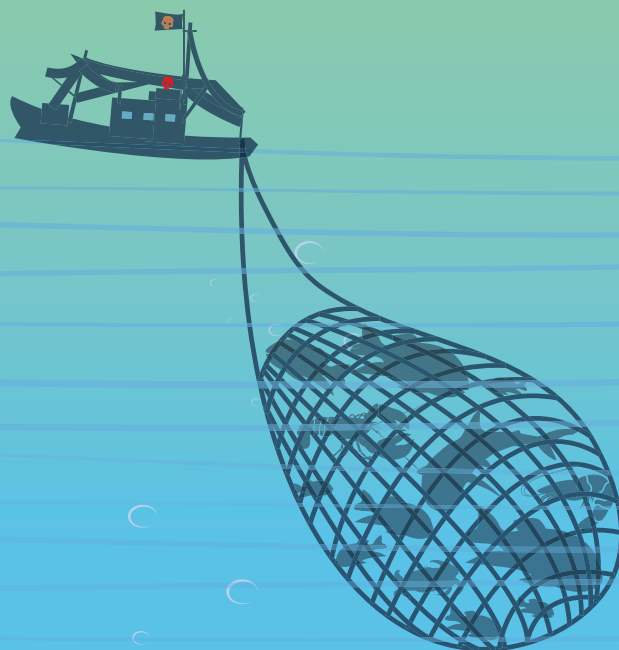




# **Report of the Regional Meeting for the Review and Validation of the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**

*24 - 25 February 2020  
Chennai, India*





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**Report of the Regional Meeting for the Review and Validation of the  
Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported and  
Unregulated Fishing**

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Chennai, India

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**BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME  
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION  
Chennai, India  
2020**

## Preparation of this Document

This document 'Regional Meeting for the Review and Validation for the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing' was prepared by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). The designations employed and the presentation of material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of BOBP-IGO or the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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Participants at the Regional Meeting; 24 - 25 February 2020; Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

**Report of the Regional Meeting for Review and Validation of the  
Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal,  
Unreported and Unregulated Fishing from the Exclusive Economic Zones  
of the Member-Countries of the Bay of Bengal Programme  
Inter-Governmental Organisation**

*24 – 25 February 2020, Chennai, India*

**Report**

**1.0 Background**

1.1 Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has been one of the biggest banes of fisheries in recent decades, putting the sustainability of fish stocks in peril. It's a scourge that has affected fisheries in all the continents and is undermining the efforts of nations in bringing back the depleted fish stocks to their original conditions. Its prevalence ranges from national waters to the sea areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and from small-scale operators to large industrial-scale fishing vessels. Apart from the biological losses, IUU fishing also offsets the economic gains from fisheries. Based on a study<sup>1</sup> carried out in 2015 in the Bay of Bengal region, it is noted that incidences of IUU fishing are high and the estimated economic losses from such fishing are in the range of USD 1,117 – 4,635 million per year. IUU Fishing was recognized as a major challenge in the Sustainable Development Goal adopted by the United Nations in 2015 with Goal 14: Life Below Water setting specific target for curbing IUU fishing.

1.2 The member-countries of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), viz., Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka are developing and implementing their National Plans of Actions to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) with assistance from the FAO and the BOBP-IGO. Sri Lanka has already developed and notified it's NPOA-IUU while Bangladesh and Maldives have finalized their NPOAs and India is in the process of drafting it's NPOA-IUU.

1.3 Considering the transboundary nature of IUU fishing activities and the need to support the national initiatives in fighting this menace in a collective and coordinated manner, FAO and BOBP-IGO proposed development and adoption of a Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing from the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the Member-Countries of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). This is in line with the mandate of the BOBP-IGO, *implement programmes and activities which are of immediate requirement for the sustainable development and management of coastal fisheries* (Art 4a of BOBP-IGO Agreement)" and as directed by the Governing Council during its Eighth Meeting: *Enabling environment for sustainable fisheries governance is in place in the region under its Strategic Plan of Action 2014-18* and the FAO objective of (Strategic Objective 2) making, agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable. The FAO/BOBP-IGO work-plan included organization of a regional consultation to develop the inputs for BOBP-IGO RPOA-IUU and a second consultation to review and validate the document.

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<sup>1</sup> BOBLME, 2015. *Review of impacts of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing on developing countries in Asia*. BOBLME-2015-Governance-15, 526 p.



*Lighting of the traditional lamp*



*Yugraj Singh Yadava*



*Meeting in progress*



Following which, the countries would be expected to formally adopt the BOB RPOA-IUU and proceed with the necessary institutional arrangements.

1.4 A Regional Consultation was organized in Chennai from 14 – 15 October 2019 for ‘*Development of the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*’. Twenty-three participants from the member-countries representing Ministry/Department of Fisheries; Ministry/Department of Environment; Coast Guard/Navy; and community-based organisations (CBOs)/non-governmental organisations (NGOs) apart from experts, FAO and BOBP attended the Regional Consultation. Based on the inputs from the Regional Consultation as well as international best practices for regional cooperation in curbing IUU fishing, the BOBP-IGO prepared a draft BOB RPOA-IUU with a supporting background paper on the need for regional cooperation. The documents were circulated to the member-countries and FAO during late January/early February 2020. The second regional consultation, ‘the Regional Meeting for Review and Validation of the BOB RPOA-IUU’ is now being organized to finalize the draft BOB RPOA-IUU before it is forwarded to the member-countries for their consideration and adoption.

## 2.0 The Regional Meeting

2.1 The Regional Meeting for Review and Validation of the Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing from the Exclusive Economic Zones of the Member-Countries of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (hereinafter referred to as the Regional Meeting) was held from 24 – 25 February 2020 in Chennai, India. The Regional Meeting was organized by FAO and BOBP-IGO to (i) review and validate the BOB RPOA-IUU and (ii) make a recommendation for adoption of the BOB RPOA-IUU by the member-countries in a time-bound manner. The Prospectus and Agenda of the Regional Meeting is placed as **Annex 1**. Eighteen participants representing the three<sup>2</sup> member-countries (Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka), civil society and non-governmental organisations, expert and the BOBP-IGO attended the Regional Meeting. The List of Participants is placed as **Annex 2**.

## 3.0 Adoption of the agenda and arrangements of the Regional Meeting

3.1 The Regional Meeting began with the lighting of the traditional lamp. Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava, Director, BOBP-IGO welcomed the participants and presented the agenda and arrangements of the Regional Meeting, which was agreed to. The Regional Meeting was conducted in four sessions over two days. Following the Inaugural Session (Session 1), in Session 2, the draft BOB RPOA-IUU was presented and evaluated for final drafting. In Session 3, participants worked in groups to identify ‘**Challenges and Catalysts in implementation of BOB RPOA-IUU**’. The recommendations from the group reports were summarized to develop the meeting recommendations and were presented and adopted in Session 4. Mr I J Singh, Deputy Inspector General and Commanding Officer, Indian Coast Guard Ship Sagar chaired the Regional Meeting.

## 4.0 Inaugural Session

4.1 Mr I J Singh, in his inaugural address welcomed the participants and shared the experience of the Indian Coast Guard in dealing with IUU fishing. He said that as per the recent estimates, IUU fishing accounts for approximately 15 percent of the global catch. In south and southeast Asia also IUU fishing is a major challenge and the major contributing

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2 Maldives expressed its inability to attend the Regional Meeting as a delegation from European Union was visiting Maldives to discuss their IUU set-up in the country and the visit was coinciding with the Regional Meeting. Maldives also informed that if they had any comment on the draft BOB RPOA-IUU, it would be communicated to BOBP-IGO.



*Inderjit Singh*



*Rajdeep Mukherjee*



*Md Farhan Tazim*



*S R Rupasena*



*Shoba Joe Kizhakudan*



*Md Farhan Tazim*



*Regional Meeting in progress*





*Regional Meeting in progress*

factors are: (i) ignorance, especially in case of local/country fishermen; (ii) consumer demand for seafood; (iii) rampant overfishing and reduced fish catch in established fishing grounds, and (iv) lure of easy profit. India has a large maritime zone and illegal fishing vessels can move through vulnerable boundaries and could even carry out other maritime crimes, such as terrorism as experienced by India during 26 November 2008 Mumbai attacks apart from engaging in smuggling of drugs/contrabands, illegal human trafficking, etc. He said that Illegal fishing threatens the sustainability of the world's fisheries and the economies of many coastal nations and an effective fight against IUU fishing requires flexibility to match illegal operators who continuously change tactics. He suggested a set of action to curb IUU fishing that include: (i) means of identifying and tracking fishing vessels and their history at global level and unique vessel identification numbers and satellite transponders like GPS on all fishing vessels that operate in waters beyond national jurisdiction; (ii) sharing of reliable, real-time and transparent information among port, flag, and coastal states; (iii) ensuring responsibility of the flag states to monitor their fishing fleet; (iv) ensuring effective implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) to prevent illegally caught fish from entering ports; creating awareness and accountability in the seafood market to eliminate IUU fishing; (v) strict regulation of trans-shipment on the high seas and in port; and (vi) developing advanced technology platforms that combine data sets and sources, including satellite remote sensing data with machine algorithms that are reviewed by experts, fisheries analysts and which will improve the identification, monitoring, enforcement and prosecution of IUU fishing.

