Data Sharing Mechanism Workshop
Wednesday 25 October 2023, Timor Plaza Hotel

Background

The Indo-Pacific (RPOA-IUU) region is home to the most diverse marine ecosystem on the planet, with highly productive fisheries. However, this region is facing several threats like pollution, uncontrolled coastal development, climate change, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which is damaging the ocean's ecosystem and the environment. IUU fishing is causing both economic and ecological imbalance, which is a significant concern. To combat IUU fishing regionally, the USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support (SuFiA TS) Activity and the Secretariat of the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU) have developed a partnership concept note in 2022 to represent a collaborative effort by both parties to advance efforts in the Indo-Pacific region to combat illegal fishing and promote sustainable fisheries and marine biodiversity conservation.

Sharing data among countries to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing has always been a challenge. One of the reasons for this is the lack of consensus on how the data should be shared. In order to strengthen the coordination of the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU), the 11th RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee (CC) Meeting, which took place on 13-14 November 2019 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, encouraged RPOA-IUU countries to establish a Working Group on Data Sharing Mechanism.

To pick up from the mandate to the establishment this working group, RPOA-IUU Secretariat has requested SuFiA TS to conduct the preliminary workshop serves to revive the development Data Sharing Mechanism Working Group that was mandated during The 11th RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee (CC) Meeting and kick off the development of policies and guidelines for Data Sharing Mechanism lead by SuFiA TS. The workshop is held prior to RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee Meeting (CCM) where SuFiA actively participate providing updates on the collaboration as well as upcoming works.

Data Sharing Mechanism

The meeting attendees were mostly attended by government officials and representative countries participating in RPOA-IUU. The Data Sharing Mechanism event took place on October 25, 2023, at the Timor Plaza Hotel, Dili, Timor Leste. This hybrid event was attended by 30 people from 9 countries, both in person and virtually. The event comprised 3 core sessions. Slido.com was utilized as an aid to gauge participant responses.

Prior to the core session, Mr. Eko Rudianto of the RPOA-IUU Secretariat provided an introduction that highlighted some studies on the data-sharing mechanism conducted by Richard Stanford commissioned by the ATSEA2 project[1]. Many of the findings in this study are very important to be considered during the development of Data Sharing Mechanism.



The workshop core sessions:

1. The concept of Data Sharing Mechanisms (DSM).
2. Formulation and formalizing the Term of Reference (TOR) of Data Sharing Mechanism Working Group
3. Data Sharing Mechanism's development road map

[1] Stanford, R. (2023). Supporting RPOA-IUU Implementation: Data sharing and MCS training. Report to the Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action Phase 2 (ATSEA-2) Project, Bali, Indonesia. 34p.

Session 1: *The concept of Data Sharing Mechanisms (DSM*).

This morning and post-lunch sessions led by Mr. Farid Maruf, an member of SuFiA TS RETT emphasized the importance and advantages of Data Sharing Mechanisms (DSM). During these sessions, Mr. Maruf explained the concept of data sharing, and after each concept was explained, Slido was used to obtain more input from participants to gauge their real life understanding of that concept and foster engagement. In total there were 18 Slido's polls were used and received high participation with an average of 20 participants per poll.

Some key insights from Slido

1. Majority of participants agree that DSM development should focus on Policy and Agreements (81%), Protocol and Guidelines (69%). Only few agree it should work on the establishment of platform: Method (31%) and Process (38%)
2. Initial important data to share: Vessel registrations – whitelist (53%), Vessel watchlist/blacklist (47%), Intelligence (POI/VOI) (40%)
3. The 3 highest roles of NGO in DSM initiatives: Advocacy and Awareness, Capacity Building and Research – Analysis
4. Should RPOA-IUU own a DS platform that consolidate all data from various systems? Yes (27%), **No (40%)**, Maybe (33%)

Session 2: *Formulation and formalizing the Term of Reference (TOR) of Data Sharing Mechanism Working Group*

This session was led by Mr. Eko Rudianto focused on the formulation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Data Sharing Mechanism Working Group, as mandated during the 11th CCM meeting in Yogyakarta on November 14, 2019. During this session, Mr. Eko Rudianto go over the TOR Working Group sentence by sentence.

Initially, this workshop was planned to serve as the launching pad for the development of policies and guidelines for a Data Sharing Mechanism led by SuFiA TS. Unfortunately, the proposal to develop policies and guidelines did not receive approval from Thailand. In agreement, Singapore provided its support, referring to the mandate from the 2019 CCM in Yogyakarta, which exclusively called for the formation of a data-sharing mechanism working group. Consequently, the DSM resulted in the creation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Data Sharing Mechanism Working Group and the task of the working group only to develop a roadmap for the data-sharing mechanism implementation.

Session 3: *Data Sharing Mechanism's development DSM Road Map*

This session led by Mr. Eko Rudianto had to be shortened because the RPOA IUU member countries collectively determined that these discussions would fall under the purview of the

future Working Group. It was agreed that addressing these topics in-depth during this workshop would be premature, as the establishment of the working group is scheduled for a later phase.

Documentation:









