PILLAR 1 - PUBLIC EDUCATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

- Compliance Promotion and consultation with stakeholders
  - Engagement with commercial, recreational and indigenous fisheries stakeholder groups.
- Public communication of fisheries requirements
  - Publishing of fisheries regulations online, booklets, email notifications on changes.
- Fishery officer community engagement

**PILLAR 2 - MCS ACTIVITIES**

- Canada's traditional **MCS system is resource-intensive** and relies heavily on conducting fisheries compliance patrols at sea, on land and in the sky via program vessels, patrol vehicles and aircraft.
- Patrol assets:
  - Approx. 500 patrol vessels under 14M
  - Four (4) surveillance aircraft
  - Extensive land-based fleet - vehicles, ATVs, snowmobiles
  - Drones
  - Large patrol vessels supported by Canadian Coast Guard

**AERIAL SURVEILLANCE**

- Canadian-made Dash 8 long-range fisheries surveillance aircraft equipped with advanced surveillance technologies:
  - Advanced radar tracking
  - Integration with onboard data management systems
  - Military-grade optical and thermal sensors
  - High altitude operating capability
- Missions delivered by Canadian contractor PAL AEROSPACE and directed by DFO fishery officers to fulfil fisheries enforcement compliance priorities.

9

**OFFSHORE FISHERIES PATROLS**

- DFO conducts persistent mid-shore and offshore maritime patrolling on both Pacific and Atlantic coasts aboard Coast Guard-operated patrol vessels.
- Dedicated maritime patrol units supplement MCS activities of local enforcement detachments.

10

**DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

- DFO maintains a national compliance management database to track data on inspections and investigations, supporting in-port and at-sea risk-based decision making by officers through **access to compliance history** of vessels and fishing entities.
  - Real-time support through enforcement dispatch centres to verify compliance history.
- Access for enforcement to internal databases on licenses and authorizations.
- Access to dedicated aerial surveillance mission systems for real-time data on vessel targets.

11

**FISHER-DEPENDENT MCS DATA REQUIREMENTS**

- Requirements may be fishery-specific, but generally, legally-required record keeping is required to support compliance and enforcement.
- Logbook Records (e-log or paper)
- Hail-in and Hail-out Records:
  - Fisher may be required to phone in or digitally submit data on when they embarked and return on fishing trip - may include skipper, crew details, coordinates, and catch reporting information.
- Fish sales declarations
- In-transit authorizations for foreign FVs transiting through Canadian fisheries waters.

Area	Start	End	Species	Weight	Value	Remarks
Area 1	07:00	08:00	Salmon	100 kg	\$1,000	
Area 2	08:00	09:00	Salmon	150 kg	\$1,500	
Area 3	09:00	10:00	Salmon	200 kg	\$2,000	

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**FISHER-INDEPENDENT MCS DATA REQUIREMENTS**

- Generally, Canada relies upon Third-Party contractors to deliver various fisher-independent programs, including:
  - Dockside monitoring data and verification upon catch landing
  - At-sea observer programs
  - VMS
  - Electronic monitoring (EM)
- Non-compliance is reported to C&P for prioritization - including follow-up actions by enforcement personnel such as inspection and investigations.

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**PILLAR 3- SPECIALIZED ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES AND SUPPORT**

- Canada's Program within C&P is supported by specialized programs, including:
  - Digital forensics teams capable of extracting and analyzing digital data extracted from computers, onboard navigation systems, phones and other digital devices.
  - Dedicated Major or Complex Investigation Teams
  - Intelligence officers and specialized programs capable of conducting covert investigations into serious illegal operators.

14

**ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES INFORMED BY INTELLIGENCE**

- Canada's C&P is supported by a National Fisheries Intelligence Service (NFIS), comprised of intel officers and analysts.
- Enforcement officers collaborate with intel officers and analysts to conduct field-reporting on activities deemed to have intelligence value.
- Program develops intelligence products to support risk-based priority setting for strategic, tactical and operational decision making.

15

**CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

- Canada supports international efforts to combat illegal fishing and protect marine biodiversity globally through several lines of activity delivered from **C&P's International Fisheries Enforcement Program**.
- Primary Function: To coordinate and deliver activities on behalf of Canada to combat **IUU fishing beyond Canada's EEZ** in accordance with international laws and treaties.

16

**DFO'S INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS**


Our efforts to combat IUU fishing track along the following four (4) lines of activity:

- High Seas Operations
- Partner Technical Assistance
- Partnerships with Expert NGOs
- International Fisheries Management Fora



**HIGH SEAS ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS**

- Canada has been actively engaged in high seas fisheries enforcement in the Pacific since the 1990s and in the Atlantic since the 1970s.
- First Pacific high seas enforcement missions were conducted pursuant to OPERATION DRIFTNET in 1993, following the 1992 UN ban on large-scale high seas drift nets.
- Since the 90s, several North Pacific coastal states have coordinated their enforcement and surveillance actions to combat IUU fishing activities, including through the North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission (NPAC) and more recently, through high seas boarding provisions granted through the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC).



**HSBI AS A TOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION**

- Canada has increasingly pursued high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI) as a mechanism to increase our cooperation and coordination with international partners.
- Grounded in international law such as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, they provide a legal mechanism to not only increase transparency and accountability for high seas fisheries but also strengthen regional and international cooperation - where adopted.
- Canada is actively conducting HSBI in cooperation with international partners within 3 RFMOs - 2 in Pacific/1 in Atlantic
- 3 out of the 4 main Pacific regional fisheries management organizations (RFMO) have adopted HSBI framework, permitting member countries to board and conduct inspections of foreign-flagged vessels on the high seas.



**HSBI AS A MECHANISM FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION**

- HSBI and RFMO convention framework promote increased cooperation between inspecting state and flag state, both through HSBI mechanisms and Convention obligations that hold flag states responsible for investigating fleets where potential violations are raised.
- Most HSBI frameworks encourage multi-national and joint compliance campaigns.



**OPERATION NORTH PACIFIC GUARD**

- Since 2019, Canada has participated in cooperative multinational fisheries enforcement operations under North Pacific Guard - working with partner nations to conduct high seas fisheries compliance inspections of high seas fleets on the water, air, and from space using remote sensing satellites.
- US Coast Guard "shiprider" deployments - 2019+
- Close coordination with Japanese Government to facilitate Canadian aerial inspection campaigns.
- Canadian-led HSBI operations - 2023+







**OP NPG 2026 HSBI SUMMARY**

Distance Patrolled	Boardings and Inspections	Additional drone	Potential Violations
9,600 nm	39	2	35



**OP NPG 2026 AERIAL SUMMARY**

Number of Flights	Distance Flown	Flight Time	Vessels observed	Potential Violations	Joint Patrols
33	47,000 nm	254 hrs	366	56	8

**INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY FORA**

- Canada belongs to **9 RFMOs**, where it takes a strong position to adopt robust conservation and management measures and compliance regimes, such as HSBI.
- RFMO compliance and commission meetings present ongoing opportunities for collaboration amongst like-minded member states on a host of potential fisheries compliance-related areas that support efforts to curb IUU and promote compliance regimes.

**Shark-fishing gear banned across much of Pacific in conservation 'win'**

**REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE COOPERATION**

- In recent years, DFO has further prioritized initiatives that **strengthen the capacity of international partners** to disrupt illegal fishing, addressing both technological and human capacity.
- The development of the **Dark Vessel Detection (DVD)** platform in 2020 is the highlight of these efforts. It is a satellite-based surveillance system built for the Canadian government by space technology contractor **MDA Space Ltd.**

### CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT / DARK VESSEL DETECTION

- In recent years, DFO has further prioritized initiatives that **strengthen the capacity of international partners** to disrupt illegal fishing, addressing both technological and human capacity.
- The development of the **Dark Vessel Detection (DVD)** platform in 2020 is the highlight of these efforts. It is a satellite-based surveillance system built for the Canadian government by space technology contractor **MDA Space Ltd.**

**2020 Chinese squid fleet activity along Ecuador's EEZ - significant tracking outages and potential incursions detected**

### DARK VESSEL DETECTION BACKGROUND

- It is widely understood that vessels engaged in illegal fishing and other illicit activities extinguish their **AIS** and **VMS** transponders, thereby going **"dark"** and untrackable to maritime monitoring centres.
- DVD addresses this high-risk "dark" activity by providing **unclassified** layered space-based surveillance data, permitting international maritime and fisheries compliance partners to identify and respond to such threats.
- Provides a crucial surveillance tool for Canada's partners in the fight against IUU fishing, providing **near real-time** data on potential IUU fishing activity.
- Current recipient countries supported by DVD include 5 Pacific Latin American, South Pacific Island States belonging to the Forum Fisheries Agency, Philippines and Taiwan.

**Canada launching \$7M project to track international 'dark vessels' at sea**

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will use satellites to identify ships that may be fishing illegally.

Author: John - CBC News - Posted: 19th June 2021 10:07 PM PT | Last updated: 19th June 2021

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans is partnering with officials from other countries to help locate and catch fish stocks, stop them from being sold illegally and to help them

### DARK VESSEL DETECTION

- Multi-source satellite data** (SAR, RF, VIIRS, optical) for ship detection
- Frequent SAR from **Canada's Radarsat Constellation Mission** SAR satellites
- Auto-correlation** of satellite detections with AIS/VMS; flags dark vessels
- Analytical tools** including geo-fences, filters, behavior detection, tripwires, alerts
- Web-based access** (laptop + internet only)
- Unclassified data** enables easier sharing (with license conditions)
- Near real-time** (2-4 hours post-collection)

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COOPERATION

- DFO possesses a **range of expertise** on specialized fisheries inspection and investigation techniques, MCS tools, and experience in both domestic and international fisheries operations.
- Department is seeking to expand training course development and opportunities for technical cooperation.
- ie. Port Inspector Training, HSB1, MDA analysis.

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH EXPERT FISHERIES COMPLIANCE NGOs

- Recognizing the **value that specialized international NGOs provide** to international efforts to strengthen fisheries MCS capabilities, intelligence and transparency in the fight against illegal fishing, DFO and the Government of Canada have prioritized financial support to facilitate increased support for Indo-Pacific partners and the regional community of MCS practitioners.
- Through Canada's IPS, we have committed to supporting the Joint Analytical Cell (JAC), WildAid, and OceanMind, amongst other partners, in support of fisheries MCS and effective MPA enforcement in the region.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER COLLABORATION THROUGH CANADA'S INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY

- Recognizing the growing global influence of the Indo-Pacific region, Canada released its Indo-Pacific Strategy in 2022 in support of deepening engagement with Pacific partners.
- Canada's **Indo-Pacific Strategy** prioritizes stronger partnerships with regional states to support sustainable fisheries, maritime security, and rules-based ocean governance.
- The **Shared Ocean Fund (SOF)** initiative was funded under Canada's **Indo-Pacific Strategy** and led by DFO.
- It is a **5-year initiative** focused on combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and supporting a healthy marine environment through:
  - (1) **governance**; (2) **enforcement**; and (3) **partnerships**

### CANADA'S INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGY

Through the Shared Ocean Fund, Canada is combatting IUU fishing by implementing a three-pronged approach:

- 1. Governance**  
Strengthen the rules-based international order by increasing Canadian engagement, including in regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs)
- 2. Enforcement**  
Augment international IUU fishing surveillance and detection technologies to enforce domestic and international legal frameworks in the Indo-Pacific region
- 3. Partnerships**  
Drawing on Canadian expertise, leverage bilateral and multilateral cooperation to combat IUU fishing and to support sustainable use of marine resources

 Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada



**Questions?**

**Thank for your attention!**

 Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada

**Dustin De Gagne**

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 **Canada**



## Global perspective on fisheries governance frameworks

Ms. Angela Lantoso  
Fishery and Aquaculture Officer  
FAO RAP

Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific  
Bangkok, Thailand  
17–19 March 2026

### Why is IUU fishing a problem?

- It undermines sustainable resource management
  - Prevents the effective fisheries management contributing to overfishing and ecosystem loss
- It impacts food security and livelihoods
  - Depletion of resources, jeopardizing food security and sustainable livelihoods
- It is fueled by harmful economic practices
  - Certain fisheries subsidies may contribute to overcapacity and overfishing leading to IUU fishing
- It threatens global development goals and bypasses international frameworks
  - Hinders achievement of SDG14 and other established global instruments (e.g. the FAO Compliance Agreement).

### What types of IUU fishing do we have in the Asian region?

### Types of IUU fishing (1)

- Vessel and operational documentation
  - Fishing without a valid license or using a with falsified/duplicated license
  - Dual-flagging: Registering vessel in two countries to avoid regulations
  - Falsifying vessel identity or registration details to bypass size-based restrictions
- Catch reporting
  - Non-reporting: Complete failure to log catches.
  - Misreporting/Under-reporting: Deliberately recording lower volumes or different species to stay within quotas or avoid taxes.

### Types of IUU fishing (2)

- Landings and transshipment
  - Unauthorized landings: avoiding designated ports to bypass inspections.
  - Unauthorized transshipment
- Destructive Methods and Prohibited species
  - Use of explosives (blast fishing) or chemicals (cyanide) highly destructive of aquatic ecosystems
  - Targeting or bycatch of protected and vulnerable species (e.g. corals, marine mammals, etc.)