4.2 Mr Rajdeep Mukherjee, Policy Analyst, BOBP-IGO made a presentation on 'Development of BOB RPOA-IUU: The Process'. Detailing the thought process behind the development of the RPOA-IUU, he said that IUU fishing is a major international concern, especially during the last three decades and a set of international and regional policies were developed during this period to curb it. As early as 2008, the BOBP-IGO identified that inadequate fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) in the region, set in a complex fisheries environment, was an important barrier for identifying and curbing IUU fishing in the region, which then led the member-countries to adopt the 'Chittagong Resolution' to develop fisheries MCS and subsequently the NPOAs-MCS during 2008-10. Subsequently, FAO/BOBP-IGO assisted the member-countries in developing their NPOA-IUU. However, the IUU situation at the national and regional levels is still unsatisfactory and realizing this a coordinated regional approach is proposed to corroborate and upgrade the national efforts and also to address the regional scenario and requirements. Towards this goal, FAO and BOBP-IGO are working with the member-countries since 2019 to develop the RPOA-IUU, which was presented in the present Regional Meeting. The presentation made by Mr Mukherjee is placed in **Annex 3**.

## 5.0 Session 2: Review and Validation of BOB RPOA-IUU

5.1 During Session 2, Dr Yugraj Singh Yadava introduced the draft RPOA. He said that the BOB RPOA-IUU provides guidance for the formulation and implementation of the National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU (NPOA-IUU) fishing to the member-countries as well as collaborating action by other stakeholders and agencies working in the region to curb IUU fishing. It is based on the pillars of national sovereignty, regional cooperation, effective stakeholder participation and multilateral collaboration and is guided by the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (IPOA-IUU), Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF) and the international instruments

and arrangements to which the BOBP-IGO member-countries have acceded so far, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It is a voluntary instrument, initially planned for ten years (2020-30) and when adopted will be applicable to the EEZ of the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO and adjacent areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). He explained the twenty actions proposed in the BOB RPOA-IUU and said that these actions are directed at validation and adoption of the instrument by the member-countries; building institutional framework for implementing the instrument; effective fisheries MCS and regional cooperation and information sharing. The presentation made by Dr Yadava is placed in **Annex 4**.

5.2 Participants from Bangladesh (Md Farhan Tazim) and Sri Lanka (S R Rupasena) made presentations on alignment of their corresponding NPOA-IUU with the RPOA-IUU. Bangladesh said that the NPOA-IUU, which is in the process of development, is in accordance with the IPOA-IUU and it underlines the need for regional cooperation and multilateral collaboration. The 20-point actions proposed in the BOB RPOA-IUU and the provisions of the draft NPOA-IUU of Bangladesh are synergic and the draft NPOA-IUU also recommends fostering cooperation in information sharing, technology transfer, reporting to regional organizations, increased maritime cooperation and bi-national/multi-national enforcement arrangements in common areas of concern. The presentation made by Bangladesh is placed in **Annex 5**.

5.3 Sri Lanka informed that the country notified its NPOA-IUU (SLNPOA-IUU) in 2015 and is now in the process of implementation. Sri Lanka perceives IUU fishing as a serious threat to the sustainability of fisheries in both national jurisdictions and the high seas, and agrees that such fishing has to be prevented, deterred and eliminated. The SLNPOA-IUU is also based on the IPOA-IUU. Sri Lanka said that the provisions of NPOA-MCS developed earlier are also contained in SLNPOA-MCS and it is also in line with the BOB RPOA-MCS, including the recommendation of the BOB RPOA-IUU to develop and implement NPOA-IUU, ensuring better fisheries MCS (Action 5), creation of vessel registry (Action 7), national inspection plan and adoption of PSMA (Action 9), creating awareness and initiating observer programmes in fishing vessels above 24-meter length overall (Action 10). Sri Lanka also appreciated the development of joint MCS as proposed in RPOA-IUU. Regarding *Action 12: to establish and maintain a list of vessels [presumed (provisional list) and/or] confirmed to have carried out IUU fishing in the region* as proposed in the BOB RPOA-IUU, Sri Lanka observed that the country in this respect is already reporting to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). With these observations, Sri Lanka agreed to the provisions of the draft BOB RPOA-IUU. The presentation made by Sri Lanka is placed in **Annex 6**.

5.4 During discussions on the BOB RPOA-IUU, the participants suggested the following:

1. *The role of stakeholders should be continued from the development to implementation and management stages of NPOA-IUU.*
2. *All the countries who have either/or are in the process of implementing NPOA-IUU should periodically review it.*
3. *The BOB RPOA-IUU may also consider inclusion of an action that focuses on reduction/elimination of wastage and adoption of good post-harvest practices.*
4. *To further elaborate development of a harmonized catch documentation scheme as mentioned in Action 14 based on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (VGCDS).*

5. *The BOB RPOA-IUU may also consider developing best practices for reducing fatalities/injuries at sea and adaption of such best practices.*

The revised BOB RPOA-IUU, based on the above recommendations, is placed as **Appendix 1**.

## 6.0 Session 3: Challenges and catalysts in implementation of BOB RPOA-IUU

6.1 In Session 3, the participants worked in groups to identify the challenges and catalysts in implementation of BOB RPOA-IUU at the regional and national levels. To discuss and identify the challenges at the regional level, participants were divided into two groups and for national level, participants discussed within their country groups (Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka). The groups reports are placed at **Annexes 7 – 12**.

6.2 The Regional Meeting observed that countries have developed their MCS independently based on national priorities and capabilities and bringing that to a common platform was identified as a major challenge at the regional level. The national policies and laws of the countries, although share similar objectives, however, have different framework for implementation and it would also be a challenge to harmonise them. The large number of fishing vessels and any ambiguity in defining IUU fishing at the national level, identifying common instruments for MCS meeting the national requirements and developing a common database were also identified as other major challenges for regional cooperation in different key areas of BOB RPOA-IUU.

6.3 The Regional Meeting underscored the importance of political support at the highest level in achieving the goals of the BOB RPOA-IUU. The Regional Meeting was also of the view that nodal agencies dealing with IUU fishing would be in the best position to catalyse the adoption of the instrument and meeting the challenges identified earlier with support from FAO/BOBP-IGO. Information on progress of adopting RPOA-IUU in other regions would also serve as a catalytic factor.

6.4 At the national level, all the countries identified awareness creation, capacity building and training, inter-agency cooperation and funding as major issues. Involving coastal provinces in RPOA-IUU and policy harmonization at provincial and national levels was also identified as a major challenge in India. Like regional level, the Regional Meeting was of the view that nodal agencies in the member-countries responsible for curbing IUU fishing should catalyse the process with support from FAO/BOBP-IGO. Civil society/non-governmental organisations and non-state actors could also play a significant role in catalysing the process of adoption and implementation of the BOB RPOA-IUU.

## 7.0 Session 4: Closing Session

7.1 The Regional Meeting made the following recommendations:

1. The Regional Meeting reviewed and validated the BOB RPOA-IUU as placed in **Appendix 1** and agreed for BOB RPOA-IUU to be submitted to the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO and FAO for their consideration and further action in the matter.
2. The Regional Meeting considered the role of the relevant Governmental agencies as important in championing/catalysing the adoption of the BOB RPOA-IUU at the national-level considering the graveness of the issue, including biological and economic losses that accrue from IUU fishing.
3. The Regional Meeting urged the countries to develop and implement their NPOA-IUU and in the process seek the assistance of FAO and BOBP-IGO in taking forward the process of development/implementation.

4. The Regional Meeting also urged the civil society/non-governmental organisations and other non-state actors to use their networks in assisting the member-countries in developing/implementing their NPOA-IUU and subsequently taking forward the implementation of BOB RPOA-IUU.
5. The Regional Meeting was also of the view that capacity building and training in key areas across the board will be required to implement the NPOA-IUU and the RPOA-IUU.

7.2 With these recommendations the Regional Meeting adopted the Report and the Meeting concluded at 1600 hours on 25 February 2020.

\* \* \*



## Regional Meeting for the Review and Validation of the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Chennai, 24 - 25 February 2020

### Prospectus

#### 1.0 The Regional Meeting

The Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) proposes to organise the Regional Meeting for Review and Validation of the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU) from **24 – 25 February 2020** in Chennai, India. The RPOA-IUU is the outcome of the Regional Consultation to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing held in Chennai, India from 14 – 15 October 2019 in cooperation with the member-countries (Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka) of the BOBP. The objective of the Meeting is to review and validate the draft RPOA-IUU and making a recommendation for its adoption by the member-countries. We are now requesting nomination of senior officials (2 from Ministry/Department of Fisheries and one each from Navy/Coast Guard, Ministry of Environment and the Community-Based Organisations) from each country to participate in the Meeting. All costs towards participation in the Meeting will be borne by FAO/BOBP. The Agenda of the Meeting is given in **Annex 1**.

