

Bay of Bengal Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

(BOB RPOA-IUU)

**Male, Maldives
21 February 2025**





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Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO)
91, Saint Mary's Road, Abiramapuram, Chennai - 600 018. INDIA

Bay of Bengal Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (BOB RPOA-IUU)

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 2022 edition of the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)¹ 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 64.6 percent in 2019.

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

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.

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)². 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).

Apart from biological losses, IUU fishing also offsets the economic gains from fisheries. Based on a study³ 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-countries⁴ 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 harbouring 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;

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

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.

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 Bay of Bengal Regional Plan of Action to Prevent Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (BOB RPOA-IUU).

Introduction

The 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 06 years from 2025 to 2030⁵, 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 BOB 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/ 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

⁵*Changed from the period (2020-2030) originally proposed during the member country consultations held in 2019 and 2020 to align with the current calendar year and the implementation period of the SDG Goals, especially SDG 14: Life Below Water.*

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 scheme⁶ 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.

The implementation of BOB RPOA-IUU, which is a voluntary instrument in alignment with IPOA-IUU, will be initiated once it is endorsed by all the member countries of BOBP-IGO.

The BOB RPOA-IUU is opened for signatures by the member countries of BOBP-IGO on 21 November 2024.

⁶ *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.*

OPERATIONALIZING THE BOB REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR COMBATING IUU FISHING (BOB-RPOA-IUU)

1. About BOB RPOA-IUU

The Bay of Bengal Programme Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing (BOB RPOA-IUU) is a voluntary instrument designed to strengthen regional cooperation to curb IUU fishing and ensure sustainable fisheries management. It aligns with international frameworks such as the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing (IPOA-IUU), and Sustainable Development Goal 14, "Life Below Water."

The BOB RPOA-IUU was developed through a consultative process involving member countries—Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka—with technical assistance from the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO) and FAO. Key steps included:

1. Regional Consultation (2019): To gather inputs and agree on objectives.
2. Draft Preparation and Circulation: A draft plan and background paper were developed and circulated for feedback.
3. Validation Meeting (2020): Held in Chennai, India, to finalize the plan, identify challenges, and recommend adoption.

The BOB RPOA-IUU aims to:

1. Strengthen regional cooperation in fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS).
2. Align national policies with regional objectives.
3. Prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing through collaborative action and shared resources.

Its timeframe is seven years from 2024 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 outlines twenty actions, including:

1. Establishing a regional vessel registry compatible with the FAO Global Record.
2. Developing national and regional inspection and catch documentation schemes.
3. Aligning policies and harmonizing MCS measures.
4. Encouraging regional cooperation in information sharing and joint patrolling.
5. Capacity building for implementing national plans (NPOA-IUU).

The **BOB RPOA-IUU** aligns closely with international standards such as the **IPOA-IUU** and **PSMA**. It follows the IPOA-IUU's framework by promoting the development of National Plans of Action (NPOA-IUU) and enhancing regional cooperation for addressing IUU fishing. Key actions such as establishing a regional vessel registry, developing catch documentation schemes, and harmonizing port state measures (PSMA) ensure compliance with international standards. The BOB RPOA-IUU emphasizes stakeholder participation, national policy alignment, and effective MCS measures, supporting both regional and international efforts to combat IUU fishing.

2. Status

Pursuant to the validation of the BOB RPOA-IUU in 2020, the Governing Council of the BOBP-IGO comprising representatives of the Ministry of Fisheries of its member-countries: Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka further discussed the endorsement and implementation of the instrument during its general meetings held in 2022 and 2024.

Based on the recommendation of the Governing Council, the BOBP-IGO communicated the Plan to the member-countries for endorsement.

Till date, Sri Lanka, Maldives and India have endorsed the document and is under active consideration of the Government of Bangladesh.

In accordance with the Plan, the BOBP-IGO will act as the Secretariat to oversee implementation. The BOBP-IGO is also a member of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) managed by the FAO and FAO's Plan of Coordination amongst the RFBs to battle IUU Fishing as per the FAO Maputo Framework.

(<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/9242904a-f8cc-4e43-8688-0e93a37db702/content>).

Subsequently, since 2023, the BOBP-IGO also started implementing the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Project Phase II (BOBLME-II). This five-year (2023-28) project is funded by GEF and NORAD and being implemented by FAO. BOBP-IGO along with IUCN and SEAFDEC are the executing agencies. A key objective of the BOBLME-II project is to reduce IUU fishing by 20 percent in the BOBLME Region (as compared to 2015).