### Types of IUU fishing (3)

- Encroachment
  - Commercial vessels encroaching on nearshore zones reserved for Small-Scale Fishers (SSF).
- Transboundary "Straying"
  - SSF or commercial vessels crossing maritime borders, often in disputed or poorly monitored jurisdictions.
- Governance Disconnects
  - Poor coordination between provincial (local) and national licensing authorities,

### What drives IUU fishing?

- Expansion of effort & capacity
  - Post 1945 expansion
  - 1970's intensification (trawling & motorization of SSF)
  - 1990's improved technology & globalization of markets
- Led to over-capacity in fisheries & processing
- Economic opportunity vs Risk
  - Large-Scale: Calculated risk to maximize profit against low access fees.
  - Small-Scale: Driven by the "need to make a basic income" (subsistence) where the likelihood of capture is low.
  - Low Deterrence: Even when caught, the risk of capture/fines are relatively low – difficult to prosecute

### International framework to combat IUU fishing

FAO 80th Anniversary logo

172 Parties to UNCLOS, 47 Parties to LOS, 94 Parties to COB, 85 Parties to PSMA, 85 Parties to WCPFC, 116 Accp. to the Compliance Agreement

Flag States, Port States, Coastal States, Market States

Regional Fisheries Bodies: WCPFC, ICPAF, CCSRF, IIRP, WIOF, SIOF, IIRP, WIOF, SIOF

SDG GOALS: Target 14.4. By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting, and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices (...) to restore fish stocks (...) to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield (...). Target 14.6. By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing (...).

### 2009 – Port State Measures Agreement

Adoption of effective port State measures as a means to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources.

Applied to:

- foreign vessels when seeking entry to port entry or when they are in the port –

Exceptions include:

- artisanal fishing vessels** of neighboring countries, provided the port State and the flag state cooperate to ensure not engaged in IUU fishing or related activities.
- containers vessels** that are not carrying fish, and if they are, it has been previously landed, and no suspecting they are involved in IUU fishing or related activities.

### Key responsibilities of Parties

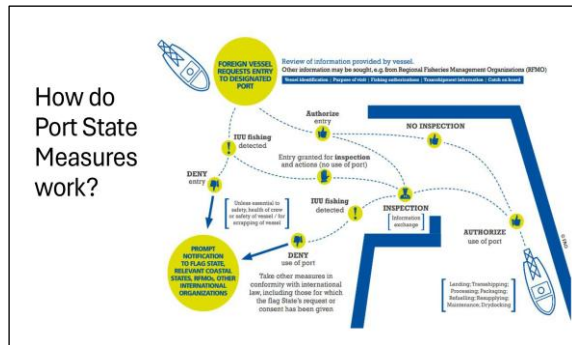
- Deny access to port, except for inspection purposes, to foreign flagged vessels involved in IUU fishing activities.
- Deny use of port to foreign flagged vessels for which inspection results provide clear grounds to believe that the vessel has been engaged in IUU fishing.
- Exchange information with flag and relevant coastal states, RFMOs, FAO and other international organizations.
- Apply equally stringent measures to national vessels.

### Status of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)

111 STATES

- Parties to the PSMA, ES (including the EU)
- Partially Signatories to the PSMA, 2

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on map represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.



### 2023 – Global Information Exchange System – <https://psma-gies.fao.org/> (only for accredited users)

### PSMA Global Information Exchange System (GIES)

Port States	85	111	653
Flag States	267	4011	14
Coastal States	1706		57

States of Captains' nationalities

- Designated ports
- National Contact Points
- Advance Request for Port Entry
- Port denials
- Port inspections
- Actions by:
  - port State
  - flag State
- Declaration forms:
  - Transshipment
  - Landing
- Vessel profile
- Connections to RFMOs e-PSMs

### Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels

- Global Record**
  - Combat IUU fishing by gathering and sharing certified information about the world's fleet of fishing (and related) vessels.
  - It closes the global information gap on vessels involved in IUU fishing
  - Promotes **transparency, traceability and dissemination** of on the global fishing fleet and its operations

### VG Marking of Fishing Gear

- Address issues related to **abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG)** and facilitating the identification and recovery of such gear.
- Assist fisheries management and help address IUU fishing activities

### VG Catch Documentation Schemes

- System to help determine throughout the supply chain whether fish originates from "legal and sustainable" catches

### 2023 – VG for Transshipment

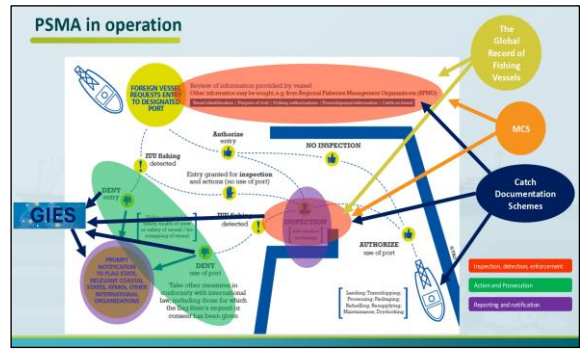
**In short:**

- The Voluntary Guidelines provide minimum international standards for transshipment operations.
- They establish definitions, processes and responsibilities for transshipment activities to be regulated, monitored, and controlled.
- They consider specific needs of developing States in view of transshipment activities.
- States and RFMOs can transpose the guidelines into national and regional regulations.

**VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR TRANSSHIPMENT**

**DIRECTIVES VOLONTAIRES RELATIVES AU TRANSSHIPMENT**

**DIRETIVOS VOLUNTARIAS PARA LOS TRANSSHIPMENTOS**



### PSMA in numbers...

- Membership** ✓ ¾ of coastal States are now Parties
- Functioning** ✓ 13 decisions in 5 Meetings of the Parties
- Operations** ✓ >22000 inspections by Parties annually
- Information exchange** ✓ 653 Designated Ports ✓ 105 National Contact Points ✓ >4000 inspections in GIES ✓ ~1200 vessel profiles
- Capacity Development** ✓ 80 States assisted ✓ 39 mill USD from 10 donors ✓ >400 officers trained in 21 international courses ✓ 3 Training Hubs

### Key results so far

- Enhanced cooperation among States
- Unique information exchange system
- Strengthened control of fisheries
- Enhanced culture of compliance

### Looking ahead

- Monitoring implementation by Parties
- Measuring impact in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing
- Supporting the implementation of other ocean Treaties

### FAO is developing methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing

- Principles and Approaches**
- A practical guide to delivering an estimate**
- A catalogue of examples**
- Developing and using indicators of performance in fighting IUU fishing**

### Checklists and Technical Guidelines to Combat IUU Fishing

Three volumes of checklists and technical guidelines are presented:
 

- Volume 1: General checklist of control** for port State measures.
- Volume 2: Port State** measures for the main gear, boats, and crew records.
- Volume 3: Vessel** measures for the main gear, boats, and crew records.

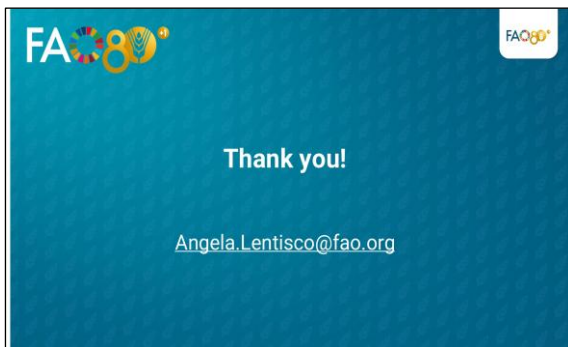
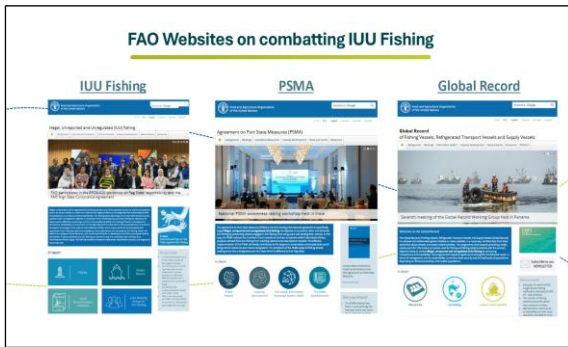
### FAO website on IUU fishing

<https://www.fao.org/iuu-fishing/en/>

### BOBLME II project targets on IUU fishing

- 20% reduction in IUU fishing
- RPOA-IUU endorsed
- NPOA-IUU being implemented in 7 countries
- Regional training platform(s) operational

7 participating countries  
6 international partners



### SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION MODEL AND PROGRESS

**Delivered by:**  
**Yudhistira Rizky Abdillah**  
Vice Executive Director of the RPOA-IUU Secretariat

Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific

### OVERVIEW OF RPOA-IUU

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

- The RPOA-IUU is a **voluntary instrument** and takes its core principles from international agreements and instruments for promoting responsible fishing practices
- 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**)
- 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 MCS SUB-REGIONAL GROUPS

**History:**

During the MCS Workshop on **March 2008**, the Coordination Committee agreed to establish a regional and sub-regional MCS Networks which

- Malaysia** is the chair of sub-regional for the Southern and Eastern of SCS and SSS
- Thailand** is the chair of sub-regional for the Gulf of Thailand Sub Regional Group
- Australia** is the chair of sub-regional for the Arafura and Timor-Seas

### RATIONALES FOR ESTABLISHING MCS SUB-REGIONAL GROUPS

**Rationales:**

- Article 123 of UNCLOS:** states bordering an enclosed or semi-enclosed sea should cooperate with each other in the exercise of their rights and in the performance of their duties under this Convention. To this end they shall endeavour, directly or through an appropriate regional organization: (b) to coordinate the implementation of their rights and duties with respect to the protection and preservation of the marine environment
- Shared ocean and fish stocks
- Cross-border *illegal* fishing incidents

### MCS SUB-REGIONAL GROUPS ROLES

**Roles:**

- Strengthen cooperation among sub-regional member countries.
- Facilitate information exchange and coordination of MCS operations.
- Support joint risk analysis and collective action to address transboundary IUUF hotspots.
- Nominate and select candidates for MCS training courses to support targeted capacity building.

### GULF OF THAILAND MCS SUB-REGIONAL GROUPS

- The latest sub-regional meeting was held on 20 June 2024 to discuss Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) needs and gaps under the RPOA-IUU framework.
- Participating countries exchanged views and experiences to strengthen cooperation in the Gulf of Thailand.
- The meeting produced the "2025 Recommendations and Way Forward for the Sub-Regional Gulf of Thailand." The document outlines priority actions to improve coordinated MCS implementation and combat IUU fishing.

### GULF OF THAILAND MCS SUB-REGIONAL GROUPS

#### PROGRESS

Key MCS Issues/ Challenges identified	Way Forward
4. Information on stock assessment of transboundary species and harmonized framework of transboundary management	Participate + implement the activity under the GOTFish Project.

The GOTFish project focused on regional transboundary fisheries governance and management. The GOTFish Project is currently in its Inception Phase, has obtained country signatures from Thailand and Cambodia and is awaiting from Malaysia and Viet Nam.

### GULF OF THAILAND MCS SUB-REGIONAL GROUPS

#### PROGRESS

Key MCS Issues/ Challenges identified	Way Forward
7. Enhance knowledge on MCS for Fisheries Officers	Participate in MCS training or offer exchange component under the SEA-IUU Program.
8. Estimation of losses due to IUU fishing	Propose estimation study on the losses in all aspect due to IUU fishing with possibility assistance from experts under the SEA-IUU program or other possibility source.

Fisheries Officer Exchange program was held in Bangkok, from June 23 to 27, 2025, supported by the Australia's Combating IUU fishing program and attended by five RPOA-IUU countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam).

This proposal has included in the RPOA-IUU Work Plan endorsed at the 17th CCM in November 2024. The RPOA-IUU Secretariat, in coordination with Australia, agreed to proceed with a pilot study in the Gulf of Thailand to develop a methodology for future assessments, with Malaysia considering participation.

### SOUTHERN AND EASTERN OF SOUTH CHINA SEAS AND SULU-SULAWESI SEAS MCS SUB-REGIONAL GROUPS

Based on presentations from each member country in the 8th Sub-Regional Meeting on the SECS SSS which is held in 13 November 2025, six main IUU fishing issues were identified within the sub-region:

- encroachment by foreign fishing vessels
- fishing without valid licenses or with misused gear/licenses/violated fishing conditions
- the use of prohibited gears such as cyanide and blast fishing, or illegal mesh sizes and fishing techniques
- fishing in restricted zones
- unauthorised use and placement of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)
- illicit fish transshipment to/from foreign fishing vessels.

As follow-up actions, the Secretariat of the SECS and SSS RPOA-IUU Sub-regional Groups will establish a discussion platform (e.g., WhatsApp group) to improve coordination. Member countries are also encouraged to seek technical assistance and capacity building from partners such as Australia's SEA-IUU Program to address key issues.

### ARAFURA AND TIMOR SEAS MCS SUB-REGIONAL GROUPS

- The Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) Sub-regional Group noted that illegal fishing in the ATS is largely driven by economic pressure.
- Member countries are working to better understand prosecution requirements among countries, including strengthening information sharing and regularly updating focal points.
- In 2025, progress included the Indonesia–Australia Fisheries Surveillance Forum for information exchange and joint patrols under Operation Iawline Arafura in September 2025, followed by high-level meetings.
- For 2026, the Action Plan includes holding the next Sub-regional Group meeting in Indonesia, continuing coordinated patrols, sustaining education initiatives, enhancing information sharing, and exploring new capacity-building opportunities.

### REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT: COLLABORATIVE FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT AGAINST FV. RUN ZENG 03 & RUN ZENG 05

Intelligence Report from Australia

RZ 03 was apprehended by MAMF Indonesia

Collaborative Fisheries Enforcement

IUU Alert on RZ 03 & 05 from Indonesia to FP of ATS Sub-regional Group

PNIG Confirmation on RZ 05

RZ 05 was seized by the NFA PNG

### REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on Market Measures and Traceability (CDS\_CDT)

- RPOA-IUU, in collaboration with the USAID-SuFia TS, organized the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on Market Measures and Traceability held on September 9–10, 2024 via Zoom Platform
- The FGD aimed to exchange experiences on market measure traceability, promote the inclusion of small-scale fisheries in traceability systems, and develop a lesson-learned book documenting best practices and implementation status among RPOA-IUU participating countries.
- Countries are encouraged to strengthen traceability systems, develop capacity-building proposals for Australia's SEA RIFF Program, while the RPOA-IUU Secretariat will collect CDT/CDS updates and continue regional traceability initiatives.