#### 2.0 Background

The BOBP in collaboration with the FAO is preparing a Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU). This is in line with the mandate of the BOBP, *implement programmes and activities which are of immediate requirement for the sustainable development and management of coastal fisheries* (Art 4a of BOBP-IGO Agreement)" and as directed by the Governing Council during its Eighth Meeting: *Enabling environment for sustainable fisheries governance is in place in the region under its Strategic Plan of Action 2014-18* and the FAO objective of (Strategic Objective 2) making, agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable. The RPOA-IUU is voluntary in nature. The implementation of an RPOA-IUU will lead to meeting the national commitment in various binding and non-binding instruments, including the 1982 UN Law of the Sea on regional cooperation for sustainable use of marine resources; the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action on IUU Fishing on development of an RPOA; and meeting the Sustainable Development Goal 14.4: "By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics".

#### 2.0 Development so far

To understand the magnitude and extent of the IUU fishing in the Bay of Bengal Region in particular and Indian Ocean in general, a thorough desk study has been carried out. The Study shows that there is lack of information on the magnitude and extent of IUU fishing in the region. However, from various studies, reports, anecdotal information, it is estimated that the region is subject to different forms of IUU fishing (domestic and external) with an annual loss of USD 1,117 – 4,635 million per year due to IUU fishing. Based on the desk

review, a Regional Consultation was organized from 14 – 15 October 2019 in Chennai, India to seek the views of the BOBP-IGO member-countries on development of an RPOA-IUU for the region as well as drawing inputs for the same. The Regional Consultation was attended by twenty-three participants from the BOBP-IGO member-countries representing Ministry/Department of Fisheries; Ministry/Department of Environment; Coast Guard/Navy; and community-based organisations (CBOs)/non-governmental organisations (NGOs) apart from experts, FAO and BOBP-IGO.

The Regional Consultation welcomed the development of an RPOA-IUU and observed that an RPOA-IUU would be, at the margin, beneficial for the countries. Countries are likely to accrue some costs in terms of allocation of human resources, policy harmonization, technology upgradation, etc. However, such costs would be outweighed by better enforcement, regional relations and policy coordination. The Report of the Regional Consultation is provided as an attachment (Report of the Regional Consultation).

Following the conduct of the Regional Consultation and inputs received from the member-countries, BOBP-IGO developed a Background Paper on 'Development of the Regional Plan of Action to Prevent Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing' (Background Paper on IUU Fishing).

The most important outcome of the Regional Consultation is development of an agreed draft RPOA-IUU for the consideration of the member-countries. The draft RPOA-IUU for member-countries of the BOBP-IGO (BOB RPOA-IUU) delineates 20 actions ranging from information sharing to joint patrolling and creation of a regional database to combat IUU fishing in the region.

### 3.0 Agenda

**3.1 Date & Venue:** The Regional Consultation will be held from **24 – 25 February 2020** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

#### 3.2 Objectives:

- (i) *To review and validate the BOB RPOA-IUU;*
- (ii) *To make a recommendation for adoption of the BOB RPOA-IUU by the member-countries in a time bound manner;*

**3.3 Participants:** The Regional Meeting will be attended by about 20 participants: four (04) participants from each member-country representing Ministry/Department of Fisheries (02); Ministry/Department of Environment (01); Coast Guard/Navy (01); apart from experts/CBOs/NGOs; FAO and BOBP.

**3.4 Language:** The Workshop will be conducted in English.

### 4.0 Expected Outputs

The Regional Consultation is expected to produce the following outputs:

- (i) *Finalization of the BOB RPOA-IUU;*
- (ii) *Recommendation for adoption of the RPOA-IUU; and*
- (iii) *Workshop Report.*

## 5.0 Travel & Accommodation

FAO/BOBP-IGO will bear all reasonable costs towards participation, including travel from the nearest airport to Chennai and return, accommodation in Chennai for the duration of the Meeting, meals and other reasonable expenses. Travel, lodging and boarding arrangements (made as per prevailing UN Rules) will be communicated to the participants upon receiving their nomination. Participants are expected to have their own insurance arrangements. BOBP-IGO will not bear any cost or responsibility towards insurance or any incident towards participation in the Regional Consultation.

## 6.0 Information & Contact

For further information, please contact:

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\* \* \*







## Agenda and Timetable








#	Date & Time	Agenda Item	Person
<b>23 February 2020: Arrival of the participants</b>			
<b>24 February 2020 (Day 1)</b>			
<b>A.</b>	<b>0900 - 1100</b>	<b>Session 1: Inauguration</b>	
1.	0900 - 0930	Registration	—
2.	0930 - 0935	Lighting of Traditional Lamp	Participants
3.	0935 - 0945	Welcome & Adoption of Agenda	BOBP
4.	0945 - 0950	Opening Remarks	India
5.	0950 - 1000	Self-Introduction	Participants
6.	1000 - 1030	Development of BOB RPOA-IUU: The Process	BOBP
<b>7.</b>	<b>1030 - 1100</b>	<b>Group Photograph/Refreshments</b>	
<b>B.</b>	<b>1100 - 1600</b>	<b>Session 2: Review and Validation of BOB RPOA-IUU</b>	
8.	1100 - 1140	Presentation on BOB RPOA-IUU	BOBP
9.	1140 - 1230	Review of the BOB RPOA-IUU (10 minutes for each country)	Countries
<b>10.</b>	<b>1230 - 1400</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>1400 - 1530</b>	Finalization of the BOB RPOA-IUU	Participants
<b>12.</b>	<b>1500 - 1530</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>	
<b>C.</b>	<b>1530 - 1700</b>	<b>Session 3: Challenges and Catalysts in implementation of BOB RPOA-IUU</b>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>1530 - 1700</b>	<b>Breackout Session - 1:</b> Identification of challenges and catalysts in key areas of regional cooperation in BOB RPOA-IUU	Participants
<b>25 February 2020 (Day 2)</b>			
<b>C.</b>	<b>0930 - 1600</b>	<b>Session 3 continued</b>	
14.	0930 - 1000	Presentation of Group Reports	Participants
<b>15.</b>	<b>1000 - 1030</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>	
16.	1030 - 1130	<b>Breackout Session - 2:</b> Identification of challenges and catalyst in national preparedness to adopt BOB RPOA-IUU	Participants
17.	1030 - 1200	Presentation of Group Reports	Participants
<b>18.</b>	<b>1200 - 1430</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>D.</b>	<b>1430 - 1630</b>	<b>Session 4: Closing Session</b>	
19.	1430 - 1600	Development of Meeting Recommendations & Discussions	BOBP
20.	1600 - 1610	Closing Remarks	Participants
21.	1610 - 1620	Vote of Thanks	BOBP
<b>22.</b>	<b>1620 -</b>	<b>Refreshments</b>	


## Regional Meeting for the Review and Validation of the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Chennai, 24 - 25 February 2020

### List of Participants

#	NAME	POSITION & ADDRESS	TEL, MOBILE, EMAIL
<b>A. Bangladesh</b>			
1.	<b>Md Farhan Tazim</b> 	<i>Scientific Officer</i> Marine Fisheries Survey Management Unit Department of Fisheries Government of Bangladesh Agrabad, Chattogram, Bangladesh	Tel: + 880 1718927656 Email: <a href="mailto:niihaann@gmail.com">niihaann@gmail.com</a>
2.	<b>Md Abdus Salam</b> 	<i>Statistical Officer</i> Marine Fisheries Office Department of Fisheries Government of Bangladesh Agrabad, Chattogram Bangladesh	Tel: + 880 1710452795 Email: <a href="mailto:masalambd95@gmail.com">masalambd95@gmail.com</a>
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## Technical Presentation 1: 'Development of BOB RPOA-IUU: The Process'

**Rajdeep Mukherjee**  
Policy Analyst, BOBP-IGO



**Regional Meeting for the Review and Validation of the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**

**Development of BOB RPOA-IUU:  
The Process**

**IUU Fishing is an international concern**

- In the 1990s, the term Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing was first used to denote irresponsible fishing activities in a general context.
  - *FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995*
  - *FAO International Plan of Action on IUU Fishing (IPOA-IUU), 2001*



**Inadequate fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance facilitates IUU fishing**

- Economic incentives drive IUU fishing.
- However, inadequate fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) can catalyse IUU fishing.
- To foster improvement in fisheries MCS, in 2008, BOBP organized the Regional Workshop on MCS in Bangladesh. The outcome was Chittagong Resolution – a time-bound voluntary commitment by the countries to improve MCS.
- Subsequently, members of BOBP (Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Sri Lanka) developed their national MCS Plans during 2008-10.




