

**The 6<sup>th</sup> COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

of the

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

**Kota Kinabalu-Malaysia, 19-21 November 2013**

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## **1. OPENING SESSION**

Representatives of ten participating countries to the *Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asia Region* (Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Timor Leste, Thailand and Vietnam) attended the 6<sup>th</sup> RPOA Coordination Committee Meeting. The Philippines was not able to attend the meeting. Among the four inter-governmental organisations which act as Advisory Bodies, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) and Infofish attended the meeting. Members of the RPOA Coordination Committee are shown at Annex 1. Delegates participating in the meeting are listed at Annex 2.

The Honourable Dato' Ahamad Sabki Bin Mahmood, the Director General of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries Malaysia, in his opening remarks welcomed all delegates to Sabah, Malaysia, on behalf of the Government of Malaysia. He outlined that the RPOA Coordination Committee is a high level decision-making body providing strategic advice and direction to RPOA member countries. Since inception of the Coordination Committee in 2008, it has raised the visibility and significance of the RPOA in the global arena in combating IUU fishing in the region. He listed some achievements of the RPOA, including the contribution of Malaysia during implementation, and that it is entering its sixth year of operation and therefore it is now worth evaluating the progress made in achieving the RPOA objectives with more realistic and implementable action plans reflecting the current situation in the region.

The Honourable Dato' extended sympathy to the people and Government of the Philippines that were recently struck by typhoon Haiyan, and sincerely hoped that the Philippines will recover soon with the help and support coming from all over the world. The Honourable Dato' officially launched Malaysia's *National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (NPOA-IUU Fishing) during the official opening of the meeting. The Honourable Dato's opening remarks appear in Annex 3.

The Coordination Committee meeting was co-chaired by: Mr. Bruce Wallner, Counselor (Agriculture) Department of Agriculture, Australian Embassy in Indonesia; Mrs. Ida Kusuma Wardhaningsih, Executive Secretary of the Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, MMAF, Republic of Indonesia; intermittently by Mr. Mohamad Shaupi Bin Derahman, Deputy Director-General of Fisheries (Operations), and Mr. Ahmad Haziz Bin Aziz-Director, International, Trade and Investment Division, Department of Fisheries, Malaysia.

Mr. Bruce Wallner extended his thanks to the Government of Malaysia and the Department of Fisheries, Malaysia, for hosting the meeting and congratulated Malaysia on finalizing its NPOA-IUU Fishing. He extended the meeting's sympathy to the people and the Government of the Philippines and outlined the purpose and objectives of the RPOA 6<sup>th</sup> Coordination Committee meeting.

Mrs. Ida Kusuma Wardhaningsih delivered the opening remarks on behalf of the Director General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources-Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia. She also extended sympathy to the people and Government of the Philippines in the aftermath by typhoon Haiyan. She conveyed her appreciation to the Coordination Committee and participating countries of the RPOA for their commitment and

contributions over the last 5 years to implementing the RPOA action plan which is making this regional initiative more alive, stronger, and is facilitating and consolidating efforts to promote responsible fishing practices and combat IUU fishing in the region. She stated that the RPOA is now at the strategic point where countries need to evaluate the RPOA's achievements and to assess further actions to address the emerging issues and challenges. She invited countries to revisit the 5 core elements that have guided RPOA countries during the last 5 years out of the 11 RPOA elements that were endorsed by Ministers responsible for fisheries in the region in Bali in May 2007. With the five year evaluation of the RPOA we should now expect more strategic actions and better coordination towards compliance and achieving sustainable and responsible fishing practices including combating IUU fishing in the region and sub-regions. Mrs. Kusuma Wardhaningsih's opening remarks appear in Annex 4.

Mr. Ahmad Haziz Bin Aziz conveyed a very warmly welcoming to the Chairperson Mr. Bruce Wallner, co-chair Mrs. Ida Kusuma Wardhaningsih and all distinguished delegates. He also extended his sympathy to the people and Government of the Philippines and advised that Malaysia is deeply honoured to host the 6th RPOA Coordination Committee meeting and he sincerely hoped that the deliberation and discussion in the next 2 days would be smooth and fruitful.

## **2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

With a change to accommodate discussion concerning the procedures to involve other parties in CC meetings, the draft Agenda was adopted. The adopted Agenda appears in Annex \_\_\_.

## **3. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF MEETING**

Mr. Bruce Wallner delivered the introduction and purpose to the meeting. He noted the endorsement of the RPOA in 2007 by 11 Ministers responsible for fisheries in the region, and emphasized the momentum of the RPOA including evaluating the implementation of the RPOA action plan in responding to current IUU fishing global threats.

Mr Wallner raised the matter of the request by Greenpeace and the US National Oceans and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to participate in the Coordination Committee meeting, and led the discussion about their participation. The meeting agreed to welcome Greenpeace and NOAA to the meeting, as observers, and took note of the need for countries to discuss further the development of procedures/criteria for third party organizations to attend future RPOA meetings and/or workshops.

The meeting discussed a general outline that would include: categories such as inter-governmental organizations, NGOs, advisory bodies, observers and contain procedures/criteria for admission to meetings and be publically available on the RPOA website. Organisations would need to apply to the Secretariat/Coordination Committee to participate in RPOA open sessions. Consideration of attendance by external organisations could be a standing CC meeting agenda item. The meeting tasked a subgroup (Indonesia, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia) to develop a procedural document to be circulated to participating countries for comment.

## **4. REGIONAL OUTLOOK DISCUSSION**

Co-chairs led a discussion on the regional outlook by highlighting development issues around the 11 elements contained in the RPOA Action Plan, the current situation in the region and ideas on developing an RPOA strategic plan of action. Co-chairs noted that the RPOA evaluation and assessment paper will provide guidance in the discussion on the RPOA's achievements and future challenges.

