



MEMORANDUM

TO : The Regional Executive Directors
All DENR Regions except CAR

FROM : The Undersecretary for Special Concerns
and OIC Director

SUBJECT : NATIONAL ORIENTATION FOR THE ROLL-OUT OF THE
PHILIPPINE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU)
FISHING INDEX AND THREAT ASSESSMENT TOOL (I-FIT)

DATE : JUL 21 2021

In line with the implementation of the BFAR-BMB Convergence towards integrated, science-based and sustainable co-management of the Philippines coastal and marine resources and environment, may we invite you and your representatives to the conduct of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) National Orientation of the Philippines Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Index and Threat Assessment Tool for DENR Regional and Field Offices scheduled on **27 July 2021, 9AM - 12PM**, for the presentation of the tool's overview and scope, and determination of way-forward and targeted activities for 2021, among others.

As an overview, the IUU fishing assessment using the I-FIT Tool seeks to provide an in-depth understanding of the vulnerability, prevalence and current responses to IUU fishing in specific sites, to be consolidated to form an encompassing work in the development and implementation of long-term solutions to threats to biodiversity and the coastal and marine environment.


Initially, BFAR proposes for the conduct of such IUU fishing assessment in priority NIPAS MPAs in order to contribute to the national baseline this year, while at the same time, incorporating this in the Protected Areas Management Plans. The orientation will likewise serve as a venue to explore discussions to incorporate additional indicators in the I-FIT Tool that would be relevant and apt for NIPAS areas. With high regards to this collaboration, we believe that this will be a good avenue in strengthening good relations and camaraderie between DENR and BFAR's regional and field offices, and will further establish the coordination and communication for the protection and conservation of the Philippine waters.

The meeting details are as follows:

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/2566207658?pwd=dHJvTU5UL2h2Sn4TGJtWXJFdkNCdz09>
Meeting ID: 256 620 7658
Passcode: 10101010

Meanwhile, as preliminary discussed during the meeting last 7 June 2021 between this Bureau, the BFAR, and the USAID, the DENR Regional and Field Offices are likewise enjoined to coordinate with the BFAR regional/field counterparts to initially discuss I-FIT Tool, so as to seek concurrence from your office regarding the conduct of the IUU fishing assessment in priority NIPAS areas, and the possibility of including thereof in the MPA Management Plan. For your ready reference, enclosed is the briefer and other reference materials as well as the tentative program of the national orientation.

Due to the limitations of participants in the Zoom meeting, we are allocating a maximum of 15 logged in devices for each Region, including attendees from the PENR and CENR Offices. The attending participants from your respective offices may likewise share a device through a projector or monitor sharing in case the number of participants exceeds those of the allocated logged in devices. Kindly provide this Office the list of your representatives **on or before 21 July 2021**. For concerns and other queries, you may contact Ms. Jacqueline V. Concepcion at cmd@bmb.gov.ph or through telephone no. +(632)9258948.



EDILBERTO DC LEONARDO



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU



BMB202106213

Program of Activities
National Orientation For The Roll-out Of The Philippine Illegal, Unreported And Unregulated
(IUU) Fishing Index And Threat Assessment Tool (I-fit)
27 July 2021, 9AM-12PM

Time	Activity	Presenter/Facilitator
08:45 - 9:00 AM	Login and Online Registration of Participants	BMB CMD
09:00 - 9:30 AM	<i>Preliminaries</i> Welcome Message Message from BFAR	Undersecretary Edilberto DC Leonardo Director Eduardo P. Gongona
	Acknowledgement of Participants Overview of the Activity	BMB
9:30 - 11:30 AM	Presentation of the I-FIT Tool Background and Rationale	Mr. Crejay Lacena, BFAR FPLEG Atty. Wilmon Peñalosa and Dr. Mike Atrigenio, Fish Right
11:30 - 11:50 AM	Question and Answer Wrap-up, Summary and Next Steps	BMB/Fish Right BMB
11:50 AM - 12:00 PM	Closing Messages	Assistant Director Amelita DJ Ortiz Assistant Director Samuel Malvas Prof. Nygiel Armada, Fish Right



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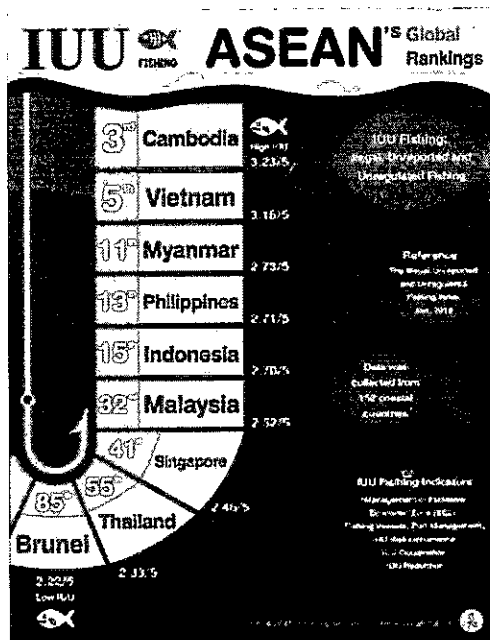
Philippine IUU Fishing Index and Threat Assessment Tool