RPOA-IUU MCS Sub-Regional Workshop

- The workshop is part of SEA-IUU fishing program support organized by the Australian Government and RPOA-IUU Secretariat and aims to improve and strengthen MCS sub-regional capacity
- One of the key lessons learned from the activity is that advanced technology can help countries strengthen their MCS capacity.
- Strengthening MCS Sub-Regional Groups can be supported through virtual engagement, national budget commitments, standardised coordination, and facilitation by the RPOA-IUU Secretariat to enhance collaboration and partner support.

### REGIONAL INITIATIVES

#### Advanced Fisheries Intelligence Training

- The training, held from February 20 to 23, 2024, was attended by 42 participants from 11 countries, including 3 speakers from Canada's DFO, 4 speakers from the Joint Analytical Cell, and 2 speakers from INTERPOL.
- The training successfully achieved its objectives, strengthening countries' intelligence capabilities for fisheries data analysis, enhancing practical skills of fisheries officers for intelligence-led actions against IUU fishing, supporting effective decision-making through intelligence-led approaches, and establishing an information-exchange platform for sharing effective measures to combat IUU fishing.

### WAY FORWARD

- Strengthen sub-regional cooperation mechanisms to enhance coordination in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)
- Promote capacity building and technical collaboration with regional and international partners.
- Sustain regular sub-regional engagement to review progress and address emerging IUU fishing challenges.

# THANK YOU

"The most effective weapon against crime (IUU fishing) is cooperation"

J. Edgar Hoover- First FBI Director

Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU)

RPOA-IUU Secretariat  
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia  
Mina Bahari Building IV, 10th floor  
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No.16 Jakarta Pusat 10110 Indonesia

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Website : [www.rpooiuiu.org](http://www.rpooiuiu.org)

## Regional Technical Organization Facilitating Capacity Building and Collaboration

By  
SEAFDEC Training Department

Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific  
17–19 March 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand

### The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030

SEAFDEC policy framework and priority actions to combat IUU Fishing

**RES 8.**  
Strengthen cooperation among AMSs and with international and regional organizations in combating IUU fishing and management of fishing capacity to balance available resources

**POA 28.**  
Strengthen the implementation of measures and activities to combat IUU fishing by ensuring compliance with national laws and regulations, and with the provisions of relevant 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

## Key Aspects of Programs and Activities by SEAFDEC for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

### 3 Key Aspects of Programs and Activities by SEAFDEC for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

1. Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation among AMSs and Other Agencies
2. Increase Capacity and Awareness on MCS to Combat IUU Fishing
3. Support Implementation of Effective MCS Measures

### 1. Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation among AMSs and Other Agencies

Establishment of technical collaborative platforms for information sharing among AMSs

#### Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)

### Status of the Development of RFVR Database

- Basic information required for supporting the fishing vessel inspection to reduce IUU fishing vessels
- Enhancing transparency and traceability in supporting inspection in relation to PSM activities.
- Information in the RFVR database is available for the vessel 24 meters in length and over
- There were 28 Key Data Elements (KDEs)
- The AMSs can update information in RFVR Database by themselves since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021
- Expansion information in the RFVR database to less than 24 meters in length

## 28 KDEs IN THE RFVR DATABASE

Name of Vessel	Vessel Registration Number	Owner Name
Type of Fishing Method/Gear	Fishing License Number	Expiration Date of Fishing Licenses
Port of Registry	Gross Tonnage	Length
Breadth	Depth	Engine Power
Shipyard/ Ship Builder	Date of Launching/ Year of Built	International Radio Call Sign
Engine Brand	Serial Number of Engine	Hull Material
Date of Registration	Area of Fishing Operation	Nationality of Vessel
Previous Name	Previous Flag	Name of Captain
Nationality of Captain	Number of Crew	Nationality of Crew
IMO Number		

### 1. Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation among AMSs and Other Agencies (cont.)

Providing regional instruments for developing a common approach to combating IUU fishing in the region such as

- ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of IUU Fish and Fishery Product into the Supply Chain
- Regional Guidelines in Traceability System for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region
- ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries

### 1. Strengthening Coordination and Cooperation among AMSs and Other Agencies (cont.)

Coordination and cooperation with national/regional/international agencies as partners

### 2. Increase Capacity and Awareness on MCS to Combat IUU Fishing

A series of capacity-building programs for AMSs to enhance their ability in MCS to combat IUU fishing

### 3. Support Implementation of Effective MCS Measures

Development and promotion of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) application as prototype for traceability of fish and fishery products

### What is eACDS ?

- A prototype software for enhancing a traceability of fish and fishery products from fishing to plate
- Implementing eACDS required good governance in fisheries management: port control, catch reporting, recording movement of fish in the supply chain, export-import, etc.

### eACDS Applications

#### eACDS on Web-based Application

- Vessel Owner/Fishing Master**  
Request Port-out and Port-in
- Processor**  
Request Statement of Catch  
Request Catch Certificate Document
- Officer**  
Approve Port-out / Port-in and Verify Weight  
Issuance Catch Declaration (CD)  
Issuance Movement Document (MD)  
Issuance Statement of Catch (SC)  
Issuance Catch Certificate Document (CC)  
View Reports and Manage IOEs

#### eACDS on Mobile Application

- eACDS-Catch Report App.**  
Fishing Master/ Vessel Owner
- eACDS-Market App.**  
Seller and Buyer

### Countries Implementation of eACDS

Year	Country	Fishing Ports	Vessels
2017	Brunei Darussalam	1	50
2018	Yangon, Myanmar	3	100
2018	Binh Thuan, Viet Nam	4	50
2019	Malaysia	2	30
2022	Koh Kong, Cambodia	1	8

### Achievement of eACDS Implementation

- Training and demonstration on the practical eACDS application for trainers to the effective implementation of eACDS and transfer their knowledge and understanding to relevant stakeholders.
- Participating countries trial on the use of eACDS application and successfully installed the application on its server.
- Viet Nam developed its electronic catch documentation and traceability (eCDT) based on the eACDS demonstration.

### Number of Participants (All activities under the combating IUU project) 2020–2025

Total = 1,473 participants from 46 Activities

Female 43% | Male 57%

Country	Participants
Brunei Darussalam	61
Cambodia	62
Indonesia	131
Japan	7
Laos PDR	73
Malaysia	101
Myanmar	69
Philippines	154
Singapore	19
Thailand	253
Viet Nam	79

## Priority Areas for Future Action to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

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



### 1 Vessel Monitoring

Priority Areas	Regional Actions
❖ VMS system	❖ Develop SOP/Guideline on VMS information sharing
❖ Sharing VMS information between AMSS	❖ Explore appropriate application/system for small-scale fisheries
❖ Application of VMS for middle-scale and small-scale fishing	

### 2 Strengthening MCS for Commercial-scale, Small-scale Fisheries and Community-based Fisheries

Priority Areas	Regional Actions
❖ Enhancing and capacity building on MCS	❖ Capacity building on MCS
❖ Identification and risk assessments of IUU fishing vessels	❖ Identification of IUU fishing vessels to avoid double flag
❖ Introduction of new technology for support MCS	

### 3 AMSS/Regional Cooperation on IUU Information

Priority Areas	Regional Actions
❖ Cooperation and sharing of information on IUU among countries via existing platform	❖ Explore the willingness of countries to establish hotlines
❖ Expand and strengthen regional/bilateral dialogues between neighbors around shared IUU issues	❖ Strengthening understanding of global instruments and their application in cooperation with FAO, IMO, ILO
	❖ Encouragement AMSS to update information on RFVR database
	❖ Continue to develop RFVR database smaller than 24 meters in length in focus of carrier vessels for utilization between neighboring country

### 4 Encroachment of Foreign Vessels

Priority Areas	Regional Actions
❖ Medium, and large-scale foreign vessels	❖ Sharing information on best practices of action against the encroachment of foreign vessels
❖ Enforcement	

### 5 Strengthening Traceability of Fish and Fishery Products

Priority Areas	Regional Actions
❖ Study and communicate the market state requirements, align to global, and additional work on how to incorporate SSF	❖ Capacity building on the market requirements, the use of CDS
❖ Strengthen port landing information, catch landing sources	❖ Sharing experiences on the implementation of the national CDS

### 6 Development of National/Regional Estimation of IUU Losses

Priority Areas	Regional Actions
❖ Estimation of losses due to IUU fishing	❖ Formulation of ASEAN guideline on how to estimate IUU losses
❖ Provide knowledge on fishery intelligence as it is an effective tool to eliminate IUU fishing	❖ Conduct a national assessment of the estimation of IUU losses through sharing the results framework
❖ Linkage to stock assessment to assess impacts through improved information on transboundary species and harmonize framework	

**7**

### Strengthening Evidence and Procedures Prosecution to Improve the Deterrence Effect

Priority Areas	Regional Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Raise awareness within and across the agencies</li> <li>❖ Improve the efficiency of the use of maritime MCS/patrols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sharing information on the evidence and procedures and secure effective prosecutions to improve the deterrence effect</li> </ul>

**8**

### Monitor Transshipment Activity

Priority Areas	Regional Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Understanding carrier vessels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Strengthen port inspection at both coastal states and flag states including establishing bilateral arrangements to understand carrier vessels</li> <li>❖ To implement the certification form for transshipment developed by FAO</li> <li>❖ Regional review on carrier definition</li> </ul>

**9**

### Legal Reform

Priority Areas	Regional Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Updating and/or amending national legal frameworks</li> <li>❖ Development/Updating of NPOA-IUU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sharing best practices on laws and policies through the development of the comprehensive NPOA-IUU</li> </ul>

### Capacity Building in the 9 Priority Areas to Combat IUU Fishing (2020-2025)

**6** Priority Areas That has been implemented by SEAFDEC/TD

Total: 46 Activities, 1,473 participants

- 1 Vessel Monitoring
- 2 Strengthening MCS for Commercial Scale, Small-scale Fisheries and Community-based Fisheries
- 3 AMS/Regional Cooperation on IUU Information
- 5 Strengthening Traceability of Fish and Fishery Products
- 8 Monitor Transshipment Activity
- 9 Legal Reform

### Capacity Building in the 9 Priority Areas to Combat IUU Fishing (2020-2025)

**1** Vessel Monitoring

VMS analysis to support port inspection

1 Activity | 37 Participants

Partners: SKYLIGHT, IMCS NETWORK, Global Fishing Watch

### Capacity Building in the 9 Priority Areas to Combat IUU Fishing (2020-2025)

**2** Strengthening MCS for Commercial-scale, Small-scale Fisheries and Community-based Fisheries

Strengthening MCS capacity, promoting MCS innovation, and responsible fishing technologies

261 Participants | 10 Activities

Partners: FAO, NPOA, ICGM, etc.

### Capacity Building in the 9 Priority Areas to Combat IUU Fishing (2020-2025)

**3** AMSs/Regional Cooperation on IUU Information

RFVR database development and promotion, regional information-sharing workshops, and technical consultations

7 Activities | 471 Participants

### Capacity Building in the 9 Priority Areas to Combat IUU Fishing (2020-2025)

**5** Strengthening Traceability of Fish and Fishery Products

Implementation of regional and national training for strengthening the traceability system

24 Activities | 547 Participants

Partners: JICA, FAO, IMCS NETWORK, FBA, etc.

**Capacity Building in the 9 Priority Areas to Combat IUU Fishing (2020-2025)**

**8 Monitor Transshipment Activity**

Regional policy workshop on transshipment management

1 Activity      22 Participants

Partners:

**Capacity Building in the 9 Priority Areas to Combat IUU Fishing (2020-2025)**

**9 Legal Reform**

Capacity-building training on NPOA-IUU implementation, UNCLOS application

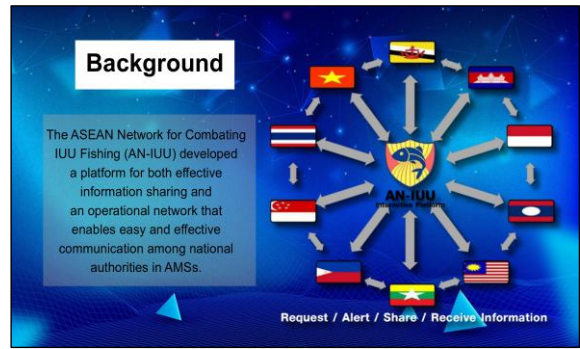
3 Activities      135 Participants

Partners:

**Project Implementation Relevant to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia by SEAFDEC**

	<b>2024 - 2027</b>	ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia
	<b>2024 - 2028</b>	Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities
	<b>2025 - 2029</b>	Enhancement of Regional Cooperation and Human Resource Development to eliminate IUU Fishing
	<b>2025 - 2027</b>	Strengthening Regional Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing and Promote Safe, Fair and Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia
	<b>2025 - 2026</b>	Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific

**Thank You For Your Kind Attention**



### Objective

## AN-IUU Interactive Platform

**To Support MCS**

To enhance regional cooperation on information sharing through an online interactive platform, as well as on the use of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) information

**Capacities building**

To enhance capacities and capabilities of ASEAN Member States (AMS) in the fight against IUU fishing through the dissemination of best practices, especially on MCS surveillance and investigation activities and experiences.



### THE AN-IUU INTERACTIVE PLATFORM

- RFMOs IUU List**: The AN-IUU network centre gathers IUU vessels from RFMOs website and updates this list annually.
- Watch list**: For the suspicious to relate IUU activities vessels or IUU vessels. Focal Point can share the watch list through "Incident" menu.
- Domestic IUU list**: List of IUU vessels that have been announced by ASEAN Member States. The Focal Points are able to share the vessel list, vessel information, and causes of offenses in this menu.

