

REGULATION ON ACTIVITIES OF PROGRAM OF VIETNAM MARINE PRODUCT COMPANIES COMMIT TO COMBAT IUU FISHING

Chapter I GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Article 1:

Program of marine product enterprises commit to combating IUU fishing (“VASEP’s IUU Program”) is a voluntary program of marine product processing and export enterprises with joint commitment to combat IUU fishing. “VASEP’s IUU Program” has a IUU Steering Committee of 9-11 members who are leaders from the marine product companies joining “IUU program”. There is an IUU Task Force to assist the IUU Steering Committee, including VASEP office’s staff and some IUU responsible staff from member companies of the program.

The program aims to effectively implement the commitments of marine product companies to combat IUU fishing, cooperate with the Government and MARD to jointly build a sustainable and manageable fishery that contributes to promote exports, increase benefits to the components in the production chain.

Article 2:

"VASEP's IUU Program" is a part of the VASEP Marine Product Committee (VMPC) under the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP), operating under the laws of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and VASEP Charter.

Chapter II NAME - FUNCTION - METHOD OF OPERATION

Article 3: Name

- Official name: “Program of Marine Product Enterprises Commit to Combating IUU Fishing” (**PoMCiF**)
- Short name: **VASEP’s IUU Program**
- Contact information via email: **combat_iuu@vasep.com.vn**

Article 4: Function

1. Gathering and creating a linkage among business community with an aim to enhancing the responsibility for combating IUU fishing through:
 - Strictly comply with regulations of the Government and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on combating IUU fishing.
 - Fully implementing and actively participating in the overall activities of the VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee
 - Do not buy or process raw materials sourced from IUU fishing vessels. Commit and take the responsibility for the declaration of the company's data when registering for the verification of raw materials and catch certificates (C/C).

- Reporting to the VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee (through the VASEP IUU Task Force) and the competent agencies of the MARD when detecting IUU fishing vessels, or facilities that purchase or use catches sourced from IUU vessels
- 2. Develop the methods of coordination among members of VASEP’s IUU Program on the basis of voluntary, mutual benefit.
- 3. Protect the justifiable and legitimate interests of VASEP’s IUU Program.
- 4. Collaborate with MARD and other associations to support fishermen in legally fishing in international waters

Article 5: Activities of the "Program"

1. Actively participate and cooperate with the IUU Task Force of MARD
2. Consensually join hands with the Government’s National plan of action to combat IUU fishing.
3. Set up plan and boost the communication on fighting against IUU fishing
4. Strengthen cooperation with fishermen community and local competent agencies to promote the effective implementation of Program of Marine Product Enterprises Commit to Combating IUU Fishing
5. Jointly establish and operate effectively the fund for anti-IUU fishing activities of the marine product company community;
6. Set up and operate the Fisheries Data Center supporting traceability in compliance with IUU

Article 6: Method of Operation

1. Organizing quarterly meetings by topic and work progress
2. Organizing domestic and international events
3. Organize meetings and dialogues with relevant state agencies or partners when receiving suggestions or problems about the IUU from the marine product enterprises.
4. Plans and activities are agreed on the principle of democracy based on the majority of the members’ opinions and the approval of the IUU Steering Committee.
5. IUU Steering Committee contact regularly via email and telephone. The IUU Task Force is responsible for reporting and organizing the implementation of activities under approval by the IUU Steering Committee.

Chapter III

MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM

Article 7: Participants of the program

Enterprises that produce, process and export marine products nationwide, voluntarily register to participate in the program and are enthusiastic about the sustainable development of Vietnam's seafood industry, accepting and adhering to the operation regulations of the program and the plan of the IUU Steering Committee.

Article 8: Procedures for participating in the Program

Companies referred in the Article 7 send an application form for participation in the Program to the IUU Steering Committee through VASEP’s IUU Task Force.

Article 9: Member benefits:

1. Being updated in the “list of enterprises commit to combating IUU fishing” on VASEP’s portal;
2. Attending all activities of the "Program";
3. To stand for election, nomination and election to the IUU Steering Committee;
4. Having a chance to ask the "Program" to protect the interests and prestige of their businesses when they are violated by other organizations or individuals.
5. Having right to discuss, suggest their ideas about the plans and activities of the program and other related issues.
6. Be updated with information and support activities of the Program
7. Having right to receive priority given by state management agencies on fishing quotas or export quotas to markets where IUU programs are available (if any).

Article 10: Members’ obligations

1. Fully comply with the Operation Regulations of the Program.
2. Fully participating in the activities of the IUU Program and enthusiastically contributing ideas to develop the action plan of the Program. In case, the representative of the member cannot attend, it should be authorized and nominated the alternative person to ensure the full attendance.
3. Share useful, necessary information with members of the Program actively or requested by the Steering Committee and the Task Force. Information that is not necessarily related to IUU includes information/data, inadequacies in policy implementation, import/export activities with foreign partners, document comments from the State or VASEP relating to fisheries industry.
4. Strictly and fully implementing of all Resolutions & plans of the Steering Committee when they are agreed and approved.
5. Unite, support each other. To well fulfill the tasks assigned by the Steering Committee;
6. Maintaining and raising the prestige of the program. Pay attention to the collective interests and give higher priority to the collective interest rather than the interests of members.
7. Propagate and mobilize other members to participate in the "Program".

