

The 14th Coordination Committee Meeting
Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including
Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Region
13-15 December 2021

Summary Report

General Overview

The 14th Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU) Coordination Committee Meeting (CCM) was conducted virtually over three days from 13-15 December 2021. The first day was a closed session attended by all 11 (eleven) RPOA-IUU participating countries (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam). The second and the third days were open session attended by the 11 (eleven) RPOA-IUU participating countries, RPOA-IUU advisory bodies, and RPOA-IUU observers. The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) attended as an advisory body, observers consisted of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) and Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (ATSEA-2) project.

The detailed information of participants who attended the 14th RPOA-IUU CCM can be seen in **Annex 1** and the updated list of RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee representatives is shown in **Annex 2**.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Duane Bridger (Director, Fisheries Governance and Trade Section; Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment; Australia), Mr. Arip Hidayatulloh (Secretary of RPOA-IUU Secretariat), and Mr. Eko Rudianto (Alternate RPOA-IUU Secretariat Coordinator).

Opening Session

Mr. Suharta, Secretary of Directorate General Surveillance for Marine Resources Management - Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) Indonesia, as RPOA-IUU Secretariat Coordinator, conveyed the welcoming remarks. He welcomed and acknowledged all participants and delegates participating in the 14th RPOA-IUU CCM. Mr. Suharta also cited the objectives of the 14th RPOA-IUU CCM and shared the expected outcomes from this meeting. The welcoming remarks of Mr. Suharta are available in the **Annex 3**.

Mr. Duane Bridger delivered further welcoming remarks. Mr. Bridger stated that the commitment from all of the RPOA-IUU participating countries is very important for the sustainability of regional fisheries and to combat IUU fishing in the region. He also conveyed his appreciation for the RPOA-IUU Secretariat for the implementation of RPOA-IUU this year and for the efforts to finalize some outstanding RPOA-IUU items. He reiterated the importance of working together and collectively to combat IUU fishing in the region, and that this was especially important during the difficult times all RPOA-IUU participating countries are currently facing.

Rear Admiral (Navy) Adin Nurawaluddin, Director General of Surveillance for Surveillance of Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, The Republic of Indonesia as representative of host country of the RPOA-IUU Secretariat, reminded participants of the economic loss caused by IUU fishing activities and the greater negative impact linked to IUU fishing operations. He commended the commitment given by RPOA-IUU participating countries and partners despite the limitation caused by the pandemic and shared his hope that the commitment and cooperation can be maintained. He affirmed Indonesia, as the host country for the RPOA-IUU Secretariat, will continue to support the implementation and development of the RPOA-IUU. The welcoming remarks of Rear Admiral (Navy) Adin Awaludin are available in **Annex 4**.

1. Introduction

1.1. Adoption of Agenda

Thailand proposed that the time allocation for the country report presentation to be given for more than 5 (five) minutes. The agenda is adopted and available in **Annex 5**.

2. RPOA-IUU Issues: For Consideration/ Endorsement

2.1. The Joint Statement

The RPOA-IUU participating countries discussed the draft of the Joint Statement, especially paragraph 14. The other paragraphs of the document had been discussed and agreed during 3 (three) RPOA-IUU consultative meetings during 2021.

The meeting concluded a new adopted sentence for paragraph 14 “..... ***and fishers and those participating in fishing activities at sea are treated in accordance with relevant International Law.***” However, Viet Nam proposed to keep the word “***humanely***” in paragraph 14 “.....***and fishers and those participating in fishing activities at sea are treated humanely in accordance with relevant International Law***” .

The RPOA-IUU Secretariat agreed to communicate with Viet Nam regarding the proposed amendment to paragraph 14 by January 2022. Moreover, the RPOA-IUU Secretariat will circulate the draft of the Joint Statement to the all RPOA-IUU participating countries. The RPOA-IUU participating countries stated that they need to conduct internal consultation in view of the new amendments to the Joint Statement document. The latest version of the Joint Statement is available in **Annex 6**.

