



CORAL TRIANGLE INITIATIVE

ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY



Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security Trans-Boundary Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Workshop

January 22- 24, 2012 Cebu City, Philippines



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Coral Triangle Initiative IUU Fishing Workshop-Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia
January 21-24, 2013—Marriott Hotel Cebu City

Background and rationale

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing is one of the major identified threats to fisheries in the Coral Triangle Region. The Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI) was developed to provide support and expertise to the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands (CT6) to accomplish the goals outlined in the CTI Regional Plan of Action (CTI-RPOA). In support of the CTI RPOA, NOAA was asked to conduct surveys of the Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) capacity of the CT6 and provide technical assistance in identifying areas for improvement and strategies for strengthening. (CTI-RPOA Goal 2: Ecosystem Approaches to Management of Fisheries (EAFM) And Other Marine Resources Fully Applied, Target 1: Strong Legislative, Policy, and Regulatory Frameworks in Place for Achieving an EAFM; Regional Action 2: Improve enforcement of IUU Fishing through greater collaboration). Common themes were identified between Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia; and another set of common themes for Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste providing both a thematic and geographic grouping to effectively address IUU fishing issues in the region.

To address topics specific to the shared maritime areas of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia an IUU fishing workshop maximizing regional expertise and resources was convened in Cebu City 21-24 January 2013. Topics included Port State controls as a means to combat IUU, shared challenges and threats, methods to enhance collaboration, i.e. Trilateral Interagency Maritime Law Enforcement Workshop (TIAMLEW), and topics related to trafficking of IUU fish products and protected corals.

Workshop outcomes were based on requests identified at the USCTI EAFM Third Regional Exchange:

1. Enhance collaboration and mechanisms of communication between MCS personnel in the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia
2. Explore available tools and information strategies to address IUU fishing trends
3. Develop a unified and complimentary strategy for implementation of the RPOA

Outcomes

The participants agreed to develop Joint Target Development Teams (JTDT), similar to the tools used under the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combatting IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU) to address key Transboundary and MCS issues. To focus the JTDT efforts, the participants identified topical areas of transboundary IUU fishing threats and agreed to look more in depth at the Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT), turtle trade/smuggling and incursions by foreign fishing vessels (FFV). The participants agreed to address these threats in three key geographies; Palawan for LRFFT, Turtle Islands for turtles and Mindanao for FFV incursions.

The Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) agreed to take a leadership role in coordinating the Turtle JTDT. It was recommended by the participants for Malaysia to take a leadership role for the JTDT for LRFFT (pending approval of Malaysia and acceptance from the appropriate agencies). Further discussions concluded that the strategies employed by the RPOA-IUU to address incursions by FFVs should be fully supported and no additional actions taken by the participants were needed. The participants acknowledged the need to develop a threat assessment to guide the development of any operational actions. The threat assessment and JTDT will inform follow-on CTI

activities to build the capacity, capabilities and competencies available within the region. For example, the participants initially identified the need to examine existing legal frameworks, transboundary coordination mechanisms (e.g. RPOA-IUU, TIAMLEW), local cultural and political consideration, and funding sources.

The participants recommended exploration of streamlined and more rapid means to communicate with fisheries law enforcement authorities in each country. Building upon communications aspects of the RPOA-IUU and TIAMLEW, participants seek authority and capability for real time communications to combat IUU fishing activity. It was agreed that all activities related to combatting IUU fishing and the trade in IUU fish and fish product should be consistent with the RPOA-IUU and build upon the successful framework outlined therein. This was particularly reflected in the discussion related to the target area of foreign vessel incursions and agreement of the participants that the RPOA-IUU provides the framework needed to collectively combat this issue.

The following summary provides an outline of the workshop thematic areas discussed, participants and accompanying reference documents.



Figure 1 Participants of the Coral Triangle Initiative IUU Fishing Workshop-Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia

Contents

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Workshop summary

The full agenda and presentations are provided in the annex. A brief description of each session is provided below.

Opening remarks were provided by:

Undersecretary Ernest Adobo Jr. of DENR gave opening remarks encouraging the participants to develop a plan of action to address IUU fishing. He urged that the work focus on integration and harmonization of efforts to combat transboundary IUU fishing.

Colonel Orlando D. Ualat from the Philippine National Police welcomed the workshop participants to Cebu on behalf of General Garbo.