**The EU initiative to curb IUU fishing**

- On 29 September 2008, the Council of the European Union adopted EC No 1005/2008 on “Establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing” (EU-IUU Regulation).
- The control, sanctioning and conditionality elements at the heart of the EU-IUU Regulation include:
  - port state controls over third country fishing vessels;
  - catch certification requirements,
  - establishment of a Community IUU vessel list; and
  - **establishment of a list of non-co-operating third countries.**
    - *Yellow Card/Red Card*




**Since then further international developments have taken place to curb IUU fishing**

- Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (VGFSP), 2014
- The Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) entered into force in 2016

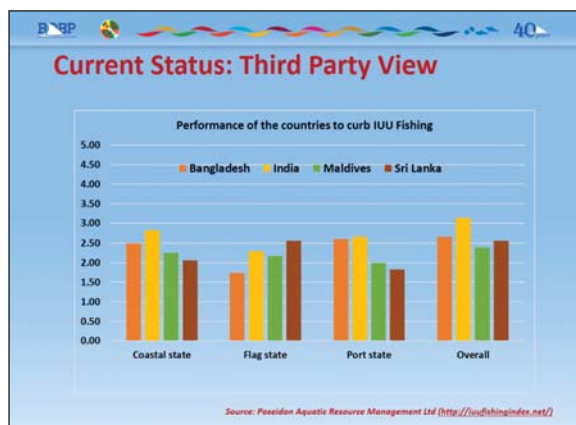


**SDG Goals**



- The SDGs, set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and intended to be achieved by the year 2030, are part of UN Resolution 70/1, the 2030 Agenda.
- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
  - **By 2020, effectively** regulate harvesting and **end** overfishing, **illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing** and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics



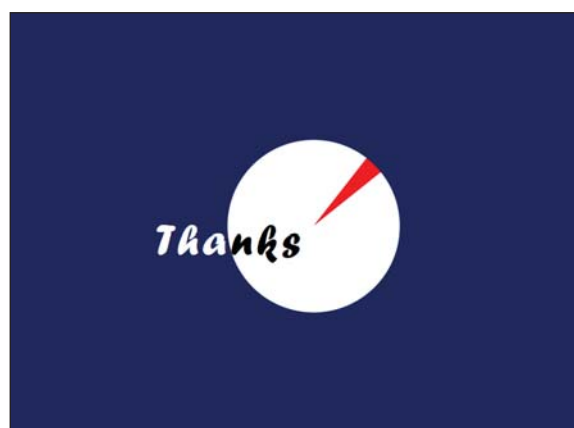


### FAO/BOBP Collaboration to develop RPOA-IUU

- To meet the SDG Commitments of the countries and improve fisheries sustainability, FAO & BOBP undertook the work plan to develop a Regional Plan of Action to Prevent Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU) in Mid-2019.
- A background paper on status of IUU fishing in the region was prepared.
- First Regional Workshop on Development of RPOA-IUU Fishing was held from 14-15 October 2019, Chennai, India**



### Development of RPOA-IUU

- Major suggestions from Regional Workshop were:
  - Progressive approach towards a binding instrument.
  - Provision of regional cooperation in NPOA-IUU.
  - Setting up of a regional mechanism for monitoring and reporting of IUU fishing under BOBP.
- The Draft RPOA-IUU was developed based on the Workshop output and international best practices.
- This Workshop will review the draft RPOA-IUU and then it will be sent to member-countries for adoption.




## Technical Presentation 2: Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and unregulated Fishing from the Exclusive Economic Zones of the Member-Countries of the BOBP

**Yugraj Singh Yadava**  
Director, BOBP-IGO






**Regional Meeting for the Review and Validation of the Regional Plan of Action to Combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**

**Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing from the Exclusive Economic Zones of the Member-Countries of the BOBP (BOB RPOA-IUU)**





www.bobplgo.org



**Origin**

- IUU fishing has been one of the biggest bane of fisheries in the recent decades, putting the sustainability of fish stocks in peril.
- Apart from biological losses, IUU fishing also offsets the economic gains from fisheries. Based on a study carried out in 2015 in the Bay of Bengal region, it is noted that incidences of IUU fishing are high and the estimated economic losses from such fishing are in the range of USD 1,117 – 4,635 million per year.

**Objective**

- The BOB RPOA-IUU provides guidance for the formulation and implementation of the National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU (NPOA-IUU) fishing to the member-countries as well as collaborating action by other stakeholders and agencies working in the region to curb IUU fishing.



**Basis**

- The BOB RPOA-IUU is based on the pillars of:
  - national sovereignty,
  - regional cooperation,
  - effective stakeholder participation, and
  - collaboration with other regional and international fisheries entities, including the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and non-governmental organisations.
- It is guided by the 1995 FAO CCRF, IPOA-IUU, Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF) and the international instruments and arrangements to which the BOBP-IGO member-countries have acceded so far, including the UNCLOS.







**Nature, Scope & Time Frame**

- BOB RPOA-IUU is a voluntary instrument with the objective to strengthen the prevention, deterrence and elimination of IUU fishing in the region and ensure sustainable fisheries development.
- The BOB RPOA-IUU is applicable to the EEZs of Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka and the ABNJ in the adjacent seas and oceans.
- The BOB RPOA-IUU will have an initial time-frame of 10 years from 2020 to 2030, with periodical reviews.




**Actions**

- The BOB RPOA-IUU proposes 20 actions.
- These actions addresses areas of:
  - Validation and adoption of the instrument by the member-countries.
  - Building institutional framework for implementing the instrument.
  - Effective fisheries MCS.
  - Regional cooperation and information sharing.




**Actions 1 – 3: Operationalizing BOB RPOA-IUU**

- **Action 1:** To review, consider and agree to the BOB RPOA-IUU and its implementation through the BOBP-IGO.
- **Action 2:** To notify a suitable national focal point to coordinate with the BOBP-IGO on implementation of the RPOA-IUU and maintain a formalized and effective inter-agency cooperation at the national, regional and international levels, including cooperation on joint patrols for monitoring of the resources in the ABNJ.
- **Action 3:** To inform the full range of stakeholders as well as the concerned regional and international organizations working with the member-countries about the adoption of the BOB RPOA-IUU to exemplify regional commitment in curbing IUU fishing.




**Actions 4 - 6: To have effective national plans & policy harmonization- (1)**

- **Action 4:** To develop and implement a NPOA-IUU, through stakeholder consultations while taking cognizance of the IPOA-IUU, other voluntary and non-voluntary instruments and arrangements such as the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), Voluntary Guidelines of Flag State Performance (VGFSF) and coastal States responsibilities and BOB RPOA-IUU. Further, member-countries are urged to accede, ratify and implement the international instruments and arrangements aimed at curbing IUU fishing and also to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures of the RFMOs they are party to.




**Actions 4 - 6: To have effective national plans & policy harmonization (2)**

- **Action 5:** To review and implement the National Plans of Action on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (NPOA-MCS) as developed by the member-countries. Further, to strengthen regional cooperation and harmonization of MCS measures as agreed to in the [Chittagong Resolution of 2008](#).
- **Action 6:** To consider alignment of national policies with a common regional objective to ensure more effective fisheries management, prevent flag-hopping of fishing vessels and facilitate better identification of vessels engaged in IUU fishing and fishing related activities, including illegal and unmonitored trans-shipment at sea.




**Actions 7 – 17 : National and regional measures to prevent IUU fishing - Regional Record of Fishing Vessels (1)**

- **Action 7:** To establish and maintain a Regional Record of Fishing Vessels, and ensuring compatibility and information exchange with the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record), taking into account the high proportion of small-scale fishing vessels in the region. This may include all vessels involved in catching fish, as well as auxiliary, carrier, supply and support vessels of 12 meters and above and other vessels that are eligible to have an IMO number.

**Actions 7 – 17 : National and regional measures to prevent IUU fishing - marking and identification (2)**

- **Action 8:** To ensure the marking and identification of fishing vessels in the BOBP-IGO area in order to improve transparency and allow better identification of non-compliant vessels. This measure requires that BOBP-IGO member-countries ensure that their flagged motorized fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels of 100 gross tonnage (GT) or above, or equal to or greater than 12 meters LOA and authorized to operate in ABNJ and other eligible vessels, obtain an IMO number and use it as a mark for identification.

**Actions 7 – 17 : National and regional measures to prevent IUU fishing - national inspection plans (3)**

- **Action 9:** To consider developing national inspection plans, harmonizing these across the region as well as standard operating procedures (SOPs) regarding Port State Measures in line with the minimum standards as laid out in the PSMA. It is also proposed that the protocols could provide for different set of directions for vessels from other countries in the Bay of Bengal region.



