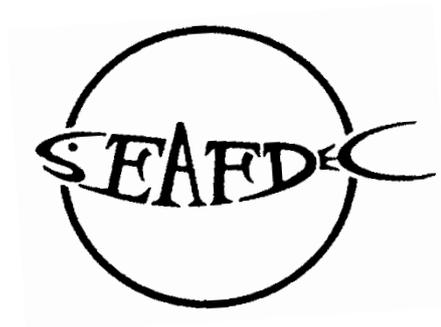


**REPORT OF
THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP
OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP)**

**Penang, Malaysia
28-29 November 2013**



**THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Sixteenth Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) was held from 28 to 29 November 2013 in Penang, Malaysia, and co-chaired by the representative from Lao PDR on behalf of the Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and the SEAFDEC Secretary-General. While providing their views and recommendations for the efficient and effective implementation of the programs, projects and activities under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism, the Meeting also considered the follow-up actions carried out by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the Fifteenth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP in November 2012, the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2013, as well as those given during the meetings of the ASEAN bodies that discussed issues related to fisheries.
2. At the onset, the Meeting commended SEAFDEC for successfully conducting various activities that support the sustainable development of fisheries in the region, and suggested that SEAFDEC also consider the conduct of training sessions for fishers on appropriate technology to reduce labor onboard fishing vessels. In addition, SEAFDEC was also asked to provide assistance to Lao PDR to enable the country to carry out its regional tasks as Lead Country for the key cluster on Capacity Building under the AFCF Framework, and to continue supporting activities on the promotion of fisheries resource management in the fisheries communities in the ASEAN Member States.
3. On the CITES-related issues, ASEAN Secretariat was requested to explore ways and means of developing a mechanism that would enable the countries to reflect unified voice on common positions that had been agreed at relevant fora. On the status of the project on “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management”, the ASEAN Secretariat was asked to keep the ASEAN Member States informed on various aspects, especially once the agreement is already signed and implementation of the project could already be undertaken.
4. While considering the progress and achievements of the programs implemented in 2013 and those proposed for 2014 under the FCG/ASSP, as previously discussed and endorsed by the 36th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee, the Meeting noted that of the 22 existing projects, 21 had been categorized under the five SEAFDEC Program Thrusts adopted by the SEAFDEC Council in 2009; while the other project on “Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia” was a ‘Special Project’. The Meeting also noted that the project on “Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products” was already completed in 2013.
5. The Meeting also took note of two (2) new Special Projects on the “Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”, and “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management”, which would require the endorsement of ASWGFi and identification of the respective ASEAN Lead Countries.
6. While commending SEAFDEC for substantial efforts done to implement programs and projects under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism, Singapore also requested SEAFDEC to provide relevant training materials on safety at sea, and informed the Meeting that Singapore plans to conduct a training session on vessel inspection for the Member Countries. As for the conduct of capacity building on utilization of freshwater fishes, Singapore would consider convening a regional technical consultation to identify the focus of future relevant projects with possible support from Singapore. In this regard, the ASEAN Member States were asked to compile the information on issues and challenges of the region’s freshwater fisheries products which could be useful during the said consultation.
7. On the development of the “ASEAN Catch Documentation System”, the Meeting was informed that this does not aim to create a new catch documentation system in the region but to enhance the compliance of catch documentation systems by countries in the region which could be harmonized with the requirements of importing countries and RFMOs. Ultimately, this is expected to facilitate the trading of fish and fishery products of the region.

8. Finally, SEAFDEC was requested to explore the possibility of enhancing its programs of activity on sustainable management of inland fisheries to improve the well-being of communities in the rural areas of the region.

9. The Meeting also discussed the progress of projects that have been proposed under the ASSP. On the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Food Security (AIFS) Framework”, the Meeting noted the concept proposal on “Climate Change and Its Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation Towards Food Security”, and expressed concern that fisheries is one of the areas under the ASEAN Food Security Framework but aspects on fisheries are not considerably addressed by the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board as indicated in the proposal under the ASEAN-U.S. Maximizing Agriculture through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade (MARKET) Project. In this regard, the ASEAN Secretariat was encouraged to put more attention on this matter in order that fisheries issues could be included under the said Framework. The Meeting was also informed that the First Meeting of the East Asia Summit (EAS) Track II Study Group on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environment Conservation was organized by Brunei Darussalam in Bandar Seri Begawan in December 2013 to discuss relevant issues among the EAS member countries, the report of which will be submitted to the EAS SOM Leaders in 2014.

10. The progress of the activities under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), which included the Special AFCF Meeting in February 2013 in Solo, Indonesia and the 5th AFCF Meeting in July 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, was also noted. On the activities under the “ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)”, the Meeting was informed on the need to align the national shrimp aquaculture standards with the ASEAN Shrimp GAP in order to improve shrimp farming practices in the region. In this regard, Thailand was asked to discuss this issue with the experts from FAO, SEAFDEC and other relevant organizations, and that if necessary, an Expert Group Meeting could be organized for the development of the alignment processes.

11. The Meeting was also informed on the planned organization of the “ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition: ASEAN Seafood for the World” on 22-24 January 2015 at BITEC Bangna in Bangkok, Thailand, which had been endorsed by the 35th AMAF Meeting. As proposed and considered by AMAF, the event could be biennial and hosted by the ASEAN Member States on rotation but voluntary basis. The Meeting also took note of the establishment of the Steering Committee to provide guidance on the preparation of the event in 2015, and that SEAFDEC was asked to serve as the executing agency of the 2015 Conference.

12. On the international fisheries-related issues, while taking note of the “CITES-related issues” especially on the regional approach in improving data collection on sharks in the Southeast Asian region and the support expressed by the EU in building the capacity of the countries to implement CITES-related measures, the Meeting encouraged the ASEAN Member States to convey their requests for funding capacity building activities through the CITES Secretariat. In this connection, SEAFDEC could facilitate following-up with the CITES Secretariat and consider providing the necessary technical support. The representative from Thailand supported the conduct of activities that would enhance the capacity of countries in improving their respective data and information collection systems on sharks, and sharing of such data and information among the countries, and also requested that the species to be addressed during SEAFDEC fora on CITES-related issues could also include commercially-exploited inland aquatic species. Considering that more shark species could be proposed for listing under the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP17 in addition to five (5) species listed during the CITES-CoP16, the Meeting was informed that Japan would consider supporting the activities of SEAFDEC that address CITES-related issues with the expectation that such support could contribute to more sustainable development of fisheries in the ASEAN Member States.

13. On the development of the “International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries” (SSF Guidelines) which aims to provide a comprehensive framework and reference tool to support responsible governance of small-scale fisheries, the Member Countries were encouraged to take part in the negotiations through the online discussion forum or attend the resumed session of the FAO Technical Consultation on 3-7 February 2014 in FAO, Rome. However, the representatives from Vietnam and Singapore expressed their views that issues on human rights should not be included in the Guidelines as

this could focus more on technical aspect of fisheries instead. Meanwhile, the representative from Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to support the Member Countries in developing common positions to serve as technical inputs during FAO technical consultations and meetings.

14. On the development of a “Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Management of Tuna Resources”, the Meeting was informed that the Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Resources in the Southeast Asian Waters was convened in October 2013 in Songkhla, Thailand as part of the follow-up actions to directives of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. The Consultative Meeting came up with prioritized issues for the development of the draft Plan of Action for Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in Southeast Asian Region. In this regard, the Meeting suggested that the use of acoustic pinger, as an effective device for biological and migration studies of neritic tunas, could be explored and the involvement of private sector in the development of the said Plan of Action should be strengthened.

15. On the “Establishment of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over” (RFVR), the Meeting took note of the recommendations of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on the development of the RFVR. In response to the suggestion on harmonizing the databases of SEAFDEC and those of the RPOA-IUU, the Meeting noted the differences between these two sets of databases and the challenges that could be encountered in seeking political support for harmonizing such databases as well as in sharing the information among the countries and within the ASEAN region. However, SEAFDEC would exert efforts to work closely with RPOA-IUU and to see how a collaboration with RPOA-IUU on this matter could be developed. While expressing the concern that in many countries in the region, vessels operating in the high seas may not be under the authority of fisheries-related agencies and the ministries responsible for fisheries, the Meeting conveyed to the countries the need to have strong willingness in exerting to be able to coordinate the respective concerned authorities within each country that issue fishing vessel registrations and fisheries licenses. The Meeting also suggested that vessels involved in these initiatives should only be those vessels operating within the jurisdiction of each Member State.

16. With regards to the progress of the development of the draft “Regional Guidelines for Preventing Landing, Export and Import of IUU Fish and Fishery Products” by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, the Meeting raised the concern that the timeframe for finalizing the Guidelines as proposed by SEAFDEC may not be appropriate, as the provisions under this Guidelines are closely related with those of the Port State Measures Agreement and Catch Documentation System which are still in their preliminary stages of development. Moreover, the Meeting suggested that SEAFDEC should clearly elaborate the scope and contents of the Guidelines, whether such guidelines would address small-, medium- or large-scale fisheries and whether or not it could be applied in particular fishing areas (*e.g.* whether within the EEZs or beyond). The Meeting then requested SEAFDEC to circulate the current version of the Guidelines to the representatives attending the 16th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP Meeting prior to the Expert Meeting to finalize the Draft Guidelines in order to obtain the views of administrators and policy makers.

17. On the development of “Regional Policy Consideration on Regional Common Issues and Program of Activities for Supporting Port State Measures (PSM) Implementation in the Region”, the representative from Thailand expressed the concern on some requirements in the PSM that seem difficult for many countries to undertake, and encouraged SEAFDEC to continue its work in raising the awareness of the countries in the region on the implementation of the PSM.

18. While noting that the development of the “Regional Plan of Action for Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters” and the draft “Guidelines for Conducting Scientific Survey on Sea Turtles Foraging Habitats” by MFRDMD which was improved during the Regional Meeting on Conservation of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters is ongoing, the Meeting was also informed on the progress of development of the “Regional Guidelines on Implementation of Traceability for Aquaculture Products” by MFRD.

19. The Meeting took note of the progress in compiling the respective ASEAN Member States “List of Protected Aquatic Species” based on their national laws in response to the recommendations of the 15th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP, and the efforts of the SEAFDEC Secretariat in uploading the countries’ lists on the restricted page in the SEAFDEC website. In this regard, the Meeting requested the SEAFDEC

Secretariat to circulate the complete draft regional list to all ASEAN Member States for updating and confirmation as well as for SEAFDEC to consider the confidentiality of such regional list.

20. After the deliberations, the Report of the 16th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP was adopted on 29 November 2013.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AEG-CITES	ASEAN Experts Group on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
AFCF	ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum
AIFS	ASEAN Integrated Food Security
AMAF	ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
AQD	SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department
ASA	ASEAN Shrimp Alliance
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASSP	ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership
ASWGFi	ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COFI	Committee on Fisheries
CTI-CFF	Coral Triangle Initiative – Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security
DOF	Department of Fisheries
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCG	ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IDB	Islamic Development Bank
IUU Fishing	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
JTF	Japanese Trust Fund
MARKET	ASEAN-U.S. Maximizing Agriculture through Knowledge, Enterprise Development and Trade
MFRD	SEAFDEC Marine Fisheries Research Department
MFRDMD	SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NOAA	U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
PCM	SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting
PSM	Port State Measures
RFMOs	Regional Fisheries Management Organizations
RFPN	Regional Fisheries Policy Network
RFVR	Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over
RPOA-IUU	Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practice including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
RTC	Regional Technical Consultation
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SOM-AMAF	Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
TD	SEAFDEC Training Department
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme

REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP)

28-29 November 2013, Penang, Malaysia

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) was organized in Penang, Malaysia from 28 to 29 November 2013, to discuss the programs and activities implemented in 2013 and those proposed for 2014 under the FCG/ASSP mechanism as endorsed by the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its Thirty-sixth Meeting in 2013, the progress of other proposals implemented under the ASSP Framework; as well as policy considerations on issues of importance to the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 1**.

2. The Meeting was co-chaired by the representative from Lao PDR, *Mr. Bounthong Saphakdy* on behalf of the current Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) and by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*. The Co-chair for the ASEAN welcomed the participants to the Meeting and expressed the gratitude to SEAFDEC for hosting and making the arrangements of the Meeting. He also acknowledged with much gratitude the continued support of SEAFDEC to the ASEAN Member States through the various projects and activities implemented under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism since its establishment in November 2007. He urged the ASEAN Member States to pay much attention to the organization of the ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition 2015: ASEAN Seafood for the World, which is planned to be organized in January 2015 and hosted by Thailand. He therefore looked forward to a thorough discussion on this issue especially on the relevant works that the ASEAN Member States would need to undertake in order to provide significant inputs to the Conference. With that note, he declared the Sixteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership open. His Opening Remarks appears in **Annex 2**.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Agenda which appears as **Annex 3** was adopted.

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE MEETINGS OF SEAFDEC AND ASEAN BODIES RELATED TO FISHERIES

3.1 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Fifteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)

4. The Meeting was informed on the follow-up actions undertaken by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council during its 45th Meeting in April 2013 and the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) during its 15th Meeting in November 2012 as shown in **Annex 4**.

5. The representative from AQD informed the Meeting that the project on food safety conducted by AQD with funding from the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) shown as Paragraph 17 of the Report of the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, some aspects of which will be completed in 2013, is expected to be continued by MFRD under the JTF-VI to focus on the development of traceability system for aquaculture products. In addition, the activity of AQD meant to provide support to the countries in the implementation of the ASEAN Shrimp GAP (Paragraph 27 of the Report of the 15th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP), which was originally identified as 'Food Safety' should be changed to 'Fish Health'.



6. While commending SEAFDEC for successfully conducting various activities on responsible fishing practices, especially on fuel utilization and reduction of labor onboard fishing vessels, among others, the representative from Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC could consider the conduct of training for fishers on appropriate technology to reduce labor onboard fishing vessels.

7. The representative from Lao PDR thanked SEAFDEC for its sustaining support to the ASEAN countries on capacity building, and requested SEAFDEC for assistance to enable Lao PDR to implement its regional tasks as Lead Country for the key cluster on Capacity Building under the AFCF Framework.

8. After congratulating SEAFDEC for its efforts in addressing the recommendations of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council as well as those of the 15th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP with support from Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF), the representative from Cambodia requested SEAFDEC and Japan through the JTF, to consider providing continued support for the implementation of activities in fisheries communities which is important for fisheries resource management in the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and the sustainable development of fisheries in the region.

3.2 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries

9. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat presented the follow-up actions to the directives given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries from October 2012 to November 2013, as well as on the progress of the collaborative activities. These include the policy highlights on Fisheries and ASEAN Community Building; the ASEAN Policy and Cooperation in Fisheries; the progress in the implementation of Policy Framework Related to Cooperation, Food, Agriculture, and Forestry; progress of ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative activities; the endorsement of the new initiatives in 2013 under the FCG/ASSP; and the status of the ASEAN Cooperation with Dialogue Partners. The presentation appears in **Annex 5**.

10. During the discussion, the representative from Cambodia expressed the view that issues under the ASEAN Strategic Plan on CITES currently focus mostly on forestry and not on fisheries. He therefore requested the ASEAN Secretariat to take this concern into consideration under the ASEAN Mechanism on CITES-related issues. He also raised the concern about the great extent of participation from national forestry authorities, especially during the ASEAN Expert Group Meeting on CITES (AEG-CITES) convened by the ASEAN in 2013, while the participation of representatives from the fisheries sector has been usually very rare.

11. The Meeting supported the views of the representative from Cambodia on the limited participation of representatives from fisheries agencies in international fora on trade-related issues, as this often results in the failure of the ASEAN's positions on fisheries-related issues to be properly reflected and addressed in related fora. The representative from Cambodia also requested the ASEAN Secretariat to consider exploring the ways and means of developing a mechanism that would enable the countries to reflect their unified voice on common positions that had been agreed at relevant fora.

12. While noting the concern that although SEAFDEC has been regularly conducting regional technical consultations to address CITES-related issues with the participation of the ASEAN Secretariat but the results had not been integrated in the ASEAN work on CITES, the representative from Vietnam requested the ASEAN Secretariat to support the mechanism to create an ASEAN official common position of the fisheries sector in international fora. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat explained that this mechanism is through ASWGFi and SOM-AMAF while the common positions on fisheries-related issues developed by the fisheries sector are discussed at the ASWGFi meetings. Results of such discussions are subsequently submitted by the ASWGFi to the higher authorities of the ASEAN, especially the SOM-AMAF for consideration.

13. In response to the query made by the representative from Malaysia on whether the ASEAN Guidelines for the Use of Chemicals in Aquaculture and Measures to Eliminate the Use of Harmful Chemicals is available in the ASEAN website, the ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that the Guidelines has been endorsed by the SOM-AMAF, and the Member States should be able to obtain the

Guidelines through their respective national focal points of ASWGFi as this has not yet been uploaded on the website.

14. The representative from Malaysia also requested the ASEAN Secretariat that invitations for Malaysia to attend the ASEAN-related meetings should be sent out at least two weeks in advance for approval. The ASEAN Secretariat clarified that in normal practice the ASEAN Secretariat usually send out invitation letters at least one month prior to meetings. Regarding the inquiry of Malaysia on the status of the Project on “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management” to be supported by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that the ASEAN Member States would kept informed on the status of this project once the agreement has been signed and the implementation could already be carried out.

IV. ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014

4.1 Summary report on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2013-2014

15. The Meeting was informed that the Collaborative Programs under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) mechanism for 2013-2014 were reviewed by the Thirty-sixth Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in Penang, Malaysia from 25 to 27 November 2013. The results of the program scrutiny and the recommendations were summarized and submitted to the 16th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) for consideration and endorsement. After the discussion, the Meeting endorsed the progress and achievements of the programs implemented in 2013 and the programs proposed for 2014 under the FCG/ASSP as previously discussed and endorsed by the 36th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee, which will be submitted to the higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC for consideration. The summary of the recommendations of the 36th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee appears as **Annex 6**.

16. The Meeting noted that out of 22 existing projects, 21 projects had been categorized under five SEAFDEC Program Thrusts, which were adopted by the SEAFDEC Council in 2009; while the project on “Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia” was categorized as a ‘Special Project’. The Meeting also noted the completion of the project on Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products in 2013.

17. The Meeting also took note of two new Special Projects on the “Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”, and “Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management”, which will be brought up to ASWGFi for endorsement and identification of the ASEAN Lead Country corresponding to each project.

18. While commending SEAFDEC for the successful conduct of a number of activities, the representative from Singapore requested SEAFDEC to provide relevant training materials on safety at sea. Singapore also expressed the wish to request SEAFDEC/TD to conduct a training course on safety at sea for fishers in the country. Specifically, on combating IUU fishing, she informed the Meeting that Singapore will seek the possibility of convening a training on vessel inspection for the Member Countries. In this regard, Singapore may involve experts from Australia to assist in the training.

19. With regards to the utilization of freshwater fish for value-added products, the representative from Singapore suggested that in addition to the report of the countries on their respective product development activities, and since the project involves the private sector, the extent of commercialization of these products should be included in the report. Moreover, in responding to request for capacity building on utilization of freshwater fish, the representative from Singapore suggested that a regional technical consultation could be convened to identify the area of focus for future projects with the possible support

from Singapore. In this regard, she encouraged the ASEAN Member States to compile information on the issues and challenges of the region's freshwater fisheries products to be used for the consultation.

20. On the development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation System, the representative from Singapore supported the recommendation made during the 36th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee that the ASEAN Catch Documentation System need to be focused. She explained that this initiative should not aim to create a new catch documentation system in the region, but to enhance the compliance of the countries in the region on a catch documentation system that would be harmonized with the requirements of importing countries and RFMOs in order to facilitate the trade of fish and fishery products of the region. Such effort will also dovetail towards the direction of the ASEAN Economic Community Building by 2015.

21. Nevertheless, the Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC was of the view that the development of the ASEAN Catch Documentation System should be done in a step-by-step manner and that SEAFDEC as the technical arm for the ASEAN, would take the leading role in the process of development such system. He added that at the first stage, the system would be used as guide for the countries to comply with a documentation system. As the development of the system progresses, Member States could be obliged to comply with the system, but such move should be tabled first for discussion among the countries in order to reach an agreement.

22. While supporting the suggestion of the representative from Singapore, the representative from Cambodia expressed the view that since a wide range of requirements have been imposed by importing countries, it has become necessary for the region to come up with ASEAN Catch Documentation System that takes into consideration such requirements in a harmonized manner.

23. The Meeting was informed that while SEAFDEC is providing technical support to the development of ASEAN Catch Documentation System, the process of seeking political support for the endorsement and application of the System is a responsibility that should be undertaken under the ASEAN mechanism.

24. While commending SEAFDEC for the work undertaken in 2013, and expressing appreciation to the support extended to the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) members through the JTF and SEAFDEC-Sweden project, the representative from Lao PDR requested that support to this project could continue in 2014 and beyond, considering that the project is very important for fishery officers of the ASEAN Member States. While expressing the view on the importance of inland fisheries, he also expected that additional activities under this scope could be implemented in the future, especially after the establishment of the SEAFDEC/IFRDMD in Indonesia.

25. While supporting the program of activities undertaken by SEAFDEC under the FCG/ASSP mechanism, the representative from Thailand requested SEAFDEC to explore the possibility of enhancing its programs of activity aimed at improving management for sustainable inland fisheries in the region to improve the well-being of communities in rural areas.

V. PROGRESS OF THE PROPOSALS IMPLEMENTED UNDER ASSP

5.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework

26. The Meeting noted the progress of the concept proposals on "Climate Change and Its Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation Towards Food Security" that were developed and proposed by SEAFDEC to support the implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework as reported by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat and shown in **Annex 7**.

27. In the discussion, the representative from Vietnam expressed her view on the importance of fisheries, which is one of the areas under the ASEAN Food Security Framework. However, fisheries aspects have not been considerably addressed by the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board as indicated in the proposal seeking the support of the ASEAN-U.S. Maximizing Agriculture through Knowledge,

Enterprise Development, and Trade (MARKET) Project, where not much is clearly mentioned on fisheries. In this connection, the Meeting urged the ASEAN Secretariat to put more attention on this aspect in order that fisheries issues are included in the Framework.

28. The representative from Cambodia suggested that the ASEAN Member States should work closely in addressing the concerns related to food security. In this connection, the representative from Brunei Darussalam informed the Meeting that Brunei Darussalam is hosting the First Meeting of East Asia Summit (EAS) Track II Study Group on Enhancing Food Security through Sustainable Fisheries Management and Marine Environment Conservation in Bandar Seri Begawan from 3 to 5 December 2013. The focus of this meeting is to discuss the relevant issues among the EAS member countries whereby the final report will be submitted to the EAS SOM Leaders in 2014.

5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)

29. The Meeting took note of the information provided by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat on the progress of the activities under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) which included the Special AFCF Meeting on 21-22 February 2013 in Solo, Indonesia and the 5th AFCF Meeting on 22-23 July 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR as shown in **Annex 8**.

5.3 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)

30. The Meeting noted the progress of the activities of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) led by Thailand (**Annex 9**). The Meeting also noted the results of the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance which was organized from 10 to 11 June 2013 in Bogor, Indonesia especially the effort to align national shrimp aquaculture standards with the ASEAN Shrimp GAP as a crucial strategy to improve shrimp farming practices in the region. Based on the suggestion of the 2013 ASA Meeting on the development of an alignment process which was agreed upon by the ASEAN Member States, Thailand was asked to discuss this issue with the experts from FAO, SEAFDEC and other relevant organizations, and that if necessary, an Expert Group Meeting could be organized to develop the alignment processes.

31. The representative from Vietnam suggested that the ASEAN Member States should make use of GAqP as reference in developing the ASEAN labeling system. She suggested that the Certification System should not be included in GaqP as it is much related to the chain of requirements of importing markets.

5.4 ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition 2015: ASEAN Seafood for the World

32. The Meeting was informed on the planned organization of the ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition (**Annex 10**), which is scheduled during 22-24 January 2015 at BITEC Bangna, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was also informed on the endorsement of the organization of ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition 2015 by the 35th AMAF Meeting, and that the event has been approved to be organized biannually and hosted by ASEAN Member States on rotation but voluntary basis.

33. The Meeting noted the results of the Special Meeting of ASWGF_i on 4 October 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, which agreed on the establishment of the Steering Committee to provide guidance on the preparation of the event and also agreed that SEAFDEC shall be the executing agency of the Conference.

34. In response to the query made by the representative from Cambodia on whether it is the responsibility of the FCG/ASSP Meeting to discuss the details of the event, the representative from Thailand explained to the Meeting that while the concept proposal was endorsed by the ASWGF_i and AMAF, it was suggested that discussion on the details related to the organization of the event could be undertaken under the FCG/ASSP mechanism.



35. In this connection, the Meeting took note of the progress made by Thailand, and that Thailand has already sent out the letters requesting the ASEAN Member States to nominate their respective officers who would serve as members of the Steering Committee. While the Director-General of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand will be the Chair of the Steering Committee. She therefore requested the other Member States to nominate appropriate senior officers as members of the Steering Committee, and 1-2 representatives from relevant private sector such as fisheries/aquaculture/exporter associations of the respective countries. The SEAFDEC National Coordinators or the Regional Fisheries Policy Network shall be used as the focal points in order to facilitate the preparation of this event. In this regard, the representative from Thailand assured the Meeting that all necessary information would be sent to the ASEAN Member States through the focal points.

VI. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

6.1 International Fisheries-related Issues

- *CITES-related Issues: Regional Approach on Improving Data Collection on Shark in Southeast Asian Region*

36. The Meeting noted the recommendations made at the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council regarding the results of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES-CoP16) convened in March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting also reiterated on the particular recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status held on 23-25 October 2013, for SEAFDEC to explore the support from EU in building the capacity of the countries to implement CITES-related measures. In this regard, the ASEAN Member States were encouraged to convey such request to the EU through the CITES Secretariat. In this connection, SEAFDEC could follow-up and possibly provide the necessary support. Moreover, the recommendations and way forward to improve the assessment of stock status of sharks and rays in the region are shown as **Annex 11**.

37. While noting that more shark species could be proposed for listing under the CITES Appendices in the future, the representative from Thailand supported the conduct of activities to enhance the capacity of countries to collect better data and information on sharks, as well as sharing the data and information among the countries. He also requested that the species to be addressed under the SEAFDEC fora on CITES-related issues should also include commercially-exploited inland aquatic species, as currently most of the species discussed in the SEAFDEC fora are marine species.

38. The representative from Japan also shared the concern on the possibility that more shark species would be proposed for listing under CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP17, in addition to the five (5) species listed during the CITES-CoP16. In this connection, he informed the Meeting that Japan would consider supporting the activities of SEAFDEC that address CITES-related issues and expressed the hope that such support from the Government of Japan would contribute to more sustainable development of fisheries in the ASEAN Member States.

- *International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries*

39. The Meeting took note of the deliberations made at the FAO Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries on 20-24 May 2013 in FAO, Rome which facilitated the preparation of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines). The SSF Guidelines aim to provide a comprehensive framework and reference tool to support responsible governance of small-scale fisheries and sustainable social and economic development with emphasis on small-scale fisheries and fish workers and related activities including the promotion of human rights based on approach for the most vulnerable and marginalized people. The Guidelines are therefore consistent with and promote international human rights standards. In this connection, the Member Countries were encouraged to take part in the negotiations through the online discussion forum or attend the resumed session of the FAO Technical Consultation on 3-7 February 2014 in FAO, Rome (**Annex 12**).

40. During the discussion, the representative from Vietnam expressed concern in the process of developing the FAO Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries which is envisaged to be voluntary. In this connection, the representatives from Vietnam and Singapore suggested that issues on human rights should not be included in the Guidelines as this should focus more on the technical aspect of fisheries. The representative from Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to support the Member Countries in developing common positions as technical inputs at FAO Technical Consultation meetings.

6.2 Prioritized Issues and Way Forward for Development of Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries Management in Southeast Asian Region

41. The Meeting was informed on the deliberations made at the Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Resources in the Southeast Asian Waters on 8-10 October 2013 in Songkhla, Thailand as part of the follow-up actions to the directives given by the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on the Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Management of Tuna Resources. The Meeting noted that the Consultative Meeting came up with prioritized issues for the development of the draft Plan of Action for Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in Southeast Asian Region. This would provide important works to be undertaken in the Southeast Asian region to promote a regional approach for the management of the utilization of neritic tunas (**Annex 13**).

