



**FAO WORKSHOP ON IMPLEMENTING THE
2009 FAO AGREEMENT ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO COMBAT
ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING
SRI LANKA
1-5 JUNE 2015**

PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing occurs in all capture fisheries and poses a direct and significant threat to the effective conservation and management of fish stocks. The 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing (PSMA) is a significant international development in global efforts to combat IUU fishing. The entry into force of the PSMA and its effective implementation would not only strengthen international efforts to curb IUU fishing but will, as a result, also contribute to strengthened fisheries management and governance at all levels.

In June 2014, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) expressed its appreciation of FAO's efforts in conducting a global series of regional capacity-development workshops to prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement. COFI encouraged FAO to press ahead with the convening of the regional workshops. The North-West Indian Ocean (including the adjacent Seas and Gulfs) has been identified as one of the priority regions to benefit from such a workshop within the framework of the FAO project¹ funded by the Government of Norway – *Support the Effective Implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing (GLO/515/NOR)*.

Limited awareness about the Agreement itself and what is expected in terms of its implementation and related costs and benefits have constrained the ratification process in the Region. To date, of the countries in this region, only Oman and Sri Lanka have become party to the Agreement.

Apart from the countries in this Region, relevant Regional Fishery Bodies and intergovernmental/non-governmental organizations will also be invited to participate and contribute to the delivery of the workshop. The workshop will kindly be hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka.

¹ The project is executed by FAO-FIPI in collaboration with FAO-LEGN and with the support of FAO subregional and regional offices.



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OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS

The workshop is organized to improve the understanding of the provisions of the PSMA, to highlight the policy, legal, institutional and operational requirements for effective implementation of the provisions, and to enhance the necessary skills of national officers in the implementation of port State measures. It is expected that, following the workshop, countries will be better placed to strengthen and harmonize port State measures, thereby promoting enhanced social and economic development, and food security, which ultimately contribute to achieving improved fisheries conservation and management and reduced damage and stress on their related ecosystems.

The desired outputs of the workshop include:

- enhancement of participants' awareness of the deleterious effects of IUU fishing and the benefits of developing and integrating strengthened and coordinated port State measures into existing MCS tools, including through Regional Fishery Bodies;
- increased awareness of the association of organized crime and corruption with IUU fishing, and mechanisms to purge such illicit activities;
- assurance of the comprehensive understanding of the provisions of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, existing relevant regional and international instruments, practices, requirements, standards and strategies, and their relation to participants' countries;
- identification of port State measures requirements and minimum standards at international and regional level and the degree of implementation in existing national legislation, institutions and procedures;
- identification of potential benefits of implementing port State measures at regional and national levels, including combating IUU fishing, the assurance of effective implementation of fisheries management measures of Regional Fishery Bodies, and the control of the welfare of fishing vessel crew in conformity with human rights and "decent work" conditions defined in relevant ILO Conventions;
- increased understanding of the costs and benefits of implementing the PSMA by the countries in the region;
- enhanced awareness of the potential consequences of non-ratification of the PSMA by States, when trading with States that have ratified and are implementing the Agreement;
- identification of needs and challenges for implementing port State measures at regional and national levels, including improved laws, policies, institutions, procedures/operations and capacity;
- strengthening of shared understanding of the role of good governance in implementing port State measures;



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- identification of priority areas for port State measures implementation in the region, with particular reference to PSMA implementation related to capacity building needs and opportunities;
- identification of possible mechanisms at regional and national level which would serve to implement port State measures and integrate them with existing MCS tools; and
- contribution to the development of guidelines and strategies for the region, including legal, policy, operational and administrative requirements.

PARTICIPANTS

Countries bordering the North-West Indian Ocean region (including the adjacent Seas and Gulfs) will be invited to participate in the Workshop. Experts from middle or senior management levels are expected to be nominated, with due consideration for gender balance, to attend the workshop, and should ideally have, between them, knowledge and work experience in matters related to the legal, operational and policy aspects of port State measures. The participation of administrators, fisheries managers and fisheries inspectors involved in monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), as well as port authority personnel, is encouraged.