2.2. Resolution on Vessel Without Nationality

The document of Resolution on Vessel Without Nationality had been discussed at the RPOA-IUU Consultative Meeting on 27 May 2021. During this meeting, RPOA-IUU participating countries agreed to adopt a new title for the document to accommodate the Viet Nam’s concerns. The new title agreed was “Commitment by RPOA-IUU CCM on Vessels Without Nationality”. The agreed document on “Commitment by RPOA-IUU CCM on Vessels Without Nationality” is available in **Annex 7**.

2.3. Terms of Reference for Membership Mechanism

The RPOA-IUU participating countries discussed the latest version of the Terms of Reference for RPOA-IUU participation prepared following a consultative meeting on 30 November 2021. This included feedback received from Australia and Singapore. A further revised version of TOR for RPOA-IUU participation was discussed and the Secretariat was asked to compile

comments and distribute the latest version for comment. Furthermore, the RPOA-IUU Secretariat was asked to organize a consultative meeting in 2022 to discuss this Term of Reference. The latest version of the TOR is available in **Annex 8**.

2.4. Terms of Reference for Evaluation and Reporting Tool

The RPOA-IUU participating countries discussed the latest version of the TOR for an Evaluation and Reporting Tool resulting from a consultative meeting held on 30 November 2021, including feedback received from Australia and Singapore. Further suggestions were made in the meeting and the RPOA-IUU Secretariat asked for additional time to accommodate this feedback before distributing a revised version. The Secretariat proposed to conduct a consultative meeting in 2022 to discuss the latest version of TOR, which is available in **Annex 9**.

2.5. Discussion on Myanmar Proposal

Regarding Myanmar's interest to join the RPOA-IUU as a participating country, The RPOA-IUU Secretariat clarified that Myanmar had not formally approached it regarding their interest in participating. The Secretariat continued that Myanmar had only stated its interest in participating on several occasions, including at ASEAN meetings. Australia explained it needed to consult with its Department of Foreign Affairs regarding its position related to Myanmar's current political situation. Singapore, Indonesia and The Philippines stated that the priority is to finish the Term of Reference for Participation before considering any application from a new country. The meeting agreed that the RPOA-IUU will work towards finalizing the TOR for Participation before addressing any application.

Second day of the 14th RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee Meeting

3. Co-chairs remarks

Mr. Duane Bridger as co-chair expressed the appreciation to RPOA-IUU Secretariat for conducting the 14th RPOA-IUU CC Meeting. He also welcomed RPOA-IUU Advisory Body and RPOA-IUU observers who joined on the second day of the 14th RPOA-IUU CCM. Mr. Eko Rudianto as co-chair reviewed the result of discussion on RPOA-IUU documents in the 1st Day of the 14th RPOA-IUU CCM such as the endorsement of the Commitment by RPOA-IUU CCM on Vessels Without Nationality and information on Australia's funding for capacity building in the Southeast Asia

4. APFIC illegal fishing landing in the region

Mr. Chris Wilcox from CSIRO presented the results of their study regarding illegal fishing landings in the APFIC region. This study developed a semi-quantitative estimate of illegal landings for main target species in Asia Pacific waters. CSIRO's presentation is available in Annex 10.

5. Presentation of Reports

5.1. RPOA-IUU Secretariat

Mr. Didik Agus Suwarsono from the RPOA-IUU Secretariat presented the RPOA-IUU Secretariat's report. He highlighted the implementation of the RPOA-IUU's core elements in 2021 including several activities mandated to the RPOA-IUU Secretariat, such as conducting 1st-3rd consultative meeting, organizing an RPOA-IUU international workshop, developing TOR for Country Participation Mechanism and TOR for Support Mechanism, discussing the

possible support for RPOA-IUU from partners (such as ATSEA-2 project and Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment), publishing and circulating the IUU fishing vessels watch list, and also organising regional capacity building programmes. The Secretariat also presented the next year's activity plan for the RPOA-IUU, including organizing the Ministerial Meeting, conducting several capacity building programs, and also finalizing some outstanding RPOA-IUU items. The RPOA-IUU Secretariat presentation is in **Annex 11**.

