

# Opening Speech

by

Amb. Diar Nurbintoro,

Acting Director of NAM CSSTC

on the occasion of the “International Workshop on Eradication of  
Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing for Regional Plan of  
Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including  
Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU) Participating  
Countries and Pacific Countries”

09 August 2021

HE. Mr. Sakti Wahyu Trenggono, Minister for Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia

Honourable Mr. Suharta, Executive Secretary of Directorate General of Surveillance for Marine and Fisheries Resources,

Distinguished moderators and speakers,

Distinguished participants from RPOA-IUU member countries,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I warmly welcome you to this International Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing for Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices Including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU) Participating Countries and Pacific Countries.

We are delighted to have the Executive Secretary of Directorate General, Mr. Suharta, with us today, and we appreciate his leadership in this area of Indonesian maritime

affairs and fisheries. Furthermore, we thank the governments and people of RPOA-IUU participating countries for their unwavering dedication to addressing fisheries management issues and achieving the RPOA-IUU's priorities.

Distinguished moderators and speakers,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Fisheries offer people all throughout the world with food, work, recreation, trade and economic well-being. Asia and Oceania have long been key producers of fish and other fishery products. They were responsible for a quarter of global fish production.

Fish has risen to prominence as a critical product for achieving food security. Millions of people in the Asia and Oceania eat fish and seafood a source of protein.

However, IUU fishing remains one of the most serious threats. It has potential to derail national and regional efforts to effectively manage fisheries.

At least four major factors are impacted by IUU fishing:

First, it has an influence on the long-term viability of aquatic resources and poses a threat to ecosystems;

Second, it costs the global economy billions of dollars every year;

It's also linked to plastic aquatic litter and indiscriminate species extinction; and last, it hurts the poorest of the poor.

In addition to what I have described, IUU fishing frequently affects small scale fishermen. It removes fish from near-shore oceans or destroy the ecology that the fish rely on.

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The NAM Centre's objective is to help developing countries enhance their national capacities and collective self-reliance. Among the elements of enhancing national capacities, we prioritise increasing the capacity and resources for effective monitoring, control, and surveillance on IUU fishing.

Governments from today's workshop, I believe, share a similar spirit.

It is time for us to realise our goals as we work together to improve mutual knowledge of facets of IUU fishing prevention and eradication.

Hopefully, this will help alleviate to resolve the issues created by IUU fishing, such as fish population depletion, degradation of marine habitats, and economic loss.

Policy, institutional, operational, and technical components could be strengthened as effort to prevent IUU fishing in the Asian and Oceania areas.

Thank you.