The discussion on the regional outlook identified achievements of the RPOA, including:

- Strengthening Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems to include: a draft matrix of national, sub-regional and regional MCS issues, needs and potential actions;

the establishment of a Regional MCS Network and three sub regional MCS forums; development of a Curriculum and Training Programme on fisheries MCS measures and techniques; and that the Coordination Committee has initiated greater MCS capacity building.

- Commissioned three RPOA studies:
  - MCS Curriculum and Training Programme;
  - Model Fisheries Legislation;
  - Net Returns: Human and institutional capacity building;
- Agreement to deny port access to IUU vessels;
- An advanced draft RPOA IUU Vessel Watch List;

## **5. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS**

### **5.1. RPOA Secretariat**

The Secretariat presented an overview of progress in implementing the RPOA workplan 2012-13 including progress on data and information exchange on IUU fishing vessels, in particular relating to IUU vessel sightings and movements and action taken by countries –for example, a study case on Indonesia’s investigations on the *FV. Wuhan 04* (formerly the *FV. Thunder*).

As the follow up action of the Workshop on Assessment Impact on IUU Fishing and EC Regulation 1005/2008 to Small Scale Fisheries (Vietnam, 2012), SEAFDEC will raise this issue in the upcoming SEAFDEC’s Program Committee Meeting in Penang in late November 2013 with regard to developing a regional catch certification scheme for small scale fisheries.

The RPOA Secretariat informed the meeting about (i) the International MCS Network’s 4th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop to be held on 17-21 February 2014 in Costa Rica, and (ii) a proposal to assign one person as an MCS IUU specialist to support the RPOA Secretariat in working with MCS focal points in RPOA countries. The Secretariat’s presentation appears in Annex 5.

### **5.2. MCS Sub Regional Groups**

The three subregional MCS groups reported on their activities and identified their main issues.

#### **a. Arafura–Timor Seas (Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste)**

Australia reported on the key issues in 2013 including significant IUU activities in the PNG Dog Leg area – unlicensed fishing vessels, unauthorised mothership activity, duplicate licenses, double/dual flagged vessels, and non-compliant VMS. Australia provided supporting evidentiary material obtained during aerial surveillance (photos, statements/affidavits) to PNG and Indonesia regarding the IUU fishing activity and the group agreed to take the following action:

- representations be made by Indonesia and PNG to non-compliant regional flag states in relation to those vessels identified as operating illegally;
- flag state responsibility being auctioned by PNG and Indonesia in relation to their own flagged vessel operating illegally within each of their own waters respectively;
- conduct future coordinated enforcement activity including air and sea surveillance.

The next subregional group meeting will be held in Bali, Indonesia in the first quarter of 2014. The Subgroup’s presentation appears in Annex 6.

b. Gulf of Thailand (Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Malaysia)

Thailand presented on the subregional group's work to monitor, record and control active fishing capacity in coastal fisheries, including incidences of illegal and destructive fishing practices and landings across international boundaries in the Gulf of Thailand. The elements were:

- A general thrust to support the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation and sub-regional arrangements by building upon trans-boundary 'opportunities';
- The integration of fisheries and habitat management and the importance of trans boundary stocks and habitats;
- Strengthened capacity and sub-regional cooperation on monitoring, surveys and control of fishing effort and the landings of fisheries products;
- Local capacity-building, strengthening of community fisheries and diversified livelihoods to enhance communities' resilience and capacity to adapt to change;
- Data and information sharing.

The next subregional meeting will be held in Thailand, 17-19 December 2013. The Subgroup's presentation appears in Annex 7.

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

Malaysia reported the outcome of the 4th subregional meeting on Southern and Eastern Area of the South China Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas which was held in Manila, Phillipines, 29 June 2013. The meeting agreed to the simplified subregional workplan matrix which was developed by the MCS and Fishery Resource Management technical working group (TWG) .

The next meeting will be held in Brunei Darussalam in the third quarter of 2014. The Subgroup's presentation appears in Annex 8.

Responding to the MCS subregional groups' presentations, the meeting took note of the following matters:

- The need to standarize reporting by the MCS subregional groups. While it was agreed to develop standardised core reporting criteria, it was also agreed to build in flexibility to enable reporting on subgroup specific matters, where required. RPOA Secretariat was tasked to prepare a reporting template for use by the subregional groups;
- The training program undertaken by the Arafura-Timor Seas Subgroup was based on the RPOA MCS Curriculum and Training Program and could only be focused on surveillance and enforcement training due to limited funding;
- With regard to specific subgroup capacity building and training , the meeting agreed that such activities could be expanded to the other subregional groups and all RPOA participating countries. However, the type of capacity building and training, and funding availability, will need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

### **5.3. RPOA Advisory Bodies**

a. SEAFDEC

The representative from SEAFDEC (Dr. Magnus Torrel) presented the SEAFDEC sub-regional approach now established in the areas of the Andaman Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, the Mekong River basin and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas. The subregional approach comprises four headline target areas, namely (i) integration of habitat and fisheries management (EAF) (ii) monitoring, recording and control for large and small scale fishing and combating IUU (iii) local knowledge, cross cutting issues, climate

variability and safety at sea, and (iv) policy development and promotion of regional cooperation in fisheries management.

Dr. Torell raised the need to strengthen the role of SEAFDEC, MRC, CTI-CFF, RPOA-IUU, BOBLME and others in facilitating development of regional, bilateral or trilateral agreements. Collaborative effort should be strengthened and continued with other international organizations and initiatives, including ASEAN, FAO/APFIC, IMO and ILO. Dr. Torell also informed the meeting about SEAFDEC's upcoming events including the next subregional Gulf of Thailand meeting that will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, 18-19 December 2013.

b. InfoFish

The representative from Infofish (Dr. Abdul Basir Kunhimohammed) informed the meeting of its activities as described on its website and through its magazine and would welcome articles submitted by RPOA countries about combating IUU fishing in the region, similar to articles in the magazine on combating IUU fishing in African countries.