5.2. RPOA-IUU Participating Countries

Australia

The Australian delegation informed that Australia is reviewing key fisheries regulations and policies and continues to support sustainable management of migratory, straddling and shared fisheries as a member of five RFMOs and a member of CCAMLR. Australia also announced the development of a National Fisheries Plan which is set to be released early 2022. Australia raised their concerns regarding increased incursions by Indonesian Foreign Fishing Vessels in Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone acknowledging the Covid-19 pandemic as one driver of this activity. The delegation reinforced its long and collaborative relationship with Indonesia and expressed Australia's commitment to work with Indonesian counterparts to address this issue. Australia continues to share surveillance information with RPOA-IUU and MCS sub-regional group and support monitoring and enforcement activity. Australia's presentation is in **Annex 12**.

Brunei Darussalam

The Brunei Darussalam delegation updated the activities it had implemented to combat IUU fishing as referred to the RPOA-IUU workplan including the number of illegal fishing vessels apprehended, participation in several capacity building programs and activities, reviewing national fisheries legislations, and continued participation in the implementation of RFVR and ASEAN Catch Documentation Schemes. Brunei Darussalam's delegation informed of the meeting of establishment of the Maritime Security Committee to strengthen national policy and collaborative measures on Maritime Programs and Activities, including promoting responsible fishing practices and combating IUU fishing. Brunei Darussalam also conducted a Public Information Campaign through electronic media to improve the compliance level of local fishermen. Brunei Darussalam's presentation is in **Annex 13**.

Cambodia

The delegation informed the RPOA-IUU of its Marine Fisheries Policy Statement, Fisheries Law, NPOA-IUU for 2020-2024, and NPCI-MF for 2020-2024. Cambodia stated it is currently amending its fisheries law to consider the implementation of FAO Guidelines on Flag State Performance. The Cambodian delegation mentioned that Cambodia has nominated the focal point for implementing PSMA's technical requirements and IUU/PSMA in October 2020. Cambodia also mentioned it is implementing a 10-year strategic plan for fisheries conservation and a 5-year management plan for marine and fisheries management areas in Kep and Preah Sihanouk Provinces. Cambodia's presentation is in **Annex 14**.

Indonesia

The Indonesia delegation provided the legislative update in Indonesia through its Omnibus Law to simplify business ownership and investment in its marine and fisheries sector. They also mentioned Indonesia continued to renew the existence of its task force to combat illegal fishing and stated that Indonesia has ratified the PSMA (President Decree 43/2016). The

delegation informed the CCM that the processes for designating ports, capacity building, and inspection of foreign vessels had been developed to implement the PSMA. The delegation also stated Indonesia is still actively monitoring and inspecting IUUF vessels during the pandemic and has implemented measures for tracing fisheries product through a Catch Certification System and electronic logbook (e-logbook). Indonesia's presentation is in **Annex 15**.

Malaysia

The Malaysian delegation stated Malaysia is in the process of reviewing its Fisheries Act 1985, particularly to ensure its relevant and efficient in justifying the role as Flag, Coastal, Port State. The delegation mentioned Malaysia had updated its data on fishing vessels in the FAO Global Record and the RFVR. The delegation highlighted that Malaysian flagged-fishing vessels which operate on the high seas shall install a Mobile Tracking Unit (MTU) as a control measure. Malaysia published two (2) designated ports for tuna landing in IOTC websites, namely Langkawi Port and Penang Port. Malaysia has developed and conducted a pilot project on the use of e-logbooks as replacement for existing manual logbooks to enhance the reporting mechanism used by its commercial fishing vessels. Malaysia's presentation is in **Annex 16**.

