

Facts and Figures: Thailand's Tangible Progress in Combatting IUU Fishing and Forced Labour

- The Royal Thai Government attaches high priority to combatting the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and has declared this a national agenda and committed to promoting responsible and sustainable fishing.
- Since May 2015, the Command Center for Combatting IUU Fishing (CCCIF) was established to pool together the associated government units to work as a team to resolving the IUU fishing problem rapidly. Moreover, Thailand has been working with the European Union, international partners, neighbouring countries, and civil society organizations to address the IUU fishing and geared towards reforming legal framework and restructuring operational mechanism in all aspects and comprehensive fisheries reform.
- Thailand's commitment to combatting the IUU fishing was firmly announced at the Malta Our Ocean Conference during 5-6 October 2017. Thailand stated to adopt related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our national framework by overhauling our legal and policy frameworks to govern the Thai fishery sector and to tackle the associated human trafficking and labour abuses as well as to establish a labour standard at sea in compliance with international rules and regulations.
- So far, Thailand has spent 2.1 billion Thai Bahts (equivalent to 57 million Euros) on combatting the IUU fishing, including the establishment of the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC), the development of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) capacity and traceability system, law enforcement, and the employment of officials and inspectors, etc.
- The followings are key progress undertaken by Thailand on the IUU fishing:

Areas	Key Progress
Legal and Policy Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>The Royal Ordinance on Fisheries (RO)</u> has been adopted (November 2015 and revised in June 2017) with heavier fines (up to 780,000 Euros or 5 times the value of illegal catch/ 20,000 Euros per illegal worker found on board) . - <u>Over 100 IUU-related implementing regulations</u> have been adopted to ensure full and effective implementation of the RO. The latest one was adopted and enacted in January 2018. - <u>The Fisheries Management Plan and the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing</u> have been adopted in December 2015 which address overfishing problem by reducing Thai fishing fleet and introduce a fundamental change to Thailand's fisheries policy from "<u>open-access</u>" to "<u>limited-access</u>" fisheries. - <u>The Royal Ordinance on Thai Vessels</u> has been drafted to replace the outdated Act, together with the amendment of <u>the Navigation in Thai</u>