### UPDATE REPORTS

### SHARE FISHERIES LAWS & REGULATION



**unseenlabs**  
Pioneer and global leader in space-based RF detection

Space-based Radio-Frequency (RF) technology for maritime surveillance and dark vessel detection

18 March 2026

SEAFDEC

CONVENTIONAL AND REMOTE SENSING FOR MARITIME SURVEILLANCE AND DARK VESSEL DETECTION

**Maritime Challenge**

- Strategic maritime region
- Vast and complex waters
- Monitoring gaps
  - AIS/VMS: Only cooperative vessels
  - RFVR Database: Vessels >24m only
  - Small-scale fleet invisible
  - Increasing number of "dark vessels"

**About Unseenlabs**

**Who we are**

A pioneer and global leader in space-based radio frequency detection

**What we do**

Detect, locate & track radio frequency signals, delivering mission-critical data and intelligence

**How we do it**

Using a global satellite constellation powered by monosatellite technology, equipped with Artificial Intelligence

**Key facts**  
European company created in 2015 and based in France - Satellites full operational capacity since 2019.  
19 operational satellites (+1 to be launched in March), aim to expand to 26 satellites by 2027.  
140 people today.

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**We deliver two types of services**

Space-based RF data delivery service  
as an enabler

We deliver the result of RF data collections that can be used as one additional Geoint sources, essential to identify and track an object

RF-based geo data analysis service  
as a revealer

We answer to specific missions leveraging our satellite tasking capabilities, our stored RF data and our RF expert's knowledge

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**What Signal Intelligence from Space enables**

RF emitters activity detection ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, IN ANY WEATHER

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**We detect, geolocate and characterize radio frequency signals**

Unseenlabs technology intercepts passive radio frequency signals from marine radars

ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, UNDER ANY WEATHER CONDITIONS

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**Space-based RF acts as 1<sup>st</sup> layer of intelligence on very large areas at sea**

ILLUSTRATIVE SIZE REPRESENTATION

Currently min. 550 x 550km  
60 x 60km for Optical sensors or 90 x 90km for SAR

RF detection

Optical (1.0 m res.)

SAR (3 m res.)

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**Where SIGINT from space makes the difference**

Surveillance criteria	Sensor capability				SIGINT <sup>1</sup>
	From Land (Coastal)	AIS <sup>2</sup>	Optical	SAR <sup>2</sup>	
Scan highly remote areas...	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Covering very large footprints...	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Under any weather conditions...	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Achieving persistent uncooperative targets detections	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Capturing a fraud-proof identification	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
(c) Detecting the activity of any emitting object	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓

1. Signal intelligence; 2. Synthetic Aperture Radar; 3. Automatic Identification System; Source: Unseenlabs analysis

SIGINT from space is particularly effective and used as a 1<sup>st</sup> layer of information in remote areas to reveal real activities (incl. uncooperative) and/or track specific emitters of interest

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**> Gulf of Thailand Use case**

**> Seasonal Fishing Closure in the Central Gulf of Thailand**

- Implemented by the Thai Department of Fisheries
- Three management zones covering areas in Prachuap Khiri Khan, Chumphon, and Surat Thani
- Two closure periods: 15 February – 14 June 2026

Sources: <https://en.thairath.co.th/news/governmentpolicy/291240>

**> Data campaign in the Gulf of Thailand**

9 data collections  
 01 to 03 Feb. 2026  
 ~ 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> per collection

**> 9 data collections**  
 ~ 300,000 km<sup>2</sup> each

1,918 emitters detected  
 incl. 146 uncorrelated with AIS (RF only)  
 – representing 7.61% of emitters invisible to AIS monitoring systems

**> A clear traffic maritime corridor**

with fishing activity primarily located in the Vietnamese and Thai EEZs

**> RF satellites reveal additional detection and vessels in the area**

7.61% of positions invisible to AIS monitoring systems

Potential dark vessel emitters exclusively unveiled by Unseenlabs' RF technology

**> Coastal radars\* cover part of maritime RF activity monitoring, but large areas remain uncovered**

\*Estimated coverage (OSINT Unseenlabs)

Focusing on the 3 management zones, we see that more than 9% of emitters are uncooperative.

Space-based RF area monitoring fills these coverage gaps, enabling persistent surveillance of maritime activity in key fisheries zones.

> Thanks to our technology and expertise we can identify and monitor a vessel even when its AIS is off.

Each vessel emits specific radio signal. We detect it, analyze its technical features, when they are similar and stable we determine a RF fingerprint.

> By detecting a vessel RF fingerprint and correlating it to AIS information, we can identify and monitor a vessel no matter its size, flag ownership or activities

[ RF fingerprint + AIS correlation ] = Vessel Identification

Cargo PA PRIX - MMSI : 352003015

> By detecting a vessel RF fingerprint and correlating it to AIS information, we can identify and monitor a vessel no matter its size, flag ownership or activities

[ RF fingerprint + AIS correlation ] = Vessel Identification

Fishing TH HOR TAWATCHAI S - MMSI : 667254464 detected, tracked & identified

> Based on IUU fishing lists [1] of vessels, we can monitor specific vessel of interest even when its AIS is off

FONG KUO NO.819 IMO: 9513992

TYPE	Reefer
FLAG	Panama
IUU fishing	Removed in 2008 in 2 list of vessel of interest
RF DETECTION	3

[1] COMALR Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources / SEAFDEC South East Asian Fisheries Organisation

> Key Takeaways Strategic Insights & Operational Leverage

> A 9-collection campaign revealing 3 key use cases

AREA MONITORING

Monitoring dark vessels

146 uncorrelated emitters representing up to 91% in controlled fishing zones

VESSEL TRACKING

Shadow fleet tracking

Revealing one of the vessels position even when its AIS is off

VESSEL INVESTIGATION

IUU fishing vessel monitoring

Revealing potential sanctioned vessels positions near strategic zones

> We have an office in Singapore... Let's connect!

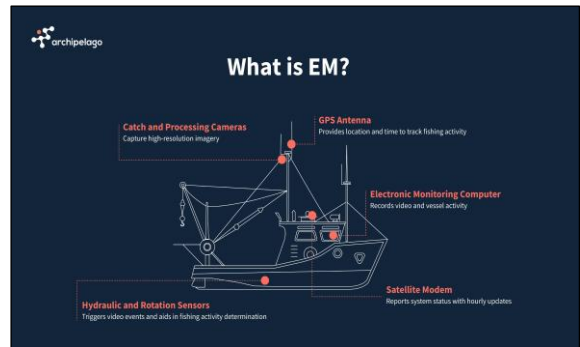
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### The Context Gap

**Fisheries Surveillance Requires Context and Data**

- Satellite systems can answer who is fishing and where, at unprecedented scale
- Landing and Market Controls (e.g. PSMA) provide traceability in the value chain

**EM Offers a Scalable Ground-Truth**

- Verifiable Fishing Effort
- Species Caught, Retained and Discarded
- Gear Deployment
- MARPOL and Transshipment
- Crew Welfare



### Program Spotlight (Australia)

Eastern Tuna and Billfish Fishery (ETBF)  
Gillnet Hook and Trap (GHAT)

### EM Drivers

- At-Sea Discards**: Discarded catch cannot be verified through landing inspections.
- Observer Limitations**: Observer coverage was costly and difficult to scale across dispersed fleets.
- Logbook Validation**: Need to independently verify fisher-reported catch and interactions.
- ETP Risk**: Longline and gillnet gear posed risks to protected species.
- Social License**: Independent monitoring improved confidence in responsible fishing practices.
- Compliance**: Limited patrol and inspection resources to meet MCS objectives.

### Products Deployed

- FishVue FLEET**: Fleet delivers actionable data from fishing operations and historical data to support sustainable practices, ensure compliance, and streamline operations.
- FishVue Vantage**: Flagship electronic monitoring (EM) system, collects multi-camera video and sensor data across a variety of fisheries.
- FishVue Interpret**: Interpret allows efficient review of video and sensor data to find important fishing events, movement and behavior trends, tracks, check gear use, and confirm interactions with discards. Efficient review workflow ensure cost-effective analysis.
- FishVue AI**: AI based multi-step analysis model that sorts fisheries data pass through numerous AI tools and then outputs data to help improve data analysis application.

### Program Structure

- Comprehensive VMS**: Mandatory VMS in all Commonwealth fisheries
- Mandatory Logs**: Daily shot-level reporting of effort and ETP interactions
- Maritime Patrols**: AFMA, Border Force and other agencies undertake IUU patrols
- EM on High-Risk Sectors**: GHAT and ETBF Fisheries deemed high risk of ETP interaction, justifying EM
- EM Audit**: 10% of events are audited against Logbook data
- Independent Structure**: Independent monitoring verifies fisher data collection

### Program Successes

- Logbook Accuracy**: EM significantly improved self-reporting of protected species interactions.
- Targeted Management**: EM Coverage on high-risk fleets allowed improve compliance resourcing
- Catch Composition**: EM enabled verification of discard practices and investigation of potential high-grading
- Risk Indicators**: EM data enabled spatial and operational risk indicators through retrospective analysis.

### Program Spotlight (Canada)

Groundfish, Hook and Line, Trap Fishery (GHLMP)

### EM Drivers

**Compliance**  
Early concerns over high-seas transshipping and gear theft

**Catch Accounting**  
Discards at sea were not captured by dockside validation

**Scalability**  
As fishing power grew, a scalable compliance solution was needed

**Conservation**  
Yelloweye rockfish bycatch mortality became a major program driver



### Products Deployed

**FishVue FLOAT**  
FishVue FLOAT is Archipelago's custom electronic fishing log application. Fleet allows vessel operators to enter and submit their fishing log information electronically.

**FishVue Vantage**  
FishVue Vantage electronic monitoring (EM) system, collects multi-camera video and sensor data across a variety of fisheries.

**FishVue Interpret**  
Interpret allows efficient review of video and sensor data to find important fishing events. Reviewers can follow vessel tracks, check gear use, and confirm violations and discards. Efficient review workflows ensure cost-effective analysis.

**FishVue AI**  
AI based multi-step analysis, trained that uses fisheries data plus through-harmonic AI tools and then outputs into Archipelago's Interpret data analysis application.

### Program Structure

**Transferrable Quotas**  
Limit catch while creating secondary markets

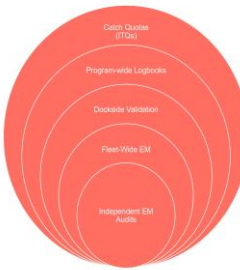
**100% EM Coverage**  
All GHLCMP vessels carry EM systems, which must be functioning every trip

**EM Audit**  
10% of events are audited against both landing and logbook data

**Mandatory Logs**  
Event- and Catch-level reporting of retained and discarded species

**Dockside Validation**  
All landings monitored to provide an independent record of landed catch items.

**Independent Structure**  
Archipelago operates independently of both regulator and industry



### Program Successes

**Logbooks and Dockside Validation**

↑

**EM**

**Full Catch Accountability**  
Traceability from catch to landing across EM, logbooks and dockside

**Catch Composition**  
Halibut catch changed dramatically as lower-risk practices adopted

**Targeted Management**  
Accurate catch data enables species-specific management measures to develop over time

**Risk Indicators**  
EM enabled more effective compliance resource allocation

### Program Spotlight (Dungeness Crab)

Washington and California State Dungeness Crab

### Program Drivers

**Scalability**  
~1000 vessels across the Pacific Coast


**Logbook Compliance**  
Existing logs either not submitted, or too coarse to be actionable

**Gear Conflicts**  
Gear theft a key program driver

**Marine Mammals**  
Additional drivers in whale entanglement mitigation

**Marine Spatial Planning**  
Limited insights across large management areas and sparse reporting

**Fishing Effort**  
Number of gear items and soak time not captured



### Products Deployed

**FishVue LIME**  
Low-cost data collection that monitors effort-based fishery activities in real time. Well suited to coastal fisheries.

**FishVue FLEET**  
Fleet delivers actionable data from fishing vessels - live and historical - to support sustainable practices, ensure compliance, and streamline operations.