42. In the discussion, the representative from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD suggested that the use of acoustic pinger, which is an effective device for biological and migration studies of neritic tunas, could be explored. While agreeing to the priority issues presented by SEAFDEC and way forward on Regional Cooperation on Plan of Action for Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in Southeast Asian Region, the representative from Thailand emphasized that it is also important to involve the private sector in the development of the Plan of Action.

6.3 Way Forward for the Establishment of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over

43. The Meeting was informed on the recommendations made at the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on the development of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over in the Southeast Asian region as these would contribute to the regional efforts in combating IUU fishing (**Annex 14**).

44. In response to the suggestion made by the representative from Vietnam to harmonize the databases of SEAFDEC and those of the RPOA-IUU, the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the Meeting on the differences between these sets of databases. While the database of SEAFDEC focus on fishing vessels record in order to facilitate the monitoring of IUU-related activities in the region, those of the RPOA-IUU cover vessels that operate in the high seas and RFMO areas as well as the watch list of IUU vessels. In addition, challenges that could be encountered in seeking political support for harmonization of the databases between SEAFDEC and RPOA-IUU as well as in sharing the information among the countries and within the ASEAN region should be taken into consideration. Nevertheless, SEAFDEC would exert efforts to work closely with RPOA-IUU and see how best collaboration on this matter could be developed with RPOA-IUU.

45. Furthermore, the representative from Cambodia also expressed the concern that in many countries in the region, vessels operating in the high seas may not be under the authority of fisheries-related agencies and the ministries responsible for fisheries. In this connection, obtaining the approval of ministries not responsible for fisheries to provide the necessary data based on the minimum requirements, could be very difficult. The representative from Thailand shared the same concern on the different agencies involved in fishing vessel registration and fishing licensing in his country. While fishing vessel registration is under the country's Marine Department, fishing licensing is under Department of Fisheries. The Meeting was also informed that MOU between these two agencies have been signed, however sharing of information must be carefully considered in accordance with national laws and regulations relevant to the country's Sharing Information of Public Agencies.



46. In this regard, the Meeting expressed the views that the countries should have the strong willingness to exert more efforts in coordinating with respective concerned authorities within the country that issue the fishing vessel registrations and fisheries licenses. The Meeting also suggested that vessels involved in these initiatives should only be those vessels operating within the jurisdiction of each Member State.

6.4 Progress on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Programs to be Addressed for Policy Consideration and Way Forward

47. The Meeting noted the progress of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Programs to be addressed for policy consideration and way forward as follows:

- *Regional Guidelines for Preventing Landing, Export and Import of IUU Fish and Fishery Products in the ASEAN Region (MFRDMD/ongoing)*

48. The Meeting took note of the progress of the development of the draft Regional Guidelines for Preventing Landing, Export and Import of IUU Fish and Fishery Products by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD from October 2012 to October 2013 (**Annex 15**). The Meeting was also informed on four (4) forms of possible sources of IUU products from the Southeast Asian region, namely: 1) IUU fishing in high sea and RFMO areas; 2) Poaching of fish in EEZ's neighboring countries; 3) Illegally exported products, *e.g.* live reef fish; and 4) Landing of fish/catch across borders. The SEAFDEC Secretariat also explained the need to combat IUU fishing by preventing the trade on IUU fish and fishery products.

49. In expressing the appreciation to SEAFDEC for the efforts exerted in developing the Guidelines, the representative from Vietnam conveyed the concern that the timeframe for finalization of the Guidelines as proposed by SEAFDEC may not be appropriate, considering that the implementation of this Guidelines is closely related to Port State Measures and Catch Documentation System, their development of which is still in the preliminary stages. The representative from the Philippines also clarified that in the implementation of the Guidelines to Prevent Landing, Export and Import of IUU Fish and Fishery Products, it is necessary to establish first that such products have been actually derived from the IUU fishing, *e.g.* through catch documentation, etc. Since these prerequisites, however, are still not yet available, he was therefore of the view that the finalization of the Guidelines at this time may still be premature.

50. The representative from Brunei Darussalam supported the finalization of the Guidelines considering that this could serve as important reference material for the country. While sharing the view of the representative from Brunei Darussalam, the representative from Cambodia considered the Guidelines a sensitive matter as it pertains to combating IUU fishing. He therefore suggested that SEAFDEC should clearly elaborate on the scope and contents of the Guidelines, whether such guidelines would address small-, medium- or large-scale fisheries and whether or not it is applicable in which particular fishing areas (*e.g.* whether within the EEZs or beyond).

51. Moreover, while supporting the views of the representatives from Vietnam and the Philippines, the representative from Singapore also suggested that the Guidelines should clearly elaborate on the definition of IUU fish and fishery products. In addition, consideration should also be given on the close linkage of the Guidelines with management practices under the RFMOs, *i.e.* for fishing vessels and fish species in their respective management areas.

52. While noting that SEAFDEC is planning to organize an Expert Meeting to finalize the Draft Guidelines, Singapore requested SEAFDEC to circulate the current version of the Guidelines to the representatives attending this 16th FCG/ASSP Meeting prior to the said Expert Meeting in order to obtain the views on the part of administrators and policy makers. Responses and feedbacks from the countries should be sent to MFRDMD and the SEAFDEC Secretariat, to serve as inputs for the improvement of the Guidelines during the Expert Meeting.

- *Regional Common Issues and Way Forward for Supporting the Implementation of the Port State Measures (TD/ongoing)*

53. The Meeting took note of the progress of the development by SEAFDEC/TD of the Regional Policy Consideration on Regional Common Issues and Program of Activities for Supporting Port State Measures Implementation in the Region during the period from October 2012 to October 2013 (**Annex 16**).

54. During the discussion, the representative from Thailand expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for the efforts made by SEAFDEC in implementing activities that aim to support the implementation of the Port State Measures (PSM) in the region as means to combat IUU fishing. However, while expressing the concern that the issues of PSM seem difficult for many countries to implement, he encouraged SEAFDEC to continue its work on raising the awareness of the countries in the region on the implementation of the PSM.

- *Guidelines for Conducting Research in Foraging Habitats of Sea Turtles and Action Plan for Managing Foraging Habitats of Sea Turtles (MFRDMD/ongoing)*

55. The Meeting took note of the progress of the development of the Regional Plan of Action of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters during the period from October 2012 to October 2013; and the draft Guidelines for Conducting Scientific Survey on Sea Turtles Foraging Habitats which was improved during the Regional Meeting on Conservation of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters (**Annex 17** and **Annex 18**).

- *Regional Guidelines on Implementation of Traceability for Aquaculture Products (MFRD/planning)*

56. The Meeting was informed on the progress of the development of the Regional Guidelines on Implementation of Traceability for Aquaculture Products during the period from October 2012 to October 2013 (**Annex 19**).

6.5 Other Matters

- *List of the Protected Aquatic Species in ASEAN Countries*

57. The Meeting noted the progress of work in compiling the countries' list of protected aquatic species based on the national laws of the ASEAN Member Countries in response to the recommendations made at the 15th FCG/ASSP Meeting (**Annex 20**). The Meeting was informed that the SEAFDEC Secretariat has uploaded the countries' lists on the restricted page in the SEAFDEC website.

58. In response to the query of the representative from the Philippines on whether the list of protected aquatic species of certain countries could be accessed by other countries as it could serve as reference among the Member Countries, the Meeting was informed that policy guidance has to be sought from the Member Countries on the possibility of sharing their respective lists among the ASEAN Member States.

59. In addition, the representative from Thailand noted that since some species lack photographs and good quality pictures, he therefore suggested to make the list complete to facilitate identification of the species.

60. While expressing the appreciation to SEAFDEC for compiling the list of protected aquatic species in the ASEAN, the representative from Vietnam requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to adhere to the recommendations from the 15th FCG/ASSP Meeting that SEAFDEC would circulate the complete draft regional list to all ASEAN Member States for updating and confirmation as well as for SEAFDEC to be responsible for the confidentiality of such list.



VII. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT OF THE MEETING

61. The Meeting adopted the Report of the 16th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) was held on 29 November 2013 in Penang, Malaysia.

62. The results of the Meeting will be submitted to the higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC for consideration and appropriate action.

VIII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

63. The Co-chairperson of the Meeting for SEAFDEC thanked the representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries for their active cooperation during the Meeting especially for providing policy recommendations on the implementation and development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC regional programs. After expressing his appreciation to the representative from Lao PDR for co-chairing the Meeting on behalf of the Chair of ASWGFi and to SEAFDEC/MFRDMD for hosting the Meeting, he declared the Meeting closed. His Closing Remarks appears as **Annex 21**.

64. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat congratulated the organizer for the success of this Meeting and assured the Meeting that he will convey the results of the Meeting to the higher authorities of the ASEAN. He also expressed the appreciation to the representative from Lao PDR for co-chairing the Meeting and requested him to convey the results of this Meeting to the next meeting of ASWGFi in 2014.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Ranimah Haji A. Wahab (Mrs.)
Acting Deputy Director, SEAFDEC Alternate
Council Director and SEAFDEC National
Coordinator for Brunei Darussalam

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources
Jalan Menteri Besar BB3910,
Negara Brunei Darussalam
Tel: +673 2382862
Fax: +673 2382069
E-mail: ranimah.wahab@gmail.com

Munah Haji Lampoh (Mrs.)
Senior Fisheries Officer

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources
Jalan Menteri Besar BB3910,
Negara Brunei Darussalam
Tel: +673 2383412 Ext. 2326
Fax: +673 2382069
E-mail: munahlampoh@gmail.com

CAMBODIA

Ing Try
Deputy Director-General and SEAFDEC
National Coordinator for Cambodia

Fisheries Administration
#186 Preah Norodom Blvd.
Sangkat Tonle Basac,
Khan Chamca Mon,
P.O. Box 582, Phnom Penh,
Cambodia
Tel: +855 12 995665
Fax: +855 23 215470
E-mail: ingtry@ymail.com

Em Puthy (Dr.)
Deputy Director, Department of Planning,
Accounting and International Cooperation

Fisheries Administration
#186 Preah Norodom Blvd.
Sangkat Tonle Basac,
Khan Chamca Mon,
P.O. Box 582, Phnom Penh,
Cambodia
Tel: +855 16 850003
Fax: +855 23 215796
E-mail: obiliz@yahoo.com

INDONESIA

Andi Soesmono
Deputy Director for General Affairs

Center of Analysis for Marine and Fisheries
International Cooperation
Secretariat General
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Jakarta Pusat, 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 3519070
Fax: +62 21 3864293
E-mail: multilateralmmaf@yahoo.com



Taufiq Budiman Atmamihardja
Assistant Deputy Director for ASEAN
Cooperation

Center of Analysis for Marine and Fisheries
International Cooperation
Secretariat General
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Jakarta Pusat, 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 3519070
Fax: +62 21 3864293
E-mail: atmamihardja@yahoo.com

Martha Andriany Pattinaja (Mrs.)
Assistant Deputy Director for
Non-Governmental Cooperation

Center of Analysis for Marine and Fisheries
International Cooperation
Secretariat General
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Jakarta Pusat, 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 3519070
Fax: +62 21 3864293
E-mail: bidang_kal@yahoo.com

Emmi Simarmata (Mrs.)
Assistant Deputy Director for Institutional
Cooperation

Center of Analysis for Marine and Fisheries
International Cooperation
Secretariat General
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Jakarta Pusat, 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 21 3519070
Fax: +62 21 3864293
E-mail: bidangkal_puskita@yahoo.com

JAPAN

Kazuo Hiraishi
Director of Overseas Fisheries Cooperation
Office, International Affairs Division

Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81 3 67442367
Fax: +81 3 35020571
E-mail: obil_hiraishi@nm.maff.go.jp

Tsuyoshi Iwata
Assistant Director of Overseas Fisheries
Cooperation Office, International Affairs
Division, and SEAFDEC National Coordinator
for Japan

Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81 3 67442367
Fax: +81 3 35020571
E-mail: tsuyoshi_iwata@nm.maff.go.jp

Kiyoshi Ikoma
Section Chief of Overseas Fisheries Cooperation
Office, International Affairs Division

Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, Japan
Tel: +81 3 67442367
Fax: +81 3 35020571
E-mail: kiyoshi_ikoma@nm.maff.go.jp

LAO PDR

Bounthong Saphakdy
Deputy Director General and SEAFDEC
Alternate Council Director for Lao PDR

Department of Livestock and Fisheries
P.O. Box 6644, Vientiane 01000 Lao PDR
Tel: +856 21 215243
Fax: +856 21 215141
E-mail: saphakdy@yahoo.com

Akhane Phomsouvanh
Deputy Director of Fisheries Division, and
SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Lao PDR

Department of Livestock and Fisheries
P.O. Box 6644, Vientiane 01000 Lao PDR
Tel/Fax: +856 21 217869
E-mail: akhane@live.com

MALAYSIA

Ahmad Hazizi bin Aziz
Director of International, Trade and Investment
Division, and SEAFDEC National Coordinator
for Malaysia

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 2, Tower Block 4G2, Wisma Tani, Precinct 4,
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +603 88704212
Fax: +603 8889 1195
E-mail: ahazizi@dof.gov.my

MYANMAR

Kyaw Kyaw (Dr.)
Fishery Officer and SEAFDEC National
Coordinator for Myanmar

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and
Rural Development
Building No.(36), Ministerial Zone
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel.: +95 9 250189720 and +95 67408059
E-mail: kyaw.72@gmail.com,
kyawkyaw71@hotmail.com

PHILIPPINES

Dennis V. Del Socorro
Regional Director

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Regional Field Office No. 5 San Agustin,
Pili 4418 Camarines Sur, Philippines
Tel.: +63 54 4777365
Fax: +63 54 4773741
E-mail: region5@bfar.da.gov.ph

Sammy A. Malvas
Officer-In-Charge, Fisheries Policy and
Economics Division

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
PCA Bldg., Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel/Fax: +63 2 9297673
E-mail: formerwgrfp@yahoo.com

SINGAPORE

Tan-Low Lai Kim (Mrs.)
Group Director/Food Supply Resilience Group
and SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director for
Singapore

Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA)
5 Maxwell Road #04-00
Tower Block, MND Complex
Guest Lounge, Singapore 069110
Tel: +65 63257604
Fax: +65 62206068
E-mail: Tan-Low_Lai_Kim@ava.gov.sg

Lim Huan Sein
Director, Aquaculture Technology Department
and SEAFDEC National Coordinator for
Singapore

Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA)
5 Maxwell Road, #01-01 Tower Block
MND Complex, Singapore 069110
Tel: +65 63257323
Fax: +65 63257677
E-mail: lim_huan_sein@ava.gov.sg

THAILAND

Chirdsak Vongkamolchoon

Deputy Director-General and SEAFDEC
Alternate Council Director for Thailand

Department of Fisheries
Kaset Klang, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 2560525
Fax: +66 25620561
E-mail: chirdsakv@yahoo.com

Malinee Smithrithee (Mrs.)

Director of Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division
and SEAFDEC National Coordinator for
Thailand

Department of Fisheries
Kaset Klang, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 25798215
Fax: +66 25797940
E-mail: malinee_pom@hotmail.com

Chuanpid Chantarawarathit (Mrs.)

Fishery Biologist (Senior Professional Level)

Department of Fisheries
Kaset Klang, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 25798214
Fax: +66 25620529
E-mail: ch_chuanpid@yahoo.com

Chalermchai Suwannarak

Plan and Policy Analyst (Senior Professional
Level) and Acting Director of Planning Division

Department of Fisheries
Kaset Klang, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 25620539
Fax: +66 25620531
E-mail: chalerm06@yahoo.com

VIETNAM

Nguyen Thi Trang Nhung (Ms.)

Deputy Director of Science, Technology and
International Cooperation Department, and
SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Vietnam

Fisheries Administration
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Ba-Dinh,
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: +84 912153865
E-mail: trangnhungicd@gmail.com

Nguyen Thi Hong Nhung (Ms.)

Science, Technology and International
Cooperation Department

Fisheries Administration
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Ba-Dinh,
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: +84 912153865
E-mail: nhung.doa@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) SECRETARIAT

Pham Quang Minh (Dr.)

Assistant Director

The ASEAN Secretariat
Jl. Sisingamangaraja 70A, Jakarta,
Indonesia 10220
Tel: +62 21 7262991
Fax: +62 21 7398234
E-mail: pham.minh@asean.org

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SEAFDEC)

SEAFDEC Secretariat

Chumnarn Pongsri (Dr.)
Secretary-General

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: + 66 29405682
Fax: +66 29406336
E-mail: sg@seafdec.org

Hajime Kawamura
Deputy Secretary-General

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: + 66 29406331
Fax : +66 29406336
E-mail : dsg@seafdec.org

Magnus Torell (Dr.)
Senior Advisor

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: + 66 29551557
Fax : +66 29406336
E-mail : magnus@seafdec.org

Somboon Siriraksophon (Dr.)
Policy and Program Coordinator

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: + 66 29406333
Fax : +66 29406336
E-mail : somboon@seafdec.org

Nualanong Tongdee (Ms.)
Information Program Coordinator

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: + 66 29551517
Fax : +66 29406336
E-mail : nual@seafdec.org

Tadahiro Kawata
Technical Expert on Trust Fund Project

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: + 66 29406332
Fax : +66 29406336
E-mail : kawata@seafdec.org

Hidenao Watanabe
Assistant Trust Fund Manager

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: + 66 29406334
Fax : +66 29406336
E-mail : watanabe@seafdec.org

Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn (Ms.)
Program Manager

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: + 66 29406326
Fax : +66 29406336
E-mail : pattaratjit@seafdec.org

SEAFDEC/Training Department (TD)

Bundit Chokesanguan
Information and Training Division Head, and
Special Departmental Coordinator

P.O. Box 97, Phrasamutchedi Post Office,
Samut Prakan 10290, Thailand
Tel : + 66 24256120
Fax : +66 24256110
E-mail : bundit@seafdec.org

SEAFDEC/Aquaculture Department (AQD)

Felix G. Ayson (Dr.)
Chief of SEAFDEC/AQD

Main Office:
Tigbauan Main Station (TMS)
Tigbauan 5021, Iloilo, Philippines
Tel/Fax: +63 33 5119174
Manila Office:
Rm 102, G/F, PSSC Building
Commonwealth Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines
Tel/Fax: +63 2 9277825
E-mail: aqdchief@seafdec.org.ph;
fgayson@seafdec.org.ph

Teruo Azuma (Dr.)
Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/AQD

Main Office:
Tigbauan Main Station (TMS)
Tigbauan 5021, Iloilo, Philippines
Tel/Fax: +63 33 5118878
Manila Office:
Rm 102, G/F, PSSC Building
Commonwealth Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines
Tel/Fax: +63 2 9277825
E-mail: azuma@seafdec.org.ph

Belen O. Acosta (Ms.)
Senior Information Specialist, and Special
Departmental Coordinator

Manila Office:
Rm 102, G/F, PSSC Building,
Commonwealth Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines
Tel: +63 2 9275542
Fax: +63 2 9277825
E-mail: bacosta@seafdec.org.ph

Dr. Evelyn Grace DJ Ayson (Mrs.)
Training and Information Division Head

Main Office:
Tigbauan Main Station (TMS)
Tigbauan 5021, Iloilo, Philippines
Tel: +63 33 5119172
Fax: +63 33 5118709
E-mail: edjayson@seafdec.org.ph

Dr. Emilia T. Qunitio (Ms.)
Technology Verification and Demonstration
Division Head

Main Office:
Tigbauan Main Station (TMS)
Tigbauan 5021, Iloilo, Philippines
Tel/Fax: +63 33 5119029
E-mail: etqunitio@seafdec.org.ph

Dr. Junemie Hazel Lebata-Ramos (Ms.)
Research Division Head

Main Office:
Tigbauan Main Station (TMS)
Tigbauan 5021, Iloilo, Philippines
Tel/Fax: +63 33 5119070
E-mail: jlebata@seafdec.org.ph

SEAFDEC/Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD)

Yeap Soon Eong
Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRD

2 Perahu Road, Off Lim Chu Kang Road, Singapore
718915
Tel: + 65 6790 973
Fax: +65 68613196
E-mail: Yeap_Soon_Eong@ava.gov.sg

**SEAFDEC/Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management
Department (MFRDMD)**

Mahyam Mohd Isa (Ms.)
Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: +60 9 6175940
Fax: +60 9 6175136
E-mail: mahyam@seafdec.org.my

Masaya Katoh (Dr.)
Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: +60 9 6175940
Fax: +60 9 6174042
E-mail: katoh@seafdec.org.my

Raja Bidin Raja Hassan
Special Departmental Coordinator

Chendering Fisheries Garden
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: +60 9 6175940
Fax: +60 9 6175136
E-mail: rbidin@seafdec.org.my

OBSERVERS

Hamdan bin Jaafar
Head of Fisheries Bio-security Centre

Fisheries Biosecurity Centre, Kuala Lumpur
Lot 82, Jalan Carruthers Off Jalan Sultan Salahuddin
50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Tel: +603 2697 0045, 26970307
Fax: +603 2202 8856
E-mail: hamjaa01@dof.gov.my

Hj. Munir bin Hj. Mohd. Nawi
Head of Marine Aquaculture Section,
Aquaculture Development Division

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 1, Podium 2, Tower Block 4G2,
Wisma Tani, Precinct 462628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +60 19 2756001
Fax: +603 88891794
E-mail: munir@dof.gov.my

Mohd. Ghazali bin Abd. Manap
Head of Audit and Certification Section,
Fisheries Bio-security Division

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Aras 3, Blok Podium 2-4G2, Wisma Tani
30 Persiaran Perdana, 62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +603 8870 4671
Fax: +603 8890 3794
E-mail: ghazalimanap@dof.gov.my;
ghazalimanap@gmail.com

Anis Mazidah bt. Abd. Samad (Mrs.)
Fishery Officer

Pejabat Perikanan Negeri Terengganu
21080 Chendering, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: +60 9 6163442
Fax: +60 9 6173351
E-mail: anis@dof.gov.my

Adilah Hani bt. Yusuf (Mrs.)
Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Information
Management Division

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Wisma Tani, Level 3, Block 4G2
No.30, Persiaran Perdana, Precinct 4,
Federal Government Administrative Centre 62628
Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +603 8870 4035; +60193802659
Fax: +603 8889 2498
E-mail: adila@dof.gov.my

Haryati bt. Abdul Wahab (Mrs.)

Fisheries Officer, Licensing and Resource Management Division

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 1, Tower Block 4G2, Wisma Tani, Precinct 4,
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +603 8870 4437
Fax: +603 8889 1233
E-mail: haryati@dof.gov.my

Ong See Ling (Mrs.)

Fisheries Officer, International Relations Section, International Trade and Investment Division

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 2, Tower Block 4G2, Wisma Tani, Precinct 4,
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +603 8870 4379
Fax: +603 8889 1195
E-mail: see_ling@dof.gov.my

Nur Fadhlina Chan bt. Mahadie Chan (Ms.)

Fisheries Officer, International Relations Section, International Trade and Investment Division

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 2, Tower Block 4G2, Wisma Tani, Precinct 4,
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +603 8870 4321
Fax: +603 8889 1195
E-mail: fadhlina@dof.gov.my

Zahir bin Zakaria

Fisheries Officer, Licensing and Resource Management Division

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 1, Tower Block 4G2, Wisma Tani, Precinct 4,
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +603-8870 4787
Fax: +603-8889 1233
E-mail: zahir@dof.gov.my

Halimah Mohamed (Ms.)

Research Officer

Fisheries Research Institute Pulau Pinang
Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Jalan Batu Maung,
11960 Batu Maung
Pulau Pinang, Malaysia
Tel: +604 6263925
E-mail: halimahm@dof.gov.my

Abdul Razak Bin Latun

Senior Fisheries Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: +609-6175 940
Fax: +609-6172 361
E-mail: abdulrazak@gmail.com

Mazalina bt. Ali (Ms.)

Fisheries Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: +609-6175 940
Fax: +609-6172 361

Mohammad Faisal bin Md. Saleh

Fisheries Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: +609-6175 940
Fax: +609-6172 361

Noorul Azliana binti Jamaludin (Ms.)
Fisheries Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: +609-6175 940
Fax: +609-6175136
E-mail: noorul@seafdec.org.my

Wahidah binti Mohd. Arshaad (Ms.)
Fisheries Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: +609-6175 940
Fax: +609-6175136

TECHNICAL SECRETARIES

Virgilia T. Sulit (Mrs.)
Fisheries Technical Officer

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
E-mail : sulit@seafdec.org

Sawitree Chamsai (Ms.)
Policy and Program Officer-I

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
E-mail : sawitree@seafdec.org

Suwanee Sayan (Ms.)
Policy and Program Officer-II

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
E-mail : suwanee@seafdec.org

Saivason Klinsukhon (Ms.)
Information Officer-I

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
E-mail : saivason@seafdec.org

Secretariat of the Meeting
Saowanee Wanothayarnchai (Mrs.)
Julasak Markawat
Aznan Hj Zainal

OPENING REMARKS

By Mr. Bounthong Saphakdy

Deputy Director-General and SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director for Lao PDR

My SEAFDEC Co-chair, *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*,
Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat,
SEAFDEC Senior Officials,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning!

On behalf of my Co-chair of the meeting, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Sixteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership or FCG/ASSP, in this beautiful island of Penang. On behalf of the ASWGFi, I would also want to thank SEAFDEC for the excellent arrangements of this Meeting.

We must acknowledge with much gratitude the continued support of SEAFDEC to the ASEAN Member States through the various progress and activities implemented under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism. We are all aware that support has been enhanced after the formal establishment of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership in November 2007. We also recognize the efforts of the SEAFDEC Program Committee which convened its meeting from Monday until yesterday, in undertaking the review and scrutiny of the programs implemented in 2013 as well as programs lined up for 2014 under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism.

However, there is one important aspect that this Meeting should pay much attention to. This is the organization of the ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition 2015: ASEAN Seafood for the World planned for early in 2015 and hosted by Thailand. We therefore expect to have discussion on this issue especially the relevant works that the ASEAN Member States would need to undertake in order to provide significant inputs for the Conference.

Ladies and gentlemen, quite a number of activities have been initiated to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration between ASEAN and SEAFDEC under the ASSP framework. These are mainly intended to complement achieving the various goals on sustainable fisheries in the ASEAN region through the development of policy recommendations on important issues of which will also be discussed in order to come up with tangible recommendations for submission to the higher authorities of the ASEAN, for their consideration and endorsement. Although the schedule ahead of us will be very hectic, I hope all of us will actively participate in the discussions for the success of the FCG/ASSP Meeting.

On behalf of my Co-chair of the Meeting, I now declare the Sixteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership open.

Thank you and good day!

