

Progress on the cooperation between the Customs Department and The Department of Fisheries on the control and examination of imported and exported fisheries products

1. Department of Fisheries has cooperated with Department of Customs to establish the Memorandum of Arrangement between The Thai Customs Department and the Department of Fisheries of the Kingdom of Thailand Concerning the Control and Examination of Imported, Exported and Transited Aquatic Animals to Tackle Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing) in order to integrate and avoid duplicate work in between two Departments and to set up the systematic joint procedures used from inspection at port to processing plant. With this regards, the procedures was set up and details are as follow

- 1.1 checking information of vessel prior to port,
- 1.2 fishing unloading control at port,
- 1.3 transportation control from port to processing plant or cool room,
- 1.4 processing process inspection in plant for traceability,
- 1.5 coordination and information sharing and prevention and deterrence of infringement.

2. Establishing the joint operation manual for the DoF and the Customs competent officers to control and inspect of import, export and transit of aquatic animal.

3. Cancellation on green line for imported fisheries products of which the code 0302, 0303, 0304 and 1604 through the establishment the Order on the clearance to control imported IUU fish and fishery products.

4. Improvement of the statistic of import-export of aquatic raw materials and products by developing a system to comply with National Single Window (NSW) in order to coordinate with DoF to trace back all raw materials and products that they are not derived from IUU fishing activities.

4.1 Development of the connectivity of the fisheries related-data to link to National Single Window: NSW. The data is includes:

- 4.1.1 list of goods for fishing vessel
- 4.2.2 the license for import/export /transit

4.2 Development of an electronic system for fisheries related-data collection in term of transportation. (Container, Carrier, Fishing Vessel)

5. Raising the comprehensive understand for officials/entrepreneurs

5.1 Promoting a common and correct understanding on customs tariff for fish and fisheries product between both Department.

5.2 Training/Seminar to importers ,exporters, shipping and the Authorized Economic Operator: AEO in order to understanding and awareness of a customs tariff f of fish and fisheries products in order to correct declaration.

6. Setting up measures to increase efficiency in work as follows.

6.1 Strengthening the effectiveness operation procedure, consists of Post Reviwes at Customs office and Post Audit at factories, bonded warehouse, free zone, free operating zone.

6.2 Establishing the Combat IUU Fishing Center of Custom s Department in order to collect all knowledge, information ratated IUU and also give advice and suggestion to Customs inspectors who work at ports.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES
OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND
AND
THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND FORESTS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
ON FISHERIES COOPERATION**

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND and THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND FORESTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party")

CONSIDERING that it is in the interest of the Parties to maintain and strengthen their relations in the field of fisheries;

RECOGNISING that this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "MOU") represents a mutual understanding between the Parties and is not considered as a treaty between the Governments of the respective countries;

RECOGNISING the importance of drawing of a joint fisheries development programme for the effective utilization of resources of both countries in the fisheries field, considering especially the potential of the two countries;

REAFFIRMING that the support of fisheries development in the two countries could be facilitated by a process of institutional cooperation between respective entities of the public sectors that embrace and foster the fisheries sectors;

HAVE UNDERSTOOD AS FOLLOWS:

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ARTICLE 1
PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to strengthen and promote technical cooperation, technology transfer and trade promotion in the field of fisheries between the Parties, without prejudicing other fields of cooperation that may be considered in the future.

ARTICLE 2
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

For the purpose of the implementation of this MOU, the competent authorities will be

- (a) On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Department of Fisheries, and
- (b) On behalf of the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests of the Republic of Fiji, the Department of Fisheries.

ARTICLE 3
SCOPE OF APPLICATION

The competent authorities will, subject to the laws and regulations prevailing in their respective countries, endeavour to support and facilitate the implementation of joint fisheries programmes, taking into consideration especially the potential, necessities and availabilities of the budgets of both countries.

ARTICLE 4
AREAS OF COOPERATION

The broad areas of cooperation identified by the Parties are as follows:

- (1) Sustainable development of fisheries resources;
- (2) Combating, deterring and eliminating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing through the bilateral, regional and multilateral fora;
- (3) Traceability of the import and export fishery raw material through issuance of Catch Certifications and sharing of necessary data to verify such documents;

- (4) Human resource development; strengthening the capacity of the fisheries administrative officers, researchers, technicians and fisherman;
- (5) Research and development on fisheries management and aquaculture, stock assessment and management of coastal and offshore marine resources;
- (6) Promotion and encouragement of cooperation between fishery enterprises and private companies of the Parties in marine fishing, aquaculture, fishery processing, fishery import-export and other industries related to fisheries;
- (7) Implementation of policies, regulations in fisheries, fisheries trade and investment promotion and market expansion on the basis of mutual benefits in the context of regionalization and globalization; and
- (8) Other related areas of interest that are mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