#### **5.4. Organization/partners**

a. Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) – Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CFF)

The representative from the CTI-CFF (Mr. Antony Lewis) presented on coastal and marine resource management in the Coral Triangle Initiative - Southeast Asia (CTI-SEA) project, and highlighted the activities on combating IUU fishing on groupers and wrasse – now also an off-shore trans-border issue. The project addresses the Live Reef Food Fish (LRFF) IUU issue within a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) framework and the issue of sustainability within the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM). Mr Lewis informed the meeting that CTI activities pertaining to IUU, as indicated in the CTI-CFF RPOA, could be pursued under the umbrella of the RPOA-IUU and suggested that CTI-CFF initiatives be included on the agenda of RPOA Coordination Committee meetings.

b. International MCS Network (IMCSN)

The representative from the International MCS Network (Mr. Harm Koster) presented on activities of the IMCSN such as information exchange, raising awareness and strengthening technical capacity. He outlined IMCSN experience on capacity building in Ghana and the exchange of MCS equipment.

IMCSN also informed the meeting of the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop with the topic Protecting Artisanal and Regional Fisheries through the Promotion of Legal, Reported and Regulated Fisheries, to be held on 17-21 February 2014 in Costa Rica. IMCSN invited RPOA countries to participate in the Enforcement Training Workshop as representatives from Southeast Asia with an indication they can fully support their participation.

In response to this presentation, the matter of financial support for developing countries to participate in IMCSN activities was raised. More financial support would assist greater participation in community based MCS programs, such as in Indonesia and Vietnam who are members of IMCSN.

#### **5.5. Observers**

a. US Department of Commerce – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The representative from the US Department of Commerce – NOAA (Dr. Russel E. Brainard) presented on the IUU programs in the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) under CTI-CFF. He informed the meeting on the of NOAA's enforcement capability in combating IUU fishing such as: surveillance patrols and

investigations; education, outreach and community based efforts; technology (VMS, forensics), and partnerships (international, national, state/tribal, local, NGO, stakeholders), including its collaboration in the region with organizations and agencies. Dr Brainard expressed an interest in aligning NOAA's EAFM capability with relevant regional bodies where this would complement investment in fisheries management and combating IUU fishing.

b. Greenpeace

The representative from Greenpeace (Mr. Ephraim Batungbacal) noted that unsustainable fishing methods and destructive techniques are one of the gravest threats to Southeast Asia's oceans. He explained that in many instances large commercial vessels are fishing within areas that are reserved for local communities, in essence stealing the marine resources that coastal communities depend on for survival. He emphasized that these factors contribute to the downward spiral of fish stocks, some of which are threatened or endangered.

As a global organization, Greenpeace is committed to the attainment of twin global ocean goals (i) achieving a global network of effective no-take marine reserves covering 40% of the oceans and (ii) an end to overfishing.

Presentation of Advisory Bodies and Observers appears in Annex 9.

### **5.6. Global Record of Fishing Vessel and RPOA PIC – meeting report**

The Coordination Committee noted the reports of the two meetings held in Manila, Philippines, 25-28 June 2013 and considered their recommendations. The meetings were:

- (i) FAO/RPOA Expert Workshop on The Development of tools to Combat IUU Fishing - The Comprehensive Global Record of Fishing Vessel, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels. The Coordination Committee discussed the report of the workshop including some amendments to the draft report. The Coordination Committee endorsed the report of the workshop;
- (ii) Regional Public Information Campaign (PIC) workshop report. The Coordination Committee endorsed the PIC Strategic Action Plan.

SEAFDEC informed the meeting on the progress of a regional fishing vessel record where a pilot exercise will be conducted to include countries' minimum data requirement for vessels of 24 metres and greater as a subset based on the FAO Global Record data registration.

The workshop reports appear in Annex 10 and Annex 11 respectively.

### **5.7. RPOA Vessel Watch List**

Australia noted the progress made in developing the draft RPOA Vessel Watch List including input from an intersessional subgroup discussion conducted on the side of the RPOA Regional PIC meeting in the Philippines. Delegates discussed the additional input received from Thailand and agreed to accommodate it into the draft RPOA Vessel Watch List. The revised draft would be circulated to participating countries for consideration and comment out-of-session.

### **5.8. MCS Network Communication Procedures**

Australia presented the draft MCS Network Communication Procedures. The meeting endorsed the MCS Network Communication Procedures. The Secretariat was asked to place the Procedures (when finalised) on the public website and also to circulate the document. The Procedures appear in Annex 12.

## **6. THE CONCEPT OF GENUINE LINK AND FLAG STATE RESPONSIBILITY**

Australia informed the meeting it has yet to finalize a draft paper regarding 'The Concept of Genuine Link and Flag State Responsibility'.

A general discussion on flag State responsibilities ensued focussing on methods used by IUU fishers to avoid detection such as falsification of documents including fishing licences and catch records, using fishing gear not in accordance with the regulations or prohibited fishing methods (blast fishing), the increasing use of unauthorised carrier/support vessels, falsifying vessel names and flags, flag duplication, falsifying crew identity documents and bribery of officials. Countries were asked to reflect on their flag State responsibilities and how much control they have/dont have over their vessels either in national waters or international waters, including when presented with substantiated evidence of IUU activity.

The meeting recalled that flag state responsibility is one of the 11 RPOA Action Plan elements endorsed by fisheries ministers in Bali in 2007 and noted that capacity building (human, institutional and technology) and a strong and responsive legal framework remain the building blocks for more effective implementation of flag state responsibilities.

## **7. 2012-13 RPOA WORK PLAN AND COUNTRY REPORTS**

The RPOA member countries provided their country reports on progress and implementation of the RPOA workplan 2012-2013 with key activities under (i) strengthening legal, administrative and policy frameworks, (ii) capacity building, (iii) strengthening regional/international cooperation (iv) other implementation not included in the workplan 2012-2013 and (v) suggested priorities and recommendations.

