



6TH GFETW PROSPECTUS

THE SIXTH GLOBAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP

‘CLOSING THE NET:
Global cooperation between flag, coastal, port and market States for effective enforcement of
international and domestic law’

18-22 February 2019

Bangkok, Thailand



www.gfetw.org

THE SIXTH GLOBAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP



The Sixth Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (6th GFETW) will be hosted by the Department of Fisheries of the Government of Thailand. Monitoring, Control & Surveillance (MCS) practitioners from around the world will convene in Bangkok, from 18-22 February 2019.

The GFETW is a conference organized by the International MCS Network to improve and enhance capacity to enforce fisheries legislation and exchange of information and experience between MCS practitioners around the world. Sustainable fisheries can only be achieved when fishing is pursued in compliance with the applicable rules and, therefore, all fishing activities in the world's oceans and seas should be subject to adequate levels of monitoring, surveillance, inspection and enforcement.

The GFETW offers MCS practitioners a unique opportunity to discuss and resolve issues relating to their work. In this way, the GFETW fosters trust between MCS practitioners and facilitates international cooperation between national fisheries enforcement authorities, which is essential for promoting compliance and thus sustainability of fish stocks.

The International MCS Network and the Department of Fisheries of the Government of Thailand are actively encouraging participants from developing and developed nations to attend the 6th GFETW.

The previous GFETWs were held in:

- Auckland, New Zealand (2016), with the theme 'Working together to combat IUU fishing to ensure the sustainability of world fish stocks'.
- San José, Costa Rica (2014), with the theme 'Protection of the livelihoods of artisanal and regional fishing communities' dependent on sustainable fisheries'.
- Maputo, Mozambique (2011), with the theme 'Compliance with and effective enforcement of fishing laws'.
- Trondheim, Norway (2008), with the theme 'Effective and innovative tools and methods being used to detect IUU including apprehension techniques'.
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (2005), with the theme 'Sharing information and experiences and receive training on a broad array of MCS topics'.

The 6th GFETW is convened back-to-back with the [Seafood and Fisheries Emerging Technologies \(SAFET\) Conference](#), organized by WWF from 13-16 February 2019 in the same venue as the GFETW.

6th GFETW – DESCRIPTION OF OVERARCHING THEME AND WORKSHOP TOPICS

The theme for the 6th GFETW is **‘CLOSING THE NET: Global cooperation between flag, coastal, port and market States for effective enforcement of international and domestic law’**.

The continued adoption of adaptive strategies, advances in counter-surveillance techniques and opportunistic use of any loop-holes in international and domestic law by illegal fishers requires that MCS practitioners must persistently improve their detection and enforcement tools by cooperating, collaborating and sharing information and resources. All States have a role to play in deterring illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, whether they are flag States, market States, coastal States, port States or States whose nationals are involved in fishing activities. However, efforts by one State to control and enforce measures that ensure the sustainability and legality of fishing activities can only be rendered effective to combat IUU fishing through international cooperation, at global, regional or sub-regional levels.

The 6th GFETW will address initiatives that foster international cooperation for effective MCS: both consolidated activities that are proven to show best practice against IUU fishing and new tools and technologies that can respond to some of the most current challenges.

In particular, the Workshop will focus on the following topics:

- Initiatives that foster global and regional cooperation among flag States, coastal States, port States, and market States
- Information exchange at the global and regional levels
- Successfully introduced cost-effective MCS tools
- New MCS technologies and methodologies
- RFMOs and control of compliance at the international level
- Implementation of the PSMA
- The role of MCS practitioners and fisheries inspectors in relation to crimes associated with fishing
- The role of social media and other public sources of information for fisheries enforcement
- Data analysis and risk assessment

The Workshop will also address:

- Initiatives for capacity building and training
- Case studies
- [3rd Stop IUU Fishing Contest Award](#)
- MCS IUU Risk Framework Survey



ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

For decades, globalization, modern technologies and demand for fishery products have placed increasing pressure on global marine living resources. Efforts to sustainably manage existing fish stocks are continuously undermined by enterprises engaged in IUU fishing.