### Program Structure

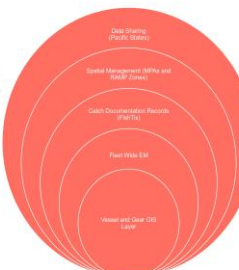
**Area-Based Management**  
Effort-limited management areas

**FishTix**  
Landing declaration made by crab buyer

**No Imagery**  
Video not required to meet management objectives

**Jurisdictional Collaboration**  
Data managed through Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for coordinated management

**Skipper Install Model**  
Large-scale deployment required simplified deployment model



### Program Successes

**Patrols**

**EM** ↔ **Market Data**

- Transparency**  
Crews have access to their own EM data
- Data Timeliness**  
Regulators access effort reports in real-time, compared to bi-weekly logbooks
- Targeted Patrols**  
Compliance Officers use EM data to coordinate field officers in real time
- Spatial Management**  
With better effort resolution, more precise area management reduces impact on fishers

### FISHVUE FLEET

### 04 New Tools Operationalising AI

### AI-Assisted Review

**Lowering Program Costs**

- Fish-in-Frame Prioritisation
- Human-in-loop Deployment Model
- Sovereign Model Development

**Improving Time to**

- Identify Fishing Events
- Verify catch
- Issue Trip Reports

### Defining 'Review'

- Audits**  
Verify data quality, consistency, and adherence to program rules
- Trip Profiling**  
Characterize each trip (vessel, area, timing, gear, target fishery)
- Fishing Gear Set & Haul Occurrences**  
Document when, where, and how each set and haul takes place

### Defining 'Review'

- Handling**  
How fish are brought on board and managed
- Sizing**  
Length / size measurements
- Catch composition**  
Target species & bycatch
- Fate**  
Kept, discarded, released, or lost
- Sorting & Storage**  
How catch is sorted, binned, and stored
- Counts**  
Number of individuals by species / category

### Defining 'Review'

- Gear Monitoring**  
Number of hooks, pots, nets, or other gear units deployed
- Compliance**  
Alignment with regulations and program requirements
- CPUE**  
Catch Per Unit Effort is the catch relative to time and gear used



### Species Classification

Binary Species and Popular Species Classification

- Growing library of accurate species classification
- Rockfish Identification
- Sablefish differentiated from other fish
- Halibut, Tuna, Toothfish

### Anonymity and Trap

Privacy and Gear Tracking

- Human faces cropped out
- Some false positives but none on traps
- Active traps are followed with a high level of precision
- Stationary traps tracked independently

### Monocular Length

Automated Length measurement with a single camera

Original Frame → Depth AI → Relative depth map (lighter pixels are closer)

### Monocular Length

Automated Length measurement with a single camera

Original Frame → Depth AI → Relative depth map (lighter pixels are closer)

Estimated fish length: 36 cm

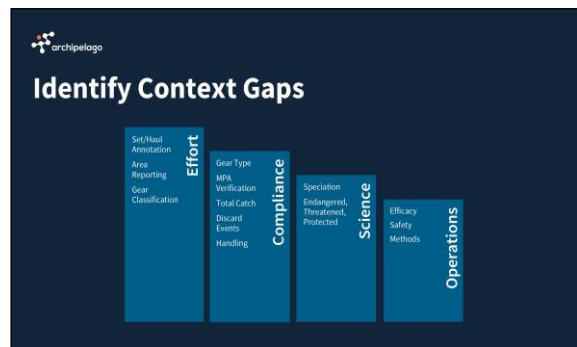
### Monocular Length

Automated Length measurement with a single camera

Original Frame → Depth AI → Relative depth map (lighter pixels are closer)

Estimated fish length: 35 cm

### 05 Lessons For Program Designers



### Identify MCS Multipliers

Combine Technologies to Strengthen MCS Objectives

**Seek Complementary Technologies**

- Audit models → Improve Log Accuracy
- EM Data → Validates Remote Sensing

**Risk-Based Enforcement**

- Segment high-trust and high-risk vessels

**Augmenting Dockside Validation**

- Ensure bycatch and discard data feed into landing data

**Ground-Truth Spatial Risk Indicators**

- Strengthen evidence of spatial violations

### Integrate Data

Insights Demand Common Standards

**Standardise Data Structures**

- Align data types across technologies to realise multiplier effects

**Partial Coverage Efficiencies**

- Audit structures reduce ongoing cost while boosting integrity
- Apply EM insights to other positional data

**Align Data Timeliness**

- Seek out technologies that deliver insights at the same frequency to maximise awareness

### MCS Toolbox

Integrated Maritime Intelligence

Maritime patrols = EM

Point Solutions

Logbooks = EM

Overflight = EM

Dockside validation = EM

MCS Black Hole

Signal Saturation

SAR/Spectrum = EM

Comment

Data

### Prioritise Sovereignty

Develop Local Review and Training

- Identify tools that enable existing staff to train advanced models
- Partner with universities and NGOs to build review capacity
- Protect your fishing data

Address Local Needs

- Local data review staff understand local practices
- Develop high-skilled roles to support fisheries sector
- Train models on species native to your waters
- Drive value for your fishing industry

# THANK YOU

[www.archipelago.ca](http://www.archipelago.ca)

**Electronic Technologies in U.S. Fisheries**

Holly McBride  
Electronic Technologies Coordinator  
Office of Science and Technology  
NOAA Fisheries

March 18, 2026

**Electronic Technologies in U.S. Federal Fisheries**

- Electronic Monitoring: Video cameras, sensors, and GPS
- eLogbook: Commercial and recreational vessel reported effort and catch
- eDSM: early discussions on Electronic Dockside Monitoring programs
- VMS: Satellite based location tracking
- eDealer: electronically reported purchase data from fish buyers
- Observer technologies

**U.S. Electronic Monitoring Programs**

**Alaska**  
Under Regulation  
• Spring Sea and Aleutian Island (SIA) Non-Pelagic Trawl Catcher/Processor (C/P)  
• Spring Sea Pelagic Trawl C/P and M/R  
• Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Trawl C/P  
• BSAI Pelagic C/P and M/R  
• Small Boat Fleet Gear (Longline and Pot)  
• Halibut Dock Sorting Trawl C/P  
• Pelagic Trawl Catcher Vessels  
Pilot Project  
• Southeast Alaska Salmon Gearnet  
• Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Trawl Catcher Vessels

**West Coast**  
Under Regulation  
• Winch Midwater Trawl  
• Fixed Gear IFG  
• Non-Winching Mid-Water Trawl  
• Groundfish Bottom Trawl

**Pacific Islands**  
Pre-implementation  
• Pelagic Longline  
• Hawaii Deep and Shallow Set

**Greater Atlantic**  
Under Regulation  
• Groundfish - Logbook Audit  
• Groundfish - Randomized Retention

**Atlantic HMS**  
Under Regulation  
• Pelagic Longline  
Pilot Project  
• Shark Bottom Longline

**From Data to Decision**

EM Program Objective	Science (Stock Assessment)	Management (Quota/Limits)	Compliance
Catch & Discard Accounting	PRIMARY	PRIMARY	Secondary (Unregulated Discards)
Bycatch (ETP) Monitoring	PRIMARY	PRIMARY (Caps)	Secondary (Handling Rules)
Retention Compliance	Secondary (In Combination with Shore-side Sampling)	Secondary (In Combination with Shore-side Sampling)	PRIMARY

**Implementation & Sampling Design**

- Data Verification (Logbook Validation) Model  
Participating vessels utilize EM on 100% of trips to verify self-reported data  
Audit Model  
% of trips/hauls randomly selected for review to ensure logbook accuracy  
Full Review Model  
100% EM recording and 100% video review
- Selective Trip Coverage  
EM systems are only activated for specific, randomly selected trips.
- Full and Maximized Retention Models  
Verify that unregulated discarding does not occur at sea  
Shore-side Monitoring  
Port-based sampling provides the catch composition and biological data
- Sensor Driven Start/Stop Recording  
Video recording is triggered only during fishing activity

**Data Governance & Ownership**

- Two Data Categories  
Distinguishing between raw video footage and the annotated data
- Funding and Governance  
Examining how industry-funded versus agency-funded models influence data control and access
- Third-Party Service Providers  
The role of vendors in data reception, processing, and storage
- Record Retention and Privacy  
Managing retention periods and protecting sensitive information under legal mandates
- Data Ownership Frameworks  
Clearly defining the rights of the industry, service providers, and government agencies

**Integrating AI Into The EM Lifecycle**

- Image Acquisition**  
Leveraging NOAA Research vessels to collect high-fidelity images for training species classification and length estimation models
- AI Initiatives**  
Developing extensible ML/AI models allowing algorithms to be adapted across various regions and gear types
- Vessel-Specific Models**  
Developing tailored models to account for the unique vessel configurations
- Model Sharing and Collaboration**  
Providing classification and length models to EM service providers through an Application Programming Interface (API) via cooperative agreements to be integrated directly into review software
- Video Review Efficiency**  
Partnering with EM providers to incorporate activity recognition

**Bigelow EM Library Project**

NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center and CVision AI

Project Goal: Leverage the bottom trawl survey aboard R/V Henry B. Bigelow to collect a library of videos suitable for training machine learning algorithms

Approach: Install cameras over three sampling stations and conveyor to gather data, matched with ground truth from FSCS software

### Footage – Tracking

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### Alaska ML/AI Project

Alaska Fisheries Science Center,  
 Alaska Regional Office,  
 Pacific States Marine Fisheries  
 Commission,  
 noXus Data Solutions,  
 Alaska Pacific University

Objectives:

- Develop ML tools to automate video review
- Assess the ability for ML to detect species
- Generate data to inform management recommendations

### Spiny Dogfish

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### Sleeper Shark

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### Foundations for EM Program Success

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### Future Direction

- Investigate and Trial Electronic Dockside Monitoring  
 Explore the feasibility of camera-based systems at landing sites.
- Establish Interoperability Standards  
 Partner with international bodies (ICES) and EM providers to standardize raw video output
- Standardize AI Protocols  
 Develop uniform requirements for training imagery and metadata
- Scale Extendable AI Models  
 Continue expanding machine learning initiatives
- Move Towards Performance-Based Requirements  
 Shift from rigid-specifications to performance-based technical standards

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Holly McBride  
 Electronic Technologies Coordinator  
 NOAA Fisheries  
 holly.mcbride@noaa.gov

### Thank You!

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**SEAFDEC**  
**Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific**  
 Pablo Trueba, Jay Bryan, Jasper Laurent  
 Bangkok, Thailand – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**ABOUT US**  
 A tech-enabled global change maker, using AI and data solutions to create a thriving equitable and sustainable future for all

**Our Vision**  
 A world where all human activity on the ocean is law abiding and sustainable.

**WHAT we do**  
 ZEROinFIVE - OceanMind

- 1 Actionable data intelligence
- 2 Specific recommendations + action plan
- 3 Localized implementation support
- 4 Regional + fleetwide collaboration
- 5 Global scalability + capacity

Funded by the Government of Canada  
**Canada**  
**Strengthening Regional Governance and Technology Integration to Fight IUU**  
 OCEAN MIND

Funded by the Government of Canada  
**Canada**  
**PSMA Implementation Cambodia – Fisheries Administration (FiA)**  
 OCEAN MIND

**PSMA IMPLEMENTATION**

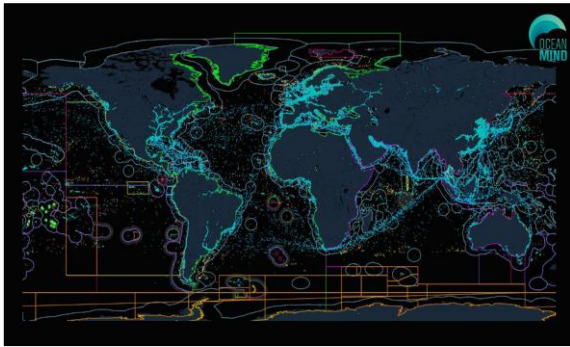
- PSM Inspection system**
  - Before entry to port
  - Inspection at port
  - Offloading control
- Traceability**
  - Electronic traceability system
  - Electronic Port State Measures (e-PSM)
  - Fisheries Single Window (FSW)
  - Processing Statement Endorsement System (PSE)
- PSM Analysis Tool**
  - National-level tool to assist implementation of PSMA through public-private partnerships

**PSM INSPECTION**

**Analysis to Support Port Inspection**

```

    graph TD
      A[AREP risk assessment used to target the inspection] --> B[100% of carriers assessed]
      B --> C[Onboard investigation]
      C --> D[Allow or deny offload]
      D --> E[Issue Port Inspection Report via e-PSM system]
      E --> F[Inspection results recorded in e-PSM system]
      F --> G[Shared with the Marine Department]
      F --> H[E-PSM system linked with Fisheries Single Window (FSW) to grant Import Permits]
  
```



**Value of coaching sessions**  
Our focus has been on aiding Cambodia Fisheries Administration with coaching sessions.

- Understand and implement the process of the "investigative mind"
- Improve knowledge on officer's role in the PSMA cycle
- Understand the types of data available
- Interpret and question the available data and recognise inconsistencies in vessel identity information and interpret risks
- Process risks associated with vessel behaviour and submitted AREP data

**What are the INVESTIGATIVE SKILLS that will assist officers? Key skills for an Investigative Mind:**

- Active listening
- Questioning
- Analysing
- Interviewing
- Note-taking
- Summarising
- Reporting

**PSMA as a "risk-based investigation" – the importance of asking questions**

Why questions are the most important PSMA tool

- Questions are important. Questions reduce uncertainty, prevent error, and justify actions.
- Turning questions into better inspections. "If it isn't asked, it isn't checked."
- Questions from the officers on the process allow us to identify any knowledge gaps that may come and help us provide more informed, practical training.

Funded by the Government of Canada

**Canada**

**PSMA Implementation Philippines – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR)**

**Introduction**

OceanMind

- Unbiased, independent monitoring, verification and validation.
- Capacity building and international cooperation.
- Work with governments and authorities, NGOs, seafood industry and academia.
- Support fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS).
- Target Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

**Background**

The Philippines is one of the world's major seafood processing countries supplying product into the USA, EU, and Japanese markets. With both the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) facing IUU fishing, there is significant risk of both IUU and the resulting catch entering these markets.

- Provide MCS data, tools and training to increase Marine Domain Awareness.
- Provide PSMA implementation support to have a long-lasting positive impact.
- Expand target inspections to maximize enforcement resources and assets.
- Support the officers to independently identify risks and disseminate risk assessments in the form of AREP reports for onboard inspections.
- To prohibit IUU catch from entering international supply chains.

**Capacity Building**

- 3 weeks of intensive training sessions on MCS, DVD and PSMART
  - 30 officers trained
- Follow up sessions on DVD, PSMART and QGIS

**Dark Vessel Detection Tool (DVD)**

SEAFDEC Canada

**Port State Measures Analysis Risk Tool (PSMART)**

- Concept for a national-level tool to assist implementation of PSMA through public-private partnerships
- Online service to enable governments, seafood suppliers, processors and retailers quickly and easily understand the compliance risks of foreign-flagged vessel deliveries
- Compliance risks identified using the pre-arrival AREP analysis

SEAFDEC Canada

**Outputs**

- 34 AREPs created using PSMART
- 9 Intelligence Gathering reports
- Patrol support reporting
- DVD & PSMART used for all above
- Officer Training Self-Assessment

SEAFDEC Canada

**Impact**

- 1 vessel refused entry in Davao
- Significant increase in officer capacity to process AREPs using multiple tools
- Incidence of requesting information from flag states due to enhanced AREP processing
- Delay of unloads due to AREP documentation request outstanding

SEAFDEC Canada

**Conclusion**

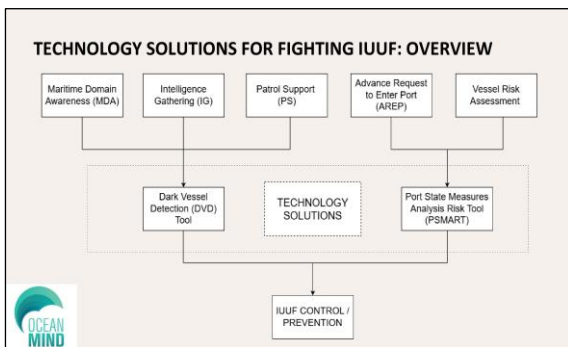
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**Canada**

**Technology Solutions**  
**Dark Vessel Detection and PSMART**

SEAFDEC Canada



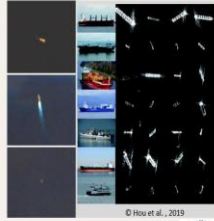
**DARK VESSEL DETECTION (DVD) TOOL**

- Is a platform used to detect, identify, classify, and track vessels in near real time.
- Integrates commercial and Canadian government satellite assets, plus AIS and VMS (if available), to provide a comprehensive view of vessel activities.
- Helps enable intelligence-led enforcement and patrol operations.

