



Thailand Embraces “IUU Free Thailand Policy” To Combat Illegal Fishing



On May 31, 2021 Thailand was honored to deliver a Testimonial Statement at a High-Level Event, the opening of the Third Meeting of the Parties to the “FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA)”. The meeting was organized by the FAO and the EU to create an understanding and awareness of the benefits of implementing Port State Measures to conserve and utilize sustainable fishery and ocean resources. Thailand expressed a commitment to combating illegal fishing and will abide by the IUU Free Thailand policy.





Dr. Chalermchai Sri-Orn, Minister of Ministry the Agriculture and Cooperatives, as the representative of Thailand to deliver the testimonial statement stated that Thailand has designated the fight against illegal fishing "IUU" as a national agenda. As such, the Thai government has reformed the law and management of fisheries in accordance with international standards and regulations. Thailand has ratified the Agreement on Port State Measures since 2016 and has strictly implemented PSMA measures throughout the fishery production chain internally and internationally. This prevents fishing boats involved in illegal fishing from docking and bringing caught fish to the ports. In the past five years, Thailand has arrested and denied docking of more than 3,500 tons of illegal IUU aquatic products. The success factor for Thailand in implementing the PSMA measures comes from cooperation and efficient exchange of information between States Parties and related agencies

On behalf of Thailand, Dr. Sri-Orn urged member states, especially the Flag States, to cooperate and take PSMA measures seriously and to support the implementation of the Port State in monitoring, verifying compliance with the law and efficient traceability. This is expected to ensure that Thailand will support the work of the FAO in developing the capacity of member countries to implement measures in accordance with the provisions of the PSMA and other international measures, particularly the development of information exchange systems against illegal fishing on a global scale.

In addition, the Thai government has taken various measures to address the deterioration of marine resources to cope with climate change and to promote the quality of life of fishermen. These measures include the improvements in fishing regulations, installation of a fishing vessel monitoring system (VMS), rigorous surveillance of Thai and foreign fishing boats. In addition, the coordination and exchange of information between fisheries and law enforcement agencies to support the prosecution of fisheries offenders and promote international cooperation.





Emphatically, Dr. Sri-Orn reiterated in his testimonial statement that “Thailand is ready to support the idea of a shift towards a sustainable food system, build resilience and show the potential and important role of local fisheries and small fisheries as well as sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture. We hope that Representatives of Member States will return with a commitment to jointly build fisheries sustainability, and protect and restore marine and ocean resources. Thailand, on its part, reaffirms its commitment to combat illegal fishing and will continue to follow the IUU Free Thailand policy.”

Thailand Office of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles

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