

Expected workshop outcomes include:

- increased awareness of the deleterious effects of IUU fishing and the need for strengthened and coordinated port State measures, so that countries may act in a concerted and decisive manner to combat IUU fishing;
- more comprehensive understanding of the relevant regional requirements and international instruments, and their relation to participants' countries;
- greater appreciation of the role of administrative arrangements and information systems in maximizing the effectiveness of port State measures;
- clear identification of steps that national fisheries administrations should take to develop port State measures to implement regional requirements, the FAO Model Scheme and such measures that may emerge as a result of an international process; and
- shared understanding and harmonization, as appropriate, of port State measures needed in the sub-region or region to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

The emphasis of the workshops is to provide essential information concerning regional requirements and relevant international instruments for senior officials from fisheries and related agencies in developing countries over a five day period. A practical and 'hands-on' approach is taken that includes a participatory focus to inspire regional harmony in the development of full and effective port State measures.

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FAO Port State Measures

Human resource development to strengthen national capacity



PORT STATE MEASURES

- Inspections
- Actions
- Information
- Results of Inspections
- Training of Port State Inspectors
- Information System on Port State Inspections¹

SOME RECENT INTERNATIONAL TURNING POINTS

- 2001 FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) adopted the International Plan of Action to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU), including port State responsibilities
- 2002 FAO Expert Consultation on Port State Measures
- 2003 COFI recognized the important role of port States in combating IUU fishing
- 2004 FAO Technical Consultation to Review Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing
- identified need for human resource development and institutional strengthening in developing countries so as to promote the full and effective implementation of port State measures to combat IUU fishing;
 - agreed on a Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing (“FAO Model Scheme”), as minimum standards.

¹ These are the areas identified in the 2005 FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing.

2005 COFI acknowledged a need to strengthen port State measures as a means of combating IUU fishing in a more substantive manner, given that the lack of agreed, binding measures provided a loophole, and further:

- stated that measures should be promoted in regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to develop or improve the port State aspects of regional control schemes;
- endorsed outputs of the 2004 Technical Consultation;
- encouraged follow-up work, especially with respect to operationalizing the FAO Model Scheme.

2006 UNITED NATIONS FISH STOCKS REVIEW CONFERENCE

...called for States to cooperate to adopt Port State measures, particularly those in the FAO Model Scheme and in parallel, initiate, as soon as possible, a process within FAO to develop, as appropriate, a legally binding instrument on minimum standards for port State measures, building on the FAO Model Scheme and the IPOA-IUU.

2006 UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES (61/105)

...encouraged States to initiate, as soon as possible, a process within FAO to develop, as appropriate, a legally binding instrument on minimum standards for port State measures, building on the FAO Model Scheme.



THE RESPONSE: HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL CAPACITY

The first systematic effort towards human capacity development at regional level for strengthening implementation of port State measures to combat IUU fishing was initiated under the Training and Awareness Component of the FAO Fish Code Programme in 2006.² Since then, the initiative has received additional external support³ and forged partnerships with key regional organizations to coordinate workshops to develop national capacity⁴.

It is expected that the initiative will enter into further partnerships and continue to expand in other regions as events unfold at a global level.⁵

The objective of the workshop series is to develop national capacity and promote regional coordination so that countries will be better placed to strengthen and harmonize port State measures and, as a result, meet RFMO requirements, implementing the relevant IPOA-IUU tools and the FAO Model Scheme.

² Supported by the Governments of Sweden and Japan.

³ The Government of Norway for specific workshops.

⁴ These have included the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the Indian Ocean Commission Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Project, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the General Fisheries Commission of the Mediterranean.

⁵ Further support and partnerships are being developed to this end.