SEAFDEC Canada

### DARK VESSEL DETECTION (DVD) TOOL

- Automatic correlation of all satellite detections (SAR, EO, VIIRS, RF) with AIS and VMS (if available) transmissions– dark targets highlighted automatically.
- Near real-time provision to data.
- Philippine Government (BFAR, PCCG, NCWC) has access to this platform.



### HOW DOES DVD SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST IUUF?



- DVD is purpose-built to provide extensive satellite data in a platform that allows for rapid assessments of vessel behaviour and associated risks.
- The data in DVD can be used to identify “dark” vessels from above, assisting partner countries in investigating and enforcing against IUUF.
- This tool can enable MDA and IG analysis, to support partner countries.

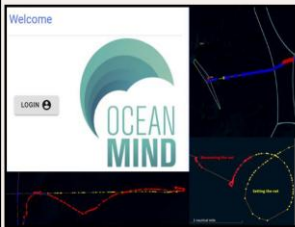
### PORT STATE MEASURES ANALYSIS Risk TOOL (PSMART)

- Concept for a national-level tool to assist implementation of PSMA through public-private partnerships
- Online service to enable governments, seafood suppliers, processors and retailers quickly and easily understand the compliance risks of foreign-flagged vessel deliveries
- Compliance risks identified using the pre-arrival AREP analysis

### PSMART USER GROUPS

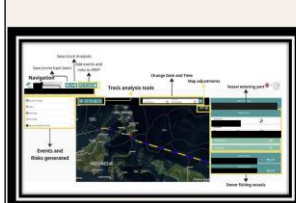
<p><b>Suppliers</b></p> <p>Simplified way to enter information. Incorporate other information on labour, health, and customs. Update inputs to validate claims.</p>	<p><b>Port State Governments</b></p> <p>Distribute automated indicators of non-compliance to authorities. Inspectors can use risk profiling to target inspections. Notification of arrivals that have not been declared.</p>	<p><b>Flag / Coastal State Governments</b></p> <p>Method to securely communicate and receive additional information. Must be aligned with PSMA information exchange mechanism.</p>	<p><b>Receivers/ Processors/ Retailers</b></p> <p>Receiver knows the risks. Claims validated. Access to the risk assessments provide 3rd party validation.</p>
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### PORT STATE MEASURES ANALYSIS RISK TOOL (PSMART)



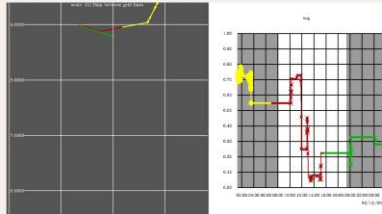
- PSMART is a reporting tool which aims to assist the partner countries to analyze and conduct risk assessment on Advanced Request to Enter Port (AREP).
- It automates vessel track analysis and identify vessel risks.

### HOW DOES PSMART SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST IUUF?

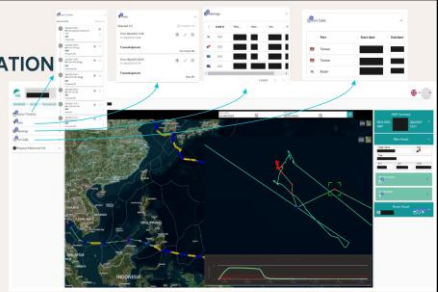


- PSMART is used to analyse port entry requests and review the vessel's activities before permission to enter port is granted.
- Government officers analyse and interpret the computational results of the system to produce risk assessments and analysis reports, which include a detailed analysis of vessel activity and history as well as investigation and inspection recommendations.

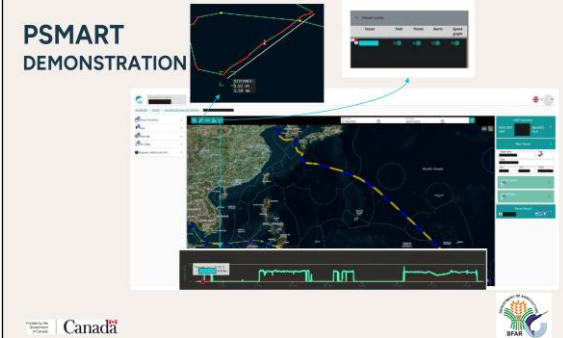
### PSMART TECHNOLOGY – MACHINE LEARNING FOR RISK ASSESSMENT




### PSMART DEMONSTRATION



**PSMART DEMONSTRATION**



Canada 


**Summary**


**Dark Vessel Detection (DVD) Platform**

- Any vessel in your EEZ, but foreign flagged fishing vessels and carriers are of high importance.
- Can produce the following:
  - Intelligence Gathering Report
  - Situational Awareness
  - Patrol Support
  - Maritime Domain Awareness

**Port State Measures Analysis Risk Tool (PSMART)**

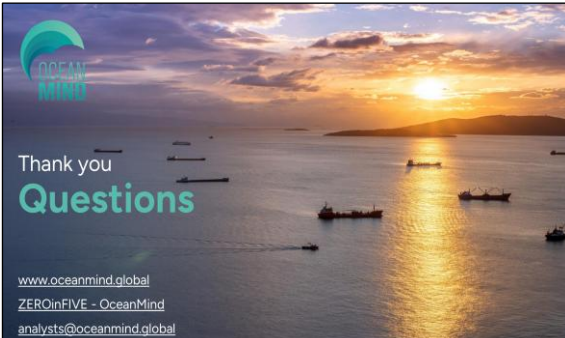
- Foreign flagged fishing, carrier or bunkering vessels wanting to enter your port.
- AREP Reports and Risk Assessments** are the outputs generated with this tool.

Canada 



Thank you  
**Questions**

[www.oceanmind.global](http://www.oceanmind.global)  
ZERQinFIVE - OceanMind  
[analysts@oceanmind.global](mailto:analysts@oceanmind.global)



**JOINT ANALYTICAL CELL**

IMCS NETWORK Global Fishing Watch TMT C4ADS SKYLIGHT

### Introduction to the Joint Analytical Cell

Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific, 17-19 March 2026, SEAFDEC (in association with DFO, Canada), Bangkok, Thailand

WHAT IS THE JAC

### JAC: Five organisations working collaboratively

- IMCS NETWORK** Leads on **Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) capacity building and training**, works to ensure the Joint Analytical Cell (JAC) output is tailored to support MCS practitioners.
- Global Fishing Watch** Provision of **tools and data** powered by satellite tracking, remote sensing and machine learning to support analysis of fishing-related activity.
- TMT** **Human analysis** of a wide range of data sources, focused on vessel and company intelligence.
- SKYLIGHT** A maritime monitoring and analysis software platform providing MCS practitioners with a **near real-time tool** to identify suspicious vessel behaviour and take action, including access to **commercial remote sensing data**.
- C4ADS** Focus on **beneficial ownership and corporate network analysis**.

THE JAC APPROACH

### JAC approach

- Each JAC organisation has unique skills and expertise
- Working collaboratively enables our countries and organisations we partner with to access the full range of expertise across the five organisations

FORMS OF SUPPORT

### Access to Data and Technology

- JAC partners develop accessible, free-to-use Monitoring, Control and Surveillance tools, platforms and emerging technologies

FORMS OF SUPPORT

### MCS Capacity Building

- The JAC is involved in capacity development and targeted technical training and assistance with fisheries enforcement agencies, networks and other partners including educational institutions
- Focus is to build capacity to apply data and technology to fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)
- Approaches include: Train the trainer, mentoring, and in-person and on-the-job training

FORMS OF SUPPORT

### Patrol Support

- Combined JAC expertise, data, and tools has been used to support patrol planning, execution, and post patrol lesson learning and follow ups
- Improves targeting of and efficiency of patrols

FORMS OF SUPPORT

### Port State Measures (PSM) Support

- PSM capacity building
- Facilitating exchange of information between relevant PSM States

OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATIONS

### JAC presentations today

4 JAC members will be presenting today

- GFW
- C4ADS
- Skylight
- IMCS Network
- TMT not presenting today

# Global Fishing Watch

Using open access data and tools to help combat IUU fishing

## Today's Session Covers

- Who is Global Fishing Watch (GFW)?
- Our platform, data & tools
- Cooperation with governments and key actors
- Case studies and demonstration of the Global Fishing Watch platform

## Who is Global Fishing Watch?

Founded via collaboration between Google, Oceana, and SkyTruth 2015

Established as a nonprofit in 2017

Largely grant funded by philanthropic foundations

Plus a small amount of government funding

## GFW's Mission

"Global Fishing Watch seeks to advance ocean governance through increased transparency of human activity at sea by creating and publicly sharing map visualizations, data and analysis tools that enable scientific research and drive a transformation in how we manage our ocean."

## GFW's Strategy

1. Map human activity at sea
2. Engage governments to use open data and adopt transparency
3. Advance transparency in international policies and fora

Technology and engineering

Research

Policy

Analysis and capacity development

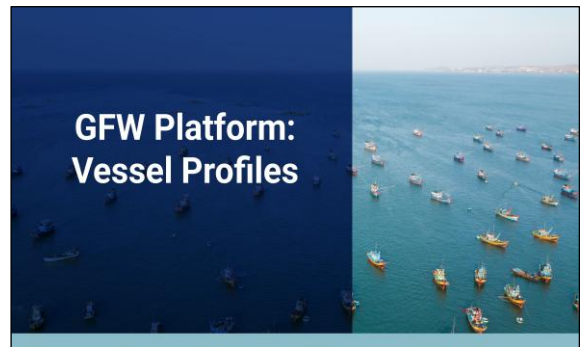
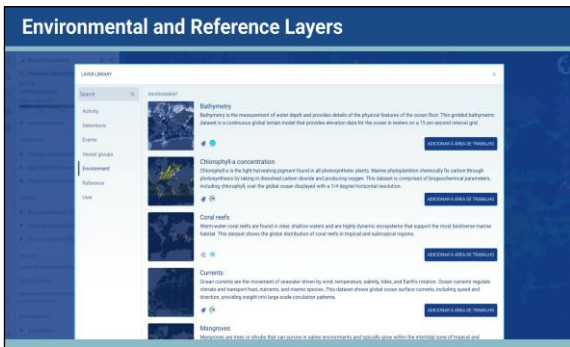
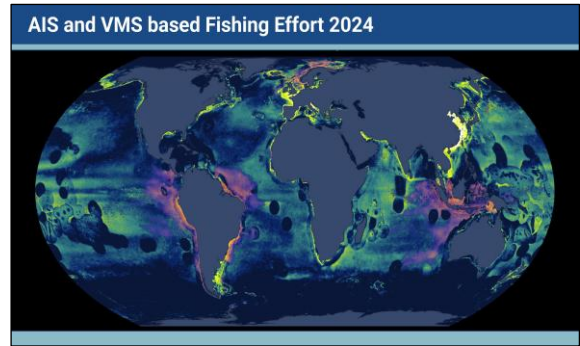
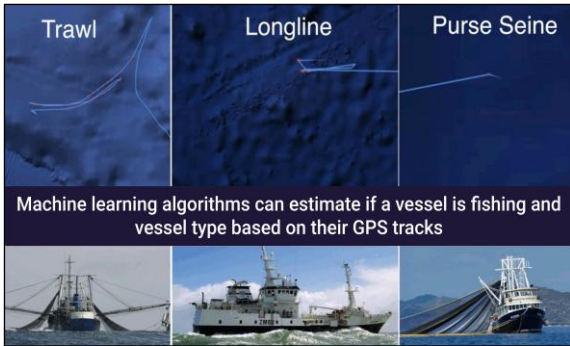
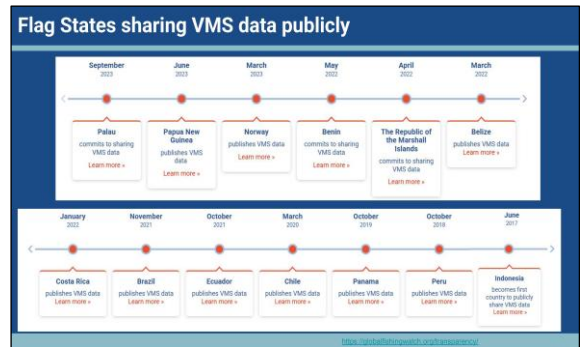
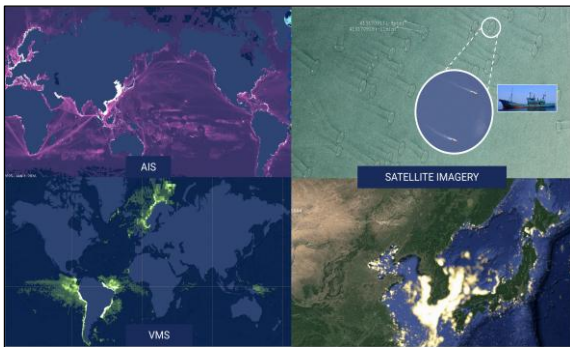
Team composed of approximately 120+ people; 30 Countries

## Global Fishing Watch Platform

## The Global Fishing Watch Platform

Open-access online tool for visualization and analysis of vessel-based human activity at sea.

