

## Goal of the Coral Triangle Fishers Forum

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Coral Triangle Fishers Forum (CTFF) participants recognize the significance of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing as a threat to sustainable fisheries and livelihoods and have identified the important role that traceability and catch documentation can play in addressing this threat.

Participants agree that addressing the IUU fishing problem, and implementation of traceability systems in particular, requires action by a broad range of stakeholders in the region.

The Forum calls upon:

### National Governments

To recognize the significance of IUU as a threat to the region's food security and livelihoods and to prioritize actions at national and regional levels to address the problem. These actions should include:

- prioritizing the allocation of funding to monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) and the adoption of more cost-effective monitoring technologies.
- member countries of the WCPFC pursuing the adoption of a catch documentation scheme for species under the Commission's mandate, and stronger measures to address IUU fishing, as priorities.
- prioritizing investment in the development of a national catch document scheme that is relevant to both large and small scale fisheries.
- acknowledging the significance of under-reported or misreported catch and using all avenues available to them, nationally and regionally, to penalize the vessels involved.
- recognition of the valuable and challenging role that observers play in the fisheries of the WCPFC and ensuring that remuneration and working conditions of observers reflect this.
- the introduction of rights-based (individual or community) management in small –scale fisheries so as to promote stewardship of the resource. To support this initiative, governments should ensure that fishers have the necessary skills to report effectively on their catch and, recognizing the potential value of catch documentation schemes to local communities through differentiation of their catch, governments should support the development of such schemes.
- the establishment of regional, sub-regional and bilateral approaches to IUU fishing and traceability.
- reviewing the implementation and progress of National Plans of Action on IUU fishing and making these reviews public.

### Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

- to expand the trial of electronic video monitoring and have a mechanism requiring vessels to submit data as a condition of export.
- to provide timely implementation of the Commission's decision to apply the Commission VMS to the national waters of all Commission members that request such application.
- to recognize the valuable and challenging role that observers play in the fisheries of the WCPFC and to ensure that this is reflected in the remuneration paid to observers and in the conditions under which they work.
- to adopt higher rates of observer coverage in the longline sector and support the introduction of electronic video monitoring to minimize opportunities for non-compliance with management measures for bycatch and protected species.
- generate a database on all aspects of IUU fishing, similar to that developed by the Commission on bycatch mitigation information system (BMIS).

## **WWF**

To serve as the central coordinating body for the activities of the CTFF in relation to IUU fishing.

## **Traceability service providers, fisheries managers, and government agencies**

To promulgate standards for electronic traceability systems.

## **Suppliers, retailers, buyers, and restaurateurs in sustainable and legally-caught seafood**

Recognizing the interest of these parties in sustainable and legally-caught seafood, the CTFF calls upon this group to actively support the fishing industry's attempts to have governments adopt traceability systems as a core component of fisheries management and to directly pressure governments to implement such measures.