AGENDA

Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda 2: Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda 3: Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the 45th Meetings of SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries

- 3.1 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the 45th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and 15th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership
- 3.2 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries

Agenda 4: ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2013-2014

- 4.1 Summary Report on the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2013-2014

Agenda 5: Progress of the Proposals Implemented under the ASSP

- 5.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework
 - Climate Change and Its Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation Towards Food Security
- 5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)
- 5.3 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)
- 5.4 ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition 2015: ASEAN Seafood for the World

Agenda 6: Policy Consideration on Important Issues

- 6.1 International Fisheries-related Issues
 - CITES-related Issues: Regional Approach on Improving Data Collection on Shark in Southeast Asian Region
 - International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries
- 6.2 Prioritized Issues and Way Forward for Development of Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries Management in Southeast Asian Region
- 6.3 Way Forwards on the Establishment of the Regional Fishing Vessel Records for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over
- 6.4 Progress on Development of the Regional Policy under the FCG/ASSP Regional Programs
 - Regional Guidelines to Prevent Landing, Export and Import of IUU Fish and Fishery Products in the ASEAN Region (MFRDMD/ongoing)
 - Regional Common Issues and Plan of Action for Supporting the Implementation Activities of the Port State Measures (TD/ongoing)
 - SOP for Conducting Research in Foraging Habitats of Sea Turtles (MFRDMD/ongoing)
 - Action Plan for Managing Foraging Habitats of Sea Turtles (MFRDMD/ongoing)
 - Regional Guidelines on the Traceability Systems for Aquaculture Products (MFRD/planning)
- 6.5 Other Matters
 - List of the Protected Aquatic Species in ASEAN Countries

Agenda 7: Adoption of Recommendations and Report of the Meeting

Agenda 8: Closing of the Meeting

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE 45TH MEETING OF SEAFDEC COUNCIL AND
THE 15TH MEETING OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP)**

Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the 45th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL					
1. Myanmar<> In light of the ASEAN Economic Community Building, which is expected to be achieved by 2015, he requested SEAFDEC to explore the ways and means of strengthening its activities, especially towards <i>developing traceability system for aquaculture products</i> as well as other activities that would enable the countries in the region to address trade requirements.	17	AQD	Technical/ Capacity building	The GOJ-funded project on food safety has completed a study, which focused on the surveillance of chemical contaminants in aquaculture products and feeds. The investigation on antibiotics/chemical usage and regulations in aquaculture is another study that is being conducted under the same project on food safety. The findings of this study and that of the completed work on surveillance of chemical contaminants could be used as baseline information for developing a traceability system for aquaculture products in the near future.	Ongoing
2. Vietnam<>requested SEAFDEC to aim for an optimum participation of all countries in its activities in the future. He also recommended that SEAFDEC should enhance close collaboration with other organizations, particularly donor agencies to <i>explore other sources of funding support and enhance the visibility of SEAFDEC</i> .	18	SEC	Management/ collaboration	Ongoing, recently SEAFDEC have increased its visibility in many ways and means through several activities in collaboration with other International and Regional Organizations such as RIHN, ICES, FAO, USAID. These collaboration also link to explore of other sources of funding in near future.	Completed
3. Indonesia recommended that in the future SEAFDEC could put more effort in the <i>development of measures on climate change adaptation</i> .	20	SEC	Management/ program	Recently, SEAFDEC departments namely AQD, TD and SEC have some projects relating to climate change adaptation supported by various donors. Secretariat may compile the results for further development of the measures on the issues in near future.	For future plans

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
4. Japan recommended that SEAFDEC should consider reflecting the consequences and <i>impacts of its activities especially in reporting the progress of its programs and activities.</i>	21	SEC/ All Departments	Management/ program	<p>Secretariat in cooperation with all Technical Departments considered the recommendations into plan to monitor not only the achievements of project activities through the reporting system but also monitoring on the impacts in medium and long term. In response to this Secretariat also propose to apply the Results Based Management (RBM) for developing the proposal after providing introduction/training to TD and MFRDMD within this year to early of 2014.</p> <p>Ongoing; progress of projects/programs will be evaluated during the forthcoming in-house review meeting that will be convened by AQD on 19-20 September at Tigbauan Main Station. The impacts or potential impacts of the various studies/activities will also be assessed.</p>	Ongoing activity
5. Cambodia <> expressed the concern on the difficulties encountered by <i>collecting information and statistics from small-scale fisheries in inland and marine areas</i> , and requested SEAFDEC to also extend assistance to his country on this aspect.	22	TD/SEC	Technical/Capacity building	Regarding information collection and statistics for small-scale fisheries in coastal/marine areas, TD/CFTD is now follow-up with ongoing initiatives of SEAFDEC such as Regional Fisheries Statistics (SEC), and Coastal Community and Co-management (TD/CSFD), and others in order to explore how the <i>fisheries database application</i> which can be developed by TD/CFTD can technically assist FiA of Cambodia in terms of compiling and simplifying the fisheries data collected through community with the aim to reduce the gap as mentioned by Cambodia.	The issues will be considered for long term plans under SEAFDEC program.
6. Cambodia <> informed the Meeting that Cambodia has recently established its Marine Aquaculture Research and Development Center and requested SEAFDEC/AQD to consider extending support in terms of enhancing the capacity of the country's technical officers in seed production for the <i>promotion of coastal and marine aquaculture.</i>	22	AQD	Technical/ Capacity building	One of the regular training courses that is being conducted by AQD is the international Training Course on Marine Fish Hatchery. In response to the request, AQD will give priority to Cambodia in extending technical assistance.	The issues will be considered for long term plans under SEAFDEC program.

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
7. Lao PDR <> while commending SEAFDEC for its activities, emphasized the importance of freshwater fisheries for the socio-economic development of Lao PDR. In this regard, he requested SEAFDEC to consider incorporating <i>freshwater fisheries development</i> in its future activities.	23	SEC/ New Department	Management/ program Technical/ Capacity building	Secretariat proposed to leave this issue for the New Department to consider incorporating freshwater fisheries development in its future activities.	The issues will be considered for long term plans under SEAFDEC program.
8. Malaysia <> reiterated his country's commitment to continue supporting SEAFDEC to implement activities that are relevant to the Southeast Asian region, and recommended that SEAFDEC could consider conducting training on: 1) resource-friendly fishing gear technology for trainers; 2) fish health management; 3) Port State Measures; and 4) observers scheme on-board fishing vessels.	25	TD, MFRDMD, AQD	Technical/ Capacity building	<p>TD is now in the progress of consulting with SEAFDEC NC for Malaysia through SEAFDEC-RFPN for Malaysia. The curriculum of training courses for the topics 1) resource friendly fishing gear technology for trainers and 2) observer program onboard fishing vessels was initially developed and sent to DOF Malaysia. With regard to the issue related to observer program onboard fishing vessels, it is well recognized that the expertise from Philippines and Indonesia are existed, which can also be shared with Malaysia and other country. TD will therefore facilitate the arrangement for such training program to assist Malaysia on the topics mentioned above. TD presently waits for finalizing the course curriculum in consultation with DOF Malaysia.</p> <p>Accelerating awareness about fish health management through capacity building programs is a continuing priority of the ongoing GOJ-funded project on fish health responsible by AQD. In response to the request for training, AQD sent initial communications to Malaysia's Department of Fisheries. In principal, AQD could prepare and conduct the training courses on fish health management for Malaysia on a cost- sharing basis.</p>	Ongoing
9. Malaysia <> also recommended that the activities on management and conservation of sea turtles should be continued, and that SEAFDEC should continue to seek funding support from	25	SEC/ MFRDMD	Management/ collaboration	Although the JTF5 project about sea turtles will end in 2014, MFRDMD will continue to collaborate on TEDs and other matters with Department of Fisheries Malaysia and IOSEA. Moreover, MFRDMD will continue to seek funding support from potential donors.	Completed

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
potential donors. He also encouraged SEAFDEC to <i>strengthen collaboration with</i> the private sector upon prior consultation with the SEAFDEC Council.					
III. RESULTS OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE					
10. Thailand <> recommended that SEAFDEC could consider expanding its activities to include labor issues and the use of alternative energy not only in small-scale fisheries but also in commercial-scale fisheries.	28	TD	Management/ program	TD will incorporate where appropriate the suggestion from Thailand to include commercial-scale fisheries into the plan of training program related to optimizing energy.	Completed
11. Indonesia <> recommended that SEAFDEC should avoid the implementation of overlapping activities by the SEAFDEC Departments.	29	SEC	Management/ program	In the past, all projects from SEAFDEC department and secretariat were categorized based on expertise of each respective Department. In order to avoid overlapping implementation, therefore Secretariat re-categorizes all projects using SEAFDEC Program Trust adopted by Council in 2009. Secretariat also applies the Result Base Management (RBM) Concept in developing the project plan under each SEAFDEC Program Trust. However, since it is new for some Departments, the capacity building to each Department is considered, Secretariat and TD have been trained by outside lecturers, now we are planning to introduce the RBM concept to MFRDMD. It is expected that by end of 2014, all Departments could develop the project proposal with clear objectives and outputs/outcomes without duplication of effort among each Department.	Ongoing
12. Japan <> expressed the concern on the lack of overall strategy for activities conducted by SEAFDEC since several projects appear to have inter-related activities which could instead complement with each other. He therefore recommended that <i>duplication of efforts should be minimized, while linkages among the SEAFDEC programs should also be clarified</i> , so that the programs could be implemented in a more coherent and strategic manner.					
13. Vietnam <> informed the Meeting that the Government of Vietnam approved the <i>establishment of the Fisheries Resources Surveillance Department</i> under the Fisheries	30	TD, MFRDMD, SEC	Technical/ Capacity building	Respective Departments such as TD, MFRDMD and Secretariat noted on the requests and considered in the 2014 project implementation. There are many projects under the FCG/ASSP program as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Resource Development for Sustainable Fisheries 	To be discussed at the 36 th PCM

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
<p>Administration and requested SEAFDEC to assist its <i>capacity building program</i>, especially on MCS. He also expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for conducting training of trainers on <i>resource survey</i> to enhance the capacity of its government staff on the various aspects of resources survey, and cited that the necessary budget has been secured for its strategic project on <i>statistics and data collection</i> based on the SEAFDEC Framework. He recommended that SEAFDEC could consider enhancing the <i>promotion of Port State Measures Agreement</i> as means of combating IUU fishing.</p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities • Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of EU Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products • Fisheries Resource Survey & Operational Plan for M.V.SEAFDEC 2 • Off shore Fisheries Resources Exploration in the Southeast Asia • Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region: Improving the data collection of the commercially-exploited aquatic species and threaten species • Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues <p>For the MCS, lesson learnt from some ASEAN countries namely Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines could be included in the training curriculum for Vietnam.</p>	
V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES					
<p>ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/ Coordinated Positions Addressed at the CITES-CoP16:</p> <p>14. Indonesia expressed the need to support Indonesia's capacity building for the establishment of the Indonesian Management Authority for aquatic flora and fauna.</p>	39	TD/ MFRDMD	Technical/ Capacity building (detailed clarification)	The issues were discussed at the Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status, held by TD in cooperation with MFRDMD on 23 to 25 October 2013, Bangkok, Thailand. In addition, MFRDMD is willing to assist Member Countries in capacity building for taxonomic identification and bar coding of shark and ray species.	To be discussed at the 36 th PCM
<p>15. Japan <> recommended that SEAFDEC should closely cooperate with FAO and relevant organizations in jointly addressing the CITES issues, and that FAO should consider</p>	40	SEC	Management/ Collaboration (FAO and CITES)	This is the ongoing activities under the Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues, that Secretariat will keep monitoring the status and updated information related to the CITES issues in order to analyze and share information to all SEAFDEC Member	Ongoing

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
not only in developing scientific advice but also raising practical and general problems associated with CITES listings of aquatic species, such as NDF, and inertial nature of CITES decision, <i>i.e.</i> once listed never delisted.				Countries. And important issues, secretariat will address during the RTC for policy consideration by all Member Countries.	
16. Vietnam <> recommended that ASEAN and SEAFDEC should consider developing a mechanism for the establishment of only one ASEAN Common Position for the CITES-CoPs, and sustaining the platform for enhanced cooperation in the development of one ASEAN voice that could be raised during international fora.	41	SEC	Management/ Collaboration (ASEAN/SEC)	This mechanism is already existed but depend upon ASEAN Member Countries to raise the issues that require common voice. Where appropriate, Secretariat will keep asking country on this matter.	Completed
17. Myanmar <> requested SEAFDEC to exert <i>continued support</i> on organizing the Regional Technical Consultation on the ASEAN Common/ Coordinated Positions in the future.	43	SEC	<On going activity>	The RTC is one of the activities under the Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues project supported by GoJ.	Completed
18. Malaysia <> informed the Meeting that in the wake of the recent development at the CITES-CoP16, in particular the <i>pledge of EU to provide funding for capacity building</i> in activities related to the listing of marine species in the CITES Appendices, SEAFDEC should seize the opportunity to utilize the said funding for the benefit of the region. He added that activities could be directed to <i>shark-related studies particularly on taxonomy, non-</i>	44	SEC, TD, MFRDMD	Management/ program, Technical/ Capacity building	Recently, SEAFDEC/secretariat is communicating to the CITES-representative(s) who responsible for the Capacity Building on improving shark data collection funded by EU. In order to seek support to the Southeast Asian region. TD invited a representative from CITES to attend the Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status, held by TD in cooperation with MFRDMD on 23 to 25 October 2013, Bangkok, Thailand, while seek support from CITES. The results of the meeting will be reported at 36 th PCM by TD.	Ongoing

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
<i>detriment findings (NDF) and in updating the information on marketing of shark products in the region.</i>					
<p>Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) A tool to combat the IUU fishing in Southeast Asian Region:</p> <p>19. Indonesia <> expressed the concern on the measurement used for the RFVR considering that fishing vessels of Indonesia are measured in terms of “Gross Tonnage” and not in “Length Overall in Meters”. Just like in Vietnam where capacity building was conducted by SEAFDEC Training Department to convert vessel measurement in “Horse Power” into “Meters”, he therefore requested that SEAFDEC/TD could consider extending technical support to Indonesia for the <i>conversion of vessel measurement in gross tonnage into meters.</i></p>	47	TD	Technical/ Capacity building	<p>The issues on conversion from Length to Gross Tonnage in order to standardize using the same unit for comparison within the ASEAN Country, Secretary-General order engineering staffs under the CFTD to further study and develop tools/guidebook of conversion. This would includes other unit from horse power to gross tonnage apply for Vietnam and Cambodia too.</p> <p>In addition, discussion and consultation on RFVR, PSM including conversion of vessel measurement is proposed back-to-back with on-site Training and Workshop on Offshore and High Sea Fisheries Management and Reducing IUU Activities in Mid-December 2013.</p>	Ongoing
20. Vietnam <> requested SEAFDEC to also consider in the future incorporating vessels less than 24 meters in length in the database and also to develop a structure on how the <i>database could contribute to the initiatives of the RPOA-IUU</i> in combating IUU fishing in the region.	48	TD	Management/ Collaboration (RPOA-IUU)	<p>The database on vessels less than 24 meters in length will be discussed in the consultation meeting on RFVR database on 24 meters and over development and management in 2014. However, TD presently compiles the willing from country on sharing of the required information to be put in the developed database for RFVR. There are various views from Country for sharing information whether to SEAFDEC only or shared to ASEAN MCs or to the public including RPOA-IUU. Regarding this SEAFDEC will conclude and report to the 16FCG/ASSP for their consideration.</p>	Ongoing

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
21. Vietnam <> also recommended that SEAFDEC should come up with a roadmap for the establishment of the RFVR, starting with fishing vessels 24 meters in Length and Over, and later on to include compilation of other relevant data, e.g. production, as well as vessels smaller than 24 meters.	49	TD		Some issues of the recommendation were discussed during national training course on offshore and high sea fisheries management in October 2013 and others related issues will further discuss in the consultation meeting on RFVR database on 24 meters and over development and management in next year.	Ongoing
22. Japan <> added that whatever unit of measurement used in the RFVR does not actually matter because what is important is for the fishing vessels to be legally recognized as means of combating IUU fishing, and showing legitimate nature of the catches under traceability and certification requirements. He stated that <i>RFVR over 24 meters should be considered as the first step for development of one element in the total framework</i> to ensure the sustainability of fisheries in the ASEAN countries.	51	TD	Management/ program,	Noted by relevant Department. Also see the above....Item 13	Completed
23. Japan <> therefore recommended that the title of the database could be modified into “ <i>Regional Authorized Fishing Vessel Record</i> ” to facilitate compliance by the agency responsible for fisheries in providing the necessary data.	51				
24. Myanmar <> requested SEAFDEC to provide technical assistance for Myanmar to be able to provide the necessary information into the <i>database</i> , especially with regards to	51	TD	Technical/ Capacity building	After endorsement of the proposed RFVR from the ASEAN Member States through the ASEAN Mechanism, SEAFDEC/TD plans to conduct the Consultation Visit for introduction of databases and provide capacity building to those relevant Countries. The results of this consultation visit will be report to	Ongoing

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
the minimum requirements.				the 36 PCM.	
25. In conclusion, while endorsing in principle the development of the RFVR and database on fishing vessels in Southeast Asia, the Council recommended that the proposal should be conveyed to the higher authorities of the ASEAN through the ASWGFi and subsequently to the SOM-AMAF and AMAF for consideration and policy support.	51	TD	Management/ program, <On going>	At the Special SOM-AMAF, the proposed RFVR is endorsed. TD now communicates with relevant Country on sharing of the information to be input in the database. However, there are many problems as stated in item 20 (para48). Because, different views on level of sharing data from country. TD is now solving the problems to be reported at the 36 th PCM.	Ongoing
Conceptual Note on Development of the “ASEAN Catch Certification: 26. Myanmar <> he expressed the support for the development of an ASEAN Catch Certification to enhance the cooperation among the ASEAN Member States in intra-regional and inter-national trade, and recommended that the scheme should be in line with the certification requirements of prospective importing countries, e.g. EU Countries. He also recommended that SEAFDEC could consider <i>inviting representatives and relevant officials from importing countries in its future relevant discussions as this would be a more effective means of developing the regional certification scheme.</i>	56	SEC/ MFRDMD, TD	Management/ program, Collaboration	MFRDMD in cooperation with Secretariat will revised the 1 st draft of the Guidelines based on the Expert Meeting held in KL from 7-9 October 2013 organized by MFRDMD. In this connection, the ASEAN Catch Documentations was also discussed during the Expert meeting in order to compile the views from expert. It is also agreed that Secretariat will work with MFRDMD on development of the Catch Documentation systems under the 2014 SEAFDEC program.	Ongoing
27. Cambodia <> encouraged the SEAFDEC Secretariat to discuss this proposal with relevant organizations that deals with catch certification in	57	SEC/ MFRDMD, TD	Management/ program, <for Consideration>	On this issue, Secretariat presented the concept note on Development of the ASEAN Catch Certification/ Documentations for endorsement by the 21 st ASWGFi, during the meeting unclear points raised by Member Countries have	Completed

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
order to <i>avoid duplication of efforts</i> .				been clarified especially the issue of duplication effort with the existing EC-catch certification system.	
28. Vietnam <> cited that this regional exercise needs <i>more discussion with experts from within and outside the region</i> , and recommended that this Concept Note may be considered as the first step in developing the ASEAN Catch Certification which should be acceptable by all parties.	57			Regarding this, all recommendation from the Councils will be put into consideration when developing such the system. MFRDMD starts their preparatory works for the October Consultation to develop the Catch Documentations in coordinating with Singapore, the ASEAN lead country under the FCG/ASSP mechanism. The results of the meeting will be updated at the 36 PCM.	
29. Japan <> raised the <i>concern on the credibility of the proposed regional certification as well as on the nature of the certificate which should be user-friendly</i> in order that the stakeholders including local fishers would be able to comply with. He therefore recommended that a balance between credibility with the world market and being a user-friendly certificate should be taken into account in the development of the ASEAN Catch Certificate.	58	SEC/ MFRDMD, TD	Management/ program, <for Consideration>		
30. Indonesia <> raised the concern on the several existing certificates which could lead to duplications. He then recommended that such <i>ASEAN Catch Certificate should be acceptable to importing countries both inside and outside the ASEAN</i> .	59				
31. Meanwhile, the Council Director for Malaysia expressed his support in principle, for the development of the ASEAN Catch Certification, and recommended that such initiative <i>should be brought to the ASWGFi to</i>	59				

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
<i>obtain high-level endorsement.</i>					
Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Tuna Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asian Waters					
32. While supporting the collaboration among the ASEAN Member Countries on tuna fisheries management which is beneficial for the region, the Council Director for Indonesia expressed the view that the ASEAN Member States should continue working closely with existing RFMOs, rather than establishing another new fisheries management framework for the region.	64	SEC	Management/ program, <for Consideration>	Response to this, SEAFDEC not intend to establish any new tuna management framework but to strengthening cooperation/capacity building. Regarding this Secretariat will continue monitoring and work closely with relevant RFMOs on regional policy/measures established by them. To analyze and find ways to support Member Countries.	Completed
33. Vietnam \diamond supported in principle the proposal made by the SEAFDEC Secretariat but emphasized on the need to conduct <i>common surveys of tuna fishery resources</i> in the region, which should be discussed whether such activities should be undertaken under the SEAFDEC framework.	65	SEC	Management/ program,	Secretariat communicated to Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines on the proposed Joint Collaborative Research Program on Tuna Resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi sub-regional Area under the cost sharing policy for MV SEAFDEC2 of which was sent for their consideration since June 2012, in this connection, JTF support budget at TD conduct the meeting to discuss the frame work for joint survey on tuna fisheries resources in the Sulu-Sulawesi sub-regional area in mid of August 2013 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with the support from DOF/Malaysia. At present, all relevant Member Countries has agreed on the final framework and the report of the meeting of “ <i>Joint Research Program on Tuna Resources in Sulu-Sulawesi Seas</i> ” through the coordination by TD/CFTD. From this, Secretariat could submit the results to relevant SEAFDEC Council Directors for their consideration by end of October 2013. For further activities under this framework, CFTD arrange budget for coordinating under the JTF program entitled: Offshore fisheries project.	Ongoing

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
34. Japan <> recommended that regional cooperation among the Member Countries should be undertaken in coordination with WCPFC or under the WCPFC management framework. Japan also emphasized the importance of tuna stock assessment, and <i>offered opportunities for scientists</i> from countries in the region <i>to be involved in the joint research works of Japan</i> to enhance their capacity and expertise on this matter.	66	Member Country/ SEC	Technical/ Capacity building <Directly from Japan to MCs>	Member Countries noted on this offer.	Completed
35. Thailand <> identified some activities that should be undertaken, <i>e.g.</i> tuna stock assessment, traceability and catch certification, and recommended that these should be packaged in a form of <i>“Plan of Action” to demonstrate the strong commitment of the countries in the region</i> and come up with tangible results.	67	SEC, Relevant MCs	Policy Development <in consultation with MCs>	The Consultative Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries in SEA was conducted from 8-10 October 2013 in Songkhla, Thailand. Attended by MCs, FAO, ASEAN Tuna WG, RPOA-IUU SEC, TD, MFRDMD, SEC, the prioritized issues for drafting RPOA were identified. In addition, way forward to support the regional program on sustainable neritic tuna will be developed under the SEAFDEC-Sida Project. For the POA, Secretariat will draft based on the outputs from the meeting and consult with all Member Countries to finalize in the next step of 2014.	Ongoing
36. Philippines <> informed the Meeting that Philippines is developing its National Plan of Action for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing that covers management measures such as catch certification and MCS. He also requested SEAFDEC to conduct capacity building activities, particularly species identification of juvenile tunas especially yellowfin and bigeye tunas including improving fish handling techniques onboard tuna	68	SEC/ TD, MFRDMD	Technical/ Capacity building <should be under the PoA>	TD/CFTD has communicated with BFAR obtaining the nomination of the coordinator for organizing the regional training course on tuna handling, to be organized in General Santos tentatively during 11 to 13 December 2013. In addition, the joint framework for oceanic tuna in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas covered the requests from the Philippines. Where CFTD/TD will be a responsibility to support the sub-regional initiatives for oceanic tuna of which most of activities will be carried out in 2014.	Ongoing

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
handline vessels. He also supported the planned joint research programs on tuna stock assessment to be implemented in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.					
37. Brunei Darussalam <> recommended that SEAFDEC should also <i>avoid duplicating the efforts</i> of other tuna management working groups at national level such as in Indonesia and the Philippines.	69	SEC	Management/ program, <for consideration>	Noted, there is no duplication as well, because SEAFDEC will support and enhance the capacity to country.	Completed
38. Singapore <> while commending the initiatives of SEAFDEC as these are relevant for the region, viewed that this project has very close linkage with the development of the ASEAN Catch Certification. He therefore recommended that the <i>concept proposal on the catch certification with more detailed activities should be developed further to first focus on tuna and to surface to the ASWGF and higher authorities of ASEAN for consideration and policy support.</i>	70	SEC	Management/ program,	Secretariat revised the proposed concept note for consideration and endorsement by the 21 st ASWGF.	Completed the development will be done in collaboration with MCs through the RTC.
39. The Council also recommended that the SEAFDEC Secretariat should <i>develop a draft plan of action</i> under the regional collaboration, including enhancing traceability, development of tuna catch certification scheme, conduct of joint stock assessment, and combating IUU fishing in tuna fisheries.	70	SEC	Policy Development <in consultation with MCs>	Link to para 67.	Ongoing

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
<p>Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade in the Southeast Asian Region and CTI-CFF Member Countries</p> <p>40. The Council endorsed the Resolution and authorized SEAFDEC to be the <i>Interim Secretariat for LRFFT Regional Forum</i>, and for SEAFDEC to <i>enter into collaborative arrangement with the CTI-CFF in order to finalize such cooperation.</i></p>	75	SEC	Management/ program, <further communicate with CTI-CFF>	<p>This issue was raised during the 45th Council Meeting, and the Councils endorsed the proposed proposal, and the finalization of collaborative between SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF would be undertaken once the CTI-CFF Secretariat is officiated.</p> <p>To follow-up with the issue on LRFFT, SEAFDEC SEC and CTI-CFF scheduled a mission to Hong Kong to discuss with the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) on possible arrangement of dialogue between supply and demand sides of LRFFT. AFCD in principle support the dialogue, particularly in sharing of relevant data and information; and will coordinate on the conduct of study tour on the subject in Hong Kong.</p>	Ongoing
VII. OTHERS MATTERS					
<p>Progress of the Establishment of a Regional Center for Inland Fisheries Development in Indonesia</p> <p>41. Cambodia <> recommended that the activities of the new Department should be conducted in close cooperation with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) Fisheries Programme as well as with national agencies/institutions on inland fisheries in the respective Member Countries in order to <i>avoid duplication of efforts.</i></p>	79	SEC, <new Dept.>	Management/ program, <for consideration>	Noted: This will be discussed again when the IFRDMD was established.	Ongoing
<p>42. Lao PDR and Myanmar <> also expressed their support on the establishment of the new Department,</p>	80			Noted: This will be discussed again when the IFRDMD was established.	Ongoing

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
and recommended that duplication of the activities to be implemented under this new Department and other organizations and institutions, should be avoided.					
43. Vietnam <> requested that efforts should be taken by SEAFDEC and the new Department to explore <i>funding from other potential donors in order to ensure sufficient resources</i> to support the activities of the new Department.	84	SEC, <new Dept.>	Management/ Fund raising, collaboration	Secretariat took note on this matter.	Complete
VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC					
44. The Council raised the concern on the seemingly fragmented projects and activities implemented by SEAFDEC, and recommended that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such projects and activities <i>should be grouped into umbrella programs based on the approved SEAFDEC Program Thrusts</i> in order that meaningful and concrete impacts could be achieved and reflected for each Program Thrust, and ensure that the impacts led to the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. The projects and activities under each Program Thrust <i>should be prioritized</i> taking into consideration the available resources in SEAFDEC. SEAFDEC should continue to exert efforts to raise the visibility of 	98	SEC and All Departments	Management/ program	<p>Secretariat responded to the recommendation by the council, the implementation are linked to the item no. 11 and 12 (para 29).</p> <p>AQD has continued to implement R&D programs which are based on SEAFDEC program thrusts and priorities of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. To ensure that AQD's implemented and planned activities address the Program goals/objectives and consistently match the priorities and requirements of SEAFDEC and Member Countries, AQD's current programs/projects were monitored (in terms of the progress) during the in-house Review and Planning Meeting held on 19-20 September at AQD's Tigbauan Main Station.</p> <p>Secretariat also considers the request from MFRDMD for internal training on the RBM to their staffs to be applied for SEAFDEC program in near future. With support from SEAFDEC/Sida, secretariat will communicate to MFRDMD on the training arrangements in January 2014. (Link to item No.11 and 12 (para 29)).</p>	Ongoing

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
SEAFDEC as well as <i>ensure that the programs of SEAFDEC serve the priorities and requirements of the ASEAN countries</i> specifically ensuring the sustainability of fisheries in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAFDEC should consider <i>enhancing the capacity of its existing staff</i> to enable them to catch up with the advances in fisheries management and the international collective efforts being undertaken for sustainable fisheries. 					
IX. THE THIRD SEAFDEC REVIEW					
45. The Council also requested SEAFDEC to organize a Special Meeting of SEAFDEC Council by October 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, to discuss the recommendations of the 3 rd SEAFDEC Review. The Council also recommended that SEAFDEC should <i>provide information on financial implications</i> of the Review Committee's recommendations as well as their implications on the possibility of amending the Agreements Establishing SEAFDEC and cost benefit analysis of the organization for further consideration and discussion during the said meeting.	100	SEC All Departments	Management/ Organization	SEAFDEC organized the Special Council meeting in Bangkok on 3-4 October 2013 to discuss the recommendations of the 3 rd SEAFDEC Review, information on financial implications of the Review Committee's recommendations, financial situation and other issues related to the Agreements Establishing SEAFDEC. Regarding this SEAFDEC received the questionnaires for clarification on financial situation and the program consequences The results of the Special Council meeting will be discussed internally for improvement and further action by all SEAFDEC department and secretariat. In this connection, Secretariat plans to improve the data record of all projects implementing by Department including type of activities, budgetary use, type of donor, Outputs/Outcomes and impact for long term monitoring.	Completed
46. The Council Director for <i>Japan</i> notified the Council of his <i>intention to send questions and requests for</i>	101				