Session 1: Current Trends in IUU Fishing

Assistant Director Todd Dubois (NOAA-OLE) presented an overview of Global IUU fishing through the lens of economics, food security and available countermeasures. Cindy Bravos of Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) presented a regional overview of recent regional efforts and strategies to combat IUU fishing.

Session 2: Illegal Coral Trade Cases

Special Agent Murray Bauer (NOAA-OLE) presented a briefing of a recent coral smuggling case. Marlito Guidote, Coral Triangle Initiative Program Integrator, and Mario Marababol of Ocean Care shared the current status of the illegal coral trade in the Philippines.

Session 3: Regional Plan Of Action for IUU

Ms. Bravos presented on the RPOA strategy for combating IUU fishing. A case study involving the shared maritime area of the “dogleg” was shared. Some of the steps involved in development of a framework for information sharing on specific sightings, licensing, and VMS data in relation to the targeted area over a targeted period of time were discussed as well as the hope that the information will assist to inform a plan of action to address the identified threats.

Section 4: Innovative Methods to Combat IUU (Regional Case Studies)

Andy Menguito of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) presented on the *Bantay Dagat* program employed to patrol coastal waters. In this program, volunteers are deputized as fish wardens and given a degree of authority to inspect and detain offenders within municipal waters. Nilo Katada (BFAR) presented on the National Coastwatch System. Coastwatch gathers, integrates, and disseminates relevant maritime security information from and across Philippines agencies.

Sessions 5 and 6: Communication Systems and/or Joint Operations to Combat IUU and Round Table Discussion

LCDR Gregg Casad of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) led a discussion on communication systems in the region. Over the course of the session, formal communication structures through the RPOA and diplomatic channels were identified. However, participants noted that using these mechanisms to share information in real-time is a shared challenge. Key discussion points and questions from this session included if MCS practitioners in the region had the autonomy and authority to reach out to their international counterparts informally. The participants discussed whether TIAMLEW could offer a platform for informal communications.

Session 7: Field Visit

The group was split into 2 for concurrent visits to the Philippine Coast Guard and the shell-craft area in neighboring Mactan Island.

The participants visiting the PCG were provided a briefing of regional operations. CAPT Anelito Gabisan explained their use of the lead agency concept in working with BFAR and DENR to enforce natural resource laws and regulations. The group was also provided a tour of the BRP SAN JUAN (SARV-001) and a BFAR-supported MCS vessel.

Those visiting the shell-craft area of Mactan had the opportunity to interact with vendors selling both legally traded shells and illicit protected species. The process of obtaining permits and appropriate signatures was described in great detail for the protected species, as well as strategies to avoid detection altogether by destination customs officers.

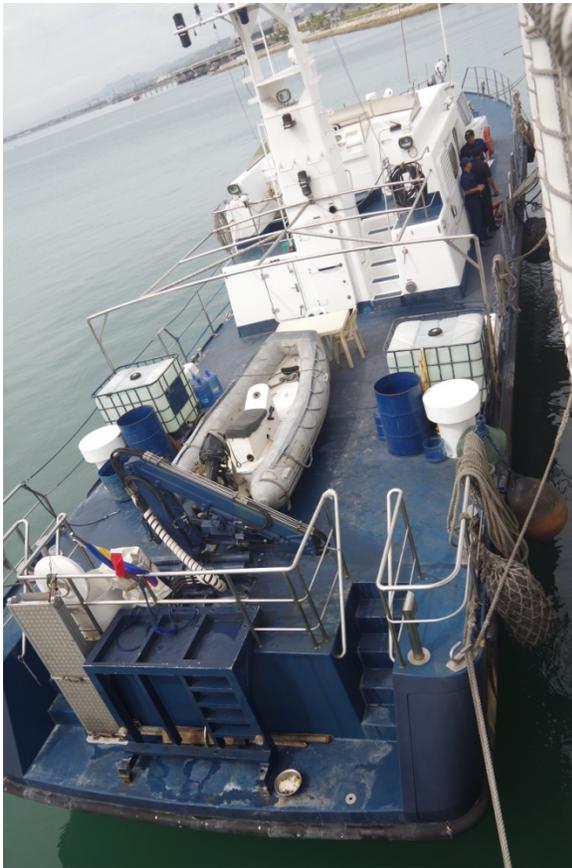


Figure 2 Visit to the BRP SAN JUAN (SARV-001)



Figure 3 Shell Trade, Mactan Island

Session 8 and 9: Global Initiatives to Combat IUU Fishing, Port State Measures Agreement

Mr. Dubois gave an overview of global initiatives including INTERPOL's newly established Fisheries Working Group, International Monitoring and Control and Surveillance Network, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, and the Port State Measures Agreement. LCDR Casad discussed the Global Record initiative and provided a perspective from the USCG. Chrisgel Cruz of ASEAN-WEN presented on their work in the region. Stephen King of the FREELAND Foundation provided updates on their pilot Marine Enforcement training program. Anna Oposa of Save Philippine Seas shared her public outreach campaign strategy.