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea reported that it continues to implement MCS efforts, including a community awareness program, fisheries surveillance patrol, coastal surveillance, intelligence gathering, law enforcement, prosecution, and administrative proceedings. Papua New Guinea highlighted its concern about increasing incursions in its waters by Indonesian fishing vessels. Papua New Guinea's presentation is in **Annex 17**.

Philippines

The Philippines had strengthened legal, administrative, and policy frameworks, capacity building, and regional and international cooperation. It is implementing the fisheries management framework anchored on ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management in 12 (twelve) established Fisheries Management Areas practically covering the Philippines maritime zones. The country's Vessel Monitoring System has been upgraded to the Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System. Philippines flagged fishing vessels are prohibited to transship at sea including distant waters and all licensed commercial fishing vessels are installed with AIS to further refine its MCS system and improve its capacity to deter IUUF. The country continues to be an active participant in relevant RFMOs i.e., WCPFC, IOTC, ICCAT and the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries as well as SEAFDEC. The Philippines's presentation is in **Annex 18**.

Singapore

Singapore has completed the review of fisheries legislation and has established fisheries management policies to enable effective implementation of PSMA. Singapore is in the process of amending the Fisheries Act which is expected to be completed in 2023. Singapore is also in the process of assessing the accession to PSMA. At the national level, Singapore has established the interagency working group on IUU fishing. Singapore cooperates with CCAMLR and relevant RFMOs (e.g., ICCAT) on their catch certification schemes for the trade in toothfish and tuna, and with RPOA-IUU and SEAFDEC. Singapore's presentation is in **Annex 19**.

Thailand

The Thailand delegate stated that they are participating in promoting the blue economy and strengthening fisheries governance of the Gulf of Thailand through an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries during 2021-2028. Thailand mentioned it has implemented a comprehensive legal framework to enable control enforcement of MCS activities. In addition, it also drives the establishment of the ASEAN Network for combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU) as the AN-IUU center. Thailand offered to share its experience and lessons-learned on combating IUU Fishing as well as lifting the EU warning yellow card to any interested States, it could do this through facilitating a study visit to Thailand and bilateral meetings. Thailand also stated it cooperates with relevant international and regional organizations, and RFMOs such as FAO, SEAFDEC, CITES, RPOA-IUU, IOTC, SIOFA, WCPFC, ICCAT, and CCAMLR on fisheries management and conservation on aquatic resources in the Southeast Asia. Thailand's presentation is in **Annex 20**.

Timor-Leste

The Timor-Leste delegation reported their efforts to eliminate IUU Fishing including Public Information Campaign, dissemination responsible fishing practices, boat marking, and monitoring import and export fish product. Timor-Leste also updated their progress of accession on PSMA. Timor-Leste has finished the revision of Fisheries Decree Law and National Fisheries strategy. Timor-Leste thanking Australian Government for its support by sharing information on Australia fishing vessel coming into Timor-Leste territorial waters without license. Timor-Leste's presentation is in **Annex 21**.

Viet Nam

The Viet Nam delegation shared that Viet Nam is revising decree on administrative sanctions in fisheries toward increasing administrative sanction scheme and additional sanction for related IUU activities. Viet Nam mentioned that they are revising Decree on regulating articles and measures to implement the Fisheries law and Circulars. Viet Nam also updated the PSMA implementation through designating fourteen (14) ports for foreign vessels and formulating SOP for stakeholders.

Viet Nam has strengthened the coordination and cooperation mechanism among relevant agencies (Coast Guard, Border Guard, Navy, Fisheries Surveillance). Viet Nam also mentioned that they are enhancing regulations on VMS. On international level, Vietnam is enhancing cooperation with European Commission and ASEAN. Vietnam's presentation is in **Annex 22**.