**Actions 7 – 17 : National and regional measures to prevent IUU fishing – regional MCS and gear marking (4)**

- **Action 10:** To consider establishment of joint regional MCS and enforcement procedures, such as on inspection schemes, patrols and observer programs.
- **Action 11:** To comply with international standards on gear marking to address the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear in line with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear.

**Actions 7 – 17 : National and regional measures to prevent IUU fishing – IUU vessel list (5)**

- **Action 12:** To establish and maintain a list of vessels [presumed (provisional list) and/or] confirmed to have carried out IUU fishing in the region keeping in view that such listing of vessels is done in a fair, transparent, non-discriminatory manner.

**Actions 7 – 17 : National and regional measures to prevent IUU fishing – better documentation (6)**

- **Action 13:** To adopt international best practices for the classification of fish and fishery products to facilitate a greater understanding and control of trade as well as identification of product.
- **Action 14:** To develop a harmonized catch documentation scheme consistent with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (VGCDS).

**Actions 7 – 17 : National and regional measures to prevent IUU fishing – regional collaboration (7)**

- **Action 15:** To consider developing and utilizing a regional MCS toolbox, based on international guidelines and using regional best practices.
- **Action 16:** To establish a formal collaboration and coordination mechanism among relevant agencies (e.g. fisheries, port, maritime, customs, coast guard, immigration, marine police) for combatting IUU fishing at the regional level to address issues related to flag, port, coastal and market State responsibilities.

**Actions 7 – 17 : National and regional measures to prevent IUU fishing – regional information sharing (8)**

- **Action 17:** To consider developing a regional mechanism for effective information sharing and cooperation to combat IUU fishing, including for the purpose of risk assessment and verification of vessel information.

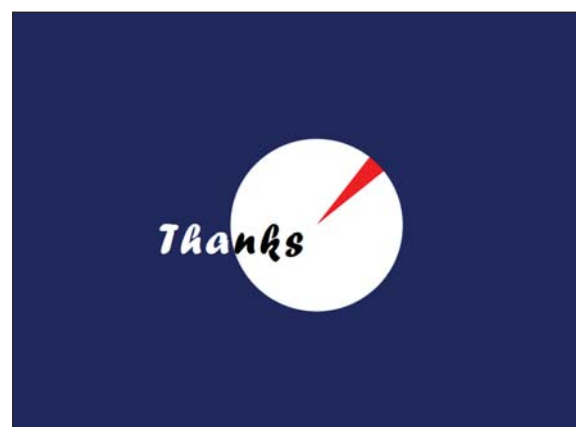
**Actions 18 - 20: Monitoring, evaluation and feedback (1)**

- **Action 18:** To consider regular monitoring of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing in the BOBP-IGO region guided by the (Draft) "FAO Technical Guidelines on Methodologies and Indicators for the Estimation of the Magnitude and Impact of IUU Fishing."
- **Action 19:** To call for technical assistance and providing support to a member-country in development and implementation of MCS, flag state and port state measures, information and data collection (including stock assessment), collation, analysis and reporting, documentation, etc.

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**Actions 18 - 20: Monitoring, evaluation and feedback (2)**

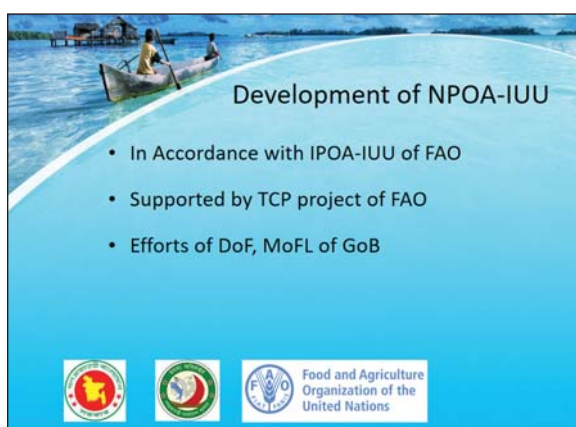
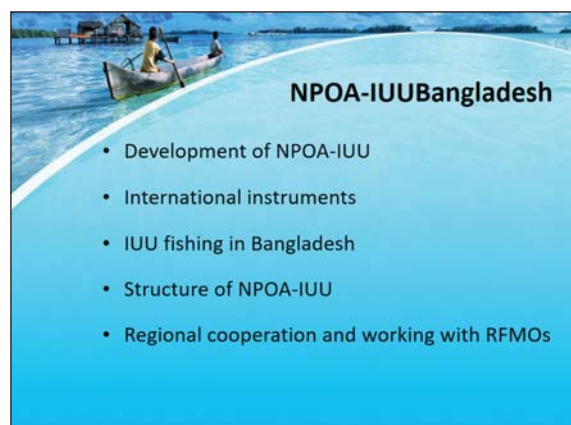
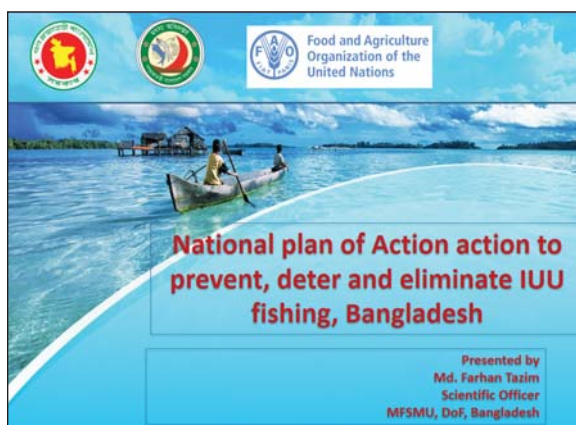
- **Action 20:** To address any shortcomings and enhancing capacity at the national and regional level based on the periodic evaluation of performance of NPOAs and RPOA for their progressive implementation.



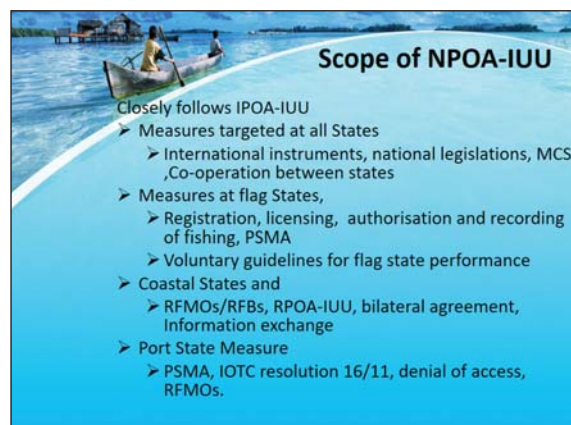
## Country Presentation 1: Bangladesh

### Md Farhan Tazim

Scientific Officer, Marine Fisheries Survey Management Unit, Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh



Instrument	Status
1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	Ratified 2001
1993 FAO Compliance Agreement	Not Ratified
1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement	Ratified 1995
2001 International Plan of Action – IUU	In progress
2009 FAO Port State Measures Agreement	Ratified 2019
2014 Voluntary guidelines for Flag State Performance	Some Steps
2017 Voluntary guidelines for Catch Documentation Scheme	Some Steps
2018 Voluntary guidelines for Marking of Fishing Gear	Planned





## Regional cooperation and RFMOS

- Bangladesh recognizes the significance of RMFOs in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing.
- Bangladesh is the party of APFIC, IOTC, BOBP etc.
- Bangladesh is committed to work together for the development of RPOA-IUU



## Regional cooperation and RFMOS

Bangladesh will co-operate and will participate to its best ability by-

- Information exchange, developing regional database.
- Utilization of technology (remote sensing) in (collaboration with neighboring states, RFMOs
- Increase maritime co-operation among the Navies of the Indian Ocean Region
- Bangladesh will exchange data and information and investigate IUU fishing activities.
- Joint and reciprocal surveillance

cont

- Bangladesh expects to benefit from technology and knowledge transfer
- enforcement arrangements with neighboring states Myanmar and India (section 2.2.8) and
- Bangladesh will **continue to supply information** (as requested) to APFIC, IOTC and other relevant RFMOs

Cont...

Bangladesh will work together with all RFMOs regarding **non-cooperating States** that engage in IUU fishing

Bangladesh will cooperate and act consistently with the conservation and management measures agreed by RFMOs to which it is not a member.

Thanks for your Patience



## Country Presentation 2: Sri Lanka

**S R Rupasena**  
Director Operations, Sri Lanka Coast Guard


**A brief review on the BOB RPOA-IUU with reference to the SLNPOA-IUU**

Capt. Ruwan Rupasena (Director operations)  
Sri Lanka Coast Guard

Kasun Randika Dulpethadu (Scientist)  
National Aquatic Resources Research & Development Agency (NARA)

S P Emmanuel (Harbour operations officer)  
Department of Fisheries and Aquatic resources Sri Lanka

Department of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources




- ❖ Sri Lanka perceives illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing as a serious threat to the sustainability of fisheries in both national jurisdictions and high seas, and agrees that such fishing has to be prevented, deterred and eliminated.
- ❖ A major objective of the international conventions on fisheries management is to prevent, deter or eliminate IUU fishing.
- ❖ In keeping with the commitments made under the international conventions, Sri Lanka has developed and commenced implementing a plan (SLNPOA-IUU) to combat IUU fishing in 2015.