The BOBLME-II project, therefore, provides wherewithal to support the implementation of the BOB RPOA-IUU through assessments, studies and capacity building programmes including gender mainstreaming.

3. Regional Policy Environment

Recognizing the severity of the issue, key regional organizations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) have articulated their views and strategies to combat it. The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) acknowledges IUU fishing as a serious threat and emphasizes enhanced regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building, and joint patrols to promote sustainable fisheries management and ensure long-term resource sustainability. Similarly, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) views IUU fishing as a transboundary issue requiring coordinated action among member states. BIMSTEC focuses on regional cooperation through data sharing, surveillance, law enforcement, and addressing root causes like poverty and the lack of alternative livelihoods for coastal communities. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), primarily focusing on tuna fisheries, has implemented specific measures to combat IUU fishing, including port state measures, vessel monitoring systems, and rigorous data collection and analysis. The IOTC aims to ensure sustainable tuna fisheries through science-based management measures and by directly addressing IUU fishing activities. A common thread among these organizations is the recognition of IUU fishing's severe impact, the emphasis on regional cooperation, and a shared commitment to promoting sustainable fisheries management practices. This unified approach seeks to safeguard marine ecosystems and enhance the well-being of coastal communities across the Indian Ocean Region.

Moreover, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) aligns with these regional efforts through its Global Maritime Crime Programme, which addresses the criminal aspects of

IUU fishing. The UNODC recognizes that IUU fishing is often linked to transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, smuggling, and corruption. By providing technical assistance, strengthening legal frameworks, and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies, the UNODC supports countries in the IOR to effectively combat fisheries crime. This global crime programme complements the regional organizations' emphasis on cooperation and sustainable management by targeting the underlying criminal networks that facilitate IUU fishing activities.

The BOB RPOA-IUU is placed to catalyse the regional understanding from policy level to action level through creating a collaborative interface.

4. Collaboration

The BOBP-IGO has reached out to FAO, SEAFDEC and UNODC (Indian Ocean East Office) for collaboration. BOBP-IGO carrying legal analysis of PSMA in collaboration with FAO and conducted a training programme on fisheries MCS in the context of PSMA with SEAFDEC under the BOBLME project. Recently, BOBP-IGO and UNODC joined hand to deliver regular training programmes on Fishing Vessels Boarding Operations. Both the organizations also discussed about preparation of a Standard Operating Protocol and support to setting up of IUU Secretariat in BOBP-IGO.

The BOBP-IGO also partnering with AI2, or Allen Institute for AI, is a research organization focused on advancing artificial intelligence through research and engineering on using of “Skylight” – a web portal to monitor fishing activities globally including threat analysis.

The BOBP-IGO also reached out to The Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), a regional maritime security centre hosted by the Indian Navy, which provides information on domestic and foreign IUU fishing.

5. Implementation Plan (Year 1)

The BOB RPOA-IUU will be fully implemented when all the member-countries of the BOBP-IGO endorse the instrument, with BOBP-IGO as its Secretariat. The operational plan and budgetary arrangement for the sustenance will be developed subsequently.

Till such date and further considering readiness of the member-countries to address the reporting requirements of BOB RPOA-IUU, the instrument may be implemented provisionally in the first year. BOBP-IGO shall approach donor agencies for supporting the implementation for this pilot phase, subject to the agreement from the member countries.

The following roadmap denotes a flexible pathway to implement the Plan provisionally or fully as the situation demands.

Step 1: Initial Coordination and Agreement

Action: Notify National Focal Points

- **Activities:**

- Send official requests to member countries to appoint focal points.
- Create a Regional Working Group comprising national focal points and other relevant delegates in consultation with the member-countries.

The members of the regional working group may be drawn from National Working Groups on IUU to be constituted under the BOBLME project.

- **Output:** Constitution of regional working group with designated national focal points.

Step 2: Development of SOPs: Joint Initiatives with UNODC

- **Action:** Develop SOPs for Joint Monitoring, Inspection, and Information-Sharing
 - **Activities:**
 - Collaborate with UNODC to draft standardized protocols.
 - Organize Regional Conference on Strengthening Legal Measures Against Illegal Fishing to present the SOPs.
 - Distribute finalized SOPs to member countries and relevant agencies.
 - **Output:** SOPs established, enhancing coordination among stakeholders.