Co-chair noted several points from country's report and discussion, as follow:

- Co-chair acknowledged that this country report discussion is more open compared to the previous RPOA-IUU Committee Meetings. He expressed that this more open culture will be beneficial for the cooperation in the future.
- Co-chair proposed that the Secretariat compile all of the country reports and publish these on the RPOA-IUU website as per approval from all RPOA-IUU participating countries.
- Co-chair noted there are many good lessons learned from the country reports, especially on the development and implementation of responsible fisheries

management. He proposed the possibility of conducting a lesson learned workshop on the development and implementation of fisheries policy and regulations.

- In response to the PNG request to have a standardized country report template, the Secretariat mentioned it will revise and update the existing template accordingly. In response to Thailand request regarding the time allocation for country report presentation, the Secretariat will adjust the time allocation for the next RPOA-IUU committee meeting.
- In response to the increase of IUU fishing in Arafura Timor Seas, Southern and Eastern Area of the South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, Malacca Strait, and Gulf of Thailand, the co-chair suggested to discuss this issue through bilateral and MCS Sub Regional Working Groups.

5.3. RPOA-IUU MCS Sub-Regional Groups

The three sub-regional MCS groups reported on their activities and key issues.

5.3.1. Gulf of Thailand (Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Malaysia)

Thailand presented the report on Gulf of Thailand (GoT) Meeting. Thailand reported that the last Gulf of Thailand Meeting was conducted in 2019 with no GoT meeting in 2020 and 2021. However, Thailand revealed GoT in 2022 will have Project on Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening fisheries governance through ecosystem approach to Fisheries (GoT-Fish Project) with 4 project components and funded by GEF and FAO. Thailand explained further that the objective of the project is to improve natural resource governance in the GoT through the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

5.3.2. Southern and Eastern Area of the South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas (Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and the Philippines)

The Malaysian delegation on behalf of the Sub-Regional Secretariat stated that this Sub-Regional Meeting still dormant at this stage. Malaysia, as the sub regional group secretariat, offered to host the 2022 sub regional meeting.

5.3.3. Arafura– Timor Seas (Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste)

The Australian delegation, on behalf of Sub Regional Group, reported on the progress of the RPOA-IUU MCS Sub-Regional Arafura and Timor Seas Group. The group specifically reported on the increasing IUU fishing activity occurring across the Arafura and Timor Seas region during the Covid-19 pandemic from Indonesian fishing vessels. The group reported that during the Covid-19 pandemic, the sub-regional group members have developed initiatives and innovative activities to continue to address IUU fishing within the region. The group also reported increased sightings in the region of marine debris, including ghost nets, and fish aggregation devices (FADs). The MCS sub-regional working group presentation is at **Annex 23**.

5.4. RPOA-IUU Advisory Bodies/partners:

5.4.1. SEAFDEC

SEAFDEC representatives stated that SEAFDEC had enhanced the utilization and improvement of the RFVR database to reduce IUU fishing in the region. SEAFDEC mentioned that currently the SEAFDEC RVFR database is available 24 M and is for general use and open to the public. SEAFDEC mentioned it had assisted AMSs, providing services on how to update information to the RFVR database. SEAFDEC mentioned they continue to support

capacity building on PSM implementation in the region. SEAFDEC also reported they continue the development of the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (EACDS). SEAFDEC mentioned they conducted The Online Training on the Use of e-ACDS. SEAFDEC shared its activity plan for 2022, including the continuation of assistance for the implementation of the RFVR, capacity development on MCS systems, activities related to e-ACDS. SEAFDEC's presentation is in **Annex 24**.

6. RPOA-IUU Observers

6.1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Office of Law Enforcement (NOAA-OLE)

NOAA-OLE presented the capacity building and technical assistance given by NOAA for the countries in the region, mostly related to PSMA implementation, IUU Fishing related investigations training and MCS framework and tools. NOAA reported its Southeast Asia initiatives, which involve regional activities and activities provided to individual countries such as in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The activities being highlighted are capacity building programs and workshops on PSMA, fisheries enforcement, and maritime and law enforcement. NOAA-OLE is planning to conduct more capacity building and technical assistance activities for other RPOA-IUU participating countries. NOAA-OLE presentation is in **Annex 25**.