A Collaboration between DA-BFAR and the USAID Fish Right Program

Background / Rationale

To promote a more holistic approach to deter and combat IUU fishing that will draw attention to the rewards of compliance, especially the increase in benefits for legal fishers while doing the reverse for IUU fishing, USAID Fish Right is collaborating with DA-BFAR on developing a strategic approach that will quantify, assess and address IUU fishing in Philippine waters that is two-pronged: (1) undertaking an IUU Fishing Quantification Workshop with experts and development practitioners and (2) developing an IUU Fishing Assessment Framework and Index with DA-BFAR and local government units (LGUs).

The IUU Fishing Index evaluates the level of threat of IUU fishing in a given area (e.g., municipal waters).



What is it?

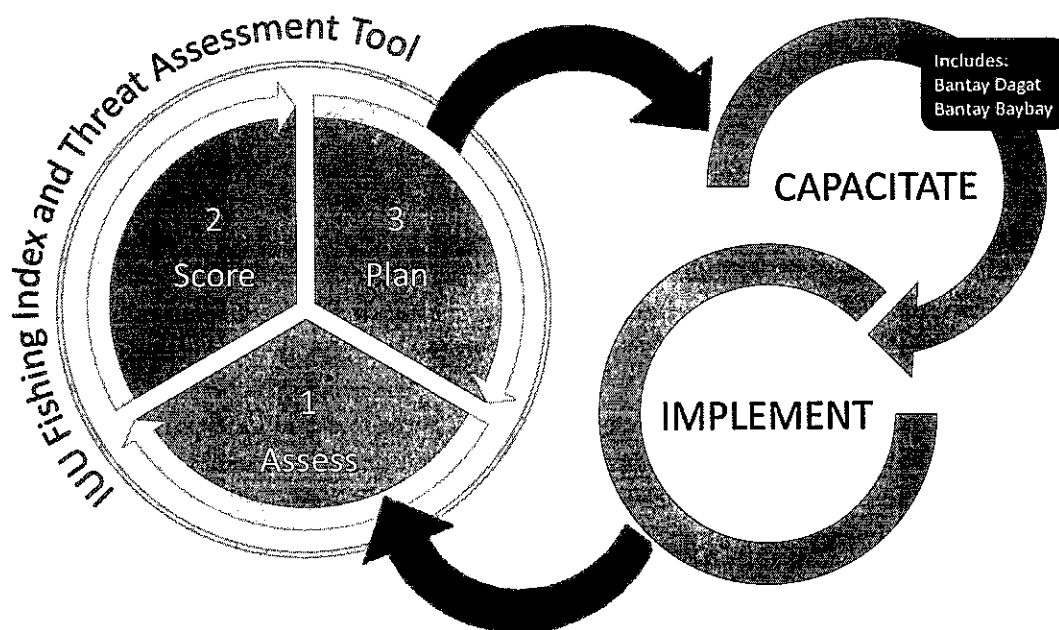
The IUU Fishing Index and Threat Assessment Tool collection of tools to guide the development of IUU Fishing Reduction Plans and assess interventions towards deterring, preventing, and eliminating IUU fishing in Philippine waters across various levels of governance, from municipal to national.

It is comprised of two components:

- 1) **IUU Fishing Index:** An evidence-based standardized scoring tool to allow for comparison of different areas in terms of their vulnerability to IUU fishing, current prevalence and magnitude of IUU fishing threats, and on-going responses to address this.
- 2) **IUU Fishing Assessment and Reduction Planning Guide:** A series of modules, workshop session plans, and forms to help develop more holistic IUU Fishing Reduction plans that maximize compliance promotion and effective enforcement.

The Global IUU Fishing Index rates countries in terms of IUU fishing risk based on 14 indicators (Macfadyen et al. 2019). The Philippine IUU Fishing Index uses the same framework but accounting for the Philippines' fishery context.

The IUU Fishing Index and Threat Assessment Tool is still a work-in-progress. For more information on the tool, please contact Rollan Geronimo of MERF, Inc. / USAID Fish Right at rollan.geronimo@gmail.com



The IUU Fishing Index and Threat Assessment Tool is not just the scoring index. It is a guide to developing IUU Fishing Reduction Plans and assessing interventions towards deterring, preventing, and eliminating IUU Fishing in Philippine waters.