During presentations, countries identified issues such as:

- Gaps in roles and responsibilities between internal agencies and understanding the overall regulatory framework;
- Benefits in harmonizing the regulations required to implement port State measures and strengthening information exchange and sharing;
- Benefits in ratifying the PSMA and/or implementing key PSMA measures;
- The need for both bilateral and regional cooperation in developing a Regional PIC;
- A need for greater capacity building and/or a regional workshop on flag state responsibilities.

Country presentations appear in Annex 13.

## **8. THE RPOA – A FIVE YEAR EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT**

The RPOA Secretariat presented the outline of the RPOA Evaluation and Assessment paper. The RPOA is a work in progress and the paper is a working document offering advice to the Coordination Committee on implementation of the 11 RPOA Action Plan components. In this, the evaluation is more a regional assessment, not a national assesment.

- Progress was mostly satisfactory in: understanding the current resource and management situation in the region; regional capacity building; strengthening MCS systems, and implementing administrative structures and procedures;
- Progress was mixed in: implementation of international and regional instruments; understanding the role of regional and multilateral organizations; implementing coastal State responsibilities; and implementing port State measures;
- Progress was deficient in: implementing flag State responsibilities; implementing regional market measures; and controlling transshipments at sea.

Recommendations included:

- Countries need to better control the activities of their vessels, both in their national waters and waters of other countries;

- Investigate the potential for the use of market measures to help combat the trade in IUU fish, e.g. catch documentation schemes;
- Address the growing problem of unregulated transshipments at sea;
- Address the possibility of developing an RPOA funding base.

Comment arising from discussion focused on :

- Possibly more funding support at the regional level;
- More effective development/implementation of catch certification schemes and implementation of flag State measures and port State measures.

Countries were encouraged to use the document for internal guidance and were asked to provide any comments and/or suggested amendments to the Secretariat as soon as possible. When finalised, the full report should be uploaded to the RPOA website (private) and only the Executive Summary to be uploaded to the public site.

## **9. PRIORITIES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN**

With a view to the next five years, co-chairs led a discussion to identify the key priority action areas on which countries should focus. After a wide-ranging discussion, it was agreed to continue addressing the original 11 RPOA Action Plan elements as they all continue to remain relevant to the implementation of responsible fishing practices and combating IUU fishing in the region.

- To assist development of a five year RPOA strategic action plan, it was further agreed that countries should first identify the impediments encountered in implementing the required national and regional measures and instruments in meeting the RPOA's objectives.

## **10. RPOA WORKPLAN 2013-2014**

The following Work Plan was endorsed by the Coordination Committee:

### **1. Current resource and management situation in the region**

- 1.1. RPOA countries will continue to collaborate with advisory bodies and others to assess the status of fisheries resources to ensure that the best available scientific information is used to assist fisheries management decision making. This information should be shared with all RPOA participating countries as appropriate.

Responsibility: RPOA Countries, Advisory Bodies.

Timeframe: 2013-2014.

### **2. Implementation of international and regional instruments**

- 2.1. Countries to continue to consult internally on implementation of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures and report to the Coordination Committee on action taken.

Responsibility: RPOA Countries.

Timeframe: 2013-2014.

- 2.2. Countries to continue to designate and publicise on their national websites ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry, consistent with international instruments such as the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures.

Responsibility: RPOA Countries.

Timeframe: 2013-2014.



- 2.3. The Secretariat to work with relevant regional bodies to prepare a matrix of activities being undertaken that are relevant to the FAO Global Record and report back to the next CCM.  
Responsibility: RPOA Secretariat.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.
- 2.4. SEAFDEC, RPOA and other advisory bodies to work with the FAO towards the development of the FAO Global Record  
Responsibility: RPOA Secretariat.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.

### **3. Role of regional and multilateral organisations**

- 3.1. Continue to work with regional organisations to strengthen fisheries management and conservation in the south east Asian region.  
Responsibility: RPOA participating countries.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.
- 3.2. Where appropriate, countries will endeavour to increase their participation in regional and multilateral organisations, including RFMOs.  
Responsibility: RPOA participating countries.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.

### **4. Coastal State responsibilities**

No actions

### **5. Flag State responsibilities**

- 5.1. Each country to continue to review its specific Model Fisheries Legislation report and identify action to strengthen its fisheries legislation consistent with the findings of its report. Each country to report to the annual RPOA Coordination Committee its progress in implementing improved fisheries management legislation.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.
- 5.2. Australia to develop a discussion paper on the concept of genuine link and flag state responsibilities.  
Responsibility: Australia.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.

### **6. Port State Measures**

- 6.1. Countries will undertake to refuse entry to their port (s) of vessels on RFMO IUU Fishing Vessel Lists. Countries will endeavour to inspect and/or investigate any suspected fishing vessel that enters its port(s), and where evidence is found to confirm IUU activities, take further action as appropriate.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries.  
Timeframes: 2013-2014.
- 6.2. Subject to adoption out-of-session of the *Procedure for listing and delisting vessels presumed to have carried out IUU activities in RPOA waters* (RPOA Vessel Watch List), countries to implement the RPOA Vessel Watch List.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries.  
Timeframes: 2013-2014.

### **7. Regional Market measures**

- 7.1. Vietnam to work with SEAFDEC on the development of a catch certification scheme for the region that is relevant to the needs of the region and, in particular, the needs of small scale fisheries and report back to the next CC meeting.  
Responsibility: Vietnam, SEAFDEC.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.

## **8. Regional capacity building**

- 8.1. Countries continue to review and promote the findings of the report *Net Returns: A Human Capacity Development Framework for Marine Capture Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia* and the RPOA MCS Curriculum and Training Program, and consult internally with their relevant national agencies and local authorities including donor agencies. Countries to also facilitate internal inspector training consistent with the material provided at the Inspector Training Workshop (June, 2011). On regional issues and priorities, countries should ensure compatibility and consistency across the region and sub-regions. Countries will report annually to the Coordination Committee on improvements with respect to fisheries management capacity building.  
Responsibility: RPOA Countries.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.