The pervasive trend of IUU fishing carries negative consequences not only for legal operators but also for the livelihoods and cultures of coastal communities dependent on fisheries and for food security. Furthermore, IUU fishing may be associated with other crimes, undermining for example international labor standards. The annual costs derived from IUU fishing activities globally has been estimated to range between USD 10 – 23.5 billion.

IUU fishing undermines the sustainable exploitation of fish stocks, in some cases to the point where stocks are depleted, the ecosystem is irreversibly damaged, and the conservation of some species threatened.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL MCS NETWORK

The International Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network is an informal collective of about 60 countries, the European Union and two Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (CCAMLR and CCSBT).

Established in 2001 by Australia, Canada, Chile, the European Union, Peru and the United States, the Network facilitates bilateral and multilateral cooperation in order to prevent and deter IUU fishing and assists to strengthen the capacity of member countries' MCS systems. The Network promotes actively building a climate of trust and mutual respect between MCS professionals and fisheries enforcement authorities from all interested countries.

The success of the fight against IUU fishing will depend ultimately on the organizations and agencies responsible for fisheries-related MCS effectively implementing national regulations and agreed-to international and regional measures. The International MCS Network aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fisheries-related MCS activities through enhanced cooperation, coordination, information collection and exchange among the responsible national authorities.



Participants at the 5th GFETW, Auckland, New Zealand (2015)

The Network provides a unique platform for enforcement authorities to share experiences and best practices and to seek assistance in overcoming challenges from a global community of MCS practitioners.

More information on the International MCS Network can be found at www.imcsnet.org

ABOUT THAILAND

Located in Southeast Asia, Thailand covers a total area of approximately 513,000 square kilometers (198,000 square miles) and is the 50th largest country in the world and the 12th largest in Asia. The country is divided geographically into four main zones-the fertile central plains, dominated by the Chao Phraya River; the 300-metre-high northeast plateau, the kingdom's most barren region; the mountainous North; and the tropical southern peninsula.



With its geography of highlands in the North, plateau and mountains with the Mekong River running through in the Northeast, the plains and basins with many rivers in the Central region, including the Chao Phraya River, and the mountains and oceans in the East and the South, Thailand contains a vast array of different natural attractions. It has beautiful beaches, islands, stunning coral reefs and sea life, spectacular views from high mountains, waterfalls, green forest, and wildlife.

Thailand offers a long and rich history and traditions and unique and exquisite arts, architecture, and craftsmanship, for example in its temples and even in its food.

Further information about Thailand can be found at <https://www.tourismthailand.org/>.

FISHERIES IN THAILAND

Thailand is one of the top fish producing nations in the world. It has a coastline of about 2,600 km and a coastal area of about one million hectares suitable for coastal aquaculture. Fisheries production in Thailand demonstrated a remarkable growth over the last three decades. In 2015, total production was about 2.4 million tonnes, of which 54 percent came from marine capture fisheries. The balance was contributed by coastal aquaculture, freshwater aquaculture and inland capture fisheries at 21 percent, 17 percent and 8 percent, respectively. However, fisheries resources and the marine environment have been seriously degraded through overfishing, as well as by IUU fishing.

The Thai Government has attempted to reform fisheries management system nationally by developing the legal and policy frameworks governing the fisheries sector, grounded in international principles and standards relating to sustainable and responsible fisheries. A new fisheries law, namely the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) and (No.2) B.E. 2560 (2017), was enacted and entered into force. The government has ratified the U.N. Fish Stocks Agreement, acceded to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, adopted the Marine Fisheries Management Plan (FMP), approved the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) and established the Command Center for Combating Illegal Fishing (CCCIF) led by the Royal Thai Navy. Thai authorities have upgraded its MCS activities through its National Plan of Control and Inspection (NPCI) and the Fisheries Monitoring Operation Center (FMOC) equipped with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) technology. Thailand is also working toward ensuring traceability of its fisheries productions through an updated catch certification scheme and strengthened traceability documentation requirements and an electronic traceability database system.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 6TH GFETW

The Workshop will take place at the [Centara Grand](#), at Central Plaza Ladprao, in Bangkok.

More information on registration for the 6th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop can be found at www.gfetw.org. The website will be frequently updated.