Session 10: Discussion

Session 11: Operational Security for IUU investigations

S/A Murray Bauer shared best practices for operational security in IUU fishing investigations. The focus of the presentation was to demonstrate tools for incorporating operational security procedures into daily investigative activities. The results of effective utilization are protection of critical planning information, prevention of disruption of enforcement activities and to ensure officer safety resulting in successful apprehension, prosecution and conviction of IUU fishers, traders and exporters.

Session 12: Round Table Discussion on Operational Collaboration, Communication Mechanisms, and Proposals for Combatting Transboundary IUU Fishing

This session was co-facilitated by Mar Guidote and Todd Dubois. The goal was to develop a plan of action to address IUU fishing in the transboundary areas shared between the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia. Participants agreed to establish JTDTs to explore the threat of IUU fishing on the LRFFT in Palawan, turtles in the Turtle Islands, and FFV incursions in the General Santos area. The participants identified 12 goals for the JTDT to address:

1. Map threats
2. Narrow to specific geographic area(s)
3. Establish internal and external communication plans
4. Identify capabilities and weaknesses of participating team members
5. Identify logistical issues and support/donors
6. Identify existing intelligence
7. Collect information on legal authorities/differences
8. Engage other countries
9. Identify gaps in existing intelligence
10. Develop responsibility/task matrix
11. Joint training and capacity building
12. Develop operation plan

Closing

The Honorable Antonio Cuenco gave the following closing remarks:

Friends, Colleagues and Crusaders:

May I congratulate all of us for having completed the 3-day workshop with very substantive outcomes. This would not have been possible without the cooperation and collaboration among the participants, country delegates from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines and of course our resource persons from the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), USAID's Asia

Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST) Program and USAID's US CTI Support Program.

Indeed, our task in protecting our environment against villains is very difficult. The challenges that we face are formidable.

This multi-agency and multi-partner cooperation demonstrates the very essence of tackling multi-dimensional issues like Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing. If we overlay these issues within the context of regional cooperation like ASEAN and the six-country multilateral initiative like the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) composed of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste - carrying out these actions pose even much greater challenge. That is precisely why we are here for, and the kind of collaboration we have shown, is a necessary step forward to be able to meaningfully implement concrete actions to protect our marine and fisheries resources.

My friends, we the people of this region are blessed to be in the coral triangle, which is considered the epicenter of the world's marine biodiversity and is home to the largest concentration of fish and coral species in the world. However, these resources are under threat and may disappear because of various human activities such as illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

We need to be good stewards of these resources that have been placed in our care. May I encourage you to seriously pursue management and enforcement actions as this is the core function by which illegal fishing are mitigated or deterred. This region deserves our dedicated and relentless effort to manage and protect this vital resource for our people and for our children.

In my capacity as Secretary General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, I will do my very best to encourage my colleagues to tackle this issue collectively by way of coordinated policy to address illegal, unregulated, unreported (IUU) fishing in the region. I will advocate with the parliamentarians in the region to review existing relevant legislations to plug loopholes in the laws so these can contribute to a more robust and effective implementation, including possibly channeling enough resources to combat IUU fishing.

Looking at the map of CTI, we see that a significant portion of the area is within the territorial jurisdiction of the 3 ASEAN countries of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. I think that if we can muster enough support from ASEAN parliamentarians to this laudable initiative, we may be able to contribute to the realization of protecting our resources and thereby making the lives of our people better in this region. Given this as backdrop, I will enjoin the AIPA Secretariat to designate focal persons dealing with CTI and IUU matters and form study groups to help move this forward and hopefully widen and deepen support to CTI.

And so, before we say goodbye, may I again express my profound appreciation for this opportunity to be part of this meeting. With all of our hard work and dedication displayed in this workshop, I am confident that we will continue to demonstrate sufficient zeal and energy in fighting and winning our crusade.

Thank you and have a safe trip back home.

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