## **9. Strengthening MCS systems**

- 9.1. Countries to continue to provide data and information on IUU fishing vessels to the Secretariat.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries, RPOA Secretariat.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.
- 9.2. Countries to consider the draft *Procedure for listing and delisting vessels presumed to have carried out IUU activities in RPOA waters* and provide any comments to the Secretariat by 31 March 2014. If no comments are received by the Secretariat by this date, the procedure should be adopted.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries, RPOA Secretariat.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.
- 9.3. Countries to adhere to the MCS Network Communication Procedures as endorsed by the Coordination Committee.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.

## **10. Transshipments at sea**

- 10.1. Countries to identify action, both nationally and regionally, with regard to illegal transshipments of fisheries products at sea/in port and report to the Coordination Committee on action taken. Where applicable, countries to consider strengthening measures to regulate transshipment at sea by fishing vessels flying their flags and by foreign flagged vessels operating in their waters.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.

## **11. Implementation**

- 11.1. Countries to assess areas of priority and work either nationally, bilaterally or sub-regionally to develop a Public Information Campaign(PIC) in addressing these areas.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.
- 11.2. Countries to implement the Strategic Plan for RPOA PIC  
Responsibility: RPOA countries.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.
- 11.3. The Secretariat to develop a common evaluation and reporting tool to assist in evaluating the PIC for consideration at the next CC meeting.

Responsibility: RPOA Secretariat.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.

- 11.4. As part of the development of a five year RPOA strategic plan, countries to report to the Secretariat on the national impediments to implementing sustainable fisheries management and combatting IUU fishing in their waters.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries.  
Timeframe: by 30 June 2014.
- 11.5. Australia to assist the Secretariat in progressing the development of a 5 year strategic plan for consideration at the next CC meeting.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.
- 11.6. The Secretariat to work with Australia, Malaysia and Singapore to develop procedures and the Terms of Reference for participation in RPOA meetings by Advisory Bodies, Observers and other parties.  
Responsibility: RPOA Secretariat, Australia, Singapore and Malaysia.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.
- 11.7. Countries to provide comments on the draft RPOA Evaluation and Assessment paper. The Secretariat to finalize the paper and upload to the website (private) and the Executive Summary to the public site.  
Responsibility: RPOA countries and Secretariat.  
Timeframe: 2013-2014.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **9. NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to identify, out-of-session, a host country for the 7<sup>th</sup> RPOA Coordination Committee meeting in 2014.

Brunei Darussalam has generously committed to be the host country for the 2015 RPOA Coordination Committee meeting.

### **10. CLOSING REMARKS**

Malaysia thanked all participants for their attendance and continued spirit of cooperation. Malaysia also thanked Indonesia and Australia for their contribution as co-chairs for this meeting, and RPOA Secretariat team for their support.

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

**RPOA Coordination Committee - Members**

<p><b>AUSTRALIA</b> <b>Mr. Ian Thompson</b> Executive Manager Sustainable Fisheries Management Division, Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry 7 London Circuit, Canberra City ACT 2601, GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601 Tel : 02 6272 4643 Fax : 02 6272 4526, Mob : 0417 663 892 Email : ian.thompson@daff.gov.au</p>	<p><b>MALAYSIA</b> <b>Mr. Mohamad Shaupi Derahman</b> Deputy Director-General (Operations) Department of Fisheries Malaysia Level 1-7, Tower Block 4G2, Wisma Tani, Precinct 4 Federal Government Administrative Centre 62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia Phone: 6-03-8870 4003 Fax: 6-03-8889 2460 Email: shaupi@dof.gov.my</p>
<p><b>BRUNEI DARUSSALAM</b> <b>Mr. Halidi Salleh</b> Director of Fisheries Department of Fisheries Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources Bandar Seri Begawan BB 3910 BRUNEI DARUSSALAM Phone: (673) 2383067 / (673) 2382862 Fax: (673) 382069 Email: halidi.salleh@fisheries.gov.bn</p>	<p><b>PAPUA NEW GUINEA</b> <b>Mr. Gisa Komangin</b> Executive Manager, Monitoring Control and Surveillance Division National Fisheries Authority PO Box 2016, Port Moresby, NCD Papua New Guinea Phone: (675) 3090444 Fax: (675) 3202061 E-mail: gkomangin@fisheries.gov.pq</p>
<p><b>CAMBODIA</b> <b>Mr. Ing Try</b> Deputy Director General Fisheries Administration Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries # 186, Narodom Blvd., Sangkat Tonley Basac Khan Chamcarmorn, P.O. Box 582 Phnom Penh, Cambodia Phone: (855-23) 219256 Fax: (855-23) 219256 Email: tmmp.cam@online.com.kh</p>	<p><b>PHILIPPINES</b> <b>Mr. Atty. Asis G. Perez</b> Director IV Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Elliptical Road, Diliman Quezon City 1100 The Philippines E-mail: aperez@bfar.da.gov.ph</p>

<p><b>INDONESIA</b>  <b>Mr. Syahrin Abdurrahman</b>  Director General of Surveillance for Marine and Fishery Resources  Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16, Mina Bahari Building III, 15th Floor, Jakarta Pusat 10110, Indonesia  Phone: (+6221) 3500087  Fax: (+6221) 351 5484  Email: kln_psdkp@yahoo.co.id  ch.chariri@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>SINGAPORE</b>  <b>Mrs. Tan-Low Lai Kim</b>  Director of Food Supply Resilience Department  Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority  5 Maxwell Road, #04-00 Tower Block MND Complex  Singapore 069110  Phone: (+65) 6325 7604  Fax: (+65) 6220 6068, (+65) 6324 9340  Email: tan-low_lai_kim@ava.gov.sg</p>
<p><b>THAILAND</b>  <b>Dr. Smith Thummachua</b>  Chief  Overseas Fisheries Management &amp; Economic Cooperation Group  Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division  Department of Fisheries  Kaset Klang, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900  Phone: (662)5797947  Fax: (662)5797947  E-mail: thuma98105@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>VIETNAM</b>  <b>Mr. Pham Trong Yen</b>  Deputy Director General  International Cooperation Department  Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.  No 2, Ngoc Ha street, Ba Dinh district, Hanoi.  Telephone: 04 7347086/0912252772  Fax: 04 7330752  Email: ptrongyen@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>TIMOR LESTE</b>  <b>Mr. Lourenco Dos Reis Amaral</b>  Director of Fisheries Inspection  National Directorate of Fisheries &amp; Aquaculture  Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry &amp; Fisheries  Avenida Presidente Nicolau Lobato Comoro, Dili  Phone: + 670 3325121  Email: ensuamaral@yahoo.com</p>	

