
**COORDINATION COMMITTEE for
The Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including
Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA)
Manila, 28 – 30 April 2008**

1. WELCOME AND BACKGROUND TO THIS MEETING AND THE RPOA

The Coordination Committee was attended by representatives of the eleven countries which are signatories to the *Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA)* (Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam). Also in attendance were representatives from the inter-governmental organizations SEAFDEC¹ and Worldfish.

Mr. Malcolm I. Sarmiento Jr, Director of the Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, welcomed participants to Manila. Mr Sarmiento said it was with pride and honour that that he could welcome a meeting that will help protect fisheries resources and marine ecosystems in the region, and thanked participants for their time. Mr Sarmiento indicated that it will be an ideal opportunity to demonstrate to the wider global community the region's capacity to develop approaches to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

The co-chairs, Mr Allen Grant, Executive Manager Fisheries and Forestry, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Dr Aji Sularso, Director General of Surveillance and Control, Marine Resources and Fisheries, Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (represented by Dr. Purwanto during the early part of the meeting), thanked Mr Sarmiento for his welcome to the Philippines. The co-chairs expressed their appreciation to the Philippines for their generous hosting of the workshop and to the secretariat for their excellent arrangements.

The co-chairs opened the meeting, indicating that they were encouraged by the good attendance and that they looked forward to a positive meeting. Participants noted the difficult and complex issues to address, and that while it will be up to individual countries to implement actions; there are opportunities in taking a collaborative approach.

The Committee reviewed the steps to get to this meeting, including: the 2006 agreement by Australian and Indonesian Ministers to seek a collaborative approach to promote responsible fishing practices and reduce IUU fishing in the region; three regional senior officials meetings; endorsement of the RPOA by Fisheries Ministers from the region in May 2007; the first RPOA implementation meeting in Kuala Lumpur in August 2007; the RPOA implementation workshop in Bangkok in November 2007; the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Workshop (MCS) in Bali in March 2008; and the pre-meeting on MCS in Manila on 28 April 2008.

The objectives for the Coordination Committee meeting were identified:

- to determine the roles and organizational arrangements for the Committee
- to determine the forward work program including activities the Committee would like to see progressed in the next 12 months
- To consider reporting to Ministers and the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI).

¹ Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The draft agenda provided by Australia and Indonesia was adopted.

3. COORDINATION COMMITTEE – ROLES & ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The meeting was guided by the May 2007 joint Ministerial statement, in which Ministers agreed, with a view to fostering the ongoing efforts and the development of cooperative arrangements embodied in the RPOA, to establish a Coordination Committee that will monitor and review the effective implementation of the measures of the RPOA.

A. Organizational structure

The meeting agreed to the Terms of Reference and organizational structure for the implementation of the RPOA as provided at Annex 1.

It was agreed that the Committee will be required to periodically report to Fisheries Ministers on the progress of implementation and any additional measures required for implementation of the RPOA.

It was agreed that members will also report to their countries on implementation of the RPOA. A number of participants raised the need for prior in-country consideration of reports to Ministers.

The meeting agreed that the coordination committee may, as and when required, set up ad-hoc technical working groups to provide information and advice on the fishery resources in the region and related matters relevant to their conservation and management, and to address specific technical and/or scientific issues with regard to the implementation of the RPOA.

The meeting noted that the Coordination Committee is intended to be a high level decision making body providing strategic advice and direction to participating countries on how they can implement the measures of the RPOA.

B. Membership

Each member country had nominated a senior official to represent it on the Coordination Committee. The meeting noted the membership as nominated (in alphabetical order) at Annex 1.

Participants also agreed to forward to the secretariat the details for an alternate member for each country.

C. Advisers

The meeting recalled that in adopting the RPOA, Ministers had recognized the importance of the role of regional and multilateral organizations APFIC, SEAFDEC, Infofish and Worldfish in providing advice to the Committee on management expertise and technical capacity, in strengthening fisheries management and conservation in the region.

The meeting agreed the nominated representatives of these four organizations at Annex 1 participate in Coordination Committee meetings and other RPOA processes.

It was also agreed that the Committee's Terms of Reference allow for experts and representatives of other regional organizations to be invited to attend as needed.

The Committee encouraged countries to seek technical support and assistance with implementing the RPOA from relevant regional organisations, particularly the advisory bodies.

D. Secretariat

Indonesia offered to host the Secretariat for the Coordination Committee, advising that they have identified funding for a period of two years. The Committee welcomed the generous offer from Indonesia and discussed the proposed functional arrangements for the new Secretariat.

Indonesia will circulate functional arrangements out-of-session, which take into account comments made by other members at the meeting.

Australia and Indonesia will commence working together on transitional arrangements shortly.

Australia and Indonesia will advise other members when they have reached the view that it is appropriate to hand over the Secretariat to Indonesia.