ARTICLE 5
FORMS OF COOPERATION

Cooperation will be carried out in the following forms:

- (1) Exchange and attachments of technicians and researchers;
- (2) Organization of workshops, seminars and conferences on subjects of mutual interest;
- (3) Capacity building through training courses, study visits/excursions and other necessary professional training on subjects of mutual interest;
- (4) Promotion of contacts between the relevant public and private sectors, including community enterprises and organizations and such other fields as may be agreed upon by both Parties; and
- (5) Any other forms of cooperation as agreed upon by the Parties with the aim to promote fisheries development of both countries.

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ARTICLE 6
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Each Party shall ensure legal means for the protection of intellectual property rights resulting from any activity in pursuance to this MOU. Such intellectual property rights shall be protected by the Parties in conformity with their respective national laws and regulations. Intellectual property rights which result from joint activity in pursuance to this MOU shall be allocated and governed in accordance with separate agreements to be made on a case by case basis and shall be jointly owned by the Parties in accordance with the terms and conditions to be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. No Party shall transmit any commercially valuable confidential information obtained in pursuit of this MOU which information has been clearly marked as being "confidential" to any third party without written consent of the Party from which such information was received.

ARTICLE 7
JOINT FISHERIES WORKING GROUP

- (1) The Joint Fisheries Working Group (JFWG) will be established to implement the provisions of this MOU.
- (2) The heads of JFWG will be high level officers of the Competent Authorities designated under Article 2 of this MOU.
- (3) The JFWG will be responsible for assessing the outcomes of the implementing programmes of this MOU, submitting proposals for their further development and improvement, and recommending possible ways and means of overcoming their problems or difficulties.
- (4) The JFWG will meet alternately every 2 years in Thailand and in Fiji or when it deems necessary as agreed upon by the Parties to evaluate plan and report on work progress.

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ARTICLE 8
FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

- (1) The Parties will discuss the financial obligations of each Party with regard to each joint programme.
- (2) The Parties will prepare joint programmes that may be submitted to international organizations or any other financial institutions to assist in financing the programmes.
- (3) In the implementation of this MOU, the Parties have agreed that international travel expense including airport tax and expenses on board and lodging shall be covered by the sending Party. Local land transportation and other logistical arrangements in any meetings shall be provided by the receiving Party.

ARTICLE 9
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute or difference between the Parties arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MOU will be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation.

ARTICLE 10
ENTRY INTO FORCE AND TERMINATION.

- (1) This MOU shall enter into force on the date of its signing. This MOU shall remain in force for an initial period of five years, and shall be extended automatically thereafter for further periods of five years. Either Party may terminate the MOU at any time by giving six (6) months notice in writing to the other. This MOU may be revised or amended at anytime by mutual written consent of the Parties.
- (2) The termination of this MOU will not affect the activities already in progress, which will continue until their completion.

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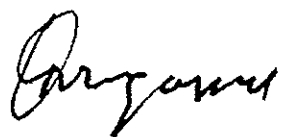
DONE at Bangkok on this 14th day of December 2015, in duplicate in the English language.

**FOR THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND COOPERATIVES
OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND**

**FOR THE
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES
AND FORESTS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI**

GENERAL 

(CHATCHAI SARIKULYA)
Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives


(OSEA NAIQAMU)
Minister for Fisheries and Forests

Summary of discussion on fishery cooperation during 5-8 December

Thai delegation from the Department of Fisheries led by the Deputy Director General, Dr. Juadee Pongmaneerat arranged meetings with five large tuna transshipment countries (Port States) in the Pacific Oceans namely; Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island and the Federal States of Micronesia during 5-8 December 2015 in Bali, Indonesia.

Since Thailand has imported a large amount of frozen tuna as raw materials for processing and re-export to various countries. Most of them are transshipped at some certain ports in the Pacific Islands region prior to landing in Thailand. In order to providing guarantees of transshipment of tuna destined to Thailand is originated from a legal source and compliance with the Conservation and Management Measures adopted by involving parties. The main purpose of discussion is to seek for fishery cooperation especially on information exchange in relation to the transshipment activities.

The output from this meeting covered the drafting of MOU on fishery cooperation between Thailand and each Pacific Islands country in terms of exchanging transshipment information of tuna to Thailand, providing transshipment declaration by authorized officer, and establishing of the contact person for each country.