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
<i>information to the SEAFDEC Secretariat for seeking clarification of the financial situation and the program consequences</i> so that the review will be conducted efficiently and constructively. The exchange of information in this regard will be circulated among all the Council Directors for review.					
X. MANAGEMENT OF CENTER					
Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)					
47. Indonesia <> recommended that SEAFDEC could consider providing assistance to justify the <i>calculation for increased MRC which was based on the GDP from fisheries</i> so that the significance of fisheries sector would have more weight during the internal negotiations. If the new MRC would be applied in 2014 for Indonesia, he further requested that the establishment of new department in Indonesia should be duly considered.	105	SEC	Management/ Organization, <for future Consideration>	Secretariat sent the required documents through NC for Indonesia.	Completed
48. Singapore <> reiterated the directives given by the Council during its annual meeting in 2010 that the adjustment of the MRC should be based on the principle and formula as previously agreed in 2007. Observation was further made that the table on calculation of new proposed MRC had an additional column on special adjustment factor, which was absent	107	SEC	Management/ Organization, <include the issue in the Financial Regulations>	Noted:	Completed

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
<p>in the 2007 formula. In this regard, it was clarified that the special adjustment factor is necessary to come up with the new figures of MRC for all countries under the new MRC. The Council noted that the column on special adjustment factor would be retained in the calculation table for future adjustment of the MRC. The Council Director for Singapore added that this was an issue of good corporate governance. He reminded the SEAFDEC Secretariat to seek the Council's endorsement for any changes to the MRC formula and to also include it in the Financial Regulations of SEAFDEC.</p>					
<p>Proposed Revision of Plans of Operation (Functions) and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC Departments</p> <p>49. The Council however recommended that discussion on this matter should be postponed, and requested the Secretariat and Departments to take into consideration the recommendations from the Third SEAFDEC Review in order to come up with revised functions and programs of work for discussion in the future.</p> <p>50. However, the Council deemed it necessary to postpone the discussions on this matter due to pending final</p>	<p>108</p> <p>109</p>	<p>SEC</p>	<p>Management/ Organization, < Link to Results of the 3rd Review</p>	<p>Refers to para 21 of the SCM Report suggested that now under the process of reviewing the priority areas of their respective countries. Regarding this, once the prioritized issues were available, it should be taken into consideration in finalizing the Plans of Operation and Programs of Work of SEAFDEC for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council at its next Meeting in 2014.</p> <p>In response to this, Secretariat send the list of the issues that have been raised during the 3rd SEAFDEC Review Committee visited to all ASEAN Member Countries. With the aim to clarify the priority of regional important issues to be considered by SEAFDEC. The inputs from Member country by 17 November</p>	<p>Completed</p>

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
consideration of the Council on the recommendations of the Third SEAFDEC Review. Therefore, this aspect <i>would be made part of the agenda for the Special Council Meeting in October 2013.</i>				are examined and discussed at the 36 th PCM.	
<p>Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels</p> <p>51. With regards to data sharing, the Council agreed that some basic data collected onboard during the survey should be shared with SEAFDEC/TD. The data to be shared should be finalized at the planning meeting of the cruise survey between the requesting country and SEAFDEC. Such basic data will be kept confidential and be used only for the SEAFDEC regional database and for future regional analysis.</p>	114	TD	Management/ Research Vessels, <Adoption of the Revised Cost Sharing policy>	The revised “Cost Shared Policy for MV SEAFDEC 2 was endorsed by the Council, this message is circulated to TD’s responsible Division for reference.	Completed
<p>Guidelines for the Establishment of Collaborating Centers for SEAFDEC</p> <p>52. Indonesia <> reminded that Indonesia had expressed concern on Paragraph 13 of the first draft in 2007 developed by Singapore as well as the obligations and rights of the collaborating centers. He then re-emphasized that such concern should be properly addressed in the revised draft.</p> <p>53. Singapore was not comfortable with the new set of guidelines tabled by the</p>	118	SEC <Singapore>	Management/ Organization, <for consideration> Management/	Results from the SCM held in Bangkok from 3-4 October 2013 recommended that the Guidelines for Collaborating Center as circulated by Singapore need to be discussed again in the future.	Completed

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Types of Recommendations	Response from Technical Department (as of October 2013)	Status
<p>Secretariat at the Council Meeting which included amendments not recommended by Member Countries at the PCM. These included reducing the collaborating centre to an observer role and for the collaborating centre to report to SEAFDEC through a SEAFDEC Department.</p> <p>54. The Council agreed that the Post-Harvest Centre of Singapore, as a Collaborating Center for SEAFDEC, could continue to operate under the umbrella of the draft Guidelines prepared by Singapore in 2007. The Council agreed to Singapore's proposal <i>to amend paragraph 13 taking into consideration the comments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Japan comments, and circulate the amended Guidelines to the Council for approval by ad referendum.</i></p>			<p>Organization, <Coordinate with Singapore and further action></p>		
XII. CONCLUDING MATTERS					
<p>Date and Venue of the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council</p> <p>55. The Council expressed its appreciation of the offer of Singapore to host the next Council Meeting in Singapore, and requested the Secretary-General to <i>discuss with the Council Director for the Singapore to finalize the exact date and venue of the next meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.</i></p>	128	SEC	<p>Management/ Program <Consulting with Singapore></p>	Singapore already proposed the date for next Council Meeting on 1-4 April 2014.	Completed

Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the 15th Meeting of FCG/ASSP

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Responses from the Concerned Departments (as of October 2013)	Status
VI. ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG/ASSP) COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2012-2013				
The representative from Thailand requested AQD to share the results of fishmeal substitutes for feed formulation at reduced cost, which is useful for aquaculture development in the region to the Member Countries so that these could be applied in their aquaculture activities.	18	SEC/ AQD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The studies on the use of fishmeal substitutes for feed formulation are still ongoing. AQD will certainly disseminate the relevant findings of these studies to Member Countries (MCs) through training and information dissemination. • Experiments to find different sources of fish meal substitutes and develop effective feed management schemes that incorporate sound management are still ongoing by AQD. Among the alternative protein sources being tested are the soybean meal, soy protein concentrate, cowpea and mungbean. Studies are also in-progress to improve the nutritional value of locally available feed resources for practical aquafeeds by fermentation using milkfish gut bacteria and/or selected fungi. • AQD will disseminate the findings of these studies to Member Countries (MCs) through training, publications and presentations at relevant fora. • Secretariat and AQD in cooperation with the DOF/Myanmar plan to organize the Symposium on Research and Development of Alternative Feed for Aquaculture seeking fund support from the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity. This is one of the activities to support Myanmar as a lead country of ASEAN-Cluster: Alternative Feed for Aquaculture. It is planned for 2014 activity. 	Ongoing
The request raised by Thailand for SEAFDEC to provide support to the countries in the implementation of the ASEAN Shrimp GAP.	27	AQD	AQD will cooperate with relevant MCs on this matter in the future. Moreover, activities under AQD's program on 'Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture' and GOJ-TF project on 'Food Safety' are expected to complement the initiatives under the ASEAN Shrimp GAP.	Ongoing
VI. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES				
On Results of the RTC on International Fisheries-related Issues				
The high-level Regional Consultation (RC) to be conducted by SEAFDEC in January 2013. He therefore requested high level officers, such as the Council Directors for the ASEAN-	32	SEC	SEAFDEC with the support from Japanese Trust Fund through the FCG/ASSP Project on "Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues" proposes to organize the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Consultation (RC) on 22 January 2013 to revisit	Completed

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Responses from the Concerned Departments (as of October 2013)	Status
SEAFDEC Member Countries to attend the planned RC.			on the common/coordinated position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC. There are 9 countries that the Council and Alternate Council Directors joined the RC. The ASEAN Common Positions from the RC was addressed at the CITES CoP-16 in March 2013.	
With regard to the Regional fishing vessels record, the representative from Vietnam requested SEAFDEC to provide the technical assistance in converting the unit used by the country to meters. In this regard, SEAFDEC will consider how best it can provide assistance to Vietnam in this aspect.	39	TD	TD conducted the survey and consultation visit to Vietnam during this week (18-22 March 2013). The technical requests from Vietnam also taken into consideration to support and create work plan together with Vietnam' institutions on this aspects.	Completed
On Proposed Regional List of Protected Aquatic Species in Southeast Asia by the Philippines				
The Meeting requested that the distribution should be confined within the relevant agencies of the Member Countries even if the information may no longer be confidential as such information could be accessible by the public	57	SEC	Secretariat have received the official inputs on list of protected Aquatic species from Vietnam, regarding Secretariat has worked based on the comments and developed the tentative Website for consideration during the 16FCG/ASSP. The URL of this website is: http://www.seafdec.org/protected-aquatic-species/	Completed
The representative from Cambodia requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to develop a database on protected species of the region indicating if the species are protected by national laws, CITES Appendices or IUCN red list, and that good quality pictures should be used to facilitate identification of such species.	58	SEC		
The Meeting requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate the new draft regional list to all ASEAN Member States for updating and confirmation.	59	SEC		
Expected outputs from ASEAN-SEAFDEC regional programs to be addressed for policy consideration by ASEAN				

Issues	Para.	Responsible Department	Responses from the Concerned Departments (as of October 2013)	Status
The representative from Malaysia suggested that SEAFDEC should compile the list of expected results from programs and initiatives under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP Mechanism that could be raised to the ASWGFi once available, for seeking policy support from ASEAN.	60	All departments	<p>Secretariat coordinated with all SEAFDEC Departments on the progress or expected results from program initiating by respective Department. The list of the expected Outputs to be Addressed at 16FCG/ASSP for Policy Consideration and Way Forward are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Guidelines to Prevent Landing, Export and Import of IUU Fish and Fishery Products in the ASEAN Region (MFRDMD/Ongoing); • Regional Common Issues and Plan of Action for Supporting the Implementation of the Port State Measures (TD/Ongoing); • SOP for Conducting Research in Foraging Habitats of Sea Turtles (MFRDMD/Ongoing); • Action Plan for Managing Foraging Habitats of Sea Turtles (MFRDMD/Ongoing); and • Regional Guidelines on the Traceability Systems for Aquaculture (MFRD/planning) 	Ongoing

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT
THE ASEAN BODIES RELATED TO FISHERIES**



Agenda 3.2 - Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries
By
ASEAN Secretariat

16th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG)
of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)
28-29 November 2013
Penang, Malaysia

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Introduction

- ◆ Presentation covers the period of November 2012 to November 2013
- ◆ Meetings of ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries
 - * 21st ASWGF Meeting, 24-26 July 2013, Vientiane
 - * Special SOM-34th AMAF, 13-14 August 2013, Pakse
 - * Prep SOM-35th AMAF (23-24 September 2013), SOM-13th AMAF Plus 3 (25 September 2012) and 35th AMAF Meeting (26th September 2012), Vientiane

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Policy Highlights

- ◆ Fisheries and ASEAN Community Building
 - * Noting the need to ensure that the Blueprints' measures are implemented according to the strategic timeline, SOM-AMAF provided guidance to identify strategies to fill gaps and develop supporting initiatives; prioritise key measures and develop a list of yearly targeted achievements of the implementation of the Community Blueprints as well as ensure their implementation and readjusting SOM-AMAF agenda to give focus on relevant measures of the AEC and ASCC Blueprints.

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Policy Highlights

- ◆ Fisheries and ASEAN Community Building
 - * SOM-AMAF noted the progress in the implementation of the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community: Progress of Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sectors and the ASEAN Leaders' mandate to redouble efforts and prioritize key measures to ensure the timely realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015.

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Policy Highlights

- ◆ Fisheries and ASEAN Community Building
 - * SOM-AMAF tasked the relevant working groups to look into the prioritisation of key measures and revert with their respective recommendations at the earliest opportunity. Once the prioritised measures have been identified, the SOM-AMAF agreed to look into how the processes and modus operandi AMAF's subsidiary bodies could be streamlined to maximise synergies in implementing these measures. Such streamlining will be guided by a rational and flexible approach towards ensuring the achievement of AEC by 2015 in a more focused, high-impact, and realistic manner.
 - * SOM-AMAF agreed to work towards realising the ASEAN Economic Community by 31 December 2015.

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Policy Highlights

- ❖ ASEAN Policy and Cooperation in Fisheries
 - ❖ ASWGF
 - * Natural disasters in the region have significantly affected the fisheries sector - a multi-sectoral approach to food security is needed, as fisheries contributed to food security and nutrition of the people in the region.
 - * AMS should be consulted in the development of the project proposal to be funded by partners to support the fisheries sector under ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security (AFCC) and ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework.

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Policy Highlights

❖ ASEAN Policy and Cooperation in Fisheries

❖ ASWGFI

* Adopted:

- ▲ The Prioritised Activities for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries for the period of 2013-2015 under the SPA (2011-2015), as the complementary document of the SPA.

* Noted:

- ▲ Progress of the Technical Assistance (TA) for the Capacity Building of the Coastal Fisheries to support the implementation project funded under the MoU of ASEAN-IDB on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience.

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Policy Highlights

❖ ASEAN Policy and Cooperation in Fisheries

❖ ASWGFI

* Agreed to submit to SOM-AMAF:

- ▲ Draft Harmonisation of Guidelines for the Use of Chemicals in Aquaculture and Measures to Eliminate the Use of Harmful Chemicals.
- ▲ Concept Proposal on ASEAN Fisheries Conference and Seafood Exposition, with Thailand as the lead country of this initiative

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Policy Highlights

❖ ASEAN Policy and Cooperation in Fisheries

❖ ASWGFI

* Agreed on:

- AMS and ASEC to provide guidance for SEAFDEC to support AMS in implementing the CITES measures which are related to CEAS as well as suggestion for future development of the common/coordinated positions of ASEAN for strengthening the regional position of ASEAN in international fora.
- New Initiatives (Proposed New Projects for the Year 2013): The Lead country and AMS to coordinate with SEAFDEC on the implementation of the 6 new projects.
- Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR): A tool to combat the IUU fishing in Southeast Asian Region & Concept Note on Development of "ASEAN Catch Certification".

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Policy Highlights

❖ SOM-AMAF

- * Noted progress in the implementation of Policy Framework Related to ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry

- ▲ ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry Towards Food Security (AFCC)

* Noted on progress in Fisheries:

- ▲ ASEAN Fisheries Network Projects
- ▲ The Plan of Action of ASEAN Network of Aquatic Animal Health Centers (ANAAHC) developed for the period of 2013-2015
- ▲ The on-going development of the Template for the Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on the Equivalence of Fisheries Products Inspection and Control Systems

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Policy Highlights

❖ SOM-AMAF

- ▲ Joint ASEAN Position and Approach on Regional and International Fisheries Issues supported by SEAFDEC
- ▲ The planned to conduct an expert group meeting to discuss alignment of the National Shrimp GAP with ASEAN Shrimp GAP
- ▲ The task to AFCF to review its role and function under the AFCF Framework for consideration by ASWGFI
- ▲ Supported the establishment of the "ASEAN Catch Documentation System", which could facilitate not only intra-regional trade in fish and fisheries products but also enhance the cooperation among the ASEAN Member States in the realisation of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015.

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Policy Highlights

❖ SOM-AMAF

- * The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Programme that covered the on-going projects and new-project initiatives.
- * Implementation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) scheme plays a key role in combating IUU fishing. In this regard, SEAFDEC through the technical/expert consultations with ASEAN Member States agreed in principle to establish a Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) as a tool to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.

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Policy Highlights

❖ AMAF

- * ASEAN Guidelines for the Use of Chemicals in Aquaculture and Measures to Eliminate the Use of Harmful Chemicals, and
- * The proposal and conduct of the ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition 2015: ASEAN Seafood for the World.

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Progress of Cooperation Activities

❖ Collaborative Projects

◆ Noted on:

- * Results of the RTC on International Fisheries Related Issues
- * ASEAN-Tuna Working Group on Promotion of ASEAN Tuna Eco-label
- * Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Management of Tuna Resources
- * The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions on Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) addressed at the 16th Conference of Parties to CITES (CITES-CoP16), and took note the report on the result of the CoP16.

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New Initiatives Under the FCG/ASSP

- ◆ The six new projects proposed to be implemented under the FCG/ASSP mechanism starting in 2013
 - * Offshore Fishery Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia
 - * Optimizing Energy Use and Improving Safety in Fishing Activities
 - * Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region
 - * Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products
 - * Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region
 - * Research and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Waters



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ASEAN Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

- ◆ **ASEAN-Australia**
- ◆ Project on ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practice (GAqP)
 - * Inception Meeting has already held on 2-3 September 2013 in Manila, Philippines, which generated:
 - ▲ Project management and implementation arrangements
 - ▲ Conclusion and recommendations for the development of GAqP.



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ASEAN Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

- ◆ **ASEAN Plus Three**
- * Under the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Strategy (APTCS) Framework, the Meeting noted that Japan would continue the seven cooperation projects in areas such as conservation of mangrove, aquaculture, resource conservation, and capacity building in 2014. Japan is ready to implement a new cooperation project in partnership with ASEAN agricultural universities in order to foster human resources in the field of food industry. The Meeting noted that as a kick-off event of the project Japan would host a symposium with participation of ASEAN countries in Jakarta, Indonesia, in January 2014.



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ASEAN Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

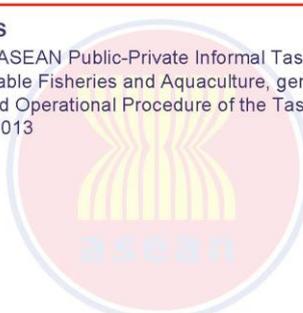
- ◆ **ASEAN-Islamic Development Bank (IDB)**
- * Formalisation of the TA Agreement, ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC to start working with the 3 countries on the preparation for the implementation of the project.



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ASEAN Cooperation with Dialogue Partners

- ◆ **ASEAN-US**
- * The 1st ASEAN Public-Private Informal Taskforce on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, generated the TOR and Operational Procedure of the Taskforce, 27-28 March 2013



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SUMMARY REPORT ON THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG/ASSP) COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The program of activities under the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) mechanism for the year 2013-2014 was reviewed by the Thirty-sixth Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) held in Penang, Malaysia from 25 to 27 November 2013. The results of the program scrutiny and agreed recommendations are summarized and submitted to the 16th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) (16th FCG/ASSP) for consideration and endorsement.

II. SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP MECHANISM FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014 AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT THE 36TH MEETING OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

2. The programs under the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) mechanism, progress and achievements made in the year 2013 and proposed activities for 2014 as well as new programs proposed for 2014, appear in *Appendix 1*. The twenty one projects had been categorized into Program Thrusts, namely: 1) Developing and promoting responsible fisheries for poverty alleviation and food security; 2) Enhancing capacity and competitiveness to facilitate international and intra-regional trade; 3) Improving management concepts and approaches for sustainable fisheries; 4) Providing policy and advisory services for planning and executing management of fisheries; and 5) Addressing international fisheries-related issues from a regional perspective, and one 'Special Project'. In addition, two new special projects are also proposed for 2014. The Program Committee approved the programs, and provided recommendations which could be summarized as follows:

2.1 Program Thrust I: Developing and Promoting Responsible Fisheries for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security

3. With regards to the project on **Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitat/Fishing Grounds for Resources Enhancement**, the Program Committee suggested that:

- Activities which are relevant to the region but would not be implemented in 2014 could be integrated with the project on “**Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**” supported by GEF;
- Several activities supported by various donors having goals similar to this project could be combined together;
- SEAFDEC could consider Malaysia as a pilot site for this project particularly on installation of large artificial reefs and assessment of the suitability of different sediments for artificial reef installation; and
- Experts on artificial reefs and resource enhancement available within the region could be invited for the capacity building activities under this project.

4. For the project on **Human Resources Development (HRD) Programs on Fisheries Management Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries**, the Program Committee suggested that:

- Optimum capacity of fishing vessels could be included in the development of future course curriculum on offshore and high sea fisheries so that sustainable utilization of resources could be assessed;
- SEAFDEC to consider integrating some activities with the national programs of respective countries where resources may already be available, as well as with other SEAFDEC projects funded from other sources that also address IUU fishing;
- SEAFDEC/TD to share the curriculum for the Training on Offshore and High Sea Fisheries Management to interested agencies and extend the training to other countries in the region;



- SEAFDEC to make use of the training module on “Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)” developed by NOAA in collaboration with BOBLME in organizing training course under cost-sharing arrangements; and
- SEAFDEC to consider conducting capacity building on small-scale fisheries in Myanmar.

5. Regarding the project on **Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities**, the Program Committee suggested that:

- Japanese Trust Fund to consider providing additional budget for the conduct of project activities in other countries;
- UNFCCC recommendations on reduction of energy use that has been studied by several countries could be incorporated in this project;
- Developed countries should be tapped to provide advanced technologies on fishing gear systems that aim to reduce fuel consumption;
- Member Countries to participate in the resumed session of the FAO Technical Consultation on *International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries* to be organized in February 2014, and Japan to consider supporting the participation of the Member Countries’ experts in the said FAO session;
- SEAFDEC to send the necessary information on online consultation on this issue to Member Countries to seek their views that would be reflected at the FAO session;
- To consider including the impact of climate change on small-scale fisheries in the project activities; and
- FAO to possibly provide support to enhance this project in order to prove that small-scale fishing vessels in the region creates low carbon emission.

6. For the project on **Resource Enhancement of International Threatened and Over-exploited Species in Southeast Asia through Stock Release**, the representative from NOAA expressed the willingness to be involved in project activities on adaptive measures for coral reef replenishment based on its experience on ocean acidification.

7. As regards the project on **Promotion of Sustainable and Region-oriented Aquaculture**, the Program Committee noted the willingness of Malaysia to collaborate with AQD on sea cucumber research in the future.

2.2 ProgramThrust II: Enhancing Capacity and Competitiveness to Facilitate International and Intra- Trade

8. For the project on **Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia “Biotoxin Monitoring in ASEAN”: ASP, AZA and BTX**, the Program Committee noted that it is beyond the capacity of MFRD or this project to seek for appropriate proficiency testing providers and transfer of knowledge and technology on preparation of reference materials as requested by Thailand.

9. Regarding the project on **Traceability Systems for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region**, the Program Committee took note of the offer of Malaysia to host the End-of-Project Seminar in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

10. While noting that project on **Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products** will be completed in 2013, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General sought the continued support of Singapore on the development of value-added products.

11. For the project on **Accelerating Awareness and Capacity-building in Fish Health Management in Southeast Asia**, Malaysia confirmed the country’s interest for AQD to conduct surveillance and training on fish-borne zoonotic parasites, and would respond to AQD’s inquiries in due course.

12. As for the project on **Food Safety of Aquaculture Products in Southeast Asia**, the Program Committee suggested that:

- AQD could continue coordinating with Malaysia to ensure that the Guidelines on the Use of Antibiotics and Chemicals in Aquaculture developed by AQD and those by Malaysia under the ASEAN framework are harmonized; and
- AQD to compile research advances on the Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in white shrimp.

13. In addition, the Program Committee noted that Vietnam which has undertaken research on EMS in white shrimp is willing to share the research results with SEAFDEC and the other Member Countries; and Japan also expressed willingness to support AQD in its research on EMS in white shrimp.

2.3 Program Thrust III: Improving Management Concepts and Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries

14. For the project on **Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch Management (REBYC-II CTI)**, the Program Committee suggested that:

- The engagement and support of private sectors should be encouraged in the implementation of the project as appropriate; and
- SEAFDEC to consider facilitating the organization of a forum among relevant agencies and ensure that the project result emphasize on sustainable supply of raw material on the fishmeal industry.

15. In this connection, the Program Committee noted the willingness of NOAA to be involved in this project especially on the training workshop on ecosystem approach to fisheries making use of training module it had developed to enhance the capacity of the countries in the Southeast Asian region.

16. For the project on **Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities**, the Program Committee suggested that:

- Increased budget should be allocated to this project and SEAFDEC/TD to collaborate with the other SEAFDEC Departments conducting activities similar to those of this project; and
- Member Countries to consider developing their respective measures to combat IUU fishing and involve relevant agencies such as port authorities, marine departments, customs, among others, in the implementation of the necessary measures.

17. The Program Committee also noted the request of Vietnam to support capacity building activities on port inspection as part of its process in developing guidance circular on port management; the offer made by Thailand to share the results of its pilot project on Port State Measures in Phuket, Thailand with other Member Countries through relevant training courses of SEAFDEC; and the request of Myanmar to participate in activities on the development and implementation of IUU fishing countermeasures.

18. For the project on **Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products**, the Program Committee took note of the suggestion made by Japan for this project to have a clear focus in the development of such documentation system considering that several RFMOs have already developed measures for commercial tuna fisheries, and the suggestion of Cambodia for the need to coordinate between this project and other SEAFDEC projects as well as initiatives of other organizations such as the RPOA-IUU.

2.4 Program Thrust IV: Providing Policy and Advisory Services for Planning and Executing Management of Fisheries

19. With regards to the project on the **Fisheries Resource Survey & Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2**, the Program Committee noted that:

- Vietnam will confirm its plan and schedule for resource survey using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in Vietnam waters in 2014 by January 2014;
- Brunei Darussalam also plans the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for a resources survey in Brunei Darussalam waters preferably in April to May and September to October 2014; and
- Indonesia also requested to make use of the vessel in 2014 and would communicate with SEAFDEC to confirm its plan.

20. The Program Committee suggested that countries requesting to use the vessel to discuss with SEAFDEC/TD to finalize the schedules on the use of the vessel in 2014.

21. For the project on **Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia**, the Program Committee suggested that:

- SEAFDEC to facilitate the compilation and sharing of lessons learnt from the Member Countries on fish handling at sea, e.g. hand-line tuna practices, with a view to improve post-harvest handling onboard fishing vessels; and
- SEAFDEC to organize a training program on tuna handling onboard fishing vessels for Vietnam, and a training workshop to analyze data collected through hydro-acoustic applications involving resource persons available in the region.

22. Under the program on **Research and Management of Sea Turtles in Foraging Habitats in the Southeast Asian Waters**, SEAFDEC was requested to take into consideration the recent poaching of sea turtles by Chinese commercial vessels, which undermines the initiatives of MFRDMD on sea turtle conservation and management.

23. With regards to the project on **Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**, the Program Committee took note of the following:

- Response to the query of Vietnam on the involvement of countries in pilot activities on national data collection on sharks, that countries willing to be involved in the project could convey their request to SEAFDEC/TD;
- Request of Vietnam for SEAFDEC/TD to continue providing assistance on community-based fisheries management to the country; and
- Reiteration of Vietnam's request for SEAFDEC to implement activities to support the development of fisheries database in 2014 by making use of the software of the database developed by Vietnam, once this is finalized and approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

24. Regarding the project on **Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**, the Program Committee supported the continuation of this project on exploring alternative methods on the application Total Allowable Catch (TAC) system in stock assessment and resource management.

25. In addition, the Program Committee was informed that the use of microsatellite or mtDNA in the genetic study of MFRDMD would be finalized during the core experts meeting on TAC in early 2014.

2.5 Program Thrust V: Addressing International Fisheries-related Issues from a Regional Perspective

26. For the project on **Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade-related Issues**, the Program Committee noted the offer of Sweden to assist in paving the way for the successful implementation of the project, on which case the assistance could focus on following-up of regional recommendations developed under this project including capacity building of the Member Countries to address international-related issues.

27. With regards to the project on **Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries and IUU Fishing-related Countermeasures**, the Program Committee noted the plan to conduct the next JTF Review Meeting on 25-26 February 2014 to evaluate the JTF-V projects implemented by the SEAFDEC Departments which will be completed in 2014, and that external fisheries experts from the region and the SEAFDEC National Coordinators would be involved at the Meeting. Moreover, in order to facilitate the evaluation process, the Program Committee also took note of the request for SEAFDEC to send to the National Coordinators the evaluation sheets as well as the full report of the JTF projects at least one month before the review meeting.

28. Regarding the activity on Strengthening the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) under this project, the Program Committee noted the anticipation expressed for Japan and Sweden to continue providing assistance for the sustained implementation of this important activity.

2.6 Special Projects

29. For the project on **Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia** which is supported by Sweden through SEAFDEC, the Program Committee took note of the following:

- Guide for Vulnerability Assessment and Local Early Action Planning (LEAP Guide) developed by NOAA which could be used as a reference for the implementation of climate change related activities in the region;
- MRC publications developed under the MRC Fisheries Programme available in the MRC Website (www.mrcmekong.org), which could be used for the relevant activities of SEAFDEC;
- Request for SEAFDEC to also involve local initiatives and local NGOs in the activities in the Mekong Basin sub-region in order to harmonize local perspectives in eco-conservation with those of the fisheries activities under the project;
- The suggestion for SEAFDEC to include performance indicators on the impact of climate change in the project activities;
- Ongoing NOAA project on the development of multi-model ensembles based on the IPCC analysis for predicting the weather conditions in the region being pilot-tested in the Philippines, Indonesia and Timor Leste, which SEAFDEC could refer to during the implementation of this project;
- Planned conduct of a number of surveys by MRC Fisheries Programme that could be useful for the implementation of this project especially with regards to the understanding of value of inland fisheries and their implications to social well-being;
- The suggestion of Indonesia that the inland fisheries activities under this project could be referred to during the planning of the proposed activities of IFRDMD; and
- Proposal of Myanmar to include in this project the conduct of on-site training on catch landings and sampling surveys for mackerels in the waters of Myanmar adjacent to Thailand, particularly in Myeik archipelago.