4. COUNTRY RPOA IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS

Member countries provided brief updates to the Committee on in-country RPOA implementation. Items reported included:

- Implementation/undertaking of coordinated MCS activities and observer programs
- Review of fisheries policy and legislation to address IUU Fishing
- Participation in FOA Port State processes
- Development of NPOA's on IUU Fishing
- Information exchange
- Licensing and regulation for small vessels
- Collaborative capacity building programs
- Capacity building needs (including the need for greater inter-agency coordination)

Participants noted that the country updates indicate a number of collaborative initiatives in the region that RPOA activities can be built on.

SEAFDEC and Worldfish advised that they are committed to providing technical support to assist with the RPOA's implementation in their capacities, including in the areas of port state monitoring and sharing of information.

It was noted that APFIC and Infofish, which sent in apologies for this meeting, had also indicated a commitment to the RPOA process and to providing appropriate assistance to participating countries in implementing measures and assessing an overview of the regional resource situation.

5. MEETING AND SURVEY REPORTS

The Committee considered reports from the meetings and workshops held since the RPOA was signed, summarized as:

First implementation meeting - Kuala Lumpur on 13 August 2007

The meeting agreed that countries would work cooperatively on the following five key priority areas:

- Strengthening monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) Systems
- Coastal state responsibilities
- Regional capacity building
- Current resource and management situation in the region
- Port state measures

The meeting agreed on the need to conduct a workshop to begin developing an implementation plan for the RPOA

Implementation workshop - Bangkok on 13-15 November 2007

The RPOA implementation workshop outcomes included agreement to:

- Conduct an RPOA survey to develop an overview of the regional resource situation
- Develop approaches to identify, assess and meet capacity building needs utilizing the survey synthesis
- Convene an MCS workshop to identify key priority needs in this area
- Recommend the Coordination Committee consider the need for a workshop to developing licensing and registration regimes for all classes of fishing vessels in the region.

MCS workshop - Bali on 4-6 March 2008

The Committee noted the proceedings of the MCS workshop hosted by Indonesia in, the outcomes of which were to:

- Develop a draft matrix of national, sub-regional and regional MCS needs and potential actions
- establish a regional and sub-regional MCS networks
- propose the development of a port monitoring workshop and a coordinated training program and curriculum on fisheries management and MCS

Three sub-regional groups were established:

- the Gulf of Thailand and adjacent waters Sub-Regional Group
- the Arafura-Timor Seas Sub-Regional Group
- The Southern and Eastern South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas Sub-Regional Group

The meeting agreed that a draft summary of the MCS workshop and the pre-meeting in Manila on 28 April 2008 be circulated, including the agreed Terms of Reference for the RPOA MCS Network.

The meeting agreed that each sub-regional group develop an outline paper of the draft matrix of MCS needs and potential actions in their region, including related marine resource management issues, with the sub-regional groups to provide the reports by the end of May 2008 as a planning document for implementing necessary actions and informing each other of relevant issues.

The Secretariat undertook to provide members with a CD with reports from all workshops.

The co-chairs thanked member countries and regional bodies for their work, commitment and support for RPOA activities to date.

Survey questionnaire report

Secretariat had circulated prior to the meeting a draft summary and synthesis documents compiled from the survey responses received from Australia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Timor-Leste.

The Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam tabled their survey responses at the meeting, noting apparent problems in relaying the reports to the Secretariat.

The Committee expanded the Preliminary Synthesis of Responses from RPOA Survey

Document in-session, to ensure that the key aspects for all countries were identified for the Committee's discussions on priority actions under agenda item 6.

Cambodia and Brunei agreed to forward their survey response to the Secretariat out-of-session.

The Secretariat undertook to circulate all individual country survey responses and completed survey synthesis documentation to members out-of-session, with the assistance of SEAFDEC and WorldFish.

6 & 7 RPOA PRIORITIES – PLANNING ACTIONS AND WORK PROGRAM

Taking into account the RPOA, the proceedings of the Bangkok implementation workshop and the MCS workshops and pre-meeting, the Committee identified a number of issues and actions to be progressed under the RPOA in regard to each of the five key priority areas identified at the August 2007 Kuala Lumpur meeting.

The Coordination Committee agreed to actions, priorities and timeframes in each of the five regional priority areas and the agreed work program at Annex 2.

Future workshops

All RPOA countries agreed to participate in an upcoming SEAFDEC workshop on fishing vessel registration in late June 2008 to identify approaches and begin processes on understandings on approaches to registration. Participants will identify areas for national action following the SEAFDEC vessel registration workshop.

A port monitoring techniques workshop in the region will be developed and conducted to facilitate development of port monitoring procedures for unloading from fishing vessels and transshipment for export.