	<p><u>Waters Act</u>, to supplement the RO in combatting IUU fishing and to fulfill the obligation under the International Maritime Organization Conventions and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.</p>
<p>Fleet and Fisheries Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Two rounds of nation-wide survey of all Thai-flagged fishing vessels</u> were undertaken in 2016 and 2017 resulting to a clearer picture of Thailand's fleet structure with an up-to-date electronic vessel database. The third and final round will be completed in 2018. - Under strict fleet management measures based on the MSY calculation, <u>the size of Thai fishing fleet have currently been reduced to a total of 39,069 fishing vessels</u>, down from over 50,000 vessels in 2015. Out of this number, a total of 11,145 commercial fishing vessels of 10 GT and above have been granted fishing licenses, valid from April 2016 to March 2018. - <u>The number of overseas fishing fleets has drastically reduced from 76 to 15 vessels</u> due to the suspension of the issuance of new overseas fishing licenses. The overseas transshipment has also been prohibited until February 2018. - <u>The E-license scheme and the fishing-day scheme</u> have been introduced to ensure sustainable fish stock. This also combined with <u>the ban on the highly destructive fishing gears</u>. - <u>A total of 1,104 illegal vessels</u> (as of 19 January 2018) are being impounded, locked, painted, and mark with Unique Vessel Identification (UVI). - <u>Illegal vessels are being decommissioned</u> through buy-back scheme. So far 51 out of 331 illegal vessels have been bought back at the cost of 5.7 million Euros. The next round of the buy-back scheme involving approximately <u>2,700 vessels at the cost of 162 million Euros</u> is underway. Furthermore, Thailand is developing the entry-exit scheme to be implemented within 2018.
<p>Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>A total of 6,125 commercial fishing vessels, 30 GT and over</u>, (as of December 2017) have been installed and monitored with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). All VMS equipment on board were sealed to prevent removal and tampering. - <u>32 Port-in Port-out (PIPO) control centers and 19 Forward Inspection Points (FIPs)</u> have been set up across Thailand's 22 coastal provinces. All commercial fishing vessels, 30 GT and over, are required to report to a PIPO center upon porting in (to check document, vessel, catch and crew) and porting-out (to check document, vessel and crew). - <u>22 Ports for foreign vessels</u> have been set up in 10 coastal provinces with strict import control measures according to the Port State Measures (PSM) Agreement, especially on foreign vessels whose catch, mainly tuna, are to be processed in Thailand.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) is fully operational</u> with state-of-the-art system. The FMC focuses on at-sea surveillance through VMS monitoring and works closely with PIPO centers as the central command and control center for all MCS activities, including fishing data networking.- All overseas fishing and transshipment vessels have been deployed with <u>new electronic reporting and monitoring system</u> (e.g. electronic logbook and automatic CCTV cameras) which will enable FMC to better monitor and control overseas vessels through real time recording and reporting of fishing and transshipment activities including the movement of labour.- Measures undertaken to improve <u>the effectiveness and target accuracy of PIPO, FMC and inspection at seas</u> include the development of Common Risk Assessment system and the overhaul improvement of IT infrastructure to enable automatic cross-checking of information from various sources so any discrepancy can be detected early on; the introduction of the “Flying Team” inspectors to strengthen PIPO centers’ capacity to meet the international standard; and a vigorous training exercises for inspectors to develop their investigative mind.- <u>Several training courses and workshops</u> were held in 2017 to familiarize FMC and PIPO staff with the new SOPs for inspection and to increase the effectiveness of inspectors’ enforcement.- <u>The electronic system for recording landings</u> has been applied at the fishing ports to cross-check quantity and species of catch against fishing gears and recorded data in the logbook.
Traceability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Electronic traceability system</u> for catch from Thai-flagged vessels and foreign-flagged vessels (Thai-flagged Catch Certificate system and PSM linked and Processing Statement System (PSS) respectively) has been developed to prevent the entry of IUU products into supply chains.- <u>Mechanisms for traceability system for fishing consignment from Thai-flagged vessels</u> involves logbook, Marine Catch Purchasing Document (MCPD), Marine Catch Transshipment Document (MCTD) and Catch Certificate (CC).- <u>Thai-flagged Catch Certification System</u> is established to be a full traceability system for fishery products along the entire supply chain from catch and processing to the export of finished products. The system will also automatically alert the inspectors to abnormal activity inside the traceability system.- For foreign-flagged vessels, Thailand has strengthened its <u>implementation of PSM control measures</u>, through import control and inspection of foreign-flagged and carrier vessels, in line with the PSM, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)’s and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)’s guidelines.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since May 2017, the Thai authorities have carried out <u>a 100 % of the Advanced Reporting for Entry into Port (AREP)</u> document checks, physical vessel inspection and off-load inspection. - The imported raw materials stocked and used at the processing chain under PPS will be ascertained through Import Movement Document (<u>IMD</u>), Raw Materials Balance Sheet (<u>RMBS</u>) and control and inspection at processing plants, and Processing Statement (<u>PS</u>). - Thailand <u>enhances the cooperation with other flag states, coastal states, port states, and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)</u>, namely IOTC, the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), to improve cross-checking and verification to ensure the origin and legality of imported fish. - <u>Logbook has been developed from 6 to 19 fishing gears</u> authorized to fish in Thai waters to increase accuracy of recording and ensure effectiveness of inspection. - In 2017, four <u>traceability training courses</u> were organized by the Department of Fisheries and attended by 975 inspectors and private sector from fishing industry. The courses focus on catch reporting and landing inspection, and logbook implementation.
<p>Protecting the rights of labour in the fisheries sector</p>	<p>Legal Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>The regulations governing labour protection in sea fishing and seafood processing industry</u> have been revised and included in the Labour Protection Act (1998) and 6 additional amended versions (2 additional amendment in 2017). - <u>The Royal Ordinance on Management of Foreign Workers' Employment (2017) has been enforced</u> to help improve management of recruitment agencies and prevent labour abuses, especially debt bondage by stipulating that the recruitment process shall be fair and not incur any cost on the migrant workers (borne by employers). - Thailand is in the process of drafting the "<u>Prevention and Elimination of Forced Labour Act</u>" to be in line with the <u>Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention (P29)</u> and the <u>work in fishing law in line with the Work in Fishing Convention (C188)</u> which will be a stand-alone legislation, and will be presented to the National Legislative Council (NLC) in April 2018, and to be ratified by June 2018 during the International Labour Conference (ILC). - Thailand is in the process of amending domestic legislation as a foundation for the ratification of the <u>Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention (C98)</u> by November 2018. - <u>The regulation on the management of the funding for the administration of migrant workers has been amended</u> to allow joint budgeting with NGOs in assisting abused migrant workers.

- The Labour Protection Act and Regulation on Labour Inspection have been amended with a view to intensifying the law enforcement by instructing all inspectors that any offenses associated with child labour, forced labour, and debt bondage must be brought forward to the criminal court immediately.

Regularization Process

- Measures to regularize undocumented workers have been stepped up in close cooperation with neighbouring countries, so that these workers will be protected under Thai laws. This is expected to be complete by the first quarter of 2018.
- Currently, 1,153,537 migrants having gone through the nationality verification process, accounting for 57.7 percent of the total number of 1,999,240 undocumented migrant workers, have been permitted to work in Thailand temporarily. The remaining 845,703 migrants are given extension to complete the said process by 30 June 2018. All migrants are required to record personal data at One-Stop Service (OSS) Centers nation-wide by 31 March 2018.