2.7 Proposed New FCG/ASSP Programs

30. For the project on **Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand** (UNEP/GEF/SEAFDEC/SCS), the Program Committee noted the information provided by Brunei Darussalam in implementing MPAs in its South China Sea and that Brunei Darussalam is looking forward to sharing the results of the project as well as the lessons learned from the implementation of MPAs to other countries.

31. With regards to the project on **Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management** (ASEC/IDB/SEAFDEC), the Program Committee took note of the information from the ASEAN Secretariat that the proposal to implement the project is still in the final review process by its legal officer after which the project contract could be signed. In this connection, the ASEAN Secretariat was urged to expedite the process of formalizing this project, as its implementation has been postponed for many years and the expected outputs have been long overdue.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

32. The Meeting is requested to consider and endorse the programs/projects implemented under the FCG/ASSP mechanism in 2013 and the proposed programs for 2014, and also the 2 new Special Projects as well as the recommendations of the 36th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee.

33. The Meeting is also invited to provide suggestions on areas of improvement for the program formulation and implementation to enhance the impacts of the projects and maximize the benefits to the Member Countries in the future.



34. The Meeting is also requested to consider that the programs/projects implemented under the FCG/ASSP mechanism in 2013 and the proposed programs for 2014, would be submitted for endorsement by higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC.

**PROGRAMS OF ACTIVITIES UNDER FCG/ASSP MECHANISM
FOR THE YEAR 2013-2014**

I. Existing Programs

Program Thrust/Project Title	Lead Department	2013	2014
Thrust I: Developing and Promoting Responsible Fisheries for Poverty Alleviation and Food Security			
1. Rehabilitation of Fisheries Resources and Habitat/Fishing Grounds for Resources Enhancement	TD	Y	Y
2. Human Resources Development (HRD) Programs on Fisheries Management Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries	TD	Y	Y
3. Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities	TD	Y	Y
4. Resource Enhancement of International Threatened and Over-exploited Species in Southeast Asia through Stock Release	AQD	Y	Y
5. Promotion of Sustainable and Region-oriented Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
Thrust II: Enhancing Capacity and Competitiveness to Facilitate International and Intra-regional Trade			
6. Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia "Biotoxin Monitoring in ASEAN": ASP, AZA and BTX	MFRD	Y	Y
7. Traceability Systems for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region	MFRD	Y	Y
8. Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products	MFRD	Y	N
9. Accelerating Awareness and Capacity-building in Fish Health Management in Southeast Asia	AQD	Y	Y
10. Food Safety of Aquaculture Products in Southeast Asia	AQD	Y	Y
Thrust III: Improving Management Concepts and Approaches for Sustainable Fisheries			
11. Strategies for Trawl Fisheries By-catch Management (FAO-GEF/REBYC-II CTI)	TD	Y	Y
12. Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities	TD	Y	Y
13. Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products	MFRDMD	Y	Y
Thrust IV: Providing Policy and Advisory Services for Planning and Executing Management of Fisheries			
14. Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	Y	Y
15. Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
16. Research and Management of Sea Turtles in Foraging Habitats in the Southeast Asian Waters	MFRDMD	Y	Y
17. Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region	TD	Y	Y
18. Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
19. Research and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Waters	MFRDMD	Y	Y
Thrust V: Addressing International Fisheries-related Issues from a Regional Perspective			
20. Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues	SEC	Y	Y
21. Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries	SEC	Y	Y

Y = Program implemented/proposed during the year

II. Special Project

Special FCG/ASSP Project	Lead Department	Period
1. Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia	SEC	2013-2017

III. Proposed New Special Projects

Proposed New FCG/ASSP Projects	Lead Department	Period
1. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (UNEP/GEF/SEAFDEC/SCS)	TD	2014-2017
2. Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management (ASEC/IDB/SEAFDEC)	MFRDMD	2014-2015

ASEAN-SEAFDEC COOPERATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEAN INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY (AIFS) FRAMEWORK

Climate Change and Its Impacts on Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation Towards Food Security

(With the support of ASEAN-US Cooperation in the implementation of the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action based on the MARKET Programme)

Project Proposal

I. BACKGROUND

The fisheries sector has long been a main source of protein for the population of the ASEAN Member States (AMS). Fisheries, aquaculture and their allied industries also play a very important role in national and regional economies. Not only is the health of the fisheries sector crucial to ensure food security in the Southeast Asian region, it is also critical for ASEAN livelihoods. It has been estimated, however, that fishing stocks are roughly a tenth of what they were a decade ago, and continue to diminish at an alarming rate.

During the past several decades, the growing international, regional and national demand for fish and fisheries products has led to continual development and modernization of fishing technology. Unfortunately this increased demand and the corresponding technology response has resulted in the over-exploitation of fishery resources in Southeast Asia. The lack of awareness and knowledge of responsible fishing technologies and practices in fisheries, combined with the use of illegal and destructive fishing methods and gear (e.g. non-selective fishing gear) are seriously threatening the sustainability of fishery resources and the integrity of the coastal, marine and in-land water ecosystem and environment.

Compounding these problems is climate change, which is already affecting Southeast Asia. Southeast Asia is one of the world's most vulnerable regions to climate change; at risk economically and climatically due to its geography, its long coastlines, and the high concentration of population and economic activity in coastal areas. ASEAN's heavy reliance on agriculture, fisheries, forestry and other natural resources further exacerbates the impact of climate change on the region. The increase in the frequency and the intensity of extreme weather events has huge consequences including, among others, flooding and sea level rise, higher water temperature, higher ocean acidity, change in species composition and distribution, coral bleaching, degraded reefs, and the increase in storms and cyclones. In addition, as a consequence of salt water intrusion and the deterioration of fresh water, former farmers are turning to the sea as an alternative livelihood, thus putting more pressure on already scarce fishery resources. The implications of climate change on ecosystems, livelihoods and food security indicate that a combined response that includes responsible fishing and aquaculture practices as a part of adaptation and mitigation measures is required urgently.

The current status of the fishery resources and aquatic ecosystem in the ASEAN region is now a serious concern. To ensure long-term food security in the ASEAN region in accordance with the:

- ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework and Strategic Plan of Action (SPA-FS) adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14th Summit in March 2009, that addressed the issue of climate change impacts on food security, and the
- ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry Towards Food Security" (AFCC Framework), which agreed at the ASEAN High-Level Workshop on the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change and Food Security held in September 2009,
- Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020, adopted at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in June 2011. References were made to Resolution number 2 and 9; and Plan of Action number 7, 11, 12, 20, 37, 43, 44, 46, 54, 55, 63 and 70, that a project on "Climate Change and its Impacts on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Adaptation and Mitigation towards Food Security" will be implemented in the ASEAN Region. This

project will focus on responsible fishing technologies and practices as a means to ensure the continued contribution of the fishing and aquaculture sectors to food security in ASEAN, and will strive for greater regional collaboration and commitment towards resource sustainability through climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. Activities undertaken will prioritize developing the knowledge base with respect to fisheries and aquaculture, addressing policy, programmes and implementation frameworks at national and regional international levels, capacity building and supporting enabling mechanisms.

II. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to address and respond to the dual challenges of rapidly diminishing fish and other aquatic stocks and climate change to ensure the continued contribution of the fisheries sector to food security. The specific objectives of the project are as follows:

- A. To raise awareness on responsible fisheries practices and climate change impacts (on and from the sector) in collaboration and cooperation with ASEAN Member States and other organizations at the regional and international levels by:
 1. Building capacity for human and institutions involved in fisheries and ecosystem management, as well as the other relevant sectors, in understanding and responding to the impacts of climate change and the need for adaptive measures;
 2. Integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation measures/strategies into the economic and social development policy framework for fisheries (inland and marine fisheries and aquaculture);
 3. Strengthening national and regional information and knowledge sharing, communication and networking on climate change and food security; and
 4. Enhancing cooperation in the implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures
- B. To increase the use of responsible fisheries practices and technologies, adaptive and mitigation measures and promote technologies to save energy and the use of alternative/clean sources of energy in fisheries.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Envisaged outcomes of the project:

Fisheries better able to contribute to ASEAN food security

1. Increased regional multi-sectoral cooperation and collaboration;
2. ASEAN fishing, aquaculture and allied industries are better prepared to adapt to climate change;
3. ASEAN fishing, aquaculture and allied industries undertake climate change mitigation measures including energy efficiency programs;
4. Capacity of government officials and fishers in the application and adoption of responsible fisheries technology and practices is enhanced; and
5. Impacts of unsustainable fisheries practices on the coastal marine and inland ecosystem is reduced

Rationale for the Approach

In the ASEAN region, there are currently numerous initiatives, programs and projects completed, underway or in planning that concern the sustainability of the fishing sector. These various efforts are either wholly or partially devoted to sustainable fishing and aquaculture; fishing as an aspect of food security; climate change impacts of and on fishing and aquaculture; and the adaptation of coastal communities and the fishing sector to climate change, among others. Most of the activities under these initiatives, however, tend to be national, bilateral, or international, with the Coral Triangle Initiative a notable regionally oriented exception.

In the past, the symbiotic relationship between fish, food security and climate change has not been generally accommodated in the design of such programs. Now, however, with the population increasing, the effects of climate change impacting food prices and production, the continually growing market demand for fisheries

and aquaculture products, and the rapidly shrinking supply of stock, there is an immediate and urgent need to think and act more holistically. For example, institutional support in ASEAN for fisheries through SEAFDEC incorporates four technical assistance areas, with climate change and food security are understood as underlying factors that help direct the research and training.

The challenge is to better communicate these issues inter ASEAN; accommodate the reality of the co-dependent nature of these issues into policy decisions; synthesize the information to inform decision makers; and integrate these interwoven concepts into the stakeholder mainstream by raising awareness in current initiatives and programs as well as new programs being planned.

Proposed Approach

The project will be implemented to strengthen capacity of the ASEAN Member States in addressing climate change and its impact on and from fisheries and aquaculture in line with AIFS Framework (Strategic Thrust 6) and the AFCC Framework.

An ASEAN public private sector Action Task Force: Catalyzing the creation of an ASEAN Action Task Force on Fishing, Food Security and Climate Change will be central to achieving a coordinated regional effort. Hosted by and coordinated through SEAFDEC, this proposed regional task force will be comprised of the public and private sector entities engaged in or with fishing, aquaculture and allied industries across the member states.

The 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action developed and adopted during the *ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 “Fish for the People: Adaptation to a Changing Environment”* will be used to address capacity and technology challenges. The preparatory consultations, dialogs and meetings for the Conference brought together stakeholders from many sectors. From this base, a coalition of like minded champions representing the many facets of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors will be identified and encouraged to step up to form a regional ASEAN Action Task Force to guide a more integrated sustainable approach for ensuring the continued contribution of the fisheries sector to food security.

This ASEAN Action Task Force can bring to bear valuable private sector resources and the public sector political will to both expedite and better coordinate communication and/or collaboration on the numerous national, bi-lateral and international initiatives on sustainable fishing, food security, and adaptation to climate change that are underway, in development, or in early planning. As an informal advisory group, the Action Task Force can also serve, as needed, as a sounding board for ASEAN Senior Officials, providing a unique regional real-time perspective on the status of the fishing and aquaculture industries, and the efficacy of current policies and programs.

Phase 1: Activity in 2012

Activity 1: *ASEAN Public Private Partnership Dialogue* to identify and share best practices. In close collaboration with regional and local private sector champions and not for profits, responsible fisheries best practices, including best practices in mitigation and adaptation for fisheries and aquaculture operations, will be identified and invited to the Dialogue. These measures and best practices will be disseminated and promoted through the conduct of ASEAN regional dialogue. Effective strategies will be identified and considered for incorporation into guidelines for national development strategies, policies and programs for fisheries. Information will feed into workshop under component 3.

The establishment of an ASEAN Public Private Sector Action Task Force as informal task force, comprised the representative from and public sectors participated in the ASEAN Public Private Partnership Dialogue as a regular mechanism for public private sector dialog, exchange and sector strategy implementation would be considered and discussed in details at the ASEAN Public Private Partnership Dialogue.

Recommended strategies and activities to support the implementation of AFCC components from the Dialogue will be identified to address Fishing, Food Security and Climate Change.

Component 1: Integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into the economic and social development policy framework for fisheries

Component 3: Strengthening of national and regional information and knowledge sharing, communication and networking on sustainable fisheries, climate change and food security

Strategic Thrust 2: Strengthen national and regional cooperation, coordination, consultation and communication on the impacts of and response to climate change on fisheries towards food security (AEC A6 and A7)

Strategic Thrust 4: Strengthen regional partnerships and coordination with ASEAN partners on climate change and food security (AEC 7)

Project Implementation and Administration:

The initial phase of this project covers a 1-year period in 2012. The proposed project activity will be implemented during September/October 2012 under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) arrangement that will provide a regional framework on cooperation and coordination on climate change issues relevant to fisheries and food security in the ASEAN region as the ASSP assists the ASEAN Member States in promoting sustainable fisheries development. Project progress and achievements will be reported as part of the implementation of AIFS Framework and the SPA-FS.

Progress:

- *ASEAN Public-Private Dialogue on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Meeting Market Challenges, Adapting to Climate Change, and Improving Food Security in ASEAN, 6-7 December 2013, Bangkok, Thailand*

The ASEAN Public-Private Dialogue on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture: Meeting Market Challenges, Adapting to Climate Change, and Improving Food Security in ASEAN was jointly organized by the ASEAN Secretariat, SEAFDEC, and the ASEAN-U.S. MARKET Project and was attended by key public and private sector stakeholders from the fisheries, aquaculture and allied industries in ASEAN.

The Dialogue was held to address and respond to the challenges of rapidly diminishing fish and other aquatic stocks, climate change and market challenges to ensure the continued contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to regional food security and livelihoods in the ASEAN region.

The Dialogue successfully developed a platform and mechanism for sustained and effective public-private dialogue is established that will address sustainability, food security, climate change and standards issues in the ASEAN region, and key issues and action items impacting the region identified and prioritized by the private and public sector in the areas of sustainability, food security, climate change and standards/certification.

- *The 1st ASEAN Public-Private Informal Taskforce Meeting on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, 27-28 March 2013, Bali, Indonesia*

During the conduct of the ASEAN Public-Private Dialogue on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, the public and private sectors shared and discussed key issues, best practices and solutions to address current and future challenges impacting the sustainability and competitiveness of ASEAN's fisheries and aquaculture sectors and food security in the region. One of the main recommendations of the dialogue was to form an informal ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce to address key issues threatening the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture that were also discussed during the dialogue. The informal taskforce comprising of members from ASEAN's public and private sector would strengthen cooperation between the private and public sector and serve as a regional platform for prioritizing and coordinating collective actions that will ensure the future sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in ASEAN, and contribute to the ASEAN Community Building process.

The 1st ASEAN Public-Private Informal Taskforce Meeting on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture was held as the follow-up action of the recommendations made during the Dialogue, to accommodate the representatives of the informal ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce to discuss and finalize the mechanism, operationalization, and areas of work to be undertaken by the implementing committees under the taskforce.

The Meeting generated: a) a final draft terms of reference, and rules and procedures of the ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture; and b) list of mobilization issues, action items and project concept notes to be addressed by the taskforce, which has been endorsed by the 21st ASWGFi Meeting

The 2nd ASEAN Public-Private Informal Taskforce Meeting on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture was planned to be held on the first quarter of 2014, to discuss on the monitoring progress and activities under Task Force.

ACTION REQUIRED:

The Meeting may wish to take note on the activity and support of SEAFDEC to ASEAN-SEAFDEC Cooperation in the Implementation of the ASEAN Integrated Food Security (AIFS) Framework.

ASEAN FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM (AFCF)

The AFCF is the subsidiary body under ASWGFⁱ to promote and improve the sustainable utilization of the living aquatic resources by the proper management and development of the fisheries and fishing operations, and address common problems of fisheries management and development faced by the AMS.

Following to the decision made on the 4th AFCF Meeting to conduct the Special AFCF Meeting which was held on 21-22 February 2013 in Solo, Indonesia. The Meeting developed the Prioritised Activities for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries for the period of 2013-2015 under the SPA (2011-2015), as the complementary document of the SPA. The Prioritised Activities appears as *Appendix 1*.

The 5th AFCF Meeting was held on 22-23 July 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Meeting discussed and updated on the follow-up actions after the 4th AFCF Meeting held on 2-3 June 2013 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Indonesia as the Interim Secretariat (2011-2013) reported the follow-up actions performed by them, on the (i) conduct of the 4th AFCF Meeting, (ii) reporting and adoption of the 4th AFCF Meeting outcomes to the 20th ASWGFⁱ Meeting held on 4-6 June 2013 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, and (iii) the conduct of the Special AFCF Meeting on 21-22 February 2013 in Solo, Indonesia, which was held to discuss and agree on the draft Prioritised Activities for ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries under the SPA (2013-2015).

The Meeting also discussed on the progress of implementation of the AFCF Work Plan (2010-2013) on the cluster of (i) combating IUU Fishing, (ii) fishing capacity and responsible fisheries practices, (iii) conservation of biodiversity and enhancing fisheries resources, (iv) fish for aquaculture feed, (v) fisheries co-management and decentralization, (vi) adaptation and mitigation to impacts of climate change, (vii) fisheries post-harvest and safety of fish and fish products, (viii) strengthening ASEAN joint approaches/positions on international fish trade related issues, (ix) information, education and communication to support development and management of fisheries, (x) capacity building.

With reference of the Draft Prioritised Activities for ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries under the SPA (2013-2015) as the outcome of the Special AFCF Meeting, the Meeting reviewed the Draft and agreed to submit to the 21st ASWGFⁱ Meeting.

The Meeting took note of the statement of cooperation by SEAFDEC. SEAFDEC reiterated their commitment to support ASEAN and ASEAN Member States on the cooperation in fisheries sector, including engagement and implementation of activities under the AFCF Work Plan. SEAFDEC is looking forward for further consultation, cooperation and collaboration with AMS on fisheries related activities.

ACTION REQUIRED:

The Meeting may wish to take note on the activity and support of SEAFDEC to AFCF.

PRIORITISED ACTIVITIES FOR ASEAN COOPERATION ON FISHERIES UNDER THE SPA (2011-2015)

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
A7. 38. Enhance intra- and extra-ASEAN trade and long-term competitiveness of ASEAN's food, agriculture and forestry products/ commodities	1. Develop and apply fisheries quality management systems that ensure food safety and support competitive position of ASEAN fisheries products on world markets	Thrust 2	1. Certification and traceability	1.1 Strengthen fish quality and safety management systems that support the competitive position of ASEAN fish products in the world markets, including moving towards ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation of national fish	1.1.1 Development of template of MRA for fishery production ASEAN • Submission of draft template for ASWGF approval [2013] 1.1.2 Implementation of MRA Agreement among ASEAN Member States [2014-2015] [Lead country: Thailand, with funding support TBD]		1.1.1 To be completed by 2013	Thailand has developed a template of MRAs on fishery products and presented to the 20 th ASWGF Meeting. The final draft template has been developed for submission to the 21 st ASWGF Meeting for consideration and future use on voluntary basis. Currently Thailand is encouraging other Member States to sign this – developing the MRA with Viet Nam and Myanmar.
				1.2 Develop traceability systems, with mechanisms as needed to certify or validate the information, for the whole supply chain, and establish regulations and enforcement schemes in line with international standards. Align Member Countries' inspection	1.2.1 ASEAN in Collaboration with SEAFDEC develop traceability systems for aquaculture products in ASEAN region [FCG/ASSP][Lead country: Singapore] 1.2.2 ASEAN in		1.2.1 Project timeframe 2012-2014	1.2.1 Project name: Traceability Systems for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region
							1.2.2	1.2.2 Project name:

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				systems and incorporate strengthened port inspections in the process as a means to improve inspection systems [POA 60]	Collaboration with SEAFDEC develops ASEAN Catch Certification for intra and extra ASEAN Trade in Fish and Fishery Products. [FCG/ASSP Project][Lead Country-TBC]		Project timeframe 2013-2015	Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asia Region through Application of Catch Certification for International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products. 1.2.2 Indonesia, The Philippines have national systems in place that is in line with RFMO regulations
				1.3 Encourage and provide guidance to develop/improve branding of fish and fishery products that demonstrate the eco-friendly and socially acceptable nature of ASEAN fish products (e.g. one community one fishery product), including organic standards and coordination of Halal requirements [POA 73]	1.3.1 ASEAN to facilitate the adoption of eco-labeling and standards 1.3.1.1 Complete ASEAN tuna eco-label. [Lead country: Indonesia, under the ASEAN Tuna Working Group] 1.3.1.2 Conduct a workshop on the feasibility of developing ASEAN eco-labels for other species, in collaboration with Development		1.3.1.1 ASEAN Tuna Eco-label: 2013 to 2015 1.3.1.2 2014-2015	SEAFDEC supports Indonesia on the tuna eco-label. Details of focused species need to be discussed. Potential support for development of branding from SEAFDEC-Sida project. Outcomes will be presented at the ASWGFi Meeting.

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
					partner (e.g. SEAFDEC) [ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaboration] [Lead country-Viet Nam]			
	2. Establish and harmonize national and regional standards/ guidelines for fishery products with significant trade impacts/ potentials, with regional/international norms.	Thrust 2	2. Food safety and health	2.1 Develop standards and guidelines for aquaculture products handling and transportation, hygienic vessel design and construction, and include training of fish handling as part of the requirement for issuance of permits at all levels for fish vessel crews, and encourage new workers to enter the industry where needed [POA 66]	<p>2.1.1 ASEAN in Collaboration with SEAFDEC to improve food safety of aquaculture products [FCG/ASSP] [Lead country: Philippines]</p> <p>2.1.2 Training/capacity building on -fish handling and transportation, and hygienic vessel design and construction.</p> <p>2.1.3 ASEAN Cooperation activity on harmonisation of guidelines for the use of chemicals in aquaculture and measures to eliminate the use of harmful chemicals [Cooperation Project: Lead country: Malaysia]</p> <p>2.1.3.1 Publish guidelines for the use of chemicals in</p>		<p>2.1.1 2013-2014</p> <p>2.1.2 2013-2014</p> <p>2.1.3 Complete</p> <p>2.1.3.1 August 2013</p>	<p>Project name: Food Safety of Aquaculture Products in Southeast Asia. (2013-2014)</p> <p>Malaysia has developed a national guideline, and they</p>

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
					<p>aquaculture and measures to eliminate the use of harmful chemicals.</p> <p>2.1.3.2 Implement guidelines in AMS.</p> <p>2.1.4 ASEAN Cooperation under the ASEAN fisheries network for the development of guidelines on responsible movement of live fish [Cooperation Project: Lead country Malaysia]</p>		<p>2.1.3.2 To be completed by 2015</p> <p>2.1.4 To be completed by 2015</p>	<p>are exploring how AMSs can implement guidelines regionally. (to confirm information)</p>
				<p>2.2 Establish regional/ ASEAN standards applicable for fishery and aquaculture products that are in line with international requirements and applicable to the region. Harmonize standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures as inputs for the establishment of the ASEAN Policy Guidelines on Standards and Conformance, to increase the competitiveness of</p>	<p>2.2.1 ASEAN in Collaboration with SEAFDEC and other development partners to facilitate harmonisation of standards for fisheries and aquaculture products [TBC]</p> <p>2.2.2 ASEAN in Collaboration with SEAFDEC promote the monitoring of chemical and drug residues in fish and fish products [FCG/ASSP]</p>		<p>2.2.1 TBC</p> <p>2.2.2 2013-2017</p>	<p>2.2.2 Project name: Chemical and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia</p>

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				fishery products on regional and international markets [POA 68]	(Lead country: Singapore]			
		Thrust 3	3. Best practice aquaculture guidelines and approaches	3.1 Develop and implement ASEAN guidelines for environment-friendly and responsible aquaculture and good aquaculture practices that cover (i) the integration of quality and safety management systems for products with significant trade potential; (ii) the harmonization for chemical use and food safety in aquaculture; (iii) the development of product traceability systems from farm to market; and (iv) harmonization of the quarantine and inspection/ sampling procedure and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures for aquaculture products to secure food safety [POA 40]	3.1 Develop and implement ASEAN guidelines for environment-friendly and responsible aquaculture and good aquaculture practices that cover (i) the integration of quality and safety management systems for products with significant trade potential; (ii) the harmonization for chemical use and food safety in aquaculture; (iii) the development of product traceability systems from farm to market; and (iv) harmonization of the quarantine and inspection/ sampling procedure and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures for aquaculture products to secure food safety [POA 40]	3.1.1 AMS, ASEAN Secretariat, and potential partners. 3.1.2 TBC	3.1.1 End of 2013 3.1.2 TBC	
				3.2 Continue the national efforts to control serious	3.2 Continue the national efforts to		3.2.1.1 To be	

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				disease outbreaks by providing government support to (i) R&D to improve the ability to handle new and emerging diseases and surveillance of transmission of diseases to wild populations; and (ii) regional initiatives on harmonization of regional disease control standards, disease reporting and implementation of contingency plans to handle new and emerging diseases [POA 50]	control serious disease outbreaks by providing government support to (i) R&D to improve the ability to handle new and emerging diseases and surveillance of transmission of diseases to wild populations; and (ii) regional initiatives on harmonization of regional disease control standards, disease reporting and implementation of contingency plans to handle new and emerging diseases [POA 50]		completed by 2013 3.2.2 To be completed by 2015	
				3.3 Develop regional warning systems on aquatic animal health and diseases to inform other Member Countries of relevant epidemiological events and to raise awareness of new diseases that may pose risks. Build emergency preparedness capacity through rapid and timely responses to reduce potential catastrophic consequences of diseases	3.3 Develop regional warning systems on aquatic animal health and diseases to inform other Member Countries of relevant epidemiological events and to raise awareness of new diseases that may pose risks. Build emergency preparedness capacity through rapid and timely responses to		3.3.1 To be completed by 2015	

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				[POA 52]	reduce potential catastrophic consequences of diseases [POA 52]			
	3. Strengthening food security arrangements, frameworks and programmes in ASEAN	Thrust 1	1. Governance of fisheries (capture fisheries and aquaculture)	1.1 Strengthen the capacity to plan for sustainable fisheries in the context of changing socio-economic and ecological environments through the mobilization of the most up-to-date data and information and the provision of appropriate policy summaries for decision makers [POA2]				
				1.2 Encourage coordinated planning on the use of coastal waters, inland rivers, water-bodies and flood plains through (i) resource enhancement programs; (ii) habitat and fisheries management programs; (iii) environmental impact assessment studies with regards to structures that might impact on aquatic resources; (iv) the consideration of restocking of locally and/or commercially-important fish species; and (v) giving priority to human				

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				resources development for the implementation of such programs [POA 36]				
				1.3 Raise awareness of the need to develop financial incentives, especially for small-scale stakeholders and cooperatives, e.g. micro-credit, with national and regional institutional assistance for the responsible development of fisheries enterprises and developmental activities that will optimize socio-economic returns and food security [POA 14,48,64]	<p>1.3.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC and other development partners incorporate financial incentives as part of the training on fisheries governance</p> <p>1.3.1.1 Conduct training on fisheries governance and incorporating financial incentives issues.</p> <p>1.3.1.2 Capacity building for micro-credit institutions to optimize socio-economic returns for small-scale fisheries. The capacity building should include financial management for micro-credit institutions. [Lead country: Indonesia]</p>		<p>1.3.1.1 To be completed by 2015</p> <p>1.3.1.2 To be completed by 2015</p>	<p>1.3.1.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC on Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management Towards Institutional Building and Participatory mechanism for Coastal Fisheries Management [FCG/ASSP Project] [Lead country: Cambodia]</p> <p>1.3.1.2 Similar to 1.3.1.1</p>
				1.4 Integrate the planning of marine capture fisheries, inland capture fisheries and the aquaculture sub-sectors	1.4.1 As for 1.2.1 but focusing on integrated fisheries planning across marine capture fisheries, inland capture		1.4.1 To be completed by 2015	