6.2 Environmental Justice Foundation

Mr. Dominic Thompson provided information on what EJV is focused on and their activities in the region with the main focus on transparency to combat IUU fishing. EJV shared that they had conducted activities in Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam and that it was engaging with government agencies within those countries. EJV also recommended a charter of transparency consisting of principles that can be used by countries as a tool to address IUU fishing and to collaborate across the region. EJV also recommended countries consider ratifying and implementing approaches not only related to PSMA, but also to address related human rights abuses. The EJV presentation is in **Annex 26**.

6.3 CSIRO

The CSIRO representative shared the presentation on its project to estimate IUU fishing in the Indian Ocean. This study consists of three components, including a survey for countries adjacent to the Indian Ocean, assessment of public documents (machine learning), and interviews with key informants. CSIRO has engaged some RPOA-IUU participating countries to participate in this research. CSIRO stated it will provide an update on its regional report to the RPOA-IUU. CSIRO's presentation is in **Annex 27**.

7. Program to support RPOA-IUU

7.1. Fisheries Intelligence Training (ATSEA-2 Project)

Ms. Casandra Tania from the ATSEA-2 Project presented on its collaboration with the RPOA-IUU to organize fisheries intelligence training for RPOA-IUU participating countries. Ms. Tania mentioned this project aligns with RPOA-IUU workplan item 2.1.3 (Regional Activities). The RPOA-IUU Secretariat has sent the training proposal to several training providers, however, has not yet received any responses. The RPOA-IUU Secretariat asked RPOA-IUU participating countries to provide input on this matter. Fisheries Intelligence Training (ATSEA-2 Project) is in **Annex 28**.

7.2. CCAMLR Activity

Mr. Todd Dubois from CCAMLR provided a brief overview of CCAMLR's efforts to combat IUU fishing in the Southern Ocean and how CCAMLR can support RPOA-IUU. Mr. Dubois explained CCAMLR's primary compliance monitoring tools. CCAMLR committed to work with non-contracting parties engaged in the harvest and trade of toothfish and other high value species, and is working with various partner organizations including the RPOA-IUU. Mr. Dubois also mentioned the collaboration that has already occurred between CCAMLR and countries in the region. He added that CCAMLR is willing to provide further support for the RPOA IUU. CCAMLR's presentation can be found at **Annex 29**.

7.3. Australia's capacity building program in SE Asia

Mr. Adam Camilleri from Australia explained to RPOA-IUU participating countries how they can access the program's key components. This included in the first instance submitting a registration of interest to participate. Australia will soon provide registration of interest templates and further guidance on how to complete these documents. Australia encouraged RPOA-IUU participating countries to prepare in advance and submit registrations as early as possible. The key program components include (i) an accredited MCS training course (ii) an intra-regional officer exchange program (iii) targeted MCS capacity building (iv) Southeast Asia Regional Innovation Fund.

Australia's presentation on its capacity building program is attached at **Annex 30**.

The co-chairs noted a few points from the discussion in this session:

- Co-chair, Mr. Duane Bridger, proposed that the FAO and ASEAN secretariat be invited in the future to provide an update on their related activities in the region, especially AN-IUU.
- Co-chair, Mr. Eko Rudianto, shared his hope that the support provided to the RPOA-IUU will not overlap and duplicate existing and planned support to the region. He proposed the Secretariat hold a meeting and invite all partners to further share information about their support to the region and discuss potential areas of cooperation.
- Timor-Leste commented that Australia's proposed program is a good opportunity to address its capacity building needs and gave an unqualified endorsement of Australia's planned support package.
- The Philippines suggested all training modules given by partners and advisory bodies should be integrated to provide a better program.
- All observers mentioned they were willing to engage with the RPOA-IUU on capacity building assistance and welcomed a follow-up meeting with the RPOA-IUU Secretariat.

