



News Release

WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL PARTNERS WITH USAID OCEANS AND FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE SUSTAINABILITY OF ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERIES

WOC and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Collaborate to Tackle Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Asia-Pacific Region

14 December 2016

The World Ocean Council (WOC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a new partnership in support of [the Oceans and Fisheries Partnership](#) (USAID Oceans) on December 2nd at the 2016 Sustainable Ocean Summit (SOS).

USAID Oceans and the WOC will collaborate to build a regional innovation and partnership platform to support the development and expansion of a Catch Documentation and Traceability System (CDTS) to combat IUU fishing practices in the Asia-Pacific region.

Companies interested in participating in this WOC-USAID innovation and partnership platform on IUU fisheries are encouraged to contact the WOC at info@oceancouncil.org.

USAID Oceans, a partnership between USAID and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), aims to enhance the sustainability of Asia-Pacific fisheries, protect the region's rich marine biodiversity, and combat IUU fishing. USAID Oceans works with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Coral Triangle member countries to enhance catch documentation and traceability, fisheries management, and human welfare.

The WOC brings the strength of its global, multi-sectoral ocean industry network on "Corporate Ocean Responsibility" to USAID Oceans' efforts to address IUU fishing. At the SOS 2016, the WOC gathered key business stakeholders at the session on "Food Security from the Sea: Addressing the Challenges of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in a Multiple Use Ocean".

Through the partnership, the WOC will work with USAID Oceans to engage the private sector to support the CDTS development and implementation. The WOC will assemble, coordinate and facilitate a group of key companies and organizations that can support the CDTS in conjunction with the WOC *Smart Oceans-Smart Industries* program.

The WOC and USAID Oceans will work together to:

- Identify and engage companies and organizations that will support and contribute to USAID Oceans' CDTS Technical Advisory Group in identifying future partnership activities and leveraged resources.
- Engage key companies from fisheries, technology, data management, telecommunications and other sectors essential to the development, improvement, operation and expansion of the CDTS.
- Identify business and investment models to sustain the CDTS beyond the life of USAID Oceans.
- Identify approaches and strategic partnerships for industry and governments to expand the availability of lower cost technologies and remote/at sea connectivity to support the expansion of data collection for CDTS, fisheries management and enforcement.

USAID Oceans, with the WOC's collaboration, will pilot the CDTS in two learning sites, General Santos City, Philippines and Bitung, Indonesia, with regional expansion and capacity building in traceability and fisheries management to follow. Click here to learn more about [USAID Oceans](#).

For more information on USAID Oceans, contact: Melinda Donnelly, Communications Specialist, USAID Oceans, Melinda.Donnelly@oceans-partnership.org

About the World Ocean Council (WOC)

The WOC is the only international, cross-sectoral alliance for private sector leadership and collaboration in sustainability, stewardship and science. Companies from a range of industries worldwide are distinguishing themselves as leaders in "Corporate Ocean Responsibility", including: shipping, oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, renewable energy, ocean technology, investment. WOC Members are listed [here](#), a part of the WOC Network of 35,000+ ocean industry stakeholders around the world. The WOC is a registered not-for-profit organization in the US and the UK/Europe.

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