Step 3: Development and Implementation of NPOA-IUU and MCS

- **Action:** Support development, review and implementation of NPOA-IUU and MCS (under BOBLME project and with support from agencies like UNODC).
 - **Activities:**
 - Assessment of current status (study).
 - Assessment of capacity needs
 - Compile and distribute a regional MCS toolbox and conduct training sessions on its use.
 - Developments of training modules
 - Deliver training programmes (Regional/National)
 - Organize regional workshops for experience sharing.
 - Monitor progress and provide feedback.
 - **Output:** NPOA-IUU developed and implemented by member countries.

Step 4: Establish Regional Record of Fishing Vessels and IUU vessels

- **Action:** Develop Regional Record
 - **Activities:**
 - Create and manage a regional database compatible with the FAO Global Record.
 - Collect and validate vessel data from member countries.
 - Develop criteria and procedures for IUU vessel listing.
 - Prepare and publish a list of IUU fishing vessels
 - **Output:** Regional Record of Fishing Vessels established and maintained.

Step 5: Compliance with Gear Marking Standards

- **Action:** Promote Gear Marking Standards (under BOBLME project and with support from potential partners)
 - **Activities:**
 - Disseminate FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Gear Marking.
 - Support countries in implementing gear marking regulations.
 - **Output:** Increased compliance with international gear marking standards.

Step 6: Monitoring Magnitude and Impact of IUU Fishing

- **Action:** Regular monitoring using the FAO framework under the BIOBLME II project
 - **Activities:**
 - Develop monitoring frameworks guided by FAO Technical Guidelines.
 - Support countries in conducting regular assessments.
 - **Output:** Comprehensive monitoring of IUU fishing impact.

Step 7: Stakeholder Communication

- **Action:** Inform Stakeholders (under BOBLME project and with support from potential partners)
 - **Activities:**
 - Prepare communication material
 - policy briefs, newsletters, Toolkits, Short videos, Case studies
 - Organize stakeholder workshops and webinar.
 - Distribute materials through official websites, email campaigns, and media outlets.
 - **Output:** Increased awareness among stakeholders and international organizations.

Step 8: Formal Collaboration Mechanisms

- **Action:** Establish Collaboration Mechanisms
(FAO, 2023. *A regional framework among regional fishery bodies: Scaling up cooperation and coordination towards sustainable fisheries [FAO Maputo Framework]*)
 - **Activities:**
 - Inform and share updates on RPOA-IUU with relevant agencies.
 - Facilitate the establishment of formal collaboration mechanisms among relevant agencies.
 - Explore formal arrangements with FAO to support the RPOA-IUU
 - **Output:** Enhanced inter-agency collaboration for combating IUU fishing.

Step 9: Assignment of staff:

The Secretariat will be located in the BOBP-IGO Headquarter in Chennai, India. The experts required for the functioning of the Secretariat as listed hereunder, will be engaged / deputed by the BOBP-IGO to support BOB RPOA-IUU Secretariat. The compensation will be based on the time spent in the activity as per the wage rate of the BOBP-IGO.

1. Regional Coordinator (01)
2. Policy and Training Coordinator (01)
3. Legal expert (01)
4. GIS and Data Analyst (02)
5. Secretarial services (01)

6. Responsibilities of Member Countries for Implementing RPOA-IUU

1. **Appoint Focal Points:** Identify and appoint suitable national focal points to coordinate with the BOBP-IGO.
2. **Participate in Protocol Development:** Collaborate with BOBP-IGO in drafting standardized protocols.
3. **Implement SOPs:** Consider adopting and implementing the finalized SOPs in national policies and practices.
4. **Participate in Regional Conference/Trainings:** Take part in regional workshops for experience sharing and learning. Also engage in regional and national training sessions scheduled under the BOBLME project and with UNODC.
5. **Capacity Assessment:** Support national assessments of the current status and capacity needs.
6. **Support Building of Database of Fishing Vessels:** Gather and validate data on fishing vessels operating within national jurisdictions.
7. **Support IUU Vessel Listing:** Assist in developing criteria and procedures for listing IUU vessels and regularly update information.
8. **Risk Monitoring:** Perform regular assessments of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing within national waters.
9. **Support for Activities:** Support organization of national stakeholder workshops and webinars; Inform and share updates on RPOA-IUU with relevant national agencies (e.g., fisheries, port, maritime).



Bay of Bengal Programme
Inter-Governmental Organisation

91, Saint Mary's Road, Abhiramapuram, Chennai - 600 018, Tamil Nadu, India
Telephone: # 91 44 42040024, www.bobpigo.org, Email: info@bobpigo.org