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				to promote the sustainable development of the fisheries sector, including harvesting and post-harvest in both capture fisheries and aquaculture [POA1]	fisheries and the aquaculture sub-sectors [TBC]			
				1.5 Strengthen national statistical mechanisms for fisheries and aquaculture and the exchange of statistical data and related information. Include other non-routine data and information such as fish consumption surveys as well as mobilizing local and indigenous knowledge with the aim of improving the valuation of fisheries and monitoring their performance, to address the needs of the ecosystem approach to fisheries and adaptation to climate change [POA3]	1.5.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC continues to encourage better data collection, storage and dissemination of national statistics and information. [FCG/ASSP Project] [Lead country: Thailand]		1.5.1 2013-2015	1.5.1 Project name: Development of Regional Database for Fishery Management; and Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southeast Asia Region.
				1.6 Enhance regional fishery information systems and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information that are required at the sub-regional and regional level	1.6.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC to further develop the regional databases and information systems by gaining commitment of AMS to provide annual data reports		1.6.1 2013-2015	1.6.1 Project name: Development of Regional Database for Fishery Management

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				and apply, where appropriate, regionally standardized definitions and classifications for statistical data to facilitate regional compilation, analysis and data exchange [POA 4]	[FCG/ASSP Project] Lead country: Thailand]			
				1.7 Further develop simple and practical indicators in support of planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries [POA 6]	1.7.1 ASEAN in collaboration with other development partners and projects further develop practical indicators [TBC] 1.7.1.1 ASEAN Secretariat will coordinate with SEAFDEC and BOBLME to come up with more concrete activities that can be implemented according to the action programme [TBC]		1.7.1 To be completed by 2015 1.7.1.1 2013	
			2. Livelihoods and poverty alleviation of small-scale operators	2.1 Strengthen the capacity of fisheries communities and the capacity of fisheries related organizations, NGOs and the private sector to better implement necessary actions towards enabling the communities and local organizations to increase	2.1.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC continue to build the capacity to facilitate better participation of co-management partners in achieving sustainable development of fisheries [FCG/ASSP		2.1.1 2013-2015	ASEAN-SEAFDEC project has been extended to 2017 ASEAN-SEAFDEC project on Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				context of multiple-use of land and water resources through inter-agency coordination in policy formulation, project planning and implementation, stakeholder consultation, extension services and technology transfer, participate in and provide support to regional initiatives that will assess the role of aquaculture in poverty alleviation for better policy formulation [POA 41]	sustainable and region-orientated aquaculture [FCG/ASSP Project] [Lead country: Philippines]			Region-oriented Aquaculture.
				2.4 Formulate and implement national policies and strategies that will enable the aquaculture sector to mitigate and/or adapt better to the impacts of climate change. These strategies should include providing support to R&D on climate change, increasing resilience, and strengthening the overall capacity of various stakeholder groups and fostering cooperation within the aquaculture sector and with other sectors [POA 46]	2.4.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC and development partners assist AMS formulate and implement policies that better mitigate and/or adapt to climate change [FCG/ASSP Project] [Lead country: Thailand] and ASEAN-German Programme on Climate Change		2.4.1 To be completed by 2015	2.4.1 Project name: Fisheries, Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia (2013-2017)

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				2.5 Promote the production of and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products by assisting producers to secure stable supplies of quality raw materials, meet food safety requirements and to improve product identity, nutritive value and marketing. In the process, promote One Village, One Fisheries Product (FOVOP) and other initiatives to promote local fishery products [POA 59]	2.5.1 ASEAN in Collaboration with SEAFDEC promote the utilization of freshwater fish for value added products [FCG/ASSP Project] [Lead country: Singapore] 2.5.1.1 SEAFDEC to continue to conduct workshops on sharing information from other ASEAN Member States.		2.5.1 2013 2.5.1.1 2013-2015	2.5.1 Project Name: Utilization of Freshwater Fish for Value-added Products
				2.6 Assist small-scale producers to comply with standards on safety and quality of fish and fishery products by providing support programs including training [POA 71]	2.6.1 ASEAN in Collaboration with SEAFDEC promote food safety of aquaculture products in Southeast Asia [FCG/ASSP Project] [Lead country: Philippines]		2.6.1 2013-2015	2.6.1 Project Name: Food Safety of Aquaculture Products in Southeast Asia
				2.7 Assist small-scale producers from both capture fishery and aquaculture in securing and maintaining access to markets at the national, regional and international levels, and in the process, develop marketing systems that are not capital intensive and	2.7.1 ASEAN in collaboration with development partners to conduct regional study on current markets and value chains and linkages with small-scale operators and SMEs	USAID	2.7.1 2013-2014	2.7.1 Project Name: MARKET

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				accessible for local producers [POA 72]	2.7.2 Like in 2.6.1, assist small-scale producers to comply with standards on safety and quality of fish and fishery products. [TBC]		2.7.2 2015	
				2.8 Strengthen efforts to address safety at sea, including considerations of working conditions and socio-economic development, and ensure that these considerations are addressed by all concerned authorities while improving monitoring and control of the status of conditions, especially on small fishing boats [SP30]	2.8.1 ASEAN in Collaboration with SEAFDEC promote safety at sea through responsible fishing technologies and practices [FCG/ASSP Project]		2.8.1 To be completed by 2015	2.8.1 Project Name: Optimizing Energy Use and Improving Safety in Fishing Activities (2014-2017)
A7. 39. Promote cooperation, joint approaches and technology transfer among ASEAN Member Countries and international, regional organisations and private sector.	1. Continue and strengthen research, technology transfer, training and extension, and capacity building programmes (collaboration with dialogue and development partners)	Thrust 4	1. Capture fisheries and aquaculture technology	1.1 Increase the efficient use of the alternative energy sources and reduce the use of carbon fossil energy by using appropriate fishing gear and fishing boats designs in fishing operations [POA 15]	1.1.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC provide capacity building for alternative energy sources [FCG/ASSP Project]		1.1.1 To be completed by 2013	1.1.1 As of 2.8.1, Project Name: Optimizing Energy Use and Improving Safety in Fishing Activities
				1.2 Promote the production and distribution of specific pathogen-free (SPF) and quality seed through the (i) establishment of certified government or private	1.2.1 ASEAN in collaboration with dialog partners (ASEAN-Australia) promote good aquaculture practices (GAqP). [ASEAN-		1.2.1 To be completed by 2014	

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				hatcheries as sources of quality seed; (ii) dissemination of new breeding technologies and techniques for the effective distribution and maintenance of genetically improved strains; and (iii) implementation of sound policies that will promote better hatchery management practices, including the responsible collection and use of wild broodstock and seed [POA 44]	Australia cooperation Project (AADCP) phase II			
				1.3 Further enhance the capabilities in the diagnosis and control of fish diseases within the region through (i) continued support in development of technology and techniques for disease identification; (ii) promotion of the widespread use of affordable, field-friendly, rapid and standardized diagnostic tests; and (iii) the establishment of regional and inter-regional referral systems, including the designation	1.3.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC and development partners (e.g. NACA) facilitate (ii) promotion of the widespread use of affordable, field-friendly, rapid and standardized diagnostic tests; and (ii) the setting up of reference laboratories and the timely access to disease control by experts	1.3.1 USAID	1.3.1 To be completed by 2014	Project Name: MARKET (2013-2015)

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				of reference laboratories and timely access to disease control experts within the region [POA 51]				
				1.4 Improve the efficient use of aquatic feeds by strictly regulating the quality of manufactured feed and feed ingredients and support continued research for developing suitable alternative protein sources that will reduce the dependence on fish meal and other fish-based products. This effort will include the consideration of ingredients not derived from wild caught fish, encouraging the culture of species requiring no or low fish meal content in their feed and applying effective feeding management practices, taking into account the need for cultural and social acceptance of alternative feed ingredients [POA 53]	1.4.1 ASEAN in collaboration with development partners (e.g. NACA) provide up-to-date information on alternative protein sources for aquaculture feed [TBC] 1.4.2 Conduct research and development of alternative aquaculture feed source to reduce the dependency on fishmeal and other fish-based products. [TBC] 1.4.3 Conduct a workshop with experts from international academic institutions to elaborate on the research of protein substitution feed sources. [TBC]		1.4.1 To be completed by 2014 1.4.2 To be completed by 2015 1.4.3 To be completed by 2015	1.4.1 Private sector is also involved in aquaculture feed production and should be included as a partner.
				1.5 Strengthen risk assessment and R&D related to the use of	1.5.1 ASEAN in collaboration with development partners			

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) products in fisheries and aquaculture, including food safety issues [POA 75]	(e.g. NACA) provide up-to-date information on risks and use of GMO products [TBC]			
			2. Post harvest technology	2.1 Introduce and provide support for the development and application of technologies that optimize the utilization of catches, reduce post-harvest losses, wastes and discards in commercial and small-scale fisheries and processing operations, through improved processing, facilities and infrastructure development, on-board and on-shore handling, storage, distribution and marketing of fish and fishery products [POA 58]	2.1.1 ASEAN in collaboration with dialogue and development partners to promote utilisation of potential fisheries resources and reduce post-harvest losses. 2.1.2 Collaborate with the ATWGARD and the JAIF project on the conduct of a study on the level of post harvest losses of fish/fishery products in the region (scope to be determined). [TBC]		2.1.1 To be completed by 2013 2.1.2 2013-2014	2.1.1 Project Name: Sustainable Utilization of Potential Fisheries Resources and Reduction of Post Harvest Losses [FCG/ASSP Project] [Lead country: Thailand, completed in 2012] 2.1.2 UNIDO conducted a study on PHL of the agricultural products in the region. ASEAN-Japan Integration Fund (JAIF) will support a new project addressing the PHL of fisheries products. This project will be implemented under the ASEAN Working Group on

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
								Agricultural R&D (ATWGARD)
				2.2 Promote and conduct training programs and develop training materials to upgrade the technical skills and competencies of personnel in the public and private sectors on fisheries post-harvest technology and food safety management system [POA 63]	2.2.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC and other development partners to promote and conduct training programs and develop training materials to upgrade the technical skills and competencies of personnel in the public and private sectors on fisheries post-harvest technology and food safety management system [TBC]		2.2.1 2013-2015	
	2. Develop joint strategies/ positions on issues of related interest to ASEAN with international organizations	Thrust 2	1. Certification and traceability	1.3 Encourage the implementation of appropriate international standards and strengthen programs relevant to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures, R&D, as well as capacity building and awareness raising on fish trade-related issues, and information dissemination recognizing the different status of development in Member Countries [POA	1.3.1 ASEAN in Collaboration with SEAFDEC to enhance capacity building and awareness raising on fish trade-related issues [FCG/ASSP Project] [Lead country: Thailand]points of AMSs before WTO		1.3.1 To be completed by 2015	1.3.1 Project Name: Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues AMS will have to individually report to WTO regularly and countries will have to respond within a short time frame. Common position on this might not

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				74]				relevant Myanmar is in the process of implementing the SPS agreement/measures with support from ADB and UNIDO, and is requesting the contacts of AMSs to be able to communicate further on SPS issues.
		Thrust 3	1. Markets and trade	1.1 Strengthen cooperation among Member Countries to implement international standards with regards to trade on fish and fishery products within the ASEAN region [POA 69]	1.1.1 ASEAN in collaboration with dialogue/development partners to support the implementation of international standards with regards to trade on fish and fishery products within the ASEAN region	1.1.1 USAID	1.1.1 To be completed by 2015	1.1.1 Project Name: ASEAN-US MARKET [2012-2015]
				1.2 Increase participation and involvement of Member Countries in international fora and technical committees such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Codex Alimentarius Commission,	1.2.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC and other development partners assist AMS through mobilisation of funding support [FCG/ASSP Project] [Lead country: Thailand]		1.2.1 2013-2015	1.2.1 As of 1.1.1, Project Name: Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), and World Trade Organization (WTO); and promote ASEAN interest, recognizing that fisheries policies of relevance to the ASEAN region are increasingly discussed and agreed upon at the global level [POA 76]				
				1.3 Strengthen cooperation and mechanisms among Member Countries to work towards common positions that could be reflected in international fish trade related fora, such as World Trade Organization (WTO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Codex Alimentarius Commission, and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) [POA 68]	1.3.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC to facilitate and encourage common positions among AMS. (As in Thrust 2, 1.3.1 – only for WTO) [FCG/ASSP Project]		1.3.1 2013-2015	1.3.1 As of 1.1.1 and 1.1.2, Project Name: Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues There are existing focal points for OIE that communicate regularly. ASEAN Taskforce on CODEX is already in place and can serve as theme

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				1.4 Assess the possible impact of government subsidies on fisheries, particularly the impact on the special requirements and the needs of small-scale fisheries in the region [POA 13]	1.4.1 ASEAN in collaboration with development partners commission a study on the possible impacts of government subsidies on fisheries in Southeast Asia, particularly the special requirements of small-scale fisheries [TBC]		1.4.1 2013-2015	
				1.5 Foster cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries and with international and regional organizations in combating IUU fishing [POA 8]	1.5.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC strengthen SEAFDEC network for sustainable fisheries and IUU fishing related countermeasures [FCG/ASSP Project] [Lead country: Indonesia] 1.5.2 Follow up on the implementation of the action plan that was agreed upon following from the <i>Workshop on Assessment of the Impact of IUU Fishing and the EC Regulation 1005/2008 on Small scale fisheries in Southeast Asia Region</i> , co-organized by SEAFDEC.		1.5.1 To be completed by 2015 1.5.2 To be completed by 2015	1.5.1 Project Name: Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries [2013-2017]

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
					- Submission of the action plan from SEAFDEC for ASWGF approval.			
	3. Establish strategic alliances and joint approaches with the private sectors in promoting food safety, investment and joint venture opportunities, promotion of agricultural products and market access	Thrust 5	1. Public/private partnerships	1.1 Improve human resource capabilities for responsible aquaculture through (i) closer public and private sector collaboration in R&D, paying particular attention to the need for advanced skills in biotechnology and assessment of the efficacy and economics of the use of probiotics and immunostimulants; and (ii) effectively implementing aquaculture education and extension services[POA 54]	1.1.1 ASEAN in collaboration with development partners (e.g. USAID MARKET Project) promote closer public/private partnerships to share in technology transfer in biotechnology and use of probiotics and immunostimulants and strengthen extension services [TBC]		1.1.1 [2013-2015]	
				1.2 Engage the private sector in addressing trade-related issues, and in collaborative efforts to promote and sustain regional and international trade [POA 70]	1.2.1 ASEAN in collaboration with development partners (e.g. USAID MARKET Project) to facilitate dialog with ASEAN Seafood Federation and small-scale fishers/farmers group/association in addressing trade-related issues 1.2.1.1 ASEAN Public-	1.2.1 USAID	1.2.1 2013-2015 1.2.1.1	1.2.1 ASEAN-US MARKET Project [2012-2015]

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
					<p>Private Dialogue on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture held in December 2012. Dialogue proposed to form an informal taskforce for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security.</p> <p>1.2.1.2 1st Meeting of the ASEAN Public-Private Informal Taskforce for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in Bali to discuss more concrete activities to be implemented collaboratively through the informal taskforce.</p>		<p>Completed in 2012</p> <p>1.2.1.2 Completed in 2013</p>	1.2.1.2 The Meeting conducted in March 2013, Bali, Indonesia.
	4. Strengthen cooperation on prevention and control of IUU fishing	Thrust 3 Thrust 6	2. Regional fisheries management	2.1 Strengthen regional and national policy and legislation to implement measures and activities to combat IUU fishing, including the development and implementation of national plans of action (NPOAs) to combat IUU fishing, and promote the awareness and understanding of international and regional	<p>2.1.1 ASEAN in Collaboration with SEAFDEC assist AMS in implementing activities to combat IUU Fishing [FCG/ASSP Project]</p> <p>2.1.2 Promote sharing of information on NPOA.</p>		2.1.1 2013-2015	<p>2.1.1 Project Name: Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities 2.1.2 On-going activities under current ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP projects</p> <p>2.1.2 Brunei Darussalam informed that the NPOA of</p>

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				instruments and agreements through information dissemination campaigns [POA 21]	<p>2.1.2.1 Publish (e.g. on a website) existing NPOAs of countries for others to learn from in English. Information exchange of NPOA.</p> <p>2.1.2.2 AMS could share information on steps taken to complete NPOA IUU Fishing through regular AFCF Meeting.</p>		<p>2.1.2.1 2015</p> <p>2.1.2.2 2014</p>	IUU fishing was released in 2011. Currently, the development of the SOP for the implementation of the NPOA is ongoing. Brunei Darussalam is willing to share the information and experiences of the implementation of the NPOA with other AMS.
				2.2 Establish and strengthen regional and sub-regional coordination on fisheries management and efforts to combat IUU fishing including the development of regional/sub-regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) networks that facilitate consultative dialogue among fisheries legal officers to share, at the sub-regional/regional level, perspectives of the respective legal and regulatory framework in terms of developing MCS-networks and to implement	<p>2.2.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC promote activities relating to MCS networks [FCG/ASSP Project]</p> <p>2.2.2 Evaluate existing MCS network. Some AMSs have their own national network – and possibility of exploring all national networks as a reference for the development of a regional network [TBC]</p>		<p>2.2.1 To be completed by 2015</p> <p>2.2.2 2015</p>	<p>2.2.1 Project Name: Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities</p> <p>This activity is already in the current AFCF work plan. Need to continue and finish the existing activity.</p> <p>MCS network focal points have been established (but still missing from several AMS). Focal points need to be regularly updated.</p>

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				efforts to combating IUU fishing [POA 22]				
				2.3 Build up capacity among Member Countries, including functions for regional and sub-regional cooperation, to effectively meet the requirements of Port State measures and Flag State responsibilities [POA 24]	2.3.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC provide capacity building for meeting the requirements of Port State measures and Flag State responsibilities. [FCG/ASSP Project][Lead country: Indonesia]		2.3.1 2013-2015	2.3.1 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Project, in collaboration with FAO (2013-2017)
					2.3.2 Conduct regional training for fisheries inspectors on Port State measures [Indonesia]		2.3.2 To be completed by 2013-2014	
			1. Ecosystem approach to capture fisheries	1.1 Establish and implement comprehensive policies for an ecosystem approach to fisheries management through effective systems by integrating fisheries and environmental management that provide for (i) licenses to fish (boats, gear and people); (ii) community fishing rights/rights-based fisheries; (iii) the development of supporting legal and institutional frameworks; (iv)	1.1.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC to promote fishing licenses, boat registration [FCG/ASSP Project]		1.1.1 To be completed by 2015	1.1.1 Project Name: Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities [Lead country: Malaysia]

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				institutional cooperation; and (v) aid mainstreaming co-management [POA 10]				
				1.2 Accelerate the development of fisheries management plans based on an ecosystem approach to fisheries [POA 8]	1.2.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC, FAO and other development partners to provide training on ecosystem approach and planning in capture fisheries and aquaculture. [on-going] 1.2.2 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC and development partners to provide training and workshop on the ecosystem approach to management of the Large Marine Ecosystems & Integrated Coastal Management (LMEs & ICM). [TBC]		1.2.1 To be completed by 2013	1.2.1 Curriculum and Guidelines for the training completed in 2013.
				1.3 Adopt co-management at all levels and with all relevant stakeholders in the process of planning and policy formulation for management, conservation and rehabilitation of habitats and protective geographical features, as	1.3.1 ASEAN in collaboration with SEAFDEC promote of right-based fisheries and co-management [FCG/ASSP Project]		1.3.1 To be completed by 2014	1.3.1 Project Name: Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management Towards Institutional Building and Participatory Mechanism for Coastal Fisheries

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				well as policy formulation on the use and management of natural and human resources to ensure that climate change responses are integrated into fisheries policy frameworks [POA 11]				Management. New FCG/ASSP project will be implemented [2013-2014].
				1.4 Enhance and promote the participation of local communities, fisheries associations and other stakeholders in fisheries management and co-management. In addition, communities should take part in fisheries and stock assessments by providing data, local ecological knowledge, and status of the stocks [POA 13]	1.4.1 As for 1.3.1		1.4.1 To be completed by 2014	1.4.1 Project Name: Promotion of Rights-based Fisheries and Co-management Towards Institutional Building and Participatory Mechanism for Coastal Fisheries Management [2013-2014]
				1.5 Formulate guidelines to promote the use of practical and simple indicators for inland/flood-plain fisheries within the national inland fisheries management framework, to facilitate (i) timely local level fisheries management decisions with due respect to the large number of people/farmers that take part in fishing; (ii) dialogue to ensure that the	1.5.1 ASEAN in collaboration with development partner (e.g. SEAFDEC.) to extend the existing guidelines on indicators to inland fisheries. [FCG/ASSP Project] 1.5.2 Collaborate with the SEAFDEC through the new Inland		1.5.1 To be completed by 2015 1.5.2 to be completed by 2015	1.5.1 Project Name: Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia; and Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in Southeast Asia (2013-2017) 1.5.2 Indonesia plans to establish the SEAFDEC-Inland

AEC Blueprint Guideline	AEC Blueprint Measures (Lead Country)	SPA Strategic Thrust	Action Programme	Activities	Sub-activity & Target	Participating countries/ organizations	Timeframe	Implementation Status/Remarks
				inter-connectivity of fish migration path is kept as a tool for management/ conservation measures; and (iii) adaptation to the effects of climate change within catchments [POA 37]	Fisheries Development Department to identify and address issues at the ASEAN level. [TBC]			Fisheries Development Department – still ongoing preparation. SEAFDEC formed a special taskforce to assist Indonesia in the setting up of this department. MRC fishery program on inland fishery can also contribute to this activity.
			2. Ecosystem approach to aquaculture	2.1 Where applicable, encourage good practices in aquaculture such as the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification [POA 56]	2.1.1 ASEAN in collaboration with dialog partners (ASEAN-Australia) promote good aquaculture practices (GAqP). [ASEAN-Australia cooperation Project (AADCP) phase II [Lead country: The Philippines] 2.1.2 Implement ASEAN Shrimp GAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMS are encouraged to adjust national standards to align with ASEAN Shrimp GAP 		2.1.1 To be completed by 2014 2.1.2 2013-2015	Consultant has been selected to conduct the work. By March 2013, the project will start and The Philippines can update on the progress at the upcoming ASWGFi.

ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE (ASA)

I. INTRODUCTION

The ASEAN Shrimp Alliance Term of Reference was endorsed by the 29th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (29th AMAF) on 1 November 2007 in Bangkok Thailand. All 10 ASEAN Member States are members of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA). Department of Fisheries, Thailand is the Secretariat of ASA. SEAFDEC is the collaborating partner of ASA. Objectives of ASA are to develop ASEAN Shrimp Culture Practices; discuss on trade-related issue and enhance ASEAN negotiation power in shrimp world market through formation of common issues in relevant international fora. Since its establishment, ASA priority activity is the development of the ASEAN Shrimp Culture Practices including its Strategic Plan on development and implementation of ASEAN Shrimp Standard. Regional Expert Group Meetings were organized during 2009-2011 to develop the ASEAN Shrimp Good Aquaculture Practices (ASEAN Shrimp GAP). The ASEAN Shrimp GAP was developed based on FAO Technical Guideline of Aquaculture Certification. Consequently, the Standard on ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices for Shrimp Farming or ASEAN Shrimp GAP together with the Strategic Plan on Development and Implementation of ASAEN Shrimp GAP was endorsed by the 33rd Meeting of AMAF in October 2011, Indonesia. ASEAN Shrimp GAP comprises four modules as recommended in the FAO Guidelines on Aquaculture Certificate with slightly difference in details of each module. The four modules comprise: 1) Food Safety and Quality; 2) Animal Health and Welfare; 3) Environment Integrity; and 4) Socio-economic Aspects.

II. PROGRESS OF ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE FOR NOVEMBER 2012-NOVEMBER 2013

The Fourth Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance was organized from 10 to 11 June 2013 in Bogor, Indonesia and was hosted by Directorate General of Aquaculture, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Indonesia.

The participating ASEAN Member States presented current status of shrimp production and implementation of shrimp aquaculture standard including the effort to align national shrimp aquaculture standard with ASEAN Shrimp GAP. Since, the alignment of national Shrimp GAP with ASEAN Shrimp GAP is crucial strategy to improve shrimp farming practices of the region thus the Meeting agreed that an alignment process should be developed and agreed among ASEAN Member States. Therefore, Thailand will further discuss with the experts from FAO, SEAFDEC including relevant organizations and if needed the Expert Group Meeting would be held to develop the alignment process.

**ASEAN FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION 2015:
ASEAN SEAFOOD FOR THE WORLD**

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is the goal of regional economic integration among ten ASEAN Member States to be achieved by 31st December 2015. The AEC will establish ASEAN as a single market and production base making ASEAN more dynamic and competitive in the world market. Fisheries Sector is one of 12 priority sectors which ASEAN Leaders agreed to accelerate economic integration since 2007. Moreover, most of ASEAN Member States (AMS) are major producers and exporters of fishery products to the world market. Therefore, promoting and building good images of ASEAN fishery products to the world market is required comprehensive actions at national and regional levels. Organizing the ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition is important strategy of ASEAN Member States in order to build awareness of consumer and importers on ASEAN best practices through the supply chain of fishery products.

In addition, ensuring the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture of Southeast Asian Region is very crucial to sustain the fisheries industry as well as socio-economic well-being of small-scale fisheries. Therefore, a Fisheries Conference together with the Exposition is proposed to be organized as a platform for regional and international experts/scientists to share and exchange information/experiences which would contribute to sustainable development and management of fisheries in the region. Furthermore, new technologies and techniques for sustainable aquaculture will be exchanged which would create new innovation as well as motivation to AMSs to develop their fisheries sector to ensure enough supply for processing sector.

The 21st Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) held on 24-26 July 2013 in Vientiane, Lao PDR supported the Concept Proposal of the Conference and Exposition and suggested Thailand to develop detailed proposal and accommodate comments from the Meeting. The Meeting agreed that this would be an ASEAN initiative to be held in biennial basis. The concept proposal to organize this event was already endorsed by the 35th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry on 26 September 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

II. GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

2.1 Objectives

Objectives of the Conference:

- 1) To share information and experiences on aquaculture and fisheries among scientists/experts from all regions including regional and international organizations;
- 2) To discuss research and development, best practices, technology as well as marketing of fishery products in the region; and
- 3) To exchange the information on the global fisheries market.

Objectives of the Exposition:

- 1) To promote ASEAN fishery products and the progress of development in the ASEAN fishery industries to buyers, importers and consumers; and
- 2) To provide business matching program among exhibitors and importers including a valuable chance to increase foreign trade of the AMS's fishery industry.

2.2 Title and Theme of the Conference and Exposition

The agreed title of the Conference and Exposition is "ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition 2015 – ASEAN Seafood for the World".



2.3 Expected Outcomes

The following outcomes are anticipated through the successful organization of this event:

- 1) Emerging threats for ASEAN aquaculture development will be addressed and collective measures are developed for further implementation by ASEAN Member States;
- 2) Enhancing networks and sharing experiences among experts/scientists from ASEAN Member States and other regions; and
- 3) Promote and increase export value of ASEAN fishery products in the world market.

2.4 Date and Venue of the Conference and Exposition

22-24 January 2015 at BITECH Bangna, Bangkok

2.5 Organization of the Conference and Exposition

The ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition 2015 will be hosted by the Government of Thailand, which all ASEAN Member States are expected to actively participate in the organization process. All preparatory arrangements in line with their standpoint are requested. Moreover, AMSs, relevant regional and international organizations will be invited to participate in the Conference and Exposition.

2.6 Expected Participants

- 1) The Conference will be participated by 500 various officials, researchers, industrial sector from ASEAN Member States and regional/international organizations. Scientists/experts from ASEAN Member States as well as other regions will be invited to attend the Conference as speakers.
- 2) The Exposition will be participated by 500 exhibitors, producers, traders, government and private organization, regional and international organization, etc. around the world.

III. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION

The Conference and Exposition 2015 will be hosted by the Government of Thailand and would be co-organized by ASEAN Member States and SEAFDEC. The Government of Thailand will partly provide financial support to the participants and extend special offers for ASEAN Member States as follows:

- 1) International travel expenses and DSA for invited speakers and 2 representatives from each ASEAN Member State to attend the conference;
- 2) Exemption of registration fee for additional participants of the Conference (if any);
- 3) Providing maximum 6 standard booths for each ASEAN Member States and SEAFDEC (Free of charge)

IV. OUTCOME OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF ASEAN SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES

The Special Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries was organized in 4 October 2013 in Bangkok Thailand during the Special SEAFDEC Council Meeting. The Meeting agreed to establish steering committee to provide guidance on the preparation of the event. The host country will be the chair and the secretariat of the steering committee. The ASEAN Member States would nominate a representative to be a member of the steering committee. The steering committee would consider formation of sub-committees when necessary. The Meeting also concerned on the steering committee meeting that it should be held back to back or prior with relevant ASEAN or SEAFDEC meetings to avoid any burden to ASEAN member states. With regard to the preparation of the conference, the Meeting agreed that SEAFDEC will be an executing agency of the conference with supports from international/regional organizations.

