

## Thailand's Progress in Combating IUU Fishing

14 January 2016

Thailand has ratified the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and adopted the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. However, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU fishing) remained a longstanding problem, threatening the sustainability of living marine resources and undermining Thailand's credibility in the view of the global community. The European Union (E.U.) thus issued a "yellow card" to Thailand on 21 April 2015 and made the following recommendations with a view to help Thailand fulfil its international commitment:

1. Legal framework was not designed to combat IUU fishing
2. Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) and traceability systems were poor
3. Law enforcement was weak and lacked harmonization

Given the above problems, the Thai government established the Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing (CCCIF), located at the Royal Thai Navy Command Center, on 1 May 2015. The government also set up 28 Port in-Port out (PiPo) Controlling Centers in 22 coastal provinces on 6 May 2015, with the goal of improving control of fishing vessels of size 30 gross tonnage. The PiPo Centers are under the supervision of Thailand Maritime Enforcement Coordinating Center (Thai-MECC). Seven working groups were established under CCCIF to formulate and implement measures in line with the observations and recommendations made by the E.U.

### Progress made

#### 1. Legal framework

1.1 The Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015), comprising 176 Articles, has entered into force since 14 November 2015.

1.2 91 Subordinate laws need to be passed, 52 of which are of top priority.

Progress in this area is as followed:

- 1.2.1 All 52 of the high-priority subordinate laws have been drafted.
- 1.2.2 35 of the 52 laws have been published in the Royal Gazette.
- 1.2.3 12 of the 52 laws are being reviewed by the Council of State
- 1.2.4 5 of the 52 laws are awaiting the establishment of people's committee (by February 2016)