**RPOA COORDINATION COMMITTEE – ADVISORY BODY****FAO - APFIC****Dr Simon Funge-Smith**

Senior Fishery Officer, RAP  
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the  
Pacific

39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok

10200, Thailand

Phone: +66-2-6974 149

Fax : +66-2-6974 445

Email : [simon.fungesmith@fao.org](mailto:simon.fungesmith@fao.org)

**SEAFDEC****Mr Chumnarn Pongsri**

Secretary General and Train

Department Chief

SEAFDEC Building, Kasetsart

University Campus

PO BOX 1046 Kasetsart Post Office

Bangkok 10903, Thailand

Tel: +66 0 2940 6326, +66 0 2940

5682, Fax: +66 0 2940 6336, Cell:

+66 0 2940 6336

Email : [sg@seafdec.org](mailto:sg@seafdec.org)

**INFOFISH****Dr Muhammad Ayyub, PhD**

Director,

Level 2, Menara Olympia,

8 Jalan Raja Chulan

50200 Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia

Tel: +603-20783466

Fax: +603-20786804

Email: [info@infofish.org](mailto:info@infofish.org);

[infofish@tm.net.my](mailto:infofish@tm.net.my)

**WORLDFISH CENTRE****Dr Maripaz L Perez**

Regional Director for

Asia The WorldFish

Center

Office: Jalan Batu Maung, Batu

Maung, 11960 Bayan Lepas,

Penang, Malaysia

PO Box 500 GPO, 10670

Penang, Malaysia

Email: [ma.perez@cgiar.org](mailto:ma.perez@cgiar.org)

Direct Line: (+60-4) 6202 12

**ANNEX. 2****Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices  
including Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asia Region****The 6<sup>th</sup> RPOA Coordination Committee Meeting  
Kota Kiinabalu, Malaysia, 19 – 21 November 2013****List of Participants**

No	Name	Position	Agency and Address
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>			
1	Mr. Murray Johns	Senior Policy Adviser,	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, CPO Box 858, Canberra, ACT 2601 Australia Tel : +612 6272 3912 Fax : +612 6272 4875 Email: murray.johns@daff.gov.au
2	Mr. Bruce Wallner	Counselor of Agriculture,	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australian Embassy for Indonesia Email: bruce.wallner@dfat.gov.au
3	Mrs. Kerry Smith	Senior Manager, Foreign Compliance Policy	Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Email: Kerry.smith@afma.gov.au
4	Mrs. Cindy Bravos	Manager, International Compliance Operations,	Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) Email: cindy.bravos@afma.gov.au
<b>BRUNEI DARUSSALAM</b>			
5	Mr. Matzaini Juna	Act Senior Fisheries Officer,	Fisheries Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Jalan Menteri Besar, BB 3910, Brunei Darussalam. Tel :+673 277 2787 Fax : +673 277 0065 Email: matzaini.juna@gmail.com
6	Mr. Zul-Faisal Hj Saherin	Fisheries Officer	Fisheries Department Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Jalan Menteri Besar, BB 3910, Brunei Darussalam. Tel :+673 277 2787 Fax : +673 277 0065 Email: zulfaisal.saherin@gmail.com
<b>CAMBODIA</b>			
7	Mr. Heng Sotharith	Deputy Director	Department of Fisheries Affair Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries #186, Narodom Blvd., Sangkat Tonley

			Basac Khan Chamcarmorn, P.O Box 582 Phnom Penh, Cambodia Ph: +855 12 882747 Email: hengsotarith747@gmail.com
8	Mr. Sok Long	Deputy Director	Department of Planning, Finance and International Cooperation, Fisheries Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries #186, Narodom Blvd., Sangkat Tonle Basac Khan Chamcarmorn, P.O Box 582 Phnom Penh, Cambodia Ph: +855 12 231 331 Email: longsonita2001@yahoo.com
INDONESIA			
9	Mrs. Sere Alina Tampubolon	Director of Fisheries Surveillance	Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina Bahari Building II, 17th Floor Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16, Jakarta Pusat 10110, Indonesia Email: serealinat@yahoo.com
10	Mr. Taufiq Budiman Atmamiharja	Head of Section of ASEAN Cooperation	Center of International Marine and Fisheries Cooperation, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Mina Bahari Building I, 1st Floor, Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16, Jakarta Pusat 10110, Indonesia Email: atmamiharja@yahoo.com
11	Mr. Moh. Hosni Mubarak	Head of Sub Division Legislation Capture Fisheries and Processing Product Marketing,	Beureu of Law Enforcement Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina Bahari Building I Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16, Jakarta Pusat 10110, Indonesia Email: mubarak.dkp@gmail.com
12	Mr. Ari Prasetyo	Head of Sub Division Legislation for Coastal, Small Islands and Surveillance,	Beureu of Law Enforcement Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina Bahari Building I Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16, Jakarta Pusat 10110, Indonesia Email: sir_ariprasetyo@yahoo.com
13	Mr. Purwanto	RPOA Secretariat Adviser	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina Bahari Building III, 15th Floor Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16, Jakarta Pusat 10110, Indonesia Email: purwanto.pp@gmail.com
14	Mrs. Shita Hayu Lukitanindyah	Head of Section for the Cooperation of Marine Resources,	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia Email: shitanindya@yahoo.com
15	Mrs. Agoestineke Rostina	Head of Documentation and Record Fishing Vessel,	Directorate General of Capture Fisheries Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina Bahari Building II, 12th Floor,



			Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16, Jakarta Pusat 10110, Indonesia Email: agoestineke@yahoo.co.id
16	Mrs. Sofiah	Head of Evaluation and Monitoring	Directorate General of Capture Fisheries Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina Bahari Building II, 12th Floor, Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16, Jakarta Pusat 10110, Indonesia Email: kln_djpt@yahoo.com
MALAYSIA			
17	Mr Mohamad Shaupi Bin Derahman	Deputy Director General of Fisheries	Department of Fisheries Malaysia, 6th Floor, Tower Block, 4G2, Wisma Tani, Percinct 4, 62628, Putrajaya, Malaysia Tel : +603 8870 4003 Fax : +603 8889 5502 Email: shaupi@dof.gov.my
18	Mr Ahmad Hazizi Bin Aziz	Director of International, Trade & Investment Division International, Trade & Investment Division,	Department of Fisheries Malaysia, 2nd Floor, Tower Block, 4G2, Wisma Tani, Percinct 4, 62628, Putrajaya Tel : +6 03 - 8870 4213 Fax : +6 03 - 8889 1195 Email: ahazizi@dof.gov.my
19	Mdm Tan Geik Hong	Head of Marine Management Section Licensing & Resources Management Division,	Department of Fisheries Malaysia, 1st Floor, Tower Block, 4G2, Wisma Tani, Percinct 4, 62628, Putrajaya Tel : +6 03 - 8870 4401 Fax : +6 03 - 8889 1233 Email: geik_hong@dof.gov.my
20	Mr Abdullah Bin Jaafar	Head of Operation Section Resources Protection Division,	Department of Fisheries Malaysia, 5th Floor, Tower Block, 4G2, Wisma Tani, Percinct 4, 62628, Putrajaya Tel : +6 03 - 8870 4023 Fax : +6 03 - 8889 1786 Email: abj@dof.gov.my
21	Mdm Haryati Binti Abd Wahab	Fisheries Officer Licensing & Resources Management Division,	Department of Fisheries Malaysia, 1st Floor, Tower Block, 4G2, Wisma Tani, Percinct 4, 62628, Putrajaya Tel : +6 03 - 8870 4437 Fax : +6 03 - 8889 1233 Email: haryati@dof.gov.my
22	Ms Noorliza Binti Ramli	Fisheries Officer Licensing & Resources Management Division,	Department of Fisheries Malaysia, 1st Floor, Tower Block, 4G2, Wisma Tani, Percinct 4, 62628, Putrajaya Tel : +6 03 - 8870 4437 Fax : +6 03 - 8889 1233 Email: norliza@dof.gov.my

23	Mr. Arthur Besther Sujang	Fisheries Officer, Licensing and Resource Management Division	Department of Fisheries Malaysia, 1st Floor, Tower Block, 4G2, Wisma Tani, Percinct 4, 62628, Putrajaya Tel : +6 03 - 8870 4437 Fax : +6 03 - 8889 1233 Email: arthur@dof.gov.my
24	Mr Jephrein Z. Wong	Deputy Director of Fisheries Sabah	Department of Fisheries Malaysia Email: jephrein.wong@sabah.gov.my
25	Mr Yusoff Bin Abdullah	Fisheries Officer	Department of Fisheries Malaysia
26	Mr Lawrence Kissol	Fisheries Officer	Department of Fisheries Malaysia Email: Lawrence.Kissol@sabah.gov.my
27	Mr Zainudin Abdul Wahab	Director of Labuan Fisheries Office	Department of Fisheries Malaysia Email: zainudin@dof.gov.my zainudin@hotmail.com
28	Hjh Mahyam Binti Mohd Isa	Chief SEAFDEC / MFRDMD,	Taman Perikanan Chendering, 21080, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu Email: mahyam@seafdec.org.my mahyam@dof.gov.my
29	En Abdul Razak Bin Latun	Head of Fishery Oceanography & Resources Enhancement Section,	SEAFDEC / MFRDMD, Taman Perikanan Chendering, 21080, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu Email: abdulrazaklatun@seafdec.org.my
30	Cik Mazalina Binti Mohd Ali	Research Officer	SEAFDEC / MFRDMD, Taman Perikanan Chendering, 21080, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu Email: mazalina@seafdec.org.my
31	Mdm Norhasliza Binti Mat Saleh	National Security Council	Prime Minister's Department MALAYSIA Tel: +603-88724323 Fax: +603-88883091 Email: norhasliza@mkn.gov.my
32	Commander Maritime Zin Azman Bin Md Yunus	Ketua Penguatkuasa Maritim Daerah Pejabat Daerah Maritim Kota Kinabalu (DM15),	Agensi Penguatkuasaan Maritim Malaysia, Jabatan Perdana Menteri, Wisma WB, SEDCO Industrial Estate, Jalan Rolombong, 88450, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Tel : +6088 - 387 770 Fax: +6088 - 387 555 Email: zin@mmea.gov.my
PAPUA NEW GUINEA			
33	MR OLIVER TENO	Special Project Officer	National Fisheries Authority PO Box 2016, Port Moresby, PNG Tel : (675) 320 1950 Fax : (675) 320 1465 Email: oteno@fisheries.gov.png oteno_2009@hotmail.com

