

Submission of information on the actions taken by Thailand and through the regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in response to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68 and paragraphs 156, 171, 175, 177 to 188 and 219 of resolution 71/123

I. The actions taken by Thailand to address in sustainably managing deep sea fisheries and in consistent with the FAO International Guidelines for the management of deep seas fisheries in the high seas.

1. National fisheries policy and legislation

a. The Marine Fisheries Management Plan of Thailand 2020-2022

Thailand has developed the FMP under the Policy for the development of fisheries in Thai waters and the Policy for the promotion, development and resolution of problems pertaining to fisheries outside of Thai waters **to cover sustainable use of fisheries resources both in Thai waters and in overseas fisheries in the context of responsible use of fisheries resources.** The FMP addresses in sustainably managing fishing and fisheries resources, establishing a system of good governance in order to ensure sustainable use as determined by the examination of best scientific evidence and balanced by economic, social and environmental considerations, promoting the participation of all stakeholders in the management and conservation of aquatic animal resources, and ensuring that fisheries resources are maintained or restored to a level that can produce the maximum sustainable yield.

The FMP, with key principles, inter alia, applies the precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, good governance that facilitates the setting of rules and regulations and adequate resources and arrangements for compliance and enforcement, fisheries management decisions based on the best available information; healthy fish resources and environment etc., covers the species of all pelagic species, all demersal species, all highly migratory tuna and tuna-like species (often managed under a RFMO) and other non-target, associate or dependent species taken while fishing, such as endangered and threatened species.

b. Measures adopted to address in sustainably managing deep sea fisheries , particular in area beyond national jurisdiction

National legislation and/or managed measures adopted several measures to promote sustainable and responsible fisheries for implementing international commitments from the United Nations on the Law of the Sea, the Agreement for the implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stock, the FAO Code of Conduct for responsible Fisheries and the FAO International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and for addressing IUU fishing include managing more sustainably in high-seas fisheries. These measures are as follows

(1) The requirements for high-seas fishing vessel to obtain an authorization and a high-seas fishing license before engaging in high-seas fishing. A license will not be issued, or an authorization is not allowed until these criteria are met, such as all vessel operating in the high seas be equipped with VMS and the restrictions for two (2) types of fishing gears are authorized, one as a main gear and handlines as second gear.

(2) The effective monitoring control and surveillance measures for all vessels operating in the high seas such as, a vessel must be equipped with electronic monitoring system (EM) and electronic reporting system (ERS), provide on-board observer and reporting of high sea fishing including marking the fishing vessel and fishing gear for identification, etc.

(3) Compliance and enforcement are imposed under legislation to require the vessels that operating in the high seas to strictly adhere to the regional fisheries management organizations regulations , coupled with severe penalty measures for non-compliance, etc.

(4) An initial step for monitoring and evaluating the status and threats on the impacts of fishing on non-target species from by-catch, research on by-catch reduction device or research on by-catch reduction by modifications and/or restrictions on gear or fishing methods and by-catch limits, etc. will start in 2023.

## II. The actions taken by Thailand at regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements

Thailand, as a member state of regional fisheries management organizations, are actively participated with its commitment to strictly comply with conservation and management measures at regional level and several regulatory measures adopted to address and mitigate the impacts of fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystem, such as, notification within 24 hours when entering into or exiting the regional fisheries management organization area, bottom-trawling is authorized to fishing at certain areas or the prohibition of fishing deep-sea shark targeted, fishermen have to provide the equipment to recover lost or abandoned gear and related marine debris when fishing, providing 100 percent scientific observer coverage for the duration of the trip and the requirements for reporting of lost or recovery gear to the competent authority, etc.

## III. Any updated scientific and technical information relevant to the impact of bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks.

Thailand is a member State of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and have four (4) fishing vessels operating within the SIOFA area of application by using bottom trawling as a main gear and handlines as a second gear.

When fishing in the SIOFA area of application, Thailand has strictly complied with conservation and management measures regarding to the report and the control of impacts from fishing on the benthic ecosystems as follows:

(1) CMM 2020/01 Conservation and Management Measure for the Interim Management of Bottom Fishing in the Agreement Area (Interim Management of Bottom Fishing)

Thailand prescribed the criteria of move-on rule, as the precautionary tool, in accordance with SIOFA conservation and management measures, in the case where fishing for live coral more than sixty kilos or for live sponge more than three hundred kilos per trawling, the fishing vessel required to move away from the same position at least two (2) nautical miles either side of a trawl track extended by two (2) nautical miles at each end.

(2) CMM 2021/02 Conservation and Management Measure for the Collection, Reporting, Verification and Exchange of Data relating to fishing activities in the Agreement Area (Data Standards)

Thailand has reported the data relating to fishing activities of incidental by-catch and other species of concern on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem: VME in the specification and format of the data to the secretariate every year to analyze the status of living marine resources and to assess the impacts of demersal fisheries on the marine environment in the SIOFA areas of application.

In 2021, SIOFA made a contract with the expert adviser for research related to the impact assessment of bottom trawl fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystem: VME Indicator Species and is going to propose a result of the assessment to the Scientific Committee.