- ❖ Its objective is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by Sri Lankan fishing vessels in high seas and waters of other States, and by third country vessels in Sri Lanka waters.
- ❖ SLNPOA-IUU has been developed in accordance with international conventions and to suit local conditions.
- ❖ SLNPOA-IUU has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines stipulated in the IPOA-IUU adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- ❖ In addition IOTC, EU regulations,




- Sri Lanka has attained high compliance rate of 87% in the IOTC norms.
- Thus SLNPOA-IUU already inline with the **Action 4** of the BOB RPOA-IUU.
- Further it is suggested to take consultation of some regional organizations such as IORA for preparing the BOB RPOA-IUU.



- ❖ For the moment SL does not implementing NPOA-MCS. But SLNPOA-IUU includes
  - Flag State Measures
  - Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
  - Coastal State Measures
  - Port State Measures
  - Market State Measures
  - Other Actions




- ❖ A land based fisheries monitoring center (FMC) with a satellite based vessel monitoring system (VMS)
- ❖ Thus SL possess VMS in 1500 high seas vessels Maintaining 100% coverage of Log book (e-log book)
- ❖ Better control at Fishing and landings for compliance. Landings declaration/sales note.
- ❖ Traceability of fish standards: harvested from a legitimate source /manner, through 'chain of custody' to consumer.
- ❖ Open, objective & verifiable certification schemes rewarding fishers & fisheries with good standards.
- ❖ Has been able to fulfill EU market measures
- ❖ This actions inline with the **Action 5**






- ❖ As a part of the SLNPOA-IUU, National Vessel Registry, IOTC Active Vessels list and IOTC Authorized Vessels list are being maintained.
- ❖ Record of Fishing Vessels are maintained according to the IPOA-IUU Paragraphs 42, 43
- ❖ In addition the IOTC and the FAO are updated with relevant information on Fishing Vessels
- ❖ IMO number has been obtained for 22 vessels.
- ❖ Inline with **Action 7**

- ❖ SL possess national inspection plans – Port inspections
- ❖ Every landing of fish by a third country vessel is inspected by a trained fisheries inspector and an inspection report is submitted to IOTC and the flag state of the vessel.
- ❖ In addition, other Port State measures are
  - ✓ Third country vessels are not allowed to land fish in any port of Sri Lanka without a fish landing permit obtained from DFAR.
  - ✓ Application for fish landing permit should be submitted in prescribed form (in case of second or subsequent landing 24) 48 hrs before proposed landing.

- ✓ Designated ports for authorized fish landing by third country vessels are Colombo, Galle, Trincomalee, Hambantota commercial ports and Dikkowita fishery harbor
- ✓ Currently, no fish landing permits are issued to any third country vessels other than allowing transshipment and harbor facilities
- ❖ These action may fulfill the requirements of the **Action 9**



- ❖ Regarding the **Action 10**, SLNPOA-IUU has implemented following actions.
- ✓ Officers and men of the SLN and the SLCG, industry personnel, fishers and other stakeholders are continuously being made aware of IUU fishing activities through seminars, workshops, leaflets, posters and mass media. A documentary film is also being developed for use in awareness programs.
- ✓ Almost all local fishing boats that are engaged in fishing in high-seas are smaller than 24 m, and therefore it is not practical to send observers on board such boats. However, regulations will be made under the provisions of FARA requiring fishing boats of and over 24 m to carry observers on board.

- ❖ However, it will be very appreciating to consider establishment of joint regional MCS and enforcement procedures
  - Human trafficking
  - Drug transportation
- ❖ SL does not encourage to establish and maintain a list of vessels [presumed (provisional list) and/or] confirmed to have carried out IUU fishing in the region as **Action 12**, as SL already submitting information to relevant bodies (IOTC)
- ❖ Instead SL suggests to take necessary actions on bilateral basis between the 2 countries that involve in the incident.

- ❖ SL appreciates the attempts indicated in the **Action 13** and **Action 15**
- ❖ Regarding the **Action 14**, **Action 16**, the SLNPOA-IUU already has provisions to implement these actions in national level
- ❖ SL does not have objections in other Actions proposed in the BOB RPOA-IUU.

# THANK YOU!

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AYUBOWAN!  ආයුබෝවන්!

## Breakout Session - 1: Identification of challenges and catalysts in key areas of Regional Cooperation in BOB RPOA-IUU

### Group Report: Group A

**Task for the Group:** Please identify the challenges in the following key areas of regional cooperation under RPOA-IUU. Which factors can catalyse regional cooperation? A catalyst can be like a person (champion), a governmental agency, media campaign, NGO, etc.

**Members:** Md Farhan Tazim, Inderjit Singh, S J Kizhakudan, Julius Edward, S R Rupasena, N Venugopalan

#	Key Areas	Challenges	Catalyst
1.0	Establishment of joint regional MCS and enforcement procedures.	1. To bring the country MCS onto a common platform. 2. Uniform enforcement procedures.	Coast Guards of the countries.
2.0	To establish and maintain a list of vessels [presumed (provisional list) and/or] confirmed to have carried out IUU fishing in the region.	Develop a common set of procedures to classify IUU fishing vessels.	BOBP-IGO.
3.0	To consider developing and utilizing a regional MCS toolbox, based on international guidelines and using regional best practices.	Regional MCS toolbox to be flexible to accommodate country scenarios.	Respective Ministries/ Departments of Fisheries.
4.0	To establish a formal collaboration and coordination mechanism among relevant agencies (e.g. fisheries, port, maritime, customs, coast guard, immigration, marine police) for combatting IUU fishing at the regional level.	Suitable amendment of country-specific acts to carry out regional coordination and IUU combatting.	1. Respective Ministries/ Departments of Fisheries. 2. Respective Coast Guard Organisation.
5.0	To develop a regional mechanism for effective information sharing.	Developing a common database structure.	1. Respective Ministries/ Departments of Fisheries. 2. BOBP-IGO.
6.0	Common management and conservation measures.	Uniform provisions for actions that can be taken to ensure conservation and management of shared resources.	Respective Ministries/ Departments of Fisheries.

## Breakout Session - 1: Identification of challenges and catalysts in key areas of Regional Cooperation in BOB RPOA-IUU

### Group Report: Group B

**Task for the Group:** Please identify the challenges in the following key areas of regional cooperation under RPOA-IUU. Which factors can catalyse regional cooperation? A catalyst can be like a person (champion), a governmental agency, media campaign, NGO, etc.

**Members:** E Vivekanandan, Md Abdus Salam, P Laxmi Latha, S Mohamed Aqthar, T Peter, G B Nakhawa, S P Emmanuel

#	Key Areas	Challenges	Catalyst
1.0	Establishment of joint regional MCS and enforcement procedures.	1. Country agreements. 2. National security concerns. 3. Legal issues.	1. Governmental agencies. 2. Regional agencies like BOBP-IGO. 3. FAO. 4. SEAFDEC. 5. BOBLME.
2.0	To establish and maintain a list of vessels [presumed (provisional list) and/or] confirmed to have carried out IUU fishing in the region.	1. Large number of artisanal fishing vessels. 2. Mechanism of identifying IUU fishing by different type of fishing boats. 3. Differences of registration process.	1. Governmental agencies, including Coast Guard. 2. IOTC. 3. Fishermen associations or society. 4. NGOs.
3.0	To consider developing and utilizing a regional MCS toolbox, based on international guidelines and using regional best practices.	1. Country agreements. 2. Differences in priorities and enforcement capabilities.	1. Regional body like BOBP-IGO. 2. FAO. 3. BOBLME.
4.0	To establish a formal collaboration and coordination mechanism among relevant agencies (e.g. fisheries, port, maritime, customs, coast guard, immigration, marine police) for combatting IUU fishing at the regional level.	1. Acceptance of the country. 2. Weak linkage within the countries.	1. Joint Working Committee (JWC). 2. BOBLME.
5.0	To develop a regional mechanism for effective information sharing.	1. Acceptance by countries. 2. Funding. 3. Difficulties in finding the desired information.	1. Maintain dedicated information system, software etc.
6.0	Any other area.	1. Capacity of the countries. 2. Lack of commitment. 3. Funding, etc.	1. Governmental agencies. 2. Regional agencies like BOBP-IGO, etc.

## Breakout Session - 2: Identification of challenges and catalysts in national preparedness to adopt BOB RPOA-IUU

### Country Report: Bangladesh

Task for the country group: Please identify the challenges in the following key areas of national preparedness to adopt RPOA-IUU. Which factors can catalyse national preparedness? A catalyst can be like a person (champion), a governmental agency, media campaign, NGO, or an example from another area, etc.

