

Results of Thailand's Inspection at-sea during November – December 2016

Thailand have stepped up its efforts to end IUU fishing and labour malpractices with the issuance of a new National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) Order No. 53/2559 dated 9 September 2016 which imposes a ban on at-sea transshipment of seamen. Since the ban entered into force, Thailand Maritime Enforcement Coordination Center (MECC), a Government's inter-agency team, conducts daily inspection at-sea on commercial fishing vessels identified as a risk group.

In the last quarter of 2016, 5 fishing vessels were arrested on charges of alleged transshipment and the use of migrant crews without work permit. Legal procedures against captains and owners of the vessels are underway. The details are as follows:

- On 8 November 2016, 2 fishing vessels, “B. Larbkarnchana 1” and “B. Larbkarnchana 3” were arrested in Thai waters near Narathiwat Province on the charges of lack of mechanic on-board while conducting fishery and the discrepancy between the numbers of actual crew on board and upon port-out from the Port-In/Port-Out center.
- On 11 November 2016, “Tawanchai” fishing vessel was arrested in the area of Kanom Delta, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, on the charges of lack of mechanic on board while conducting fishery and the discrepancy between the numbers of actual crew on board and upon port-out from the Port-In/Port-Out center.
- On 23 November 2016, “Chokchai 3” fishing vessel was arrested 5 nautical miles east of Samui Island, Surat Thani Province, on the charges of lack of mechanic on board while conducting fishery and the discrepancy between the numbers of actual crew on board and upon port-out from the Port-In/Port-Out center.
- On 21 December 2016, while the Thai-MECC was conducting a training course on Protection and Fighting against Human Trafficking at Sea, two infringements were found on one of the inspected vessels. Fishing vessel called “S. Chock Chingchai 555” was arrested 5 nautical miles West of Samae San Island, Chonburi Province on the charges of discrepancy between the numbers of actual crew on board and upon port-out from the Port-In/Port-Out center and 10 migrant crews working without work permit.



Those found violating of the NCPO order are subject to a minimum fine of 400,000THB (10,000 Euro) up to 800,000 THB (20,000 Euro) per seaman.

Department of European Affairs
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