

## **Greenpeace Southeast Asia Statement on ‘Yellow Card’ issued by EU to Thailand on illegal fishing**

**23 April 2015, Bangkok** - The European Commission has threatened Thailand with a formal notice for failing to take sufficient measures in the international fight against illegal fishing (IUU). Thai authorities now have six months to implement a corrective, tailor-made action plan to address significant problems in its fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance systems. The Commission’s announcement follows a series of failures by Thai authorities to take action against illegal, unsustainable and deeply harmful fishing practices.

In response, Greenpeace Southeast Asia’s Country Director for Thailand, Tara Buakamsri said:

“This warning given to Thailand is another reminder for the Thai authorities to take strong action against illegal fishing practices. A staggering 659 billion THB (1) has been lost to illegal fisheries as a direct result of Thai authorities failing to address human-made threats to our oceans.

“Illegal trawling threatens to future of Thailand’s fish stocks and destroys vital marine habitats.

“Last time such a warning was issued, the Government of Thailand responded by simply reclassifying illegal trawlers in Thailand as ‘legitimate’ fishing vessels. This lack of genuine action on an industry affecting so many people in Thailand is utterly unacceptable.

“The Fisheries Department has an opportunity and mandate right now to uphold sustainable development. They should engage coastal communities in planning and decision-making in order to ensure that vital ecosystems are protected.”

Greenpeace Southeast Asia is calling for the Government of Thailand to:

1. Immediately ban the use of destructive fishing methods in Thai waters which, ruin fish stocks and marine habitats;
2. Implement adequate reforms of national legal systems and upgrade fisheries governance to enable overfishing to be meaningfully addressed; and
3. Strengthen monitoring control and surveillance, including regional coordination of fishing activities to ensure legal loopholes enabling illegal fishing, such as transshipments at sea, are closed.

**Note:**

- (1) [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-15-4806\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4806_en.htm)

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