8. Development of RPOA-IUU workplan 2022: based on the above-discussion and identification of priorities and opportunities

8.1 Review of RPOA-IUU Work Plan 2021

The meeting reviewed progress of the implementation of the 2020-2021 RPOA-IUU Work Plan. The outcome of this discussion is in **Annex 31**.

8.2 Development of RPOA-IUU Work Plan 2022

Building from (i) progress of the 2020-2021 RPOA-IUU Work Plan (ii) presentation from RPOA-IUU advisory bodies and observers, and RPOA-IUU participating countries report (iv) Regional Outlook and Priorities, the meeting identified and considered the priority for 2022. Members endorsed the 2022 RPOA-IUU Work Plan. Some activities have been added under 2022 RPOA-IUU Work Plan including: (i) standardized country report and presentation, (ii) published a full country report, (iii) host workshop to discuss lesson-learned on national legislative development and implementation, and (iv) consultative meeting to discuss on-going items. It is as appeared in **Annex 32**.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 CCM-and Sub-Regional Meeting

9.1.1 15th RPOA-IUU CCM

Timor-Leste informed that it would be unable to host the next RPOA-IUU CCM due to a national election next year.

The RPOA-IUU Secretariat suggested that should the Covid-19 situation not allow for a return to in-person meetings, the meeting will again be conducted virtually. The Secretariat also suggested a decision on the approach to the next meeting (in-person/virtual) be made at the earliest opportunity in 2022.

Australia suggested the order to host RPOA-IUU CCM could follow the existing established list of host country 2007-2019 (except Indonesia and Cambodia, who had already hosted twice). Australia agreed to send a list of previous hosts to the RPOA-IUU Secretariat, along with its proposal moving forward, which included that Timor-Leste to be offered an opportunity to host either in 2022 or 2023, given it hasn't yet had the opportunity. Australia indicated that it could host one of the next two meetings, should the covid situation allow.

9.1.2 The 12th MCS Sub-Regional Group Arafura and Timor Seas

Australia advised the date and location of the 12th MCS Sub-Regional Group Arafura and Timor Seas 2022 will be discussed further in early 2022.

9.1.3 The 8th MCS Sub-Regional Group Southern and Eastern of South China Seas and Sulu Sulawesi Seas.

Malaysia offered to host the 8th MCS Sub-Regional Group Southern and Eastern of South China Seas and Sulu Sulawesi Seas 2022.

9.1.4 The 9th MCS Sub-Regional Group Gulf of Thailand

Thailand reported that according to last meeting of the 8th MCS Sub-Regional Group Gulf of Thailand Vietnam should host the next The Gulf of Thailand Sub-Regional. It is still waiting for Vietnam respond on this matter.

9.2 Ministerial Meeting

Several RPOA-IUU participating countries advised they will have a national election in 2022. Therefore, the arrangements for a ministerial meeting may be difficult if the Joint Statement is not finalized in early of 2022. Australia proposed the Ministerial Meeting to endorse the

statement could be held on 5th June, 2022, which is the UN's International Day for the fight against IUU Fishing.

10. Future of RPOA-IUU

The Secretariat suggested this agenda item to seek comment and input on how to strengthen the role of RPOA-IUU in the future. The Coordinating Committee asked that the RPOA-IUU Secretariat arrange a consultative meeting in 2022 to provide RPOA-IUU participating countries more time to prepare input and more time for the discussion. Indonesia suggested the Secretariat develop a better and effective communication between the focal points.

11. Finalization and summary of 2021 Work plan

The summary report will be circulated by the RPOA-IUU out of session for comment and feedback from participants.

Closing Session

Mr. Duane Bridger as the 14th RPOA-IUU CCM delivered closing remarks by congratulating the participants for the productive meeting and provided a brief summary of the meeting. Mr. Eko Rudianto expressed gratitude for the participants' hard work during this meeting and extended the highest appreciation for the fellow co-chair.
