

**Excerpts from the weekly televised address by  
Prime Minister Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha (ret.)  
broadcasted on 6 November 2015**

Good evening, dear fellow Thai citizens.

As for the IUU problem, the government is adamant about eradicating all illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing activities as well as human trafficking in the fishing industry. In order to successfully resolve the IUU problem, the Cabinet has approved the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries which will help the country effectively bring solutions to the fishing sector. The Cabinet has also approved a marine resources management plan and a national strategic plan for eradicating the IUU problem.

I would like to reiterate that the government has been working very hard and will continue to do so until all problems in the fishing industry are completely solved. The same goes for the problem of human trafficking in this industry. There must be concrete measures and results. We have implemented many solutions such as installing the vessel monitoring system on fishing boats, improving information sharing systems between related agencies, and inspecting piers and risk-prone spots. We are trying to make migrant registration easy for migrant workers. Everyone has to lend a helping hand. I strongly believe that we will see a huge improvement in the next 3-6 months.

Today, we must also care for the victims of human trafficking in the fishing industry. Certain ships are still at sea for several months without coming ashore. Those ships that have violated the law are now traveling along distant or international waters and continue to conduct trade under the Thai flag. These are the ships that have caused trouble for our country. The Thai government is sending a team to inspect those fishing vessels, demonstrating our commitment to solving this problem. In addition, seafood-processing plants will also be randomly inspected to ascertain the whereabouts of their stock. These inspections are a necessary to eliminate problem that only a few Thais are involved in. I repeat that only a few Thais are involved, not all Thai fishermen. These few continue to disregard the law and even engage in slave labour. We will continue to prosecute these individuals and sustain progress on this matter. The government, related officials, port authorities and operatives will show no leniency and have zero-tolerance on IUU fishing and human trafficking activities.

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I don't want these efforts to be regarded as short term or done just to appease a certain group. Otherwise IUU fishing and human trafficking will continue to pose a threat to Thailand, as they have been longstanding problems that require swift action. Most importantly, we must ensure the preservation of our marine wildlife and allow it to prosper within our waters as well as our neighbor's waters. Otherwise, illegal ships will conduct fishing activities with illegal equipment that will hamper the opportunity for our marine wildlife to reproduce. At the moment, there are already a low number of fish in our waters. However, after the implementation of the government's policies, it has been reported that the income of fishermen has increased. In addition, the average size of fish caught has increased since they are no longer farmed at early ages with illegal equipment. Therefore, I would like to assure anyone who has been affected but is following the law, that the government will definitely provide assistance measures. I urge all to stay updated and for various fishing associations not to switch the nationalities of ships.

The government will crackdown on violators with full measures. Violators, authorities and victims will all be treated in accordance with the law. Furthermore, I do not want these individuals to have a place in Thai society: those that cheat, violate the law or conduct human trafficking. These people have no place in Thai society, let alone any society. These people become rich at the expense of other people's suffering.