The Secretariat, in consultation with member countries, will explore conducting the port monitoring techniques workshop in Malaysia in June/July 2008, to build on the existing Australia-Malaysia workshop on catch documentation being undertaken.

The Secretariat will organize a relevant port visit at the same time as the the port monitoring techniques workshop to help participants to identify best practice with relation to implementation of port state model requirements for fisheries IUU purposes, including for re-export.

Following the visit to the port, countries will identify information on port arrangements in the region that it is desirable to share and to address through a capacity building workshop.

Members agreed to conduct a regional workshop to identify and priorities the main areas of capacity building needed to support responsible fishing practices through a collective approach to conserving and sustainably managing the fisheries resources in the region, including research, management, and governance aspects.

Report to Ministers

The Committee agreed to prepare a report to Ministers outlining progress with implementing the RPOA to date and planned activities.

Australia noted that it will be necessary to also agree a report from the Committee to COFI in March 2009.

Future meetings

The Coordination Committee agreed to meet every 12 months, or more frequently if required by the RPOA work program.

It was agreed that the Committee should seek to continue to rotate the host country through the RPOA membership.

8. CONCLUDING SESSION

The Committee adopted a Coordination Committee report to Fisheries Ministers in the region provided at Annex 3.

The Secretariat will circulate a draft Coordination Committee meeting summary report and the agreed report to Fisheries Ministers in the region for final comment and clearance out-of-session.

The Secretariat will be responsible for sending the report to Fisheries Ministers.

9. NEXT MEETING

The Committee accepted a kind offer from Indonesia's to host the next meeting, possibly in April 2009, in Indonesia.

Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the South East Asian Region

COORDINATION COMMITTEE

WORKPLAN

May 2008 – April 2009

Priority	Issue	Response	Who	When	Funding
H	Improve data and information collection and information sharing systems to meet RPOA objectives.	Participating countries to identify areas for national action from Survey responses and report to the Coordination Committee on actions undertaken and /or planned, including the need to better coordinate with internal institutions and timely sharing of information within the RPOA.	Individual countries	Report for next CC meeting	Individual countries
H	Survey synthesis report analysis	All participating advisory bodies (SEAFDEC, Worldfish, InfoFish, APFIC) to collaboratively complete the synthesis report, including through the use of related work in the region, work with sub-regional groups, identify current needs and gaps, and areas for cooperation. Advisory agencies to work through and report through RPOA working groups of the subregional groupings. [Malaysia leads SESCS, Australia leads ATS, Thailand leads GT]	Advisory bodies Adv bodies with sub-reg grps	July 2008 August 2008	Support from regional countries
M	Data and information collection	Advisory bodies to review existing systems and identify systems for regional data and collection	Advisory bodies	December 2008	
M	Overview of current resource situation in region	Secretariat, together with advisory bodies, to develop RPOA funding scenario for broader regional needs, to explore existing funding sources appropriate for regional and subregional information systems to support collection and exchange of information to develop the overview and related RPOA regional actions.	Secretariat, Advisory bodies	Report to CC by December 2008	Advisory bodies, Secretariat
H	Fishing licensing and fishing vessel registration regimes, including vessel marking	SEAFDEC, together with Secretariat to prepare the details for a workshop on fishing licensing regimes for RPOA countries including small scale vessels Hold fishing licensing regimes workshop	SEAFDEC, Secretariat	August 2008 By December 2008	Australia
M	The development of	Participation of all RPOA countries in SEAFDEC workshop on	SEAFDEC, and	June 2008	SEAFDEC, non

Priority	Issue	Response	Who	When	Funding
	fishing vessel registers, improving fishing vessel identification and exchanging information, including vessels de-registered and then re-register in second countries	fishing vessel registration in June to identify approaches and to begin process on understandings on approaches to registration Participants to identify areas for national action following the SEAFDEC workshop.	all participating countries Individual members	December 2008	SEAFDEC members fund own attendance Individual members
M	How to account for, and manage, all active fishing vessels and vessels that directly support fishing vessels (ie mother ships, carrier vessels, searching boats) – including traditional, small scale vessels.	Participation of relevant RPOA countries in the FAO Conference on small scale fisheries in Bangkok in 13-17 October Participants to identify areas for national action.	Individual members Individual members	October 2008 Report to CC by December 2008	Individual countries. Check FAO funding availability
M-H	Progress agreed MCS related data and information collection systems and data sharing between countries.	Sub-regional MCS working groups to address issues and report back on progress.	Sub-regional MCS groups	December 2008	Individual members
M	Develop better governance capacity in the region by strengthening fisheries laws and regulations to better underpin fisheries management and enforcement measures.	Sub-regional groups to identify regional and national needs and opportunities. Secretariat to consult with advisory bodies/FAO on steps to achieve better understanding and application of relevant international and regional fisheries laws and other instruments, governance and institutional arrangements to support responsible fishing practices. - Report to CC on proposed strategies for member countries to adopt	Sub-regional groups Secretariat, advisory bodies	June 2009 Report to CC by December 2008	Individual members Secretariat
H	Establish a regional MCS Network	Encourage ongoing development of an MCS Network, by countries identifying a national MCS coordinator and, through the works of MCS sub-regional groups working towards identifying practical	Individual countries to identify	June 2008	Individual countries