Members: Md Farhan Tazim, Md Abdus Salam

#	Key Areas	Challenges	Catalyst
1.0	To develop/implement National Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (Developing: Bangladesh, India; Implementing: Maldives, Sri Lanka).	1. Capacity building and funding for relevant government agencies in implementing NPOA-IUU. 2. Development of inter-agency cooperation. 3. Vulnerability of fisher's livelihood. 4. Technological requirements in MCS. 5. Licensing of artisanal fishing vessels.	FAO, BOBP-IGO, Local government, Trawler Owner's and Fisher's Associations.
2.0	To review and implement the National Plans of Action on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (NPOA-MCS).	1. Capacity building and funding for relevant government agencies in implementing NPOA-MCS. 2. Large number of fishermen.	FAO, BOBP-IGO, Local government, Trawler Owner's and Fisher's Associations.
3.0	To establish a formal collaboration and coordination mechanism among relevant agencies (e.g. fisheries, port, maritime, customs, coast guard, immigration, marine police) for combatting IUU fishing at the national level.	1. Complexity of bureaucratic system. 2. Uniformity of interest of different government agencies relating ocean.	Media coverage, Blue Economy Cell at the Prime Minister's Office.
4.0	To consider alignment of national policies with a common regional objective to ensure more effective fisheries management.	1. Commitment on national level to combat IUU Fishing.	Media, NGOs (National and Regional), Fisheries experts.
5.0	Regional information sharing.	2. Trust and confidence between the states	FAO, IOTC, BOBP-IGO.
6.0	Establishment of joint regional MCS and enforcement procedures.	1. Differences in fisheries policies among the countries. 2. Funding and capacity building. 3. Finding and involving neutral agencies to cooperate between the states in implementing the joint MCS programme.	FAO, BOBP-IGO.

## Breakout Session - 2: Identification of challenges and catalyst in national preparedness to adopt BOB RPOA-IUU

### Country Report: India

**Task for the country group:** Please identify the challenges in the following key areas of national preparedness to adopt RPOA-IUU. Which factors can catalyse national preparedness? A catalyst can be like a person (champion), a governmental agency, media campaign, NGO, or an example from another area, etc.

**Members:** Inderjit Singh, P Laxmi Latha, S J Kizhakudan, T Peter, G B Nakhawa, E Vivekanandan, N Venugopalan

#	Key Areas	Challenges	Catalyst
1.0	To develop/implement National Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (Developing: Bangladesh, India; Implementing: Maldives, Sri Lanka).	Develop NPOA 1. Stakeholder awareness and involvement. 2. Streamline registration and licensing of fishing vessels and activities. 3. Fishery management policies to be in place and legislation should cover illegal fishing activities. 4. Sensitizing the Department of Fisheries (DoF) on the need for NPOA-IUU. Implementing NPOA 1. Fisheries Policy & legislations.	1. Research Institutions. 2. Fisheries Associations. 3. NGOs. 4. Civil Societies. 5. Co-operatives. 6. DoFs. 7. Indian Coast Guard. 8. Print & electronic media.
2.0	To review and implement the National Plans of Action on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (NPOA-MCS).	1. Legislation & licensing. 2. Stakeholder engagement. 3. Enforcement. 4. Fund. 5. Manpower. 6. Technology upgradation. 7. Technical know-how. 8. Maintaining transparency.	1. Research Institutions. 2. Coast Guard. 3. Independent review agency. 4. DoFs. 5. Stakeholders. 6. Consortium of coastal state governments.
3.0	To establish a formal collaboration and coordination mechanism among relevant agencies (e.g. fisheries, port, maritime, customs, coast guard, immigration, marine police, space agencies) for combatting IUU fishing at the national level.	1. National legislation on setting up of Inter-agencies committee. 2. Manpower.	1. Ministry of Fisheries. 2. Consortium of coastal State Governments.
4.0	To consider alignment of national policies with a common regional objective to ensure more effective fisheries management.	1. Amendment of MFRAs to include MCS provisions. 2. National Fisheries Policy. 3. Legislation for regulation of fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone. 4. Flexibility to amend the policies and acts with changing scenarios.	1. Regional bodies. 2. National and International non-voluntary voluntary and instruments.

#	Key Areas	Challenges	Catalyst
5.0	National information sharing.	1. Government Authorization to collect and share relevant data. 2. Common platform for data assimilation. 3. Common Forum for information sharing. 4. Willingness to create and share.	1. Inter-agencies Committee.
6.0	Establishment of national MCS and enforcement procedures.	(Refer point 2 above)	
7.0	Capacity-building and strengthening of organizations involved in MCS.	1. Budget. 2. Manpower.	1. Research Institutions. 2. Learning Best Practices from other countries.

## Breakout Session - 2: Identification of challenges and catalyst in national preparedness to adopt BOB RPOA-IUU

### Country Report: Sri Lanka

**Task for the country group:** Please identify the challenges in the following key areas of national preparedness to adopt RPOA-IUU. Which factors can catalyse national preparedness? A catalyst can be like a person (champion), a governmental agency, media campaign, NGO, or an example from another area, etc.

**Members:** S R Rupasena, S P Emmanuel

#	Key Areas	Challenges	Catalyst
1.0	To develop/implement National Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (Developing: Bangladesh, India; Implementing: Maldives, Sri Lanka).	1. Funding. 2. Awareness creation (Fishermen/Fishery Societies). 3. Coordination among stakeholder agencies.	1. Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Government of Sri Lanka (DFAR). 2. NGOs.
2.0	To review and implement the National Plans of Action on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (NPOA-MCS).	1. Amendments in Fisheries Act. 2. Newly introduced tools will require awareness creation among the stakeholders.	1. DFAR. 2. Coast Guard.
3.0	To establish a formal collaboration and coordination mechanism among relevant agencies (e.g. fisheries, port, maritime, customs, coast guard, immigration, marine police) for combatting IUU fishing at the national level.	1. Formation of (permanent) Joint Working Committee (JWC). 2. Acceptance by respective agencies.	1. DFAR.
4.0	To consider alignment of national policies with a common regional objective to ensure more effective fisheries management.	1. Individual national interest/perception. 2. Amending existing legal systems.	1. BOBP-IGO. 2. DFAR.
5.0	Regional information sharing.	1. No proper data base. 2. Categorisation/classification. 3. Capacity building.	1. BOBP-IGO. 2. DFAR.
6.0	Establishment of joint regional MCS and enforcement procedures.	1. Furnishing Standard Operating Practices (SOPs). 2. Capacity building.	1. BOBP-IGO. 2. Coast Guard.



## Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing from the Exclusive Economic Zones of the Member-Countries of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has been one of the biggest banes of fisheries in recent decades, putting the sustainability of fish stocks in peril. It's a scourge that has affected fisheries in all the continents and is undermining the efforts of nations in bringing back the depleted fish stocks to their original conditions. Its prevalence ranges from national waters to the sea areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) and from small-scale operators to large industrial-scale fishing vessels. The 2018 edition of the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)<sup>1</sup> highlights the fact that the fraction of fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels has exhibited a decreasing trend, from 90.0 percent in 1974 to 66.9 percent in 2015.

Expecting global population to cross the 9 billion mark by the middle of the twenty-first century, availability of safe food would continue to remain the biggest challenge before mankind. And in the seafood sector, IUU fishing, if allowed to continue unabated, will act as a major deterrent in the contribution of fisheries to the global food and nutrition security and employment of millions of people. While the global agenda spearheaded by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provides a strong focus on elimination of IUU fishing within a certain time-frame, the real action lies with the countries to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. The countries need to first demonstrate action within their own jurisdictions and second through close cooperation and coordination with the neighbouring countries covering a wider seascape.

The 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of United Nations, with its global scope and aimed at all stakeholders whether government or non-government, has set out principles and international standards of behaviour for responsible practices with a view to ensuring the effective conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources, with due respect for the ecosystem and biodiversity. The CCRF further emphasizes on the role of fisheries as a vital source of food, employment, recreation, trade and economic well-being for people throughout the world, both for the present and the future generations and should, therefore, be conducted in a responsible manner. However, IUU fishing presents a contrasting picture of actions that are damaging the fisheries and biodiversity in most parts of the world's oceans.

In 2001, the member-states of FAO further agreed to a voluntary document, the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU)<sup>2</sup>. Set within the framework of the 1995 CCRF and with the objective to promote sustainable fisheries, the IPOA-IUU is a comprehensive toolbox that provides a full range of tools to combat IUU fishing in different situations. Notwithstanding its voluntary nature, many of the provisions in the IPOA-IUU draw linkages to other binding instruments such as the 1992 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA).