The Special Meeting also took note on the date of the event that may be changed to January 2015 to avoid duplication period with other Expositions such as Boston Seafood Show in March 2015 and European Seafood Exposition in April 2015.

According to the suggestion made by the special meeting of ASWGFi on steering committee establishment, the DOF of Thailand has sent a letter to the ASEAN countries to nominate their respective representatives, one from Department of Fisheries and one or two from relevant private sector to be members of the steering committee.

Moreover, Thailand has established the national organizing committee comprising of the administrative sub-committee, the conference organizing sub-committee and the exposition organizing sub-committee, to take charge on the event preparation. Currently each sub-committee has discussed and set a work plan of relevant preparation of the event.

V. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

The 16th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP is requested to take note on the organization of the ASEAN Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Exposition 2015: ASEAN Seafood for the World as well as provide advice on the organization of this event.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND WAY FORWARD TO IMPROVE THE ASSESSMENT OF STOCK STATUS OF SHARKS AND RAYS IN THE REGION

IX. INTRODUCTION

1. This paper reviews the literature and accessible sources of data and information to be able to synthesize the implementation of CITES-related matters especially on improving data collection on shark and how regional approach is being developed in the Southeast Asia. This paper is prepared to support the discussion during the Sixteenth Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) to be convened from 28 to 29 November 2013 in Penang, Malaysia.

2. Refers to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP16) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) convened from 3 to 14 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand, was attended by about 2,234 participants including Parties, observers, media, and visitors. The participants included one representative each from fisheries-related agencies of the ASEAN Member States who were supported by the Japanese Trust Fund of SEAFDEC. After the deliberations on the selected proposals during the CITES-CoP16, five out of seven proposals relevant to commercially-exploited aquatic species were accepted by the CoP16. The inclusion of shark and ray species in the CITES Appendices during CoP16 will put in place the measures in the next 18 months. Parties are preparing for the implementation of the upcoming listings of several shark and ray species which are oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), great hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*), smooth hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna zigaena*), porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*) and manta rays (*Manta* spp.). The regulations will enter into force in September 2014.

3. Noting that, SEAFDEC Council during its 45th Meeting provided recommendations on such issue that SEAFDEC should focus on shark resources and their conservation in order to obtain scientific evidence of the **status of stocks of sharks**. The Council also recommended that SEAFDEC should closely cooperate with FAO and relevant organizations in jointly addressing the CITES issues, and that FAO should consider not only in developing scientific advice but also raising practical and general problems associated with CITES listings of aquatic species such as the **non-detriment findings (NDF)**, and the inertial nature of CITES decisions, *i.e.* once listed will never be delisted.

4. In addition, the Council requested SEAFDEC to seize the opportunity to utilize the pledge of EU to provide funding for capacity building in activities related to the listing of marine species in the CITES Appendices for the benefit of the region. Such activities could focus on shark-related studies particularly on taxonomy, NDF and in updating the information on marketing of shark products in the region.

5. In response, SEAFDEC Secretariat has communicated to Dr. HARUKO Okusu, Capacity Building Coordinator of the CITES Secretariat who are responsible for capacity building of EU Fund for sharks. In addition, SEAFDEC Training Department organized the Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status, 23-25 October 2013, Bangkok, Thailand under the FCG/ASSP framework funded by JTF. Dr. HARUKO Okusu was also invited to the Workshop as one of the resources persons who provided the talk on “Sharks and Manta Rays under CITES”. Her presentation pointed out “What should parties do by 14 September 2014” that includes the following issues needed to be considered by country namely: 1) Legality includes national laws, legal acquisition, RFMOs, enforcement, etc.; 2) Sustainability includes NDFs, science, Introduction from the Sea, etc.; and 3) Traceability includes permits, identification, reporting and database.

X. RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF SHARK STOCK STATUS, 23-25 OCTOBER 2013, BANGKOK, THAILAND

6. The Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status was convened in Bangkok, Thailand from 23 to 25 October 2013 to gather ideas on how to deal with

sharks data collection, several initiatives related to shark data collection, data collection for assessment of stock status of shark in the future, and regional support from SEAFDEC and others to the Member Countries on implementation of CITES listing shark species. The results of the Workshop are divided into two parts which are shark data collection system of the Member Countries and recommendations and way forward to improve assessment of stock status of sharks/rays in the region.

Shark Data Collection System of SEAFDEC Member Countries

Brunei Darussalam

7. Sharks landed are not targeted species in Brunei Darussalam. They are incidental catch from fisheries targeting of other commercial value species. Four shark species listed under CITES found in the country's waters which are *Carcharodon carcharias*, *Cetorhinus maximus*, *Rhincodon typus* and *Pristis microdon*. Under the Fisheries Order 2009, the conditions of fishing license is not allowed to catch any species of shark and any incidental catch of sharks must be released in a good condition. The country's challenges on conservation and management of shark resources are for instance insufficient data on shark stock status, spatial and temporal distributions, inadequate trained personnel on shark identification and biology and lack of specific research solely focused on sharks since it is mostly a portion of other research studies such as stock assessment surveys using trawl¹.

Cambodia

8. In Cambodia, marine living resources including sharks and rays have never been studied in detail but according to Tana (1996 and 1999) and Jensen and Try (2002), there are 20 species of sharks. Whale shark is a rare species in Cambodia. In addition, the country has not developed any collaborative mechanism with commercial or large-scale industries to collect data and information on sharks. The official statistics from the Fishery Administration record only total marine fish production. Shark products (meat and fins) are used for local consumption in the coastal area and in nearby cities. Market price of shark meat is about 7,000-8,000 riels/kg (around 2 US\$) in the coastal area. There is no export of processed shark from Cambodia².

Indonesia

9. Shark fishery in Indonesia has been going for long time, whereas data collection of sharks has actually been started since 1970s. Based on available statistics, eleven species groups are reported. There are five groups of sharks which are recorded separately: thresher sharks, hammerhead sharks, dogfish sharks, mackerel sharks / makos and requiem sharks. Meanwhile, ray is classified by six groups, namely stingrays, manta rays, eagle rays, shovelnose rays, whitespotted wedgefishes, and sawfishes.

10. The country already adopted NPOA-Sharks since 2010 but it is not yet approved by the Minister. The NPOA identifies key issues for shark and ray management in the country. Key actions adopted in the NPOA such as review status of shark and ray fisheries, compilation methods and data collection process, etc. The workshops to review implementation of key actions were conducted on October 2011 and 2012. Some of NPOA-Sharks elements are carried out such as shark's identification, training for enumerator and annually reviews of document. It was recommended that NPOA-Sharks should be contained management measures (including law enforcement), implementation of NPOA-Sharks should be approved by regulation and supported by sufficient budget and data collection should be strengthened. The issues on shark data collection are on difficulties for data collection from artisanal fishing boats where they unload in remote small landing sites, species identification problem when only part of shark body landed (fin) at port, research, publication and information of shark fisheries are limited. There is a little information on

¹ Matzaimi Haji Juna and Azri Waliyuddin Haji Nasir (2013). "Country Report on Shark Fisheries, Conservation and Management in Brunei Darussalam". Paper presented at the "Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status", 23-25 October 2013, Bangkok.

² Suy Serywath (2013). "Country Report on Status of Shark in Cambodia". Paper presented at the "Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status", 23-25 October 2013, Bangkok.

biological data of sharks species landed. Therefore, stock assessment for sharks in all over Indonesia has not yet been conducted³.

Malaysia

11. Under the International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 (Act 686), there are hundreds of species where its trade matters, including its parts and derivatives are being controlled by various authorities. The Act controls any import and export, re-export and introduction from the sea, possession, transit, breeding or propagation of species scheduled under this Act. There are currently three species of sharks and seven species of rays listed under this Act namely basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*), great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) and all sawfishes (rays) species under Family Pristidae. Five species of sharks and manta rays listed in Appendix II of CITES would be included into the Third Schedule of the Act.

12. NPOA-Sharks with the main objective to ensure the conservation and management of shark and their long-term sustainable use was developed by the Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DoFM) covering the period 2006-2010 and extended to 2013-2017 under NPOA-Shark (Plan 2). During the Workshop, there are several issues on shark catch data collection such as the inadequate knowledge on taxonomy (elasmobranch) especially staff involve in data collection (high diversity of sharks (63 species) and rays (83 species)), there are also too many private jetties *e.g.* in Perak State more than 500 (>2,000 fishing vessels) therefore lack of manpower at district level to sample more vessels, those experienced staff in taxonomy usually transferred to other division, and limited funding support from the government to conduct extensive research throughout the country⁴.

Myanmar

13. Shark fisheries in Myanmar are small scale, which utilize wooden boats with engine not more than 25 horse power. Most of the shark landings are coming from incidental catch. There are only few dedicated elasmobranch fishermen, although elasmobranchs are caught as by catch and are obtained by bottom trawling and gill net fisheries. However, no specific data for shark fisheries in Department of Fisheries yet. The Department of Fisheries never permits or allow specifically designed for shark fishing. According to the Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Order no. 2/2004, regarding shark resources conservation on 5th May 2004, any shark fishing operation in the protected areas starting from “Ross” island (12° 13' N, 98° 05.2' E) to “Lampi” island (10° 48.' N, 98° 16.1' E) is prohibited. Sharks and rays can be used sustainable by tourism activities, especially shark-watching dive tours⁵.

Philippines

14. According to the Checklist of Philippines Chondrichthyes⁶, there are at least 163 species (*i.e.*, 3 chimaeras, 94 sharks and 66 batoids). However, the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS) of the Philippines lists the production of sharks in a single category, the same for rays. In this regard, there are also other sources of shark data in the country such as National Statistics Office (Trade data on by-products), BFAR Fisheries Regulatory and Quarantine Division (Export-import data), BFAR National Stock Assessment Program (Specific landed catch data), BFAR Fisheries Observer’s Program (On-board data).

15. The Philippines is a signatory of the influential and globally respected CITES, and according to its own Republic Act 8550, signed in 1998, which provides for “the development, management and conservation of the fisheries and aquatic resources,” all species listed in CITES are automatically protected

³ Diding Sudira Efendi and Dian Novianto (2013). “Country report on Shark Data Collection System in Indonesia”. Paper presented at the “Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status”, 23-25 October 2013, Bangkok.

⁴ Abd. Haris Hilmi bin Ahmad Arshad and Ahmad bin Ali (2013). “Country report of Malaysia: Current Sharks Data Collection System” Paper presented at the “Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status”, 23-25 October 2013, Bangkok.

⁵ Nilar Htwe (2013). “Country report on Sharks data collection system in Myanmar” Paper presented at the “Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status”, 23-25 October 2013, Bangkok.

⁶ Compagno *et al.*, 2005. Checklist of Philippine Chondrichthyes. CSIRO Marine Laboratories Report 243. 109 p.

in the Philippines. The whale shark is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List Criteria and Appendix II of the CITES. A Fisheries Administrative Order was enacted by the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-FAO no. 143 series of 1998) to protect the whale sharks and manta rays and bans the “taking or catching, selling, purchasing and possessing, transporting and exporting of whale sharks and manta rays”. In 2009, NPOA-Sharks was adopted with the aims to ensure the conservation and management of sharks and their long-term sustainable use and provide a national guideline for managers and interested stakeholders on how to incorporate these issues concerning sharks and rays into the overall management of fisheries resources in the country. The challenges are on improving scientific data collection platforms and conduct socio-economic studies as well as shark finning issue⁷.

Thailand

16. Sharks and rays are non target species and are in small proportion in total catch of demersal fish (for sharks less than 2% and rays around 3-4%). The national fishery statistics lists all catch of shark species into one group, the same for rays. According to the study of Department of Fisheries in 2013, there are 63 species of each shark and ray. The challenges of shark and ray data collection are on insufficient shark and ray specialists, guidebooks and database system for shark resource management⁸.

17. The country even though its NPOA-Sharks has not completed since it has been drafted in 2005. The implementation has been continuously conducted by the Department of Fisheries (DOF) mainly on data collection on sharks and rays but it is still lacking the involvement of stakeholders. In this regard, DOF plan to conduct several activities in relation to endorse NPOA-Sharks of Thailand such as data collection on ray in 2013-2014, capacity building of the officials and other relevant officers, producing shark and ray identification sheets, published field guides for shark and ray identification, and dissemination the knowledge on shark conservation to stakeholder such as releasing bamboo sharks (*Chiloscyllium* spp.) and blacktip reef shark (*Carcharhinus melanopterus*).

Vietnam

18. Shark fisheries in Viet Nam are small scale, catch rate and catch composition of shark are relatively low. There are not dedicated elasmobranch fishermen, almost elasmobranchs are caught as by catch. Although the value of shark is quite high leading to large exploitation. Shark fin has not consumed much in domestic, these products are exported to China. The constrains in data collection and assessment of shark stock are inadequate research on shark biology, formulation standard format for data collection and analysis, lack of taxonomist in elasmobranch, insufficient species information and catch composition etc.

19. Shark resources and research have not yet been comprehensive studied in Viet Nam. Current information about shark fisheries were derived from research of some projects from 2000-2005 for example “Assessment of Living Marine Resources in Vietnam”, “Research of Stock Biomass and the Ability to Exploit Large Pelagic Fish in the Offshore Waters of Central and Southeast Vietnam. The results from such studied showed that there are 38 species of sharks belonging to 23 genus in the study areas. Since 2005 to 2010, sources of shark data are not updated regularly, but only in some small research at local level. However, the country is conducting the survey on ‘Changes of Fisheries Resources in South Vietnam from 2011-2015’. The project survey will have additional information for species composition, distribution including shark species in Vietnam waters. In addition the project on “Building database systems investigate biodiversity, resources, oceanography and marine fisheries” from 2011-2015 would have been the basis of national data on fishery including shark data⁹.

⁷ Francisco Torres Jr. (2013). “Country report on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status in the Philippines” Paper presented at the “Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status”, 23-25 October 2013, Bangkok.

⁸ Tassapon Krajangdara (2013). “Country report on Current Sharks and Rays Data Collection System in Thailand” Paper presented at the “Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status”, 23-25 October 2013, Bangkok.

⁹ Le Huu Tuan Anh (2013). “Country report on Sharks data collection system in Vietnam” Paper presented at the “Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status”, 23-25 October 2013, Bangkok.

Recommendations and Way Forward to Improve Assessment of Stock Status of Sharks/Rays in the Region

20. According to the reports by the countries on utilization of sharks in their respective countries, it is clear that sharks and rays are non-target catch. Available national statistic in all countries recorded sharks and rays by group but not up to species level. However, it was noted that Malaysia and Thailand is now conducting pilot project to record data landing at species level for sharks and rays. The common issues in the region also included inadequate experts and competent officers in elasmobranchs taxonomy, insufficient knowledge and expertise to identify shark's part and derivatives, biological data, stock structure, and spatial and temporal distribution of sharks and rays are still lacking.

21. In order to improve assessment of stock status of sharks/rays in the region, the Workshop suggested that data collection on these species should be started up with some major species, such as CITES listed species including hammerhead and oceanic whitetip sharks, manta rays and thresher sharks (IOTC). Species identification may be too difficult for routine data collection, it was therefore recommended to make more use of illustration, group of species, etc. Catch-and-release data should be also collected in the country (s) where sharks/rays are totally banned. Step-by-step approach is necessary by starting up with stakeholder consultation to explain what to do and achieve when implementing shark data collection. By using catch and effort data (CPUE), abundance and biomass of sharks/rays can be estimated. The Workshop therefore recommended that a standardized CPUE for specific type of fishing gears (trawl, gill-net, purse seine, longline, handline, etc), and to be recorded by using its logbook should be developed. The current data sheet used by enumerators in Malaysia should be used as guidelines for other countries. In this regard, SEAFDEC will develop a standardized data sheet for this region to record CPUE data specific to the type of fishing gears as well as logbook.

22. SEAFDEC/TD in cooperation with MFRDMD will further work closely with the Member Countries to come up with the set of pilot activities. Sampling sites of the pilot activities include area of: Andaman Sea (Myanmar, Thailand, and Indonesia); Gulf of Thailand and South China Sea (Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam); and Sulu Sulawesi Seas (Malaysia and Philippines). Possible pilot sites, to be partly supported by the Japanese Trust Fund Program through SEAFDEC/TD, appeared in *Appendix 1*. It was planned that three (3) species of hammerhead sharks (CITES Appendix II), Thresher sharks (IOTC), and manta ray (CITES Appendix II) will be recorded at that selected pilot sites. In this connection, TD will closely coordinate with CITES Secretariat for EU funding support capacity building program for implementation of CITES listed species of sharks/rays.

23. From CITES Secretariat point of view made by Dr. Okusu in term of regional and national capacity building. The following issues are needed to be considered:

- a. Cooperation between CITES Authorities and fisheries-related agencies;
- b. Work plan towards implementation
 - Legality (legal acquisition, national laws)
 - Sustainability (stock assessments, NDFs)
 - Traceability (identification, reporting, databases)
- c. Party-driven, based on national/regional needs

XI. UPDATED IMPLEMENTATION IN RESPONSE TO THE REGULATION ADOPTED AT THE COP16 BY SEVERAL COUNTRIES

European Union

24. After the CoP16, EU has made available 1.2 million Euros to the CITES Secretariat to support developing countries in the sustainable management and enhanced implementation of CITES regulations for commercially-exploited aquatic species. This financial contribution will be used to strengthen scientific, institutional and enforcement capacity. In this connection, the European Commission requested TRAFFIC to carry out a rapid assessment of capacity building priorities and needs.

25. In June 2013, the EU Council of Ministers formally adopted a **strengthened ban on shark finning**. The EU therefore entirely banned the practice of sharks finning caught by EU vessels and such sharks must be landed with their fins naturally attached. During discussions held on July 2013 in Bonn, Germany announced that they have launched a study to develop guidelines and recommendations for CITES Parties on how to make non-detriment findings (NDFs) for porbeagle shark and other shark species, and is considering holding an international workshop on NDFs for sharks in 2014¹⁰.

India

26. According to TRAFFIC report¹¹, the country was considered the world's second-largest shark fishery behind Indonesia. In August 2013, the Ministry of Environment and Forests issued a 'fins naturally attached' policy which meant that a shark can be finned only at a port or a harbor and not on the boat in the high seas. Those against the laws could face up to seven years in prison under the assumption that any fins brought in alone are from a species who is protected under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, even if they aren't. This policy is considered the best and most cost-effective way to enforce a finning ban while also helping with species identification and data collection. Since identification of shark species solely from its fins has proven to be difficult¹².

Japan

27. According to the press release by CITES on 14 September 2013¹⁰, it was reported that Japan has entered reservations¹³ on all five shark species. This means that they will not be bound by CITES regulations when trading in these species. However, Japan expressed its willingness to comply voluntarily with the Convention requirements for export permits and to provide technical support to prepare for the entry into effect of the sharks listing including of shark fin identification.

China

28. China while opposed the inclusion of these shark species in the CITES Appendices at CoP16 and continues to have concerns regarding implementation, in the spirit of international cooperation under CITES, it is with full respect for the decisions adopted at CoP16. As such, China will apply the CITES rules to these species. Hence it did not enter any reservations¹⁰.

Malaysia

29. A review of the NPOA-Shark (2006) is in the final stages, with stakeholder consultation due to be completed in September 2013. A revised NPOA-Sharks is expected to be published by the end of 2013¹⁴.

Thailand

30. Thailand with its Notification of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issued on 27 June 2013 already included sharks and rays species adopted during the CITES-CoP16 into its regulation¹⁵.

¹⁰ Juan Carlos Vasquez (2013). "CITES getting ready for sharks and rays" Retrieved online on 5 November 2013 from [http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2013/20130914_shark_ray.php]

¹¹ Mundy-Taylor V. and Crook V. (2013). "Into the deep: Implementing CITES measures for commercially-valuable sharks and manta rays". Report prepared for the European Commission.

¹² Graef, A. (2013). "Victory! India bans shark finning" Retrieved online on 5 November 2013 from [<http://www.care2.com/causes/victory-india-bans-shark-finning.html>]

¹³ Any Party (member State) of CITES may make a unilateral statement that it will not be bound by the provisions of the Convention relating to trade in a particular species listed in the Appendices (or in a part or derivative listed in Appendix III)

¹⁴ IOTC Secretariat (2013). Progress on the Development and Implementation of National Plans of Action for Seabirds and Sharks (Updated 16 September 2013). Appendix VII of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Working Party on Ecosystem and Bycatch, La Reunion, France, 12-16 September 2013.

¹⁵ Notification of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on Prohibiting of Import and Export and Wildlife Species and Wildlife Carcass (27 June 2013) in the Royal Thai Government Gazette Vol. 130 no. 90Ng pp. 27-48.

Vietnam

31. According to the Circular no. 40/2013/TT-BNNPTNT on 5 September 2013, issued list species of wild fauna specified in the Annex to the CITES which also included shark species in Appendix II adopted during the CITES-CoP16¹⁶.

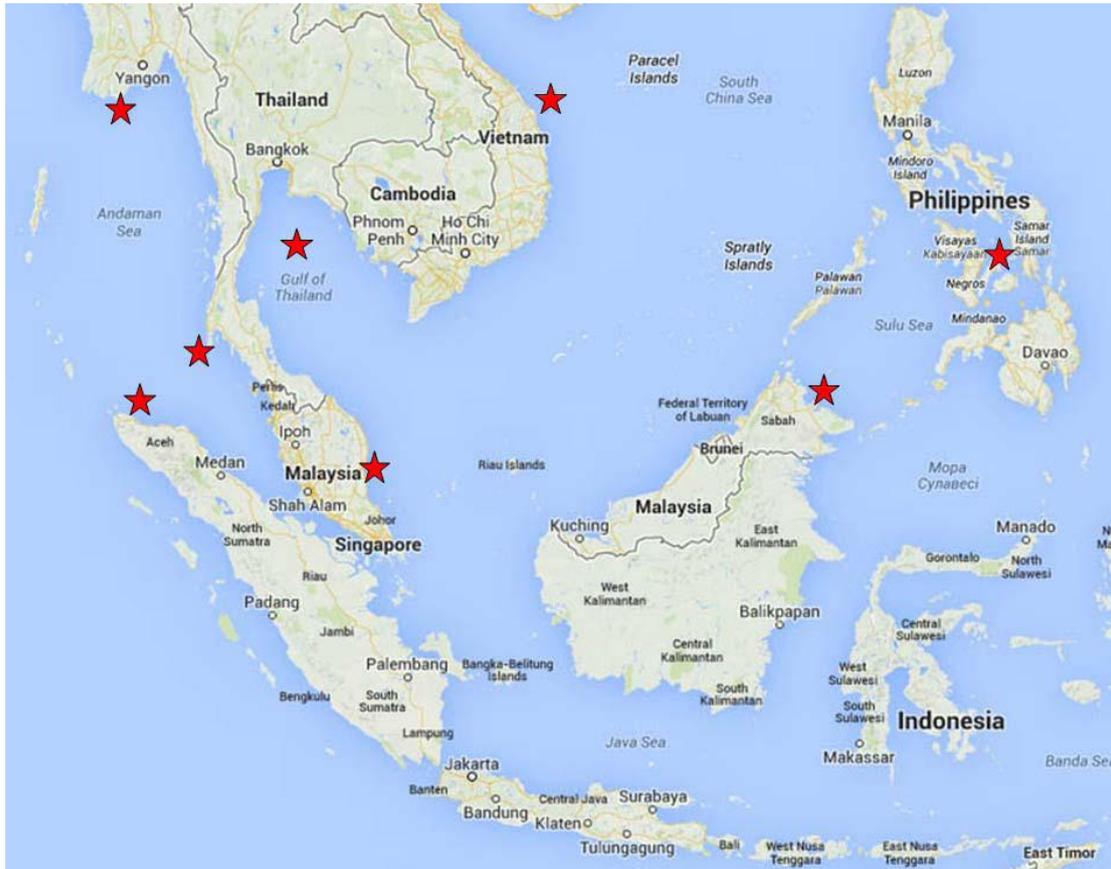
XII. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

32. The Meeting is requested to take note the recommendations made by 45th Meeting of the Council on CITES-related issues. The Meeting is also requested to share update implementation of CITES-related matters especially on improving data collection on sharks. Lastly, the Meeting is cordially invited to provide policy recommendations on the future direction and way forwards in relation to CITES-related issues.

¹⁶ Le Huu Tuan Anh (2013). “*Country report on Sharks data collection system in Vietnam*” Paper presented at the “Regional Workshop on Data Collection Methodology for the Assessment of Shark Stock Status”, 23-25 October 2013, Bangkok.



Possible sites of the support from SEAFDEC-JTF project



FAO VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN THE CONTEXT OF FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY ERADICATION

This document reviews the status and process on Development of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries through a series of meetings at international and regional levels. Inputs from Southeast Asian in the earlier stage before drafting the zero draft texts are also included for all Member Countries reference. Another aims of this document is to inform all SEAFDEC Member Countries on the involvement in discussion to finalize the Draft Texts of Guidelines organizes by FAO/Rome: The Technical Consultation (TC) was convened on 20-24 May 2013, and the resumed session of the TC will be held on 3-7 February 2014 at FAO/Rome, Italy. It is expected that the final draft texts of the Guidelines from the resumed session of TC will be considered and approved by the next FAO-COFI in 2014.

I. BACKGROUND

There is growing international and national recognition of the critical role small-scale fisheries play in food security and poverty alleviation and the well-being of rural fishing communities. The latest estimates indicate that small-scale fisheries contribute over half of the world's marine and inland fish catch, nearly all of which is used for direct human consumption. They employ over 90 percent of the world's more than 35 million capture fishers and support another approximate 90 million people employed in jobs associated with fish processing, distribution and marketing. At least half of the people employed in small-scale fisheries are women. The importance of the small-scale fisheries sector is of global reach and its diversity in culture and traditions are part of humankind's heritage.

At its 26th session in March 2009, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) reviewed the outcome of the Global Conference on Small-scale Fisheries – Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand, 13-17 October 2008. The Conference in cooperation with SEAFDEC and DOF/Thailand, attended by more than 280 participants from 65 countries was organized by FAO. It was preceded by a preparatory workshop of more than 100 participants of fish workers organizations and CSOs. The Conference identified several critical ways forward in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries that integrate social, cultural and economic development, address resource access and use rights issues guided by human rights principles, and recognize the rights of indigenous peoples. The Conference also reaffirmed that human rights are critical to achieving sustainable development. In connection to the Conference, the ASEAN Coordinated Position for the Promotion of Small-scale Fisheries in the Southeast Asia was also addressed (see *Appendix I*)

In considering the outcome of the Conference at COFI, many FAO Members expressed the need for an international instrument on small-scale fisheries that would guide national and international efforts to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries and create a framework for monitoring and reporting. Many Members supported the need for FAO to establish a specific global program dedicated to small-scale fisheries. In response to this request, the FAO Secretariat agreed to convene three regional workshops for Asia & Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and Caribbean in October 2010.

As part of consultative process, the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultative Workshop on 'Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Bringing together responsible fisheries and social development' was organized by FAO/APFIC on 6 to 8 October 2010 at the Windsor Suites Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The 72 participants came from a cross section of fisheries sector stakeholders including from 20 countries and 12 Regional Fisheries Bodies and Regional Organizations and 14 fish workers' organizations, disaster preparedness and response agencies, and other civil society organizations. In order to develop the guidance, the workshop focused on the following themes:

- Good Practices in the Governance of Small-scale Fisheries, with a Focus on Rights-based Approaches
- Gender and Small-scale Fisheries in Asia and the Pacific: Considerations, Issues and Good Practices
- Good practices in applying the ecosystem approach to small-scale fisheries
- Reducing vulnerability of fishing and fish farming communities to disasters and climate change impacts.

The outputs from the FAO/APFIC workshop are appeared as **Appendix 2**. The participants agreed that the proposed instrument should be a code or guidelines developed by international consensus which would inform a global program of assistance. The international instrument would form the basis for the development of regional, national and local guidelines and plans of action for small-scale fisheries.