Article 11: Sanctions against members:

1. The first reminder from the Steering Committee via VASEP’s IUU Task Force via email, fax or telephone to members: (1) not attending common meetings for two consecutive meetings; (2) do not share necessary information when being requested to the third; (3) failure to comply with the Commitment of the "Program" and (4) to have actions and statements that are contrary to the interests of the "Program", affecting the prestige of the "Program" VASEP Association.
2. Removal of membership out of the Program with the following cases and approved by two thirds of the members of the Steering Committee: (1) being reminded for the second time, (2) have behaviors affecting to the honor and prestige of the Program and VASEP Association, (3) voluntarily withdraw from the "Program".

Chapter IV

VASEP’S IUU STEERING COMMITTEE and IUU TASK FORCE

Article 12: VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee

1. VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee includes representatives who are leaders from the marine product companies joining “IUU program”. The Steering Committee consists of 9-11 people:
 - 01 Chair, as well as VASEP leader;
 - 02 deputy chairs;
 - 06 – 08 members.
2. VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee is elected based on the principle of democratic and public election.

Article 13: The duties of VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee

1. To gather and create a joint environment for enterprises to commit to combating IUU fishing and raise the quality and efficiency of marine product trading and exporting.
2. To develop the forms of coordination among the members of the VASEP’s IUU Program on the basis of voluntary and mutual benefits.
3. To develop and cooperate sustainably with relevant government agencies, fishermen communities, local agencies and partners, relevant exporting-importing markets;
4. To protect legitimate interests of VASEP’s IUU Program and member companies.
5. Steer and approve the plan-activities-budget and supervise the operation of the IUU Task Force.
6. VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee via IUU Task Force to receive and gather information of member companies on a regular basis and actively take necessary measures to meet the purpose and mission of the VASEP’s IUU Program.

Article 14: The duties of the Chair of VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee

The Chair VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee (“The Committee”), undertook by the Vice Chair of VASEP as well as the Chair of VASEP Marine Product Committee, is the representative of the Committee in internal and external relations with following responsibilities:

1. Organize the development of regulations, plans & operating methods of the Committee.
2. Direct the contents of meetings of the Committee.
3. Organize the implementation of resolutions and unified contents of the IUU program.
4. Convene and preside over planned quarterly meetings or extraordinary ones.
5. Take responsibility before the law and VASEP Executive Board for all activities of the Committee in accordance with the current regulations of the State and VASEP Charter.
6. Approve documents related to the activities of the Committee.

Article 15: The duties of the Deputy Chairs

1. Advise and direct the implementation of activities on policy recommendations, commitment to combating IUU fishing, purchasing of raw materials, dealing with barriers in markets, linking production - exporting ... by product groups assigned by the Chair.
2. Enforce and support the Chair and VASEP Office when requested.

3. Actively inform about the activities of the product group to the Chair and IUU Steering Committee.

Article 16: VASEP’s IUU Task Force

1. Assist VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee in the development of regulations, plans, budgets, operation and community linkage;
2. Be permanent for VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee on the receipt, feedback and reports from state agencies, business community, fishermen community and partners in the implementation of VASEP’s IUU Program;
3. Develop and implement plans and advocacy and communication programs on VASEP’s IUU Program.

Chapter V FINANCE

Article 17: Source of funding

Funds for VASEP’s IUU Program are from the following sources:

- 1) Participation fee of the marine product enterprises joining “IUU program”.
- 2) Contribution fee based on the export turnover of marine products in the previous year of the enterprises joining “IUU program”;
- 3) Funds from other legal sources;
- 4) Support from VASEP;

Article 18: Source of expenditure

- 1) Events and Meetings of VASEP’s IUU program;
- 2) Propaganda and communication activities in and outside of the country;
- 3) Hirement of professionals and consultants;
- 4) Foreign relation activities;
- 5) The investment activities for the operation of the Program;
- 6) Recurrent costs of the Task Force as approved by the Steering Committee;

Chapter VI IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS

Article 19:

This regulation is approved by the Marine product enterprise Conference and takes effect from the date of signing.

VASEP’s IUU Steering Committee is responsible for guiding implementation of this regulation. In the process of implementation, the regulation will be supplemented and amended to suit the practical operation of the IUU Program.

Ho Chi Minh City, 10th October 2017

ON BEHALF OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF VIETNAM
ASSOCIATION OF SEAFOOD EXPORTERS&PRODUCERS

**PP CHAIRMAN
VICE CHAIRWOMAN**

(signed)

Nguyen Thi Thu Sac