Priority	Issue	Response	Who	When	Funding
		approaches to ensuring continuity of the network and exchange of MCS information.	coordinators		
H	The role for MCS subregional forums/networks.	<p>Three established sub-regional groupings to consider and report back on issues, priorities and actions undertaken. Countries who took initiative on information needs (Thailand, Australia, Malaysia) to coordinate initial reporting back, including on coordination arrangements</p> <p>Groups to outline coordinating responsibilities and outline forward work plan.</p> <p>Sub-regional groups individually to meet/liaise regularly to progress regional priorities/needs and exchange information between other groups and CC.</p>	<p>Country coordinators</p> <p>Sub-regional groups</p> <p>Sub-regional groups</p>	<p>July 2008</p> <p>Paper to CC by July 2008</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Individual countries
n/a	The terms of reference for a Regional MCS Network	Agreed by Coordination Committee	CC	April 2008	n/a
H	Key MCS needs and possible actions on a regional and subregional basis	MCS Needs and Actions Matrix to be finalised and provided to sub-regional groupings for their finalisation and progression.	Secretariat	May 2008	Secretariat
H	Inadequate monitoring and management of catch landings and transshipments in ports in the region.	Develop and conduct a port monitoring techniques workshop in the region to discuss trade routes and techniques to identify and inspect suspected fishing and carrier vessels, and capacity building (Explore conducting the workshop in Malaysia, in June/July, to build on the existing workshop being undertaken)	Secretariat	June/July 2008	Australia
H	Support building capacity to implement port state measures.	Organise relevant port visit at the same time as port monitoring workshop to identify best practise with relation to implementation of port state model requirements for fisheries IUU purposes, including for re-export.	Secretariat	June/July 2008	Participants?

Priority	Issue	Response	Who	When	Funding
		Following the visit to the port, countries to identify information on port arrangements in the region that it is desirable to share and to address through capacity building workshop proposed.	Countries	December 2008	Participants
		RPOA to request FAO to advise on elements of necessary targeted capacity building in the region for participant countries to implement the scheme for fishing vessels.	Secretariat	Post port visit	Secretariat
M	Development of a training program and curriculum on fisheries management and MCS	Commission a study to develop a curriculum on fisheries management and MCS by Australia, in consultation with other participating countries and advisory groups.	Secretariat	December 2008	Australia
H	Prioritise capacity building requirements in the region and develop a program to address these requirements.	Members conduct a regional workshop to identify and prioritise the main areas of capacity building needed to support responsible fishing practices through a collective approach to conserving and sustainably managing the fisheries resources in the region, including research, management, and governance aspects.	Secretariat	December 2008	Australia, participants to fund own attendance
M	Identify ways to deliver capacity building through relevant technical and donor agencies, and other countries in the region.	RPOA advisory groups to provide information on existing activities and actions that may be used to support RPOA capacity building needs and opportunities/arrangements to allow for all RPOA countries to participate	Advisory groups / Secretariat	Report to next CC meeting	Advisory groups / Secretariat

COORDINATION COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Coordination Committee is a high level decision-making body providing strategic advice and direction to RPOA member countries. The Coordination Committee's advice will need to cover matters such as conservation of the marine environment, sustainable management of fisheries resources, managing fishing capacity, building competency in fisheries management, and combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region.

The Committee's functions are to:

1. Foster an environment of cooperation and collaboration among RPOA member countries.
2. Advise on national, sub regional and regional priorities to guide implementation of the RPOA.
3. Plan RPOA activities, report on implementation of measures and maintain a forward work agenda.
4. Provide strategic oversight and advice on RPOA activities to further develop and implement responsible fishing practices in the region.
5. Monitor, review and advice on the effective implementation of the RPOA.
6. Report to Ministers responsible for fisheries on the progress of implementation and any additional measures required for implementation.
7. Communicate with the FAO and other relevant international and regional bodies, as appropriate.
8. Collaborate with international/regional organizations, programs or projects concerned with fisheries management and sustainable use of fisheries resources in implementing the RPOA.

The Coordination Committee will meet as required, but at least once per year. Meetings will be hosted by member countries on a rotational basis. Meetings will be chaired by the host country. Meetings will be conducted in English.