



## JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

### REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE ANALYTICS

#### Providing analytical tools and capacity building to address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing across the Region

A Cooperation between the Government of Australia and the Government of Malaysia

Co-Organised By

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

and

Department of Fisheries Malaysia

Ministry of Agriculture and Agro Based Industry

**AnCasa Hotel, Kuala Lumpur**

**4-8 November 2019**

The Malaysian Department of Fisheries (DOF) and the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) of Australia are this week jointly hosting a regional workshop to build capacity to tackle illegal fishing in Kuala Lumpur. The workshop is being undertaken with the assistance of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This is just one of many areas for collaboration in tackling IUU Fishing pursued by the Joint Working Group (JWG) under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Agriculture Cooperation between Malaysia and Australia.

More than 40 representatives from ASEAN countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), along with Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, as well as representatives from the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), will participate in the training workshop.

The goals of the workshop are to:

- assist fisheries agencies to address illegal fishing in the region through focusing on data sources and analysis.
- develop the skills and knowledge of fisheries surveillance officers, to help them address key issues in their countries.
- build skills among participants and expose them to new technologies and analytical tools available to combat illegal fishing.

The workshop, led by Dr Chris Wilcox and Dr Jessica Ford, will run for one week, and involve a mix of lectures from CSIRO research staff and practical training in data analysis.

“Our research shows that the most common cause of overfishing was failure to control (illegal) fishing. Addressing this shortcoming requires the intersection of three key ingredients: modern analytical tools, affordable surveillance data, and human capacity to use those assets,” said Dr Wilcox.

“We hope that the workshop will provide an opportunity for fisheries agencies across the region to build relationships that can support information sharing and regional cooperation, which is key to addressing illegal fishing,” said Dr Ford.

“DOF will continue to support the regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing including through info sharing and strengthening MCS. We believe that modern analytical tools can help us to achieve this purpose,” said YBhg. Dato’ Munir bin Haji Mohd Nawawi, Director General of Fisheries Malaysia.

“As Australian Prime Minister the Hon Scott Morrison MP said in his address to the UN General Assembly this year, Australia is committed to leading urgent action to tackle the over-exploitation of our fisheries, including by cracking down on illegal fishing. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, like many contemporary challenges, is an issue that spans national borders and maritime domains. The challenges we face are shared, and shared challenges are best addressed through collaboration. Australia is committed to working with all regional countries to combat IUU fishing” said Australia’s Deputy High Commissioner to Malaysia, Mr Michael Growder, in remarks opening the workshop.

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