

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-fourth Session

1–5 February 2021

Correspondence

Malaysia

Agenda 9:

Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

Intervention Notes:

Malaysia would like to congratulate FAO for its tireless effort in successfully attaining global commitment to the 2009 Port State Measures Agreement.

Malaysia is following closely and assessing this positive development and would like to extend her gratitude to FAO for the Technical Cooperation Programme Facility (TCPF) with the objective in providing support to combat IUU Fishing and implementing FAO PSMA in Malaysia which successfully completed in early 2019. Currently, Malaysia is considering outcomes from the Programme to formulate and plan further action before becoming Party to PSMA.

Malaysia is constantly streamlining and updating its measures and laws in combating IUU fishing. In particular, the new amended Fisheries Act 1985 (Amendment 2019) which has entered into force on 30 September 2019 was a significant achievement. The amended law imposes penalty of RM 6 Million (approximately USD 1.5 Million) for the owner or skipper and RM600,000 (approximately USD 150,000) for every crew member of a foreign fishing vessel which encroached into Malaysian Fisheries Waters, a penalty six-time heavier than that of the former provisions. In the same vein, and in support of global quest to ensure sustainable fishing on the high seas, the newly amended law imposes penalty up to RM 4 Million (approximately USD 1 Million) for any local fishing vessel which fished without valid license or in violation of license condition on the high seas. Such a deterrent punitive measure is a manifestation of our determination to put a stop to IUU fishing and deprive offenders of the benefits accruing from such fishing consistent with FAO- IPOA-IUU.