<https://globalfishingwatch.org/our-map>



### Vessel Profiling

- A single powerful search engine of >220k vessels involved in fishing
- Vessel profiles including public registry, self-reported AIS/ VMS identity and activity information
- Vessel insights to improve cross checks and risk assessments powered by vessels behaviours
- Risk evaluation of potential association with IUU fishing, highlight gaps for further investigate
- Direct integration and cross-links with other platforms

Global Fishing Watch

### Pioneering technology for effective MCS

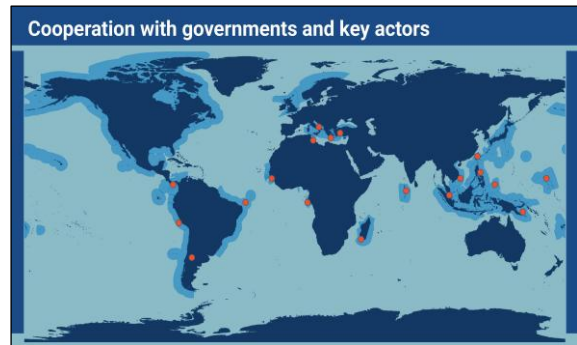
**Historical data**  
 Several years of data across all datasets from 2012 until the last 72 hours - apparent fishing encounters, vessel detections, tracks and identity

**Dynamic analysis**  
 Conduct fleet and area based analysis for up to 1000 vessels at a time, create and share dynamic reporting

**Easy to use**  
 Designed with both experts and non-experts in mind

**Open and free**  
 Free to anyone with an Internet, mid-level computers

Global Fishing Watch



### Capacity development and Policy Support

Types of capacity development and policy support GFW has offered to date include:

- Structured Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Course Modules
- Informal mentoring & coaching in workplace
- Review of Policy and decision making processes
- Developing protocols (e.g. Standard Operating Procedures - SOPs)
- Learning collaboratives/ Knowledge Exchange (sharing information)

### Example Partnership Events in Indo-Pacific Region

Madagascar (GFW)	Sep 2025	MCS training modules
Philippines (JAC)	Feb 2026	Data analysis and intelligence creation using various MDA tools including the GFW Map
Papua New Guinea (GFW)	Aug 2025	Regional Knowledge Exchange between The Philippines and Papua New Guinea on implementing the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)
SEAFDEC (JAC)	Sep 2025	Regional training course for fisheries inspectors in implementation of PSMs (ASEAN)

### Intelligence Support

- Actionable fisheries intelligence
- Proactive and reactive
- Analysis of vessel tracks, activities and vessel identities
- Analysis of fleet activities

Encounter between the QIAN YUAN (Fish carrier) and FU YUAN YU BAIT (Dolphin whale)  
 Start: Jun 17th, 2022 02:10:00 UTC  
 End: Jun 17th, 2022 04:20:00 UTC  
 Duration: 2 hours 10 minutes

### Case Study - Reefer Qian Yuan

Qian Yuan

REGISTRY (SEAFDEC)  
 SHIPNAME: QIAN YUAN  
 VESSEL ID: 813003734  
 IMO: 8216722  
 CALL SIGN: TJAC141  
 GROSS TONNAGE: 14975.000  
 DEADWEIGHT: 7.480  
 YEAR BUILT: 1998  
 VESSEL TYPE: REEFER FRIGATE

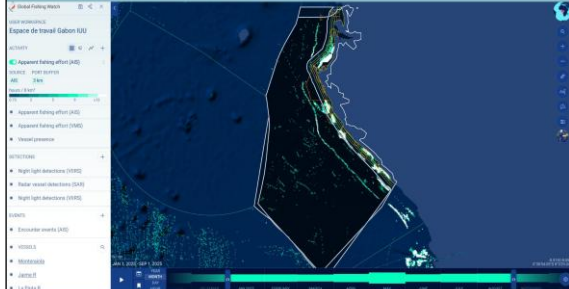
### Patrol Support



- Use a combination of open source data and tools to support patrol planning through analysis of historical trends
- Improve targeting of and efficiency of patrols

Global Fishing Watch

### Case Study - Support to Operation Albacore in Gabon




### Key Messages

- Global Fishing Watch is one of 5 organisations that work collaboratively & globally as the Joint Analytical Cell (JAC)
- Each JAC partner brings its unique strengths; Working together creates better actionable insights
- GFW's platform provides free-to-access to tools and data powered by satellite tracking, remote sensing and machine learning to support analysis of fishing-related activity (72-hour delay)
- GFW supports partners to use our platform and tools to help combat IUU fishing



Global Fishing Watch

JOINT ANALYTICAL CELL



#### About the Joint Analytical Cell:

The Joint Analytical Cell (JAC) is a unique collective of organizations that provides maritime authorities with high quality fisheries intelligence, technology, data analysis and capacity building to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU). Together, the JAC members: IMCS Network, Global Fishing Watch, TMT, C4ADS and Skylight, harness innovative technology and complementary expertise to improve the effectiveness of fisheries monitoring control and surveillance, and foster cooperation to build insights and capacity that support and enhance fisheries management.

Contact: [jac@globalfishingwatch.org](mailto:jac@globalfishingwatch.org)

[www.tmt-tracking.org](http://www.tmt-tracking.org) | [www.mcsnet.org](http://www.mcsnet.org) | [www.globalfishingwatch.org](http://www.globalfishingwatch.org)

# Questions?

Global Fishing Watch

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**JOINT ANALYTICAL CELL**  
 IMCS NETWORK | Global Fishing Watch | TMT | C4ADS | SKYLIGHT

**C4ADS- BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP AND NETWORK ANALYSIS**  
 SEAFDEC March 2026

Funded by / Financé par :  
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada | Pêches et Océans Canada

**C4ADS**

**OUR MISSION IS TO SUPPORT GLOBAL EFFORTS TO DETECT, DISRUPT AND DEFEAT ILLICIT NETWORKS.**

Powered by cutting-edge data science, innovative technology applications, and evidence-driven analysis, we work to coordinate effective global solutions to the illicit networks that drive **conflict, instability, environmental crime, and human rights abuses** around the world.

**C4ADS**

**WILDLIFE & NATURAL RESOURCE SECURITY**

Advance the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of wildlife by exposing where illicit activity enters supply chains, identifying the networks that enable it, and building frontline capacity to disrupt it.

**WILDLIFE CRIMES | IUU FISHING | ILLEGAL LOGGING | ILLEGAL MINING**

**IUU FISHING PORTFOLIO**

Targeting the Full System to Counter IUU Fishing

**COUNTERING IUU FISHING: C4ADS APPROACH**

Targeting the owners, enablers, and systems that make IUU fishing profitable

**Vessel-Level Analysis**

- Identify vessel movements via AIS and satellite analysis
- Uncover evidence of IUU or forced labor

**Fleets Connected through Ownership**

- Reveal fleet connections and beneficiaries of illicit activity by analyzing ownership networks
- Disrupt financial flows that control large fleets

**Network of On and Off-shore Enablers**

- Investigate port agents, oil tankers, refrigerated cargo vessel, insurance agencies etc.
- Reveal cross-jurisdictional commercial and ownership connections between fishing fleet and its enablers

TRITON

C4ADS

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

Ultimate Beneficial Owner (UBO) is a term used to describe the person or people who ultimately control or own a company

**Network Analysis**  
 Identify companies and people associated with vessels of interest.

**Identifying Risks Within Fleets**  
 Examine fleets as a whole and other associated risks or behavior of the fleet

**Accountability**  
 Identify those responsible or benefiting from illicit activity

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**Mapping Ultimate Beneficial Ownership**

- 1 Collect vessel data
- 2 Verify vessel identity
- 3 Identify first-level ownership and management entities
- 4 Identify second-level ownership and management entities
- 5 Identify the ultimate beneficial owners

**CASE STUDY: PINGTAN MARINE ENTERPRISE**

### CHINA-FLAGGED REEFER DETAINED: THE EVENT

On August 13<sup>th</sup> 2017, the Fu Yuan Yu Leng 999 was detained in the Galapagos Islands with over 300 tons of catch and 6,600 sharks, including newborn sharks, shark fins, and CITES-protected hammerheads

August 5 - August 6, the Fu Yuan Yu Leng 999 met with four fishing vessels before being detained in the Galapagos Maritime Sanctuary on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

The Fu Yuan Yu Leng 999, owned and operated by Hongking Ocean Fishing Co. Ltd.

### CHINA-FLAGGED REEFER DETAINED: THE VESSEL

We first identified associated vessels, registered owners, subsidiaries, and shareholders.

#### VESSEL IDENTIFICATION & FLEET BUILDOUT

- Vessel Registries (IMO vessel authorization lists Global Fishing Watch)
- Vessel Authorizations and vessel licenses
- PME's official website
- Maritime Intelligence Platforms (IS-Market / Equas)
- Corporate registries (China, Hong Kong, and Indonesia, etc)
- Stock exchange listings
- Chinese Ministry of Commerce overseas investment data (MOFCOM)

### CHINA-FLAGGED REEFER DETAINED: THE OUTCOME

- PME has a **proven history of IUU fishing**, with grave implications for vulnerable coastal countries like Indonesia, Timor-Leste, and Ecuador.
- PME is comprised of a broader corporate network of subsidiary and linked companies in mainland China, Hong Kong, and Indonesia.
- CAADS identified **fourteen forced labor incidents**, involving over 80 fishermen, onboard the company's vessels. Each of these incidents fell into one of two overlapping categories: 1) forced labor and exploitation, or 2) severe injury and death.
- PME is linked to and completely dependent on the Chinese state through subsidies, partial ownership, loans, and political affiliations amongst its directorship.

By May 9, 2023

- If ever designation of a Chinese fishing company
- If ever SEC de-listing of a PRC domiciled company in the USA

## METHODS AND LIMITATIONS

### VESSEL OWNERSHIP RELATIONSHIPS

Global Fishing Watch    Equas: Vessel level management info    Company fleet information

### CORPORATE DATA SOURCES

- CATALOGUE OF RESEARCH DATABASES
- opencorporates
- New Zealand
- Vietnam

### LIMITATIONS

Corporate records are not always easily available and vary in required information.

<b>Secrecy</b> In some jurisdictions, corporate records are not made public or are only partially public.	<b>Non-digitization</b> In some jurisdictions, corporate records are publicly available, but only by actual individuals arriving on site, limiting utility.
<b>Scarcity</b> In some jurisdictions, corporate records are simply not available or not available to the public in a reasonably accessible manner.	<b>Lack of common standards</b> Individual jurisdictions may offer excellent access, but without common global standards, it is tough to get a true picture of ownership.

### LIMITATIONS

Three significant limitations preventing full visibility into onshore ownership networks.

<b>Data Variance</b> No universally agreed upon definition or standard for ownership reporting. This hinders wide scale ownership mapping and allows owners to exploit gaps to disguise their activities.	<b>Data Accessibility</b> Onshore ownership information is not readily accessible and requires combining data from multiple sources, creating a high analytical burden, particularly for under-resourced fishing enforcement agencies.	<b>Regulatory Loopholes</b> Gaps in reporting requirements allow owners to conceal their histories and mask foreign investment. This makes identifying true owners more difficult.
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# TRITON WALKTHROUGH

**TRITON**  
by CAADS

A platform for regulators, enforcement, and civil society to explore beneficial ownership data behind the world's industrial fishing fleet

- Search through ~180,000 entities industrial fishing vessels, companies, and individuals
- Identify the vessel, companies and individuals within a network
- Narrow searches based on compliance, registration, and geography
- Download network entity identifiers
- Partner with the JAC / CAADS for in depth information and additional analytical support

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# COUNTER IUU WITH PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Access and Analyze Open Source Information

## Publicly Available Information Verticals

Verticals can have thousands of subordinate sources that piece together a comprehensive investigation

- Surface Web**: What is out there?
- Corporate Records**: Who owns what?
- Trade Data**: What is a company doing?
- Transport Data**: What is going where?
- Procurement Records**: What is being purchased?
- Judicial Registries**: What is being sold?
- Biographical Data**: How can you verify identity?
- Location Data**: Where are devices?
- Social Media**: What is going where?
- Property Records**: Who owns property?

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Access and Analyze Open Source Information

## General Guidelines

When conducting investigations, good evidentiary standards are crucial to the credibility of your conclusions.

(Some of) C4ADS's Analytical Standards:

- Stay objective and non-partisan
- Explain uncertainties
- Identify assumptions
- Explain changes
- Understand your sources

- Stay skeptical!
- Keep track of your process!
- Cite your sources!

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Access and Analyze Open Source Information

## Why Bother with Searches?

- The Google Search index contains hundreds of billions of web pages and is well over 100,000,000 gigabytes in size. The same is true for other search engines!
- Making this data useful means giving your search engine the clearest instructions possible as to what you are looking for, ensuring you have the best chance of finding your answers in a more limited set of results

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## Boolean Searches

Boolean terms are ways to specify to Google which phrases or words in your search are most important and how they relate to each other.

**BOOLEAN LOGIC**

- AND**: Both terms
- OR**: Either term
- NOT**: Only one term

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## No Boolean Operators - 3 Million Results

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### Exact Phrase Match

Google search results for "ivory seizure". A callout box points to the search bar containing "ivory seizure" and the text "Add quotation marks to search for exact phrases".

### AND: Must Include Both Words

Google search results for "ivory AND seizure". A callout box points to the search bar containing "ivory AND seizure" and the text "Use operators to upgrade to Boolean searching. Common operators AND to include both phrases must be in each OR to indicate either phrases must be in each".

### Search By Site

Google search results for "ivory seizure site:motionmagazine.com". A callout box points to the search bar containing "ivory seizure site:motionmagazine.com" and the text "Search terms in specific sites by searching with site:www.website.com".