Labour Inspection

- The number of labour inspectors stood at 1,506 officers in 2017 (an increase of 21 % from 2016), while the number of interpreters also rose 86 %, from 72 people in 2016 to 134 people in 2017. Ongoing training is offered periodically, for instance, 178 participants attended the training on the inspection of fishing labour under the mechanism of Ship to Shore Right Programme.
- The multidisciplinary team, comprising the Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing and the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, inspected 358 seafood processing establishments in 2017, of which 142 establishments, 39.7 percent, were found to have violated the laws. Following the Administrative Sanction Committee's rulings, 9 establishments were shut down.
- Labour inspectors now routinely carry out labour inspection as part of PIPO inspections. The Department of Fisheries has revised the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for PIPO inspectors. The CCCIF hosted 2 workshops for the PIPO frontline officers to familiarize them with the general guidelines for vessels and labour inspections as well as coordination among the Centers to ensure consistency for all PIPO centers.
- From 19 December 2016 to 25 December 2017, labour inspectors have inspected and interviewed 53,508 migrant workers at 22 PIPO centers in coastal areas; 3,496 migrant workers were found being violated under the labour protection law by their employers (e.g. unpaid wages, absence of record of holiday, absence of workers' list, etc.). All cases are now concluded at the Administrative Sanction Committee.

	<p>Complaint Mechanisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>4 hotlines have been established</u> to serve as a channel for complaints and consultancy for both employers and employees. For example, in 2017, Hotline No. 1300 operated by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security received a total number of 71,420 calls, <u>135 of which were related to human trafficking cases</u>, leading to an identification of 85 children and youth victims and 50 adult victims and <u>the prosecution of 53 cases</u>. Hotline 1567 Damrongtham Centers received <u>82 reports on trafficking cases in 2017, resulting in 6 cases of prosecution</u>. - Thailand established Fishermen’s Life Enhancement Center, Stella Maris Seafarers Centers in 3 provinces, and <u>Migrant Workers Assistance Centers in 10 provinces</u> to provide assistance to workers in fishing industry. The Post Arrival and Reintegration Centers have also been established in 3 provinces to provide workers with basic understanding of their rights, and working and living culture in Thailand, as well as to verify the employment contracts. In 2017, <u>a total of 57,498 migrant workers received assistance from the Centers, compared to 14,446 in 2016</u>. - The Department of Labour Protection and Welfare has set up the <u>labour protection network via LINE application</u> to provide a coordination platform for labour officers to provide rapid response to enquiries. <p>Control Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Ban on transshipment of crew at sea has been imposed</u>, requiring all commercial fishing vessels of 30 GT and above to return to designated port every 30 days. - A special Seabook has been issued to all migrant workers working on Thai fishing vessels to prevent the use of illegal labour and any possible labour abuse. As of 31 October <u>2017, 14,286 migrant workers requested for Seabook issuance and 11,197 migrants have their Seabooks issued</u>.
<p>Law Enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law enforcement agencies have intensified <u>inspection at port</u> (on daily basis) <u>at sea</u> (on daily basis) and <u>at seafood factories</u> (on periodical basis). - <u>The Criminal Sanction led to the prosecution of more than 4,243 cases</u> of fishery-related crimes, including 79 cases of Thai overseas fishing vessels, 1,049 cases of Thai and foreign vessels, 2,020 cases of failure to install VMS, 68 cases of seafood pre-processing plants and 85 cases of human trafficking in fishing industry (as of 18 January 2018). This includes a case involving a well-known local politician where the owner of the fishing vessels/local politician was sentenced to <u>14 years in prison</u>. - <u>The Administrative Sanction Committee has issued judgment on 239 cases</u>, including 66 cases of overseas vessels, 103 cases of Thai vessels with 30 GT, 67 cases of vessel less than 30 GT in Thai waters, and 3 cases of the fish processing factory (as of 18 January 2018). The sanctions imposed on these

	<p>cases include seizure of fishing gear and aquatic animals, suspension and revocation of license and detention of fishing vessels <u>with a fine of over 1.1 million Euros</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To facilitate effective prosecution of wrongdoers, <u>online database of all fisheries and human trafficking cases</u> has been developed (since September 2017) to assist and share information among law enforcement agencies and public prosecutors, and <u>a new unit dealing with fishery cases</u> is planned to be established under the Thai Criminal Court in Bangkok (early 2018) to facilitate fast track prosecution of fisheries violations.- In 2017, <u>335 law enforcement officers from competent agencies participated in 5 training courses</u> on tackling IUU fishing and promoting labour protection organized by the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare. <u>430 officers participated in 2 workshops focusing on familiarization to the fishery-related laws</u>, organized by the Royal Thai Police.
Cooperation with international partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thailand acceded to <u>the FAO's Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing</u> on 10 May 2016.- Thailand acceded to <u>the UN's Fish Stock Agreement to combat illegal fishing and protect marine resources</u> on 29 May 2017.- Thailand joined the <u>Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)</u> on 21 April 2017 to complement the existing membership in Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).- The <u>activities with SIOFA and IOTC</u> include capacity building on E-PSM, the conservation and management measures (CMM), control measures for overseas fishing, and preparation for the overseas fleet to enter the SIOFA areas for fishing operations.- Thailand will <u>host IOTC's annual meeting</u> and related meetings on 13-26 May 2018, and <u>SIOFA's parties meeting</u> and compliance committee meeting on 20-29 June 2018.- Thailand is working on the plan of developing an <u>ASEAN Common Fisheries Policy</u>, which led to the agreement by the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry in September 2017 to develop ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme as the first step.

The Royal Thai Government
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