



**CORAL TRIANGLE
INITIATIVE**
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES
AND FOOD SECURITY



The Third Coral Triangle Fishers Forum Communiqué

We the participants of the Third Coral Triangle Fishers Forum:

Acknowledging that Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing remains one of the challenges to sustainable fisheries in the CTI region

Recognizing that digital, electronic or satellite-based technologies can be some of the measures to address IUU fishing.

Accepting that fish catch documentation and traceability promotes sustainable fisheries and therefore contributes to combatting IUU fishing.

Developing appreciation and noting that Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs) could be one of the broad-based participatory strategy for more responsible fishing and ecological well-being.

Knowing that EAFM is the overarching framework adopted by the CTI to integrate combatting IUU, catch documentation and traceability schemes and other sustainable fishing practices.

Acknowledging that there are inherent challenges common to Coral Triangle countries such as:

1. IUU fishing is a complex issue that has socio-cultural, political, economic, geographic, financial and technological aspects and therefore requires a more creative approach by all governments within the Coral Triangle
2. Many technologies available to combat IUU fishing are sophisticated and costly to be acquired, utilized and maintained
3. Existing catch documentation schemes are mostly paper-based and could be improved to ensure accuracy, reliability, timeliness and traceability
4. Market requirements such as catch certification, eco labeling still remain a challenge for fish industries because of very low incentives they receive from buyers.
5. Instituting FIPs have technical and logistical aspects that cannot be easily undertaken by most governments

Recommending therefore that the following steps be undertaken

1. Document, disseminate, replicate or scale up best practices in combatting IUU fishing especially those that employ creative and cost-effective strategies, approaches and technologies in all of the CTI countries
2. Provide venues and platforms for continuing sharing of information, expertise, protocols and technologies between and among CT countries and their stakeholders on a regular basis
3. Pilot-test or subsidize technologies or applications that convert and analyze information from paper-based catch documentations to electronic or digital format subject to national consensus and funding availability
4. Research and publicize funding opportunities either through grants, loans, bonds, partnership agreements, public private partnerships or other facilities to support combatting IUU fishing campaigns, catch documentation schemes and traceability mechanisms
5. Request Development partners to provide documents on different existing FIP models and socialize the FIP concept to CT6
6. Promote model policies, legislations and legal instruments that support cost-effective combatting IUU fishing technologies, electronic catch monitoring and traceability subject to national consensus and funding availability
7. Integrate catch documentation and traceability systems in discussions on EAFM in the CT6 when relevant
8. Advocate for a global standard on catch monitoring and traceability mechanisms

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Iloilo City Philippines