



Importance of Fusion Centers

Christopher Merritt. Ed.D.
Maritime Technical Advisor
U.S. Mission to ASEAN



Importance of Fusion Centers

Environmental Trends



“What we have seen up until now, with both exploitation of wild fish and the selection and propagation of domestic fish, is a wave of psychological denial of staggering scope.”

- Paul Greenberg



Importance of Fusion Centers

Maritime Domain Awareness

- The effective understanding of anything associated with the maritime domain that could impact the security, safety, economy, or environment.
- Maritime Environmental Security and MDA are inextricably linked.

MDA allows for better research and shared understanding of impacts to the maritime environment within sovereign maritime territory and the shared maritime commons.



Importance of Fusion Centers

Existing Fusion Centers



Changi Information Fusion Centre

Philippines National Coastwatch Center





Fusion Centers Can Benefit Policy

- A Manmade Tragedy: The overexploitation of fish stocks. Feb 21, 2017
 - Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General on UN Conference on Trade and Economic Development
 - <https://youtu.be/dlwFzGt5ug>
- Four solutions were identified:
 - Information on Subsidies to Industrialized and Commercial Fishing
 - Prohibit Subsidies
 - Introduce Policy Tools
 - Identify Differential Treatment for Developing Countries



Importance of Fusion Centers

Fusion Centers Enhance Maritime Governance by:

- Effectively and efficiently managing and sharing big data and other information relating to vessels, cargo, passengers, crews, and other activities that occur within the maritime domain
- Identifying and connecting disparate maritime stakeholders so that information can be effectively, safely, and securely shared.