Each country is welcome to designate up to three persons to participate². In addition, officials from embassies located in Colombo and senior Government officials from Sri Lanka are especially welcome to attend at least the first day of the Workshop.

PRE-WORKSHOP WORK

Prior to the workshop, a questionnaire will be sent to all countries to review port State measures schemes (both at the regional and national levels). The responses to the questionnaire will contribute to the workshop preparations and will be used as reference material and expanded upon during the workshop.

STRUCTURE OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will be conducted in English and Arabic. It will take place over 5 days and will be delivered by resource persons from FAO and regional and international organizations, as well as internationally recruited experts. The definite agenda will be circulated prior to the workshop; an outline of the contents of the workshop is given below.

² A maximum of two participants per country will be supported by the project.



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Day 1-2

The first two days will be dedicated to presentations focusing on:

- IUU fishing in the global context and its association with organised crime and corruption;
- relevant work of FAO and other international or regional entities;
- overview of Port State Measures (PSM) and related instruments in the global context,
- introduction to port State measures, and relevant procedures;
- relevant activities and strategies of Regional Fishery Bodies (if any);
- practicalities of implementing PSM globally;
- responses to the national questionnaire on PSM; and
- options for implementing PSM in the region.

Day 3-4

During the third and fourth day, the participants will examine aspects addressed in the presentations in separate working groups, with the guidance of resource persons. The working groups will engage in problem-solving exercises, using fictitious but realistic factual situations (possibly including role plays and case studies), and address legal/policy, institutional/capacity development and operational aspects of implementing the PSMA. Existing gaps or constraints for implementing minimum standards of the PSMA shall be identified at national, sub-regional and regional levels. Each working group shall draw up measures to address the gaps, priorities for actions and recommendations.

Day 5

The consolidated results of the working groups shall be used by the workshop on the fifth day to identify regionally agreed strategies and recommendations for the implementation of PSM. These strategies and recommendations will be included in an annex to the workshop report.

Finally, an evaluation of the workshop will be conducted.



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WORKSHOP DOCUMENTS

The following is a tentative list of workshop reference documents:

- the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
- Doulman, D.J. and Swan, J., A guide to the background and implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1074. Rome, FAO. 2012. 165 pp.
- the 2001 FAO International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- the 2013 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for flag State performance
- Strategy document: Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels. The way forward. COFI/2014/SBD.2

These documents are available on-line and will be sent also to the confirmed participants.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The workshop will be held in the Colombo area.

The participants are expected to arrive in time to participate in the event from 1-5 June 2015.

Expressions of interest to attend the workshop should be addressed to the relevant FAO office as follows:

FAO-RAP (Bangkok): Simon.FungeSmith@fao.org

FAO-ER (Asmara): fao-er@fao.org

FAO-RNE (Cairo): paula.anton@fao.org and Heba.Fahmy@fao.org

FAO-SFE (Addis Ababa): Ana.Menezes@fao.org

FAO-LK (Colombo): shehani.mutucamarana@fao.org

General inquiries and all other correspondence can be sent to (FAO Rome): Gaelle.Hermanus@fao.org or Lori.Curtis@fao.org. Travel³ of country participants will be handled by FAO (Rome). Upon confirmation of attendance, participants will be contacted by FAO for travel arrangements, accommodation and disbursement of daily subsistence allowance.

³ FAO will handle travel arrangements only for those participants supported by FAO funding.



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Whilst funding is available to support up to 2 participants from each country, FAO requests those countries that are able to support the participation of their experts to do so. For those countries that require assistance from FAO, please note that we will apply the following criteria if the demand for assistance is higher than the available funds.

Preference will be given to:

1. FAO Member States that have shown high interest in implementing port State Measures in recent years and made some progress in the ratification process of the PSMA;
2. Low-Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) in the North-West Indian Ocean region;
3. Small-Island Developing States (SIDS); and
4. FAO Member States with an interest in learning about the PSMA and building capacity among governmental staff for future PSMA implementation.