



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2021/SOM1/CTI/WKSP/006

Session: 2

Best Practice in Addressing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Subsidies That Contribute to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Submitted by: Thailand



**Workshop on APEC Best Practice in
Addressing Subsidies That Contribute to
Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
22 February 2021**



“Best Practice in Addressing IUU Fishing and Subsidies that Contribute to IUU fishing”

The Department of Fisheries, Thailand

APEC Best Practice in Addressing Subsidies that Contribute to IUU fishing

APEC Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) Online Workshop,
22 February 2021

Outline

- Thailand's Fishery Reform to Combat IUU Fishing
 - Thailand' Success in Combating IUU Fishing
- Thailand's IUU Determination
 - Penalties and Transparency
- Thailand's Practice against Subsidies Contributing to IUU Fishing

Thailand's Fishery Reform to Combat IUU Fishing

- Since 2015, Thailand has implemented the fundamental reform of the Thai Fisheries sector.
- Thailand has overhauled and modernized its fisheries sector and built a robust new legal and policy framework to ensure sustainable, environmentally and socially friendly industry, and complied with international laws and regulations



Thailand' Success in Combating IUU Fishing

- I. New Fisheries Laws and Regulations
- II. Overhauled Fisheries Management System
- III. Robust Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) System
- IV. More Rigorous Law Enforcement & Deterrent Sanctions
- V. New Enhanced Traceability System
- VI. Proactive International Cooperation

Thailand' Success in Combating IUU Fishing

I. New Fisheries Laws and Regulations

- ▲ Robust and modern fisheries legal and policy framework consistent with relevant international law
- ▲ the efficient tools to address IUU fishing and manage sustainable fisheries for Thailand as Flag State, Coastal State and Port State
- ▲ Thailand' New Fisheries Laws - Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E.2558 (2015) and its amendments in 2017
- ▲ Thailand also adopts:
 - FAO's Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA)
 - United Nations Fish Stock Agreement, 1995 (UNFSA)
 - National Marine Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)
 - National Plan of Action to combat IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU)

Thailand' Success in Combating IUU Fishing

II. Overhauled Fisheries Management System

- Implementing fishing vessel registration and licensing
- Controlling fishing effort through limiting the fishing days and the number of vessels based on MSY and gear regulations
- Implementing various fisheries resource enhancement and conservation measures

Thailand' Success in Combating IUU Fishing

III. Robust Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) System

- Establishment of Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) in 2016
- Port, sea and air surveillance
- Developed IT system to ensure effective remote surveillance
- Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) installed in all Thai commercial vessels ≥ 30 GT
- Port In-Port Out (PIPO) control of Thai flagged vessels
- Strict implementation of Port State Measures (PSM) to inspect foreign vessels

Thailand' Success in Combating IUU Fishing

IV. More Rigorous Law Enforcement & Deterrent Sanctions

- Adopted a policy of strict enforcement and prosecution
- Implemented significant deterrent measures with higher fines and administrative sanctions
- Expedited legal processes
- Action taken by Thailand as a Flag State against IUU fishing by regulating and monitoring the Thai overseas fishing fleet

Thailand' Success in Combating IUU Fishing

V. New Enhanced Traceability System

Thailand has established a comprehensive traceability system covering the whole supply chain as well as all modes of transportation to combat IUU fishing in line with international standards.

VI. Proactive International Cooperation

- Thailand has been strengthening cooperation with various third economies, including Flag states, Coastal states and Port states to better tackle IUU fishing.
- Thailand has also continued to strengthen its cooperation with various Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs), such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

Thailand's IUU Determination

Under the “Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E.2558 (2015) and its amendments (2017) defined 14 types of fishing operations as severe infringements (Section 114) and imposed penalties for serious infringements (Section 113) such as:

- i. Seizure of the aquatic animals and aquatic animal products obtained from any such fishing operation or seizure of fishing gear;
- ii. Prohibition of any fishing activity until full compliance is achieved;
- iii. Suspension of fishing license for a period not exceeding ninety days each time
- iv. Revocation of license and publicly listing the fishing vessel as a vessel used in IUU fishing;
- v. Detention of the fishing vessel.

Fine penalties are also prescribed, maximum fine is 30 million Baht or upon proportional sanction to prevent repeating guilty

Thailand's IUU Determination

The publication of IUU fishing vessel list:

- ▲ Thailand has published its IUU list of Thai vessels and IUU list of foreign vessels or vessels without nationality/registration number engaged in illegal fishing in Thai waters.
- ▲ Thailand has also published the fishing vessels listed under all RFMOs IUU list leading to a prohibition to enter Thai waters and use Thai port services.

➤ **Thailand's Practice against Subsidies Contributing to IUU Fishing**

Upon strong disciplines of Thailand to fight against IUU, the vessel engaged in IUU fishing shall not be supported by the government financial assistance program.

Example

- Thailand's buy back vessel program since 2019 prescribed that all vessels in the program must not be engaged in IUU fishing, and the bought-back vessels shall be dismantled.