Why do we need it?

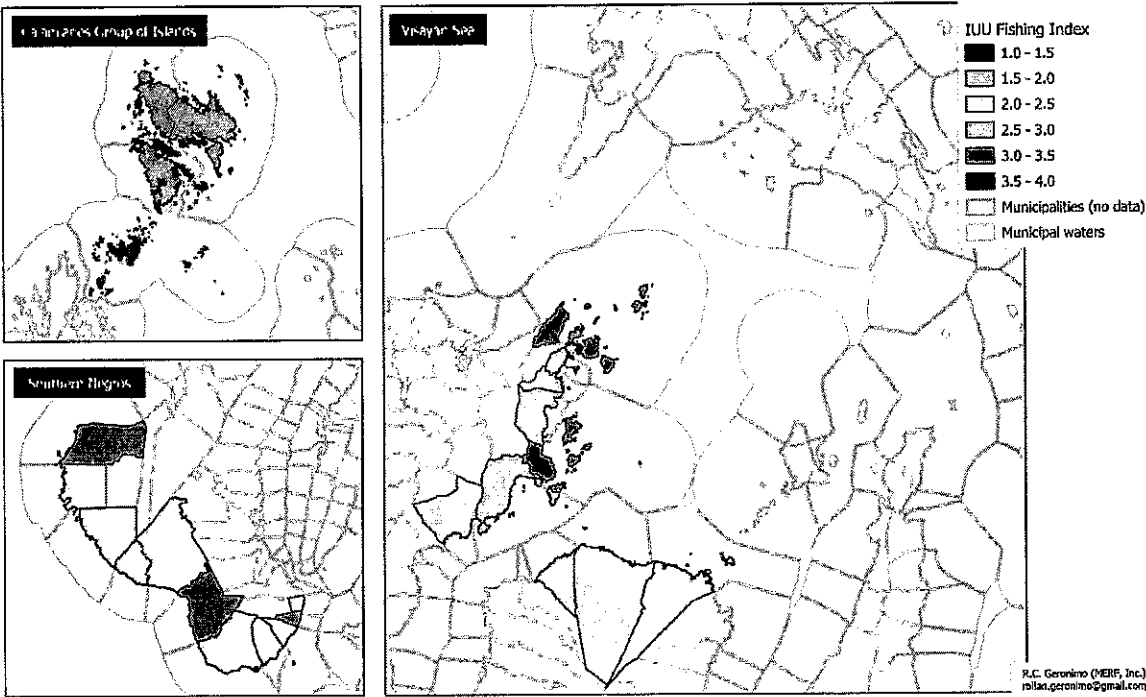
Current measures of IUU fishing are output-based (e.g., number of patrols, number of apprehensions, cases filed, settled, Fisheries Compliance Audit, etc.). While these are useful operational metrics, they do not inform us about the state of IUU fishing and its impacts. Other measures such as remote sensing / satellite data (e.g., VIIRS Boat Detection) and anonymous reports only give us a partial perspective on the IUU fishing occurrence / incidences. Having a standardized tool would provide a way of objectively assessing how well we are doing in terms of deterring, preventing, and eliminating IUU fishing in Philippine waters.

What is the scope?

Envisioned to apply to all waters within Philippine jurisdiction, the current version (1.0) of the Tool starts with the municipal waters, gradually expanding in scope to cover waters outside municipal jurisdiction within all 12 Fisheries Management Areas.

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Preliminary IUU Fishing Index Scores in 25 LGUs for Fish Right (as of 30 October 2020)



Sample result of the IUU Fishing Index scores in Fish Right partner LGUs. Note that these scores refer only to IUU fishing in municipal waters in the respective LGUs.

VULNERABILITY	PREVALENCE	RESPONSE
1. Annual LGU income per km ² water	1. Annual IUU fishing yield estimate per km ² of municipal water (MT/km ² /yr)	1. Operations of enforcement team
2. Ratio of area of municipal waters to land area	2. VBD/year (using a radiance cut-off of 10 nanowatts/m ² /sr or greater)	2. IEC campaign design and implementation
3. Coastline configuration and presence of islands	3. Trend in IUU Fishing Prevalence	3. Number of "yes" relative to maximum FCA score of 95
4. Status of municipal water delineation and/or agreements with adjacent LGUs	4. Repeat offenders based on apprehensions data	4. IUU fishing data information system (collection to analyses) and application
5. PSA poverty incidence per municipality (latest is 2015)		5. IUU Fishing Reduction Plan

Current indicators used in the Philippine IUU Fishing Index

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