### Search by Filetype

Google search results for "ivory seizure filetype:pdf". A callout box points to the search bar containing "ivory seizure filetype:pdf" and the text "Search terms in specific file types by searching with filetype:xxx".

### Searches Within Timeframe

Google search results for "ivory seizure". A callout box points to the search bar containing "ivory seizure" and the text "A full list of the 52 Google search operators is available HERE". A date range selector is also visible.

## SEIBU NETWORK ANALYSIS

### SEIBU NETWORK

Network diagram showing connections between entities. A callout box points to a Google search for "GREEN WORLD CO LTD" and "Legal".

### SEIBU NETWORK

Network diagram showing connections between entities. A callout box points to a Google search for "GREEN WORLD CO LTD" and "Legal". A table of search results is also visible.



JOINT ANALYTICAL CELL

**About the Joint Analytical Cell:**

The Joint Analytical Cell, or JAC, provides authorities with fisheries intelligence, data analysis and capacity building to help combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Founded by the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network, Global Fishing Watch and TMT-Tracking, the initiative harnesses innovative technology and the complementary expertise of its collaborating organizations to improve the effectiveness of fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance. By fostering cooperation among State and non-State partners, the JAC seeks to build insights and capacity that will help enhance fisheries management.

Contact: [info@jaccell.org](mailto:info@jaccell.org)

[www.jaccell.org](http://www.jaccell.org) | [www.imcsnetwork.org](https://www.imcsnetwork.org) | [www.globalfishingwatch.org](https://www.globalfishingwatch.org) | [www.tmt-tracking.org](https://www.tmt-tracking.org) | [www.c4ads.org](https://www.c4ads.org)

### MARITIME INSIGHTS

## Using Space-Based Technology for Dark Fleet Monitoring

Michel Dionne  
Product Manager, Maritime Insights  
MDA Space, Geointelligence

March 2026

MDA SPACE

### Space-Based, Terrestrial, Vessel AIS – Easily Manipulated!

- The self-reporting nature of AIS easily leads bad actors to multiple positional strategies
- Going "Dark" can mean turning off the transponders
- It can also mean fixing, or manipulating a position report

### Space-Based Sensors – Starting to Address the Problem

- This is where the addition of multiple space-based sensors can start to make a difference
- A combination of Synthetic Aperture Radar, Electro-Optical, Radio-Frequency and Infrared sensors can provide multiple times daily coverage and enable a view of the maritime activity that is:
  - Available throughout the day... and night
  - Unhindered by cloud
  - Cannot be manipulated

### CHORUS - Changing How & When you see the World

- Dual Satellites:**  
X-Band & C-Band in an inclined orbit; cover age +/-62 deg coverage day/night; all weather
- Innovations:**  
More coverage; better access; revisit; less noise; faster data rates; 20 mins duty cycle
- Near-Real Time:**  
Shorter tasking timelines and low latency; Global Network, with AI for automation
- Multiple Use Cases & Flexible ConOps:**  
Maritime, Land Monitoring; both systematic and taskable collections

**Next Generation SAR constellation empowering effective Land and Maritime surveillance in support of addressing critical operational issues**

### CHORUS C + X and RADARSAT-2 – One Day Access

### CHORUS Cross Cue

- CHORUS C collects broad area image
- Downlink to ground
- Identify vessel of interest (e.g. dark target)
- Cross-cue to trailing CHORUS X

### CHORUS Cross Cue

- CHORUS C collects broad area image
- Downlink to ground
- Identify vessel of interest (e.g. dark target)
- Cross-cue to trailing CHORUS X
- CHORUS X collects high resolution images
- Downlink to ground
- High Res VOI

### Maritime Insights – The World's Largest Sensor Suite

- SAR Detections**
  - Active sensing with synthetic aperture radar is used to detect vessels through clouds / day or night
- Optical Detections**
  - Multi-source optical sensing is used to detect, classify and identify vessels of interest
- RF Detections**
  - Passive space-based sensing is used to detect common maritime RF transmitters (S- and X-Band navigation radars, VHF and Sat phones)
- VIIRS Detections**
  - EO from NASA / NOAA is used to detect vessels from their emitted lights

### Maritime Insights - Multi-Source Sensor Fusion

**SAR Vessel Detection**

- Advanced Signal processing capabilities driven by 17-years of development in SAR Science
- Developing AI augmentation

**Electro-Optical AI Insights**

- Diverse vendor multi-resolution model built for many partners across the whole market
- Effective detection of vessels across varied marine environments

**Infrared AI Analytics for VIIRS**

- Noise-resistant AI analytic originally designed for detecting squid fishing vessels
- Enhanced to now detect relatively faint lights

**Radio Frequency Detection & Identification**

- RF detection reports are fused into tracks with other data sources.
- Partner-provided insights on emitter fingerprinting

### DFO International Fisheries Enforcement

#### Canada – Dark Vessel Detection Platform Overview

Dustin De Gagne  
Senior Program Officer

Government of Canada Government of Canada

Conservation and Protection / CONSERVATION ET PROTECTION

### Canada's Dark Vessel Detection Program - Overview

- A near real-time, multi-source satellite maritime surveillance capability that detects and tracks vessels
- Automatically identifies non-AIS broadcasting "dark" vessels detected in satellite imagery.
- Canada's government-owned RadarSat Constellation Mission (RCM) and a suite of commercial satellite sources for ship detection.
- Deployed internationally by Fisheries and Oceans Canada to combat IUU fishing, enhance maritime domain awareness, and counter maritime security challenges.

Global AIS coverage

Multi-source satellite data access

Highlights non-broadcasting "dark vessels"

Near real-time data delivery

Added identification of satellite data with AIS

Web-based

Vessel behavior detection and alerts

Vessel registry and historical data

Sharing and export functions

### Dark Vessel Detection Data Types

Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)

Radio Frequency (RF)

VIIRS

Optical

S-AIS

VMS

Vessel details

Environmental Data

Government of Canada Government of Canada

### Examining Vessels and Tracks

- All transponder data is listed in here
- Historical / Future Track**: clicking this will display the vessel's historical AIS track / movement history (up to 160 days)
- Add to List**: marks this position on the map for future reference
- RFMOIU**: indicates if the vessel is registered for fishing or has been recorded in IUU activities before.
- Fishing Probability**: likelihood the vessel's movement is indicating fishing practices.
- Vessel Details**: is linked to registry information

### Analytics, behavior detection, alerts

Rendezvous Detection

Fishing Behavior

Loitering Detection

AIS reporting Interruptions

Geofence Enter/exit

- Custom alerts for behaviors like loitering, rendezvous, AIS interruption, geofence entry/exit etc.
- Real-time email alerts and notifications for rapid response

### SAR sources in DVD

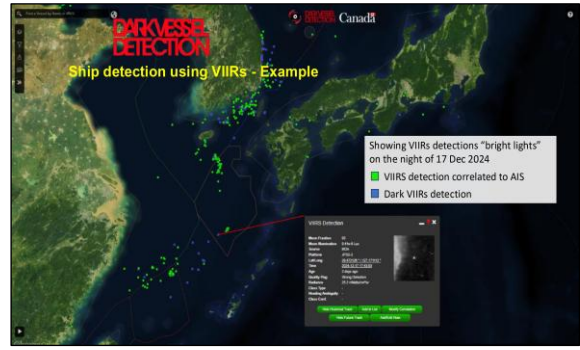
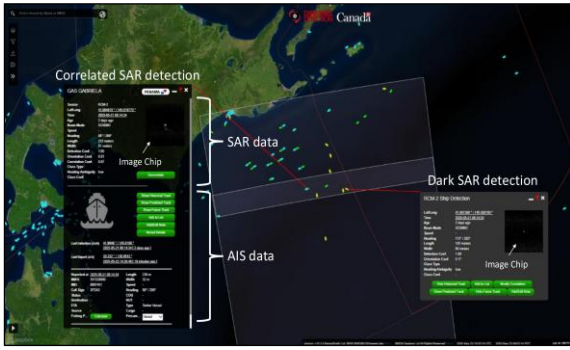
RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM)

RADARSAT-2

ICEYE

### RADARSAT Constellation Mission (RCM)

- Used and controlled by Government of Canada
- Approximately +15 swaths per day in Philippines
- Exact orientation of swaths depends on orbit of satellite
- Large imaging capacity for broad area detection
  - Can detect metal vessels 30-40m+ in length
- Provides frequent SAR broad area ship detections over the AOIs and can validate detections from other sources

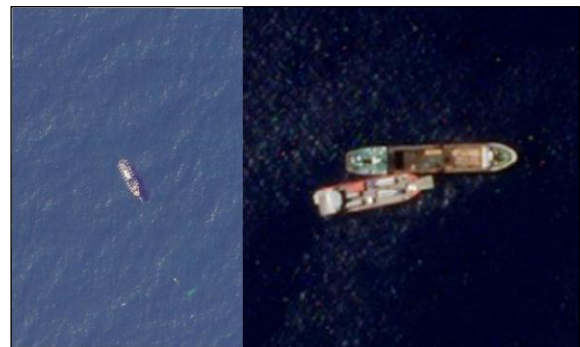
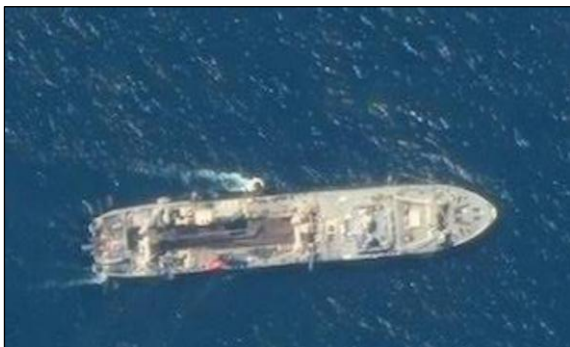
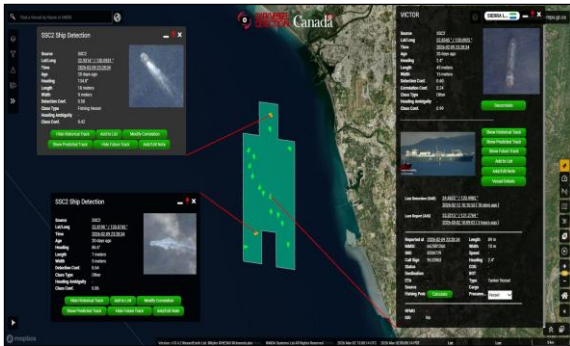


**RF Signal Mapping**

DVD utilizes data from commercial SIGINT RF vendors, including UnseenLabs, to geolocate RF signals of interest (SOIs)

- VHF 30MHz-300MHz**
  - 49 VHF Marine Communications Channels, includes AIS
- L-Band 1GHz-2GHz**
  - L-Band Mobile Satellite devices from Inmarsat and Thuraya (phones, data), FADs, VMS devices, Iridium phones
- S-Band 3GHz**
  - Marine Navigation Radars, used especially when in rain or fog as well as for identification and tracking
- X-Band 8GHz-12GHz**
  - Marine Navigation Radars used for a sharper image and better resolution (and smaller antenna)

Includes images of a VHF radio, a smartphone, and a radar antenna.





### Maritime Insights - Multi-Source Analytics

- Dark Rendezvous**
  - Vessels in class proximity trigger alerts
- Behavior Classification**
  - Vessel movements are monitored to identify when fishing is taking place
- Statistical Prediction**
  - Large dataset informed prediction of where a vessel will move based on class and size.
- AIS Manipulation Alerts**
  - Where AIS positions don't align with the satellites receiving their transmissions

### Maritime Insights - Sensor Exploitation (in progress)

- CHORUS Cross-Cue**
  - Targeting points of interest within a CHORUS-C collection to image using CHORUS-X
- In-Platform Tasking**
  - The predicted passage of a vessel is polled against vendor API's to determine upcoming imaging opportunities
- Dark Ship Identification**
  - Ai is used to recognize a vessel in an Earth observation image
  - Matches a given image against a database of other EO and photographic resources
- Dark Tracks**
  - Detections from multiple sources are linked regardless of AIS
  - Allows a dark vessel to be tracked
  - Extracting speed and heading

### DARKVESSEL DETECTION SAR Detections - Use Case

### Ship detection using RF - Example

### Electro-optical Ship Detection

- High-resolution imagery (up to ~30 cm) from multiple commercial providers
- Time-sensitive tasking
- Visual confirmation of behaviors such as transshipment, gear deployment, or rendezvous
- Object-level detection (e.g., fishing gear) enables validation of suspected IUU activity

### Environmental Layers

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## CLOSING REMARKS

*By Ms. Sampan Panjarat*  
Secretary-General and Chief of the Training Department

Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN Member States, resource persons, ladies and gentlemen.

As we come to the end of the Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific, held from 17 to 19 March 2026, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all participants for your active engagement and valuable contributions throughout the past three days.

During this workshop, the demonstrations and presentations from our distinguished resource persons have also provided valuable insights into emerging technologies and practical approaches that can support fisheries monitoring and enforcement efforts, while the discussions among participants have helped strengthen technical dialogue and institutional cooperation among countries in the region.

On this occasion, I would once again like to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Canada for its generous support in organizing this workshop. I would also like to thank our resource persons from the Government of Canada, FAO/RAP, IMCS Network, RPOA-IUU, Unseenlabs, Archipelago Marine Research Ltd., NOAA, OceanMind, Global Fishing Watch, C4ADS, MDA Ltd., and Skylight for sharing their expertise and valuable insights.

I would also like to thank all representatives from ASEAN Member States for your active participation and constructive discussions, which have greatly contributed to the success of this workshop.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope that the knowledge shared and the connections built during this workshop will further strengthen our regional cooperation and support continued efforts to combat IUU fishing.

With that, I would like to officially declare this workshop closed.

Thank you very much, and I wish you a safe journey home.



**Training Department**  
**Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center**  
**[www.seafdec.or.th](http://www.seafdec.or.th)**