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1 *A biennial flagship publication of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that highlights the status of fisheries and aquaculture in the world.*

2 *In 2002, the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries 9, further strengthened the implementation aspects of the IPOA-IUU.*



Apart from biological losses, IUU fishing also offsets the economic gains from fisheries. Based on a study<sup>3</sup> carried out in 2015 in the Bay of Bengal region, it is noted that incidences of IUU fishing are high and the estimated economic losses from such fishing are in the range of USD 1,117 – 4,635 million per year.

Bearing in mind the above, the member-countries<sup>4</sup> of the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), hereinafter referred to as 'the region', consciously;

**Noting** that the BOBP-IGO member-countries encompass an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of about 3.9 million sq. km, with several sub-ecosystems harboring diverse and valuable plant and animal genetic resources, including several iconic species such as dugongs, dolphins, marine turtles, etc.;

**Appreciating** that the fisheries sector commands an important position in the region and contributes 1-4 percent of the Gross Domestic Product;

**Recognizing** that the four member-countries are annually landing approximately 5 million metric tons of marine fin and shellfish species;

**Considering** that an estimated 2 million active fishers are harvesting the resources in the region and many more millions are productively engaged in ancillary activities that contribute to the vibrancy of the sector;

**Knowing** that the region is an important player in the global seafood trade with estimated export earnings of about USD 8.0 billion in 2018;

**Realizing** that the marine fisheries resources have threshold exploitation levels and are not in-exhaustive;

**Accepting** that any over-exploitation through poor management practices, including IUU practices would negatively impact the recruitment of fin and shellfish species, lead to loss of biodiversity and undermine the ecological integrity of the resources;

**Observing** that the marine fisheries resources in the region are subject to IUU fishing from both the domestic fleets operating within the sovereign waters of the member-countries and also by foreign fishing fleets within the EEZ of the member-countries and also in the adjoining high seas, illegally harvesting the highly migratory fish resources;

**Understanding** that while regional cooperation involves costs, the benefits expected from regional coordination can outweigh the costs and ensure a sustainable fishery for the region;

**Acknowledging** that the member-countries are committed to various international agreements and arrangement of both binding and non-binding nature, including implementation of the Targets set under Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14, Life Below Water; and

**Realizing** that any further complacency in dealing with the IUU matters would be detrimental to the interests of the region;

Hereby agree to take collective action at the regional level through an agreed Regional Plan of Action to Prevent Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing.

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3 *BOBLME, 2015. Review of impacts of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing on developing countries in Asia. BOBLME-2015-Governance-15, 526 p.*

4 *Bangladesh, India, Maldives & Sri Lanka.*

## Introduction

The BOBP-IGO Regional Plan of Action (BOB RPOA-IUU) is a voluntary instrument with the objective to strengthen the prevention, deterrence and elimination of IUU fishing in the region and to ensure sustainable fisheries development.

In this document the meaning of IUU fishing is as defined in the IPOA-IUU.

The BOB RPOA-IUU is applicable to the EEZs of Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka and the ABNJ in the adjacent seas and oceans.

The BOB RPOA-IUU is based on the pillars of national sovereignty, regional cooperation, effective stakeholder participation, and collaboration with other regional and international fisheries entities, including the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), non-governmental organisations and non-state actors. It is guided by the 1995 FAO CCRF, IPOA-IUU, Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (VG-SSF) and the international instruments and arrangements to which the BOBP-IGO member-countries have acceded so far, including the UNCLOS.

The BOB RPOA-IUU holds that the full range of stakeholders, including the marginal groups and non-state actors should be involved in development, implementation, monitoring and review of the national and regional plans to curb IUU fishing.

The BOB RPOA-IUU provides guidance for the formulation and implementation of the National Plans of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU (NPOA-IUU) fishing to the member-countries as well as collaborating action by other stakeholders and agencies working in the region to curb IUU fishing.

The BOB RPOA-IUU will have an initial time-frame of 10 years from 2020 to 2030, with periodical reviews to reflect the changes in the sector and meet the capacity development needs of the stakeholders. The BOB RPOA-IUU identifies the following actions to combat IUU fishing in the region:

## Actions

**Action 1:** To review, consider and agree to the BOB RPOA-IUU and its implementation through the BOBP-IGO.

**Action 2:** To notify a suitable national focal point to coordinate with the BOBP-IGO on implementation of the RPOA-IUU and maintain a formalized and effective inter-agency cooperation at the national, regional and international levels, including cooperation on joint patrols for monitoring of the resources in the ABNJ.

**Action 3:** To inform the full range of stakeholders as well as the concerned regional and international organizations working with the member-countries about the adoption of the BOB RPOA-IUU to exemplify regional commitment in curbing IUU fishing.

**Action 4:** To develop and implement the NPOA-IUU through stakeholder consultations while taking cognizance of the IPOA-IUU, other voluntary and non-voluntary instruments and arrangements such as the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), Voluntary Guidelines of Flag State Performance (VGFSP) and coastal States responsibilities and BOB RPOA-IUU. Further, member-countries are urged to accede, ratify and implement the international instruments and arrangements aimed at curbing IUU fishing, to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures of the RFMOs they are party to, and to review the progress of the NPOA-IUU at regular intervals.

**Action 5:** To review and implement the National Plans of Action on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (NPOA-MCS) as developed by the member-countries. Further, to strengthen regional cooperation and harmonization of MCS measures as agreed to in the Chittagong Resolution of 2008. While reviewing and implementing NPOA-MCS, the member-countries should also ensure that the MCS adequately addresses the best measures to reduce accident at sea and land and the occupational safety and health of fishers.

**Action 6:** To consider alignment of national policies with a common regional objective to ensure more effective fisheries management, prevent flag-hopping of fishing vessels and facilitate better identification of vessels engaged in IUU fishing and fishing related activities, including illegal and unmonitored trans-shipment at sea.

**Action 7:** To establish and maintain a Regional Record of Fishing Vessels, and ensuring compatibility and information exchange with the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record), taking into account the high proportion of small-scale fishing vessels in the region. This may include all vessels involved in catching fish, as well as auxiliary, carrier, supply and support vessels of 12 meters and above and other vessels that are eligible to have an IMO number.

**Action 8:** To ensure the marking and identification of fishing vessels in the BOBP-IGO area in order to improve transparency and allow better identification of non-compliant vessels. This measure requires that BOBP-IGO member-countries ensure that their flagged motorized fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels of 100 gross tonnage (GT) or above, or equal to or greater than 12 meters LOA and authorized to operate in ABNJ and other eligible vessels, obtain an IMO number and use it as a mark for identification.

**Action 9:** To consider developing national inspection plans, harmonizing these across the region as well as Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) regarding Port State Measures in line with the minimum standards as laid out in the PSMA. It is also proposed that the protocols could provide for different set of directions for vessels from other countries in the Bay of Bengal region.

**Action 10:** To consider establishment of joint regional MCS and enforcement procedures, such as on inspection schemes, patrols and observer programmes.

**Action 11:** To comply with international standards on gear marking to address the issue of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear in line with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear.

**Action 12:** To establish and maintain a list of vessels [presumed (provisional list) and/or] confirmed to have carried out IUU fishing in the region keeping in view that such listing of vessels is done in a fair, transparent, non-discriminatory manner.

**Action 13:** To adopt international best practices for the classification of fish and fishery products to facilitate a greater understanding and control of trade as well as identification of products. Further, best post-harvest practices should be adopted to stop value loss during post-harvest operations and discourage the discarding of catch at sea.

**Action 14:** To develop a harmonized catch documentation scheme<sup>5</sup> consistent with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (VGCDs). CDS should be designed and implemented based on risk analysis and be proportionate to the risk that IUU fishing poses on the relevant stocks and markets.

**Action 15:** To consider developing and utilizing a regional MCS toolbox, based on international guidelines and using regional best practices.

**Action 16:** To establish a formal collaboration and coordination mechanism among relevant agencies (*e.g.* fisheries, port, maritime, customs, coast guard, immigration, marine police) for combatting IUU fishing at the regional level to address issues related to flag, port, coastal and market State responsibilities.

**Action 17:** To consider developing a regional mechanism for effective information sharing and cooperation to combat IUU fishing, including for the purpose of risk assessment and verification of vessel information.

**Action 18:** To consider regular monitoring of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing in the BOBP-IGO region guided by the (Draft) "FAO Technical Guidelines on Methodologies and Indicators for the Estimation of the Magnitude and Impact of IUU Fishing."

**Action 19:** To call for technical assistance and providing support to member-countries in development and implementation of MCS, flag state and port state measures, information and data collection (including stock assessment), collation, analysis and reporting, documentation, etc.

**Action 20:** To address any shortcomings and enhancing capacity at the national and regional levels based on the periodic evaluation of performance of NPOAs and RPOA for their progressive implementation.

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5 *Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS), means a system with the primary purpose of helping determine throughout the supply chain whether fish originate from catches taken consistent with applicable national, regional and international conservation and management measures, established in accordance with relevant international obligations.*







**BOBP/REP/164**



**BAY OF BENGAL PROGRAMME  
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