SINGAPORE			
35	Mr. Teh Kihua	Senior Executive Manager (Fishery Ports)	Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority Email: teh_kihua@ava.gov.sg
36	Mr. Adrian Lim	Asst. Director (Fisheries Management)	Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority Email: Adrian_lim@ava.gov.sg
THAILAND			
37	Mr Pirochana Saikliang	Senior Expert on Marine Fisheries, Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau	Department of Fisheries, Kasetklang, Chatuchak, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand Tel : +66(0)2561 2962 Fax: +66(0)2561 2962 Email: pirochas@hotmail.com
TIMOR LESTE			
38	Mr Pedro Antero Maria Rodrigues	Chief of Fishing port	National Directorate of Fisheries & Aquaculture Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Avenida Presidente Nicolau Lobato Comoro, Dili Phone: + 670 3325121 Email: rodriques_pedro@ymail.com
39	Mr Constancio Dos Santos Silva	Fisheries Inspection Staff	National Directorate of Fisheries & Aquaculture Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Avenida Presidente Nicolau Lobato Comoro, Dili Phone: + 670 3325121 Email: sakalpala@yahoo.com
VIETNAM			
40	Mrs Nguyen Thi Trang Nhung	Deputy Director	Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation, Fisheries Administration, 10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Ba Dinh, Hanoi Vietnam Tel : 84-4-3724 5374 Fax : 84 - 4-3724 5120 Email: trangnhungicd@gmail.com
41	Mr. Le Tran Nguyen Hung	Head of Capture Fisheries Management Division	Department of Capture Fisheries and Resource Protection (DECAFIREP) /MARD Email: lenguyenhung@mard.gov.vn; hungmard@yahoo.com.vn, SKYPE: hungltn
ADVISORY BODIES - SEAFDEC			
42	Dr Chunmarn Pongsri	Secretary-General	SEAFDEC Secretariat, PO BOX 1046, Kasetsart Post Office Bangkok 10903, Thailand Tel: +66 2 9406336, fax: +66 2

			9406336 Email: sg@seafdec.org
43	Dr Magnus Torell	Senior Advisor	SEAFDEC Secretariat, PO BOX 1046, Kasetsart Post Office Bangkok 10903, Thailand Tel: +66 2 9406336, fax: +66 2 9406336 Email: magnus@seafdec.org
<b>ADVISORY BODIES - INFOFISH</b>			
44	Dr Abdul Basir Kunhimohamed	Director	1st Floor, Wisma LKIM, Jalan Desaria, Pulau Meranti, 47210, Puchong, Selangor, Malaysia Tel : +603-8064 9306 Email: director@infofish.org
<b>RPOA SECRETARIAT</b>			
45	Mrs. Ida Kusuma Wardhaningsih	Secretary of the Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fishery Resources	Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia /RPOA Secretariat Email: ida.kusumaw@gmail.com rpoa_operator@yahoo.com
46	Mr. Benny Parlaungan Tambunan	Head of Program Division	Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia /RPOA Secretariat Email: b_tambunan@yahoo.com; bentam70@gmail.com
47	Mr. Ardiansyah	Head of Program Cooperation Sub Division	Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia /RPOA Secretariat Email: ardiansyah_h@yahoo.com rpoa_operator@yahoo.com
48	Mr. Ahmad Firdaus	Program Division Staff	Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia /RPOA Secretariat Email: iwak_holic@yahoo.com rpoa_operator@yahoo.com
49	Mrs. Vera Septowati	Program Division Staff	Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia /RPOA Secretariat Email: rpoa_operator@yahoo.com
50	Ms. Erlinda Q. Aina	Program Division Staff	Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia

			/RPOA Secretariat Email: rpoa_operator@yahoo.com
51	Mrs. Azhimi Rahmawati S.	Program Division Staff	Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Republic of Indonesia /RPOA Secretariat Email: rpoa_operator@yahoo.com
<b>OBSERVER - CTI EAFM</b>			
52	Dr. Annadel S. Cabanban	EAFM Specialist ADB RETA 7813	Coral Triangle Southeast Coastal and Marine Resources Management, PRIMEX, Metro Manila, Philippines Email: annadel.cabanban@gmail.com
53	Mr. Antony David Lewis	MCS Specialist	Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle – Southeast Asia (CTI – SEA), Regional Project Management Office, Pasig City, Philippines Email: alewis9@bigpond.com
<b>OBSERVER - International MCS Network</b>			
54	Mr. Harm Koster	Executive Director	IMCS Network Office, 2300 Wisconsin Ave NW Washington DC Email: hkoster@imcsnet.org
<b>OBSERVER - NOAA</b>			
55	Ms. Paige Casey	Special Agent	NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Tel: (727) 824-5356 Fax: (727) 824-5355 Email: paige.casey@noaa.gov
56	Dr. Russell E. Brainard	Supervisory Oceanographer Chief, Coral Reef Ecosystem Division	NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center Tel: (808) 983-3719 Fax: (808) 983-3730 Email: rusty.brainard@noaa.gov
57	Mr. George Phocas	Resident Agent In Charge, Hawaii – Pacific Islands	US Dept. Of Interior Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement Tel: (808) 861-8525 Fax: (808) 791-0852 Email: george_phocas@fws.gov
58	Mr. Jeff Pollack		NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Tel: (727) 824-5356 Fax: (727) 824-5355 Email: jeffrey.pollack@noaa.gov
<b>OBSERVER - GREENPEACE</b>			
59	Mr. Ephraim Batungbacal	Regional Oceans Research Coordinator	Greenpeace Southeast Asia Tel: (632) 332-1807 Fax: (632) 332-1806 Email: ephraim.batungbacal@greenpeace.org

LOCAL ORGANIZERS			
60	Mr Ernest Jinaut	Fisheries Officer, DoF Sabah	Ernest.Jinaut@sabah.gov.my
61	Mdm Intan Mawarni Mz	Fisheries Officer, DoF Sabah	intanmawarni@gmail.com
62	Mdm Ruana Kumpit	Fisheries Officer, DoF Sabah	
63	Amadeus Benjamin	Fisheries Officer, DoF Sabah	
64	Pricillia Justin	Fisheries Officer, DoF Sabah	priscilla.justinjimbangan@sabah.gov.my
65	Elnor S.	Fisheries Officer, DoF Sabah	
66	Maria Jaikul (Protokol)	Fisheries Officer, DoF Sabah	
67	Nazrin	Fisheries Officer, DoF Sabah	