

# UN/FLUX CASE STORIES

## UN Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange

### Thailand Implementing UN/FLUX

Thailand is one of the world's top fishing nations, averaging 2 million tonnes of maritime catch per year, with the fisheries sector accounting for 1.2% of national GDP, and 9.9% of agricultural GDP (FAO 2008). Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is high on the country's political agenda. Therefore, setting up systematic mechanisms that allow the effective monitoring and control of fishing activities is extremely important. UN/FLUX is a new global standard for fisheries data exchange, whose implementation would support Thailand's efforts to achieving its IUU-free objective.

#### Purpose

In addition to becoming IUU-free, implementing UN/FLUX could contribute to reducing overfishing, creating barriers to sales of illegally caught fish, and more efficient fishery data management.

#### Stakeholders

The Digital Government Development Agency (DGA), responsible for representing Thailand as its IT hub, is technically in charge of UN/FLUX implementation. However, the primary data sources are the Department of Fisheries and Marine Department, operationally coordinated by the Command Centre for Combating IUU Fishing (CCCIF).

#### Implementation stage

Thailand is conducting a technical feasibility study, focusing primarily on the domains of Licenses, Vessel, Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and Fishing Activities. Thailand prioritised these domains to align with the country's regulations, operational requirements and technical support resources.

#### Timeframe

Thailand is in the first stage to officially establish UN/FLUX as its data exchange standard for fisheries. After the feasibility study, the next steps will be testing the data exchange, and final political approval. The CCCIF and DGA experts estimate that Thailand could begin data exchange using UN/FLUX by April 2019.

#### Benefits

The complete implementation of UN/FLUX will be mutually beneficial for both the government sector and fishery-related industries. This standard could greatly enhance the interoperability of IT systems among different organisations in the fisheries supply chain. Better fisheries-related data management could then lead to advanced tracking opportunities, increasing the transparency of fisheries value chains. The approximately 2 million people employed in the sector, of whom 40% are fishermen and fish farmers (FAO



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2008), may benefit from preserving future fish stocks and ensuring economic security for their families. Furthermore, UN/FLUX could help communicate the country's achievements combating IUU across the world. Finally, the implementation of the standard could contribute to better cooperation among countries heavily invested in the fishing industry.

### Facts and figures

According to Thailand's latest official report to the FAO, the average amount of marine catch in Thailand between 2004 and 2014 was 2.048 million tonnes per year. Once UN/FLUX is active, the source of vessel data will be from VMS tracking systems. Currently, there are 5,645 VMS-ready licensed fishing vessels that VMS tracking facilities can monitor, which account for 53% of all licensed fishing vessels in the country.

### Lessons learned

The full implementation of UN/FLUX requires cooperation from multiple relevant sectors. Not only do the government sector and fishery-related industries benefit from such practice, but organisations with similar interests in other countries would gain as well. Both national and international collaborations can pose challenges, and Thailand aims to develop lessons learned based on their experiences. The implementation success will depend on how the main stakeholders' data will be managed. The creation and

integration of a data ecosystem based on global data exchange standards may lead to the sustainability of marine resources and improved data-management infrastructure.

### Sustainable Development Goals

The implementation of UN/FLUX would facilitate the conservation and sustainable use of ocean, sea and marine resources for sustainable fishing (SDG 14.4), sustainable management and use of natural resources (SDG 12.2), and sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices (SDG 2.4).

### Further Information

For further information on Thailand's implementation experiences, kindly contact their Digital Government Agency at:

[contact@dga.or.th](mailto:contact@dga.or.th)

For further information on the UNECE Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries, kindly navigate to:

[www.unece.org/uncefact/unflux](http://www.unece.org/uncefact/unflux)



**UN/FLUX** 

The UN/FLUX logo features the text "UN/FLUX" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized blue fish icon, where the fish's body is represented by a series of horizontal lines, and its eye is a simple circle.