At 29th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries held in January/February 2011, the synthesized outcomes of three regional consultative workshops was presented, the Secretariat summarized the discussions noting, *inter alia*: the recognition of the importance of small-scale fisheries and the need for integrating them in national policies; the heterogeneity of the small-scale fisheries sector; the role of South-South cooperation; and the need for FAO to cooperate with other organizations on these issues. On the international instrument required consensus on the voluntary nature and the need to focus on developing countries, and guidelines as the preferred option for such an instrument.

II. THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR SECURING SUSTAINABLE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES¹

These draft texts of “Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries” in the context of food security and poverty eradication have been developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). They were developed to provide complementary guidance with respect to small-scale fisheries in support of the overall principles and provisions of the CCRF. Accordingly, the Guidelines are intended to support the visibility, recognition and enhancement of the already important role of small-scale fisheries and to contribute to global and national efforts towards the eradication of hunger and poverty. The Guidelines support responsible governance of fisheries and sustainable social and economic development for the benefit of current and future generations, with an emphasis on small-scale fishers and fish workers and related activities and including vulnerable and marginalized people promoting a human rights based approach.”

These Guidelines have been developed through a participatory and consultative process, involving representatives of small-scale fishing communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), governments, regional organizations and other stakeholders. A Technical Consultation of the Food and Agriculture Organization then reviewed the Guidelines. They take into account a wide range of important considerations and principles, including equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and rule of law, and the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent.

The Guidelines are consistent with and promote international human rights standards. These guidelines are complementary to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and its related instruments. They also take into account the technical guidelines, such as the Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 10 “Increasing the Contribution of Small-scale Fisheries to Poverty Alleviation and Food Security”, as well as other voluntary international instruments, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Contexts of National Food Security (Tenure Guidelines) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (Right to Food Guidelines), as applicable. States and other stakeholders are encouraged to also consult these other guidelines, as well as relevant international and regional instruments, to fully integrate applicable obligations, voluntary commitments and available guidance.

Taking into accounts, the Technical Consultation, convened from 20-24 May 2013 at FAO/Rome, Italy, still subject to another session of negotiations/discussion of which is scheduled on 3-7 February 2014 at FAO/Rome before formal approval by the FAO Committee on Fisheries – COFI – next year. Therefore all Member Countries are encouraged to be involved in the discussion. As known, The Guidelines need to be put into practice to have a positive impact on the lives of all those who depend on fisheries and aquatic resources for their livelihoods and well-being. This of course includes small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities but also others who depend on fish for their nutritional needs as well as all of us who enjoy eating fish and who believe in equitable development and a sustainable use of our global resources.

¹ FAO Draft text at the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale fisheries, Rome, Italy. 20-24 May 2013

Hence, the country involvement to the TC would be necessary. The most updated Draft Texts from the TC in May 2013 to be used for the resumed session of the TC in February 2014 is appeared in **Appendix 3**.

III. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE 16FCG/ASSP MEETING

The Meeting is requested to take note the progress on negotiation/discussion on the Draft Texts of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries prepared by FAO. The meeting is also invited to provide recommendations on the Draft Texts and way forward to be involved in the negotiation process by SEAFDEC and Member Countries.

COORDINATED POSITION FOR PROMOTION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

SEAFDEC Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Asian region, fisheries is considered one of the very important sectors contributing to the development of national economy, income generation, employment opportunity, livelihood, and food security for the people. In many countries, large portion of capture fisheries production is derived from the small-scale fisheries sub-sector, and a major composition of the fishers are from small-scale fisheries. To ensure sustainable development of the fisheries sector as a whole, sustainable development and responsible operation of small-scale fisheries is very crucial. However, rapid development of fisheries in general has led to degradation of the fishery resources, resulting in serious impact to the sustainability of small-scale fisheries.

The importance and concerns of small-scale capture fisheries have recently been addressed at the global level, and in order to discuss and improve the knowledge on a wide range of issues relevant to small-scale fisheries, FAO in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries of Thailand will organize a Global Conference on “Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries: Bringing Together Responsible Fisheries and Social Development” from 13 to 17 October 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand.

In order to prepare the readiness of the ASEAN Member Countries to actively participate and provide inputs to the Global Conference, an ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) was organized from 29 April to 2 May 2008, with the participation of representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The RTC discussed and concluded the coordinated position for the promotion of small-scale fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, to be used as basis for Member Countries in their active participation and in providing interventions to the Global Conference, and for the further promotion of small-scale capture fisheries in the region.

II. COORDINATED POSITION FOR PROMOTION OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Taking into consideration the common issues and concerns on small-scale fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, the countries in the region expressed the need for sustainable development and management of small-scale fisheries, in accordance with their respective national priority, culture, social, economics, and environmental conditions, in order to ensure the sub-sector’s multi-functionality and its contribution to national economy, local food security, sustainable livelihoods, poverty alleviation, and provide job opportunities.

The countries reaffirmed that the existing international and regional frameworks, such as the ASEAN’s Vientiane Action Program (2006-2010), the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the series of Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia, the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region, the ASEAN Vision “to be leader in sustainable tropical fisheries”, should be used to address the need for sustainable development and management of small-scale fisheries.

While agreeing that the small-scale fisheries-related agenda including poverty alleviation, creating job opportunities and achieving economic growth should be mainstreamed into the national fisheries policy, the countries suggested that the following regional coordinated position could be used as basis and considerations for the promotion and development of small-scale fisheries:

Social, economic and human rights aspects

Livelihood and Poverty

- Governments to develop strategies focusing on livelihood development, rather than emphasizing exclusively on technical intervention
- Governments in collaboration with concerned stakeholders to identify and support the supplemental/alternative means of livelihood in addition to fisheries activities in order to provide additional income contributing to poverty alleviation of the small-scale fishers
- Governments to facilitate fishers' access to productive assets, such as land, infrastructure, capital (such as low interest credit scheme) and market information, in order to diversify the economic activities in the fishing communities

High Operating Cost

- Governments to provide appropriate intervention and supporting schemes to address the fishers' problems on high operating costs

Market Improvement

- Governments to improve market system, such as through the establishment of the collection centers including fish landing places, and public auction system in the domestic fish market at the rural community level, in order to increase economic returns to the small-scale fisheries sub-sector

Safety in Fishing Operations

- Governments to support community organizations and initiatives to improve safety of small-scale fishers, taking into consideration their disadvantaged and vulnerable conditions caused by their isolated and unsafe working environments, and natural calamities

Vulnerability from Natural Hazards

- Governments, fishing communities and relevant organizations to develop simple information and warning systems for natural disasters and other measures to mitigate the impact of natural disasters to fishers and fishing communities
- Governments and relevant organizations to promote appropriate interventions to build the capacity of small-scale fishers to adapt to the changing situation brought about by climate change

Gender Sensitivity

- Governments and relevant local organizations to promote women involvement in development planning and management at the local level

Social Welfare and Health

- Related agencies to develop and promote social welfare and health campaign supporting small-scale fisheries

Human Resources Development

- To encourage the study on the importance and function of small-scale fisheries, and enhancing public awareness on the importance and contribution of small-scale fisheries
- To enhance education for children in small-scale fishing communities, *e.g.* provision of scholarships

Sustainable Resource Use and Access Rights Aspects

Fisheries Management

- To replace "open access" to fishery resources with "limited access regimes" through the co-management between governments and resource users' organizations
- To build awareness on the co-management approach and environmental conservation for small-scale fishers and other stakeholders in fishing communities
- To minimize impact of large-scale fisheries on small-scale fisheries by improving vessel registration and licensing systems, zoning, and the implementation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS), and provide exclusive rights to small-scale fishers to their fishing grounds



- To develop supporting legal and institutional frameworks, as well as provision of government intervention, and technical and financial support to promote responsible fisheries and establish co-management
- To maximize the use of existing information including “local knowledge” to enhance better communication and improve management of fisheries

Habitat Conservation

- To promote conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of habitats critical to fishery resources in line with ecosystem approach to fisheries

Governance

- To strengthen coordination between fisheries and other agencies involved in the usage and management of the common water resources to minimize conflict of interests among the fisheries and other sectors
- To empower and strengthen local fishers’ organizations to involve in development planning and management through provision of proper outreach and extension

Post-harvest benefits aspects

Maximum Utilization

- To maximize the utilization of catch and minimize losses through appropriate preservation and handling technologies, e.g. ice box, small-scale ice machine, etc.

Enhancing Incomes through Products Improvement

- To improve the quality of fisheries products by promoting food safety and hygiene of products in response to the market demand
- To develop value-added products through appropriate post-harvest technologies to ensure revenues for fishers and communities

OUTPUTS OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP (6-8 October 2010)

The workshop concluded the rights of fishers, fishing communities and small-scale fishers were various and many are already internationally recognized. Detailed coverage of important rights for supporting small-scale fisheries was identified and these were clustered under the following categories:

- Right to livelihood & social protection
- Right to good governance
- Rights to manage resources
- Right to access & tenure
- Right to decent and safe, labour & working conditions

The rights identified as essential for the support of small-scale fisheries are underpinned by a number of Key Principles including the following:

- Principle of Subsidiarity
- Transparency and accountability
- Gender equality
- Respect for traditional/indigenous knowledge and local wisdom
- Formal integration of small-scale fisheries into rural development policies
- Policies and interventions associated with disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change (CC) should take into account and respond to the specific needs of the small-scale fisheries sector
- Appropriate consultation mechanisms
- Prior and informed consent
- Consensus should be built on approaches, systems and strategies to address the needs of small-scale fisheries in relation to disaster preparedness (including prevention and mitigation), response and rehabilitation
- Engagement and consultation with NGO's and CBO in support of small-scale fisheries
- NGO's concerned with small-scale fisheries should be afforded the opportunity to full participate in planning and implementation of relevant legislation, policies and programmes
- Approaches, systems and strategies should reflect the needs and requirements of different stakeholders in small-scale fisheries, including men, women and children involved in capture, post harvest and ancillary work

Taking into account the human rights and key principles, a number of goals for the small-scale fisheries sector were identified. These goals should be informed by the UN Millennium Development Goals and include the following:

- Management of small-scale fisheries ensures that human well-being is balanced with ecological well-being
- Security from external threats (pollution, industrial fishing, displacement)
- Ensure that larger-scale operations do not undermine small-scale fisheries and respect the human rights based approach and gender dimension
- Reduction of conflicts with other resource users Elimination of child labour
- Promotion of decent and safe work and employment
- Reduced vulnerability of fishing communities to natural disasters and CC impacts
- Enhanced capacity small-scale fisheries communities with regard to CC adaptation
- Reducing the carbon footprint and negative environmental impacts of small-scale fisheries
- Ensure equitable benefits to small-scale fisheries from development of tourism, aquaculture and conservation efforts etc.
- Ensuring that the benefits of the fishery trade lead to human development
- Ensuring that fisheries trade promotes human development
- Secured access to markets for small-scale fisheries products
- Products of small-scale fisheries meet food hygiene requirement
- Diversifying livelihoods to reduce dependency on fisheries resources
- Increasing the voice, choice and capacity of small-scale fisheries to take up alternative livelihood opportunities

DRAFT TEXTS OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FROM THE TC (As of May 2013)

(These draft texts of the Guidelines will be used for the Resumed Session of the TC in February 2014)

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<p>This document contains the draft text of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. It has been developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.</p>							
<p><i>The TC will continue its negotiation during a resumed session. The below key explains the status of the negotiated paragraphs.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paragraphs marked with a * at beginning and end have been agreed upon and are closed for discussion. 2. Paragraphs with text marked with [] are partially agreed upon, and only the text marked with [] is open to further discussion. 3. Paragraphs that are highlighted are either new additions or substantial changes that have not been further discussed and are thus considered open. 4. Unmarked paragraphs have not been discussed. 							
<p><i>This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org</i></p>							

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCRF	Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO)
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DRM	Disaster risk management
EAF	Ecosystem approach to fisheries
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IUU (fishing)	Illegal, unreported and unregulated (fishing)
MCS	Monitoring, control and surveillance
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
RFB	Regional fishery body
Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
SSF	Small-scale fisheries
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WTO	World Trade Organization

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PREFACE

*These *Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication* have been developed as a complement to the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF). They were developed to provide complementary guidance with respect to small-scale fisheries in support of the overall principles and provisions of the CCRF. Accordingly, the Guidelines are intended to support the visibility, recognition and enhancement of the already important role of small-scale fisheries and to contribute to global and national efforts towards the eradication of hunger and poverty. The Guidelines support responsible governance of fisheries and sustainable social and economic development for the benefit of current and future generations, with an emphasis on small scale fishers and fish workers and related activities and including vulnerable and marginalized people promoting a human rights based approach.

It is emphasized that these Guidelines are voluntary, global in scope and with a focus on the needs of developing countries.

Small-scale and artisanal fisheries,¹ encompassing all activities along the value chain – pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest – undertaken by men and women, play an important role in food security and nutrition,² poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource³ utilization. Small-scale fisheries provide nutritious food for local, national and international markets, generate income to support local and national economies.

Small-scale fisheries contribute about half of global fish catches and when considering catches destined for direct human consumption, the share contributed by the subsector increases to two-thirds. Inland fisheries are particularly important in this respect and small-scale fisheries food production dominates the subsector. Small-scale fisheries employ over 90 percent of the world's capture fishers and fish workers, about half of whom are women. In addition to employment as full- or part-time fishers and fish workers, seasonal or occasional fishing and related activities provide vital supplements to the livelihoods of millions. These activities may be a recurrent sideline activity or become especially important in times of difficulty. Many small-scale fishers and fish workers are self-employed and engaged in directly providing food for their household and communities as well as working in commercial fishing, processing and marketing. Fishing and related activities often underpin the local economies in coastal, lakeshore and riparian communities and constitute an engine, generating multiplier effects in other sectors.

Small-scale fisheries represent a diverse and dynamic subsector, often characterized by seasonal migration. The precise characteristics of the subsector vary depending on the location; indeed small-scale fisheries tend to be strongly anchored in local communities, reflecting often historic links to adjacent fishery resources, traditions and values, and supporting social cohesion. For many small-scale fishers and fish workers, fisheries represent a way of life and the subsector embodies a diversity and cultural richness that is of global significance. Many small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities – including vulnerable and marginalized groups – are directly dependent on access to fishery resources and land. Tenure rights to land in the coastal/waterfront area are critical for ensuring

¹ While the wide diversity of the subsector and the variations in terminology – between languages, countries and regions – are recognized, the terms 'small-scale fisheries' and 'artisanal fisheries' are considered to relate to the same segment of fisheries for the purpose of this document. Comments provided on the Zero Draft document also suggested consideration of the term 'non-vessel and small-boat and community-based fisheries'. In this draft of the Guidelines, the term 'small-scale fisheries' will be used to encompass these different perspectives. The principle of terminology is that in accordance with the discussion in Part 1, chapter 2 "NATURE AND SCOPE, a clear definition of small-scale fisheries needs to be established at local or national level.

² Some of the comments received suggest that the SSF Guidelines should also refer to 'food sovereignty'. The present draft text does however refer to 'food security and nutrition' in line with current terminology of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

³ The term 'fishery resources' in this document covers all living aquatic resources (seaweed, shellfish etc. in both marine and freshwaters) which are commonly subject to harvesting.



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and facilitating access to the fishery, for accessory activities (including processing and marketing), and for housing and other livelihood support. The health of aquatic ecosystems and associated biodiversity are a fundamental basis for their livelihoods and for the subsector's capacity to contribute to overall well-being.

Despite their importance, many small-scale fishing communities continue to be marginalized and their contribution to food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization – which benefits both them and others – is not fully realized.

Securing and increasing the contribution of small-scale fisheries faces many challenges and constraints. The development of the fisheries sector over the past three to four decades has in many cases around the world led to overexploitation of resources and threats to habitats and ecosystems. Customary practices for the allocation and sharing of resource benefits in small-scale fisheries, which may have been in place for generations, have been changed as a result of non-participatory and often centralized fisheries management systems, rapid technology developments and demographic changes. Small-scale fishing communities also commonly suffer from unequal power relations. In many places, conflicts with large-scale fishing operations are an issue and there is increasingly high interdependence or competition between small-scale fisheries and other sectors. These other sectors often can have stronger political or economic influence and include: tourism, aquaculture, agriculture, energy, mining, industry and infrastructure developments.

Where poverty exists in small-scale fishing communities, it is of a multidimensional nature [.] and is not only caused by low incomes but also due to factors that impede full enjoyment of human rights including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Small-scale fishing communities are commonly located in remote areas and tend to have limited or disadvantaged access to markets, and may have poor access to health, education and other social services. Other characteristics include low levels of formal education, existence of ill-health (often including above average incidences of HIV/AIDS) and inadequate organizational structures. The opportunities available are limited, as small-scale fishing communities face a lack of alternative livelihoods, youth unemployment, unhealthy and unsafe working conditions, forced labour, and child labour. Pollution, environmental degradation, climate change impacts and natural and human-induced disasters add to the threats faced by small-scale fishing communities. All these factors make it difficult for small-scale fishers and fish workers to make their voices heard, defend their human rights and tenure rights, and secure the sustainable use of the fishery resources on which they depend.

These Guidelines have been developed through a participatory and consultative process, involving representatives of small-scale fishing communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), governments, regional organizations and other stakeholders. A Technical Consultation of the Food and Agriculture Organization then reviewed the Guidelines. They take into account a wide range of important considerations and principles, including equality and non-discrimination, participation and inclusion, accountability and rule of law, and the principle that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. The Guidelines are consistent with and promote international human rights standards. These guidelines are complementary to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and its related instruments. They also take into account the technical guidelines, such as the Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No 10 “Increasing the Contribution of Small-Scale Fisheries to Poverty Alleviation and Food Security”, as well as other voluntary international instruments, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Contexts of National Food Security (*Tenure Guidelines*) and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security (*Right to Food Guidelines*), as applicable. States and other stakeholders are encouraged to also consult these other guidelines, as well as relevant international and regional instruments, to fully integrate applicable obligations, voluntary commitments and available guidance.*

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1. OBJECTIVES

1.1 The objectives of these Guidelines are:

a) to enhance the contribution of small-scale fisheries to global food security and nutrition and to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food,

b)* to contribute to the equitable development of small-scale fishing communities and poverty eradication and to improve the socioeconomic situation of fishers and fish workers within the context of sustainable fisheries management,*

c) *to achieve the sustainable utilization, prudent and responsible management and conservation of fisheries resources consistent with the CCRF and related instruments,*

d) *to promote the contribution of small-scale fisheries to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and its people.*

e) to [provide guidance] [propose principles and criteria] that could be considered by States and stakeholders for the development and implementation of ecosystem friendly and participatory policies, strategies and legal frameworks for the enhancement of responsible and sustainable small-scale fisheries [management] [governance] and development.

f) *to enhance the public awareness and promote the advancement of knowledge on the culture, role, contribution and potential of small-scale fisheries, considering ancestral and traditional knowledge, and their related constraints and opportunities.*

1.2 These objectives should be achieved through the promotion of a human rights based approach, by empowering small-scale fishing communities, including both men and women, to participate in decision-making processes, and assume responsibilities for sustainable use of fishery resources [, in a rights based environment,] and placing emphasis on the needs of developing countries [and for the benefit of vulnerable and marginalized groups].

2. NATURE AND SCOPE

2.1. *These Guidelines are voluntary in nature. The Guidelines should apply to small-scale fisheries in all contexts, be global in scope but with a specific focus on the needs of developing countries.*

2.2. *These guidelines are relevant to small-scale fisheries both in marine and inland waters, i.e. men and women working in the full range of activities along the value chain, and pre- and post harvest activities. The important linkages between small-scale fisheries and aquaculture are recognized, but these Guidelines principally focus on capture fisheries.*

2.3. *The Guidelines are addressed to member countries and non-member countries of the FAO, at all levels of the State, as well as to subregional, regional, international and intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and small-scale fisheries actors (fishers, fish workers, their communities,



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traditional and customary authorities, and related professional organisations and CSOs). They are also aimed at research and academic institutions, the private sector, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and all others concerned with the fisheries sector, coastal and rural development and the use of the aquatic environment.*

2.4. The Guidelines recognize the great diversity of small-scale fisheries and that there is no single, agreed definition of the subsector. Accordingly, the Guidelines do not prescribe a standard definition of small-scale fisheries nor how they should be applied in a national context [These guidelines are especially relevant to subsistence or vulnerable small-scale fisheries]. To ensure transparency and accountability in the application of the Guidelines, it is important to ascertain which activities and operators are considered small-scale, [and to identify vulnerable and marginalized groups needing greater attention]. This should be undertaken at a regional, subregional or national level and according to the particular context in which they are to be applied. States should ensure that this identification and application are guided by meaningful and substantive participatory, consultative, multi-level and objective-oriented processes so that the voices of both men and women are heard. All parties should support and participate, as appropriate and relevant, in such processes.

[2.5 *These guidelines should be interpreted and applied in accordance with national legal systems and their institutions.*]

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

3.1. These Guidelines are based on international human rights standards, responsible fisheries governance and sustainable development according to the Rio+20 outcome document 'The future we want', the CCRF and other relevant instruments, paying particular attention to [*vulnerable and marginalized groups and*] the need to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food.

1. Human rights and dignity: Recognizing the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable human rights of all individuals, all parties should recognize, respect, promote and protect the human rights principles, and their applicability to communities dependent on small-scale fisheries, as stipulated by international human rights standards: universality and inalienability; indivisibility; interdependence and interrelatedness; non-discrimination and equality; participation and inclusion; accountability and the rule of law. States should respect and protect the civil [and political] rights of defenders of human rights in their work on small-scale fisheries.

All non-state actors including business enterprises related to or affecting small-scale fisheries have a responsibility to respect human rights. States should regulate the scope of activities in relation to small-scale fisheries of non-state actors to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards.

2. Respect of cultures: recognizing and respecting existing forms of organization, traditional and local knowledge and practices of small-scale fishing communities, [including indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities] encouraging women leadership and taking into account Art 5 of the CEDAW.

3. *Non-discrimination: Promoting in the small-scale fisheries the elimination of all kinds of discrimination in policies and in practice.*

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3bis. *Gender equality and equity is fundamental to any development. Recognising the vital role of women in small-scale fisheries, equal rights and opportunities should be promoted.*

4. Equity and equality: promoting justice and fair treatment – both legally and in practice – of all people and peoples, including equal rights to the enjoyment of all human rights. At the same time, differences between women and men should be acknowledged and specific measures taken to accelerate de facto equality, i.e. using preferential treatment where required to achieve equitable outcomes, [particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups].

5. Consultation and participation: ensuring active, free, effective, meaningful and informed participation of small-scale fishing communities [in the whole decision making process for the management of] [in all aspects of governance of] fishery resources [and] [areas where small-scale fisheries operate] as well as adjacent land areas, taking existing power imbalances between different parties into consideration. This should include feedback and support from those who could be affected by decisions prior to decisions being taken, and responding to their contributions. [The free, prior informed [consent] [consultation] of indigenous communities on matters of fundamental importance for their rights, survival, dignity and wellbeing consistent with UN DRIP should be ensured].

6. *Rule of law: adopting a rules-based approach for small-scale fisheries through laws that are widely publicized in applicable languages, applicable to all, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and that are consistent with their existing obligations under national and international law, and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments.*

7. *Transparency: clearly defining and widely publicizing policies, laws and procedures in applicable languages, and widely publicizing decisions in applicable languages and in formats accessible to all.*

8. *Accountability: holding individuals, public agencies and non-state actors responsible for their actions and decisions according to the principles of the rule of law.*

9. *Economic, social and environmental sustainability: applying the precautionary approach and risk management to guard against undesirable outcomes, including overexploitation of fishery resources and negative environmental, social and economic impacts.*

10. *Holistic and integrated approaches: recognizing the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) as an important guiding principle, embracing the notions of comprehensiveness and sustainability of all parts of ecosystems as well as the livelihoods of small-scale fishing communities, and ensuring cross-sectoral coordination since small-scale fisheries are closely linked to and dependent on many other sectors.*

11. *Social responsibility: promoting community solidarity and collective and corporate responsibility. The fostering of an environment that promotes collaboration among stakeholders should be encouraged.*

12.*Feasibility and social and economic viability: ensuring that policies, strategies, plans and actions for improving small-scale fisheries governance and development are socially and



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economically sound and rational. They should be informed by existing conditions, implementable and adaptable to changing circumstances, and should support community resilience.*

4. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

4.0 *[These [voluntary] Guidelines are to be interpreted and applied in conformity with the relevant rules of international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (1982 UN Convention). Nothing in these Guidelines prejudices the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under the international law of the sea as reflected in the 1982 UN Convention, noting that reference to UNCLOS does not prejudice the position of any State with respect to signature, ratification or accession to this instrument and its further role. ([These guidelines also make reference to the UN Fish Stock Agreement. References to that agreement do not prejudice the position of any State with respect to signature, ratification or accession to this instrument and its further role.]] [References to the 1995 UN Fish Stock agreement in these Guidelines do not imply that this agreement may apply to States that had not expressed their consent to be bound by it.]]*

4.1. These Guidelines should be interpreted and applied consistent with existing rights and obligations under national and international law, [including the rules and mandates of the World Trade Organization (WTO),] and with due regard to voluntary commitments under applicable regional and international instruments. They are complementary to and support national, regional and international initiatives that address human rights, responsible governance and sustainable development. The Guidelines were developed complementary to the CCRF and support responsible governance of fisheries and sustainable resource utilization in accordance with this instrument.

4.2 *Nothing in the Guidelines should be read as limiting or undermining any rights or obligations to which a state may be subject under international law. These guidelines may be used to guide amendments and inspire new or supplementary legislative and regulatory provisions.*

PART 2: RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

5. GOVERNANCE OF TENURE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

5.1 *These Guidelines recognize the need for responsible and sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity and natural resources to meet the developmental and environmental requirements of present and future generations. Small-scale fishing communities need to have secure tenure rights⁴ to the resources that form the basis for their social and cultural wellbeing, their livelihoods and their sustainable development. The Guidelines support equitable distribution of the benefits yielded from responsible management of fisheries and ecosystems, rewarding small-scale fishers and fish workers both men and women.*

5A. Responsible governance of tenure

⁴ [The term 'tenure right' is used in accordance with the Tenure Guidelines] [complete with original footnotes in brackets]. [further text to be prepared]

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5.2 *All parties should recognize that responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests applicable in small-scale fisheries is central for the realization of human rights, food security, poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods, social stability, housing security, economic growth and rural and social development.^{5*}

5.3 *States, in accordance with their legislation, should ensure that small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities have secure, equitable, and socially and culturally appropriate tenure rights to fishery resources (marine and inland) and small-scale fishing areas and adjacent land, with a special attention paid to women with respect to tenure rights.*

5.4 All parties, in accordance with their legislation, should recognize, respect and protect all forms of legitimate tenure rights, taking into account, where appropriate, customary rights, to aquatic resources and land and small-scale fishing areas enjoyed by small-scale fishing communities. When necessary, in order to protect various forms of legitimate tenure rights, legislation to this effect should be provided.

States should take appropriate measures to identify record and respect legitimate tenure right holders and their rights, [whether formally recorded or not.⁶] Local norms and practices, as well as customary or otherwise preferential access to fishery resources and land by small-scale fishing communities [including indigenous peoples [and ethnic minorities]], should be recognized, respected and protected in ways that are consistent with international human rights standards. In this regard, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples [and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities] should be taken into account. *Where constitutional or legal reforms strengthen the rights of women and place them in conflict with custom, all parties should cooperate to accommodate such changes in the customary tenure systems.*⁷

[5.4 bis States should recognise the rights of small-scale fishing communities and indigenous peoples to [restore], [conserve] protect and [co-] manage local aquatic and coastal ecosystems.]

5.5 *Where states own or control water (including fishery resources) and land resources, they should determine the use and tenure rights of these resources taking into consideration, inter alia, social, economic and environmental objectives.⁸ States should, as applicable, recognize and safeguard publically owned resources that are collectively used and managed, in particular by small-scale fishing communities. *

5.6 Taking due account of art. 6.18 of the CCRF States should where appropriate grant preferential access of small-scale fisheries to fish in waters under national jurisdiction, with a view to achieving equitable outcomes for different groups of people, in particular vulnerable groups. Where appropriate, specific measures, inter alia, such as the creation and enforcement of exclusive zones for small-scale fisheries, should be considered. Small-scale fisheries should be given [due] [priority] consideration before agreements on resource access are entered into with third countries and third parties

⁵ Based on § 4.1 of the Tenure Guidelines

⁶ Based on § 3.1 of the Tenure Guidelines

⁷ Sentence cited from § 9.6 of the Tenure Guidelines

⁸ Based on § 8.1 of the Tenure Guidelines



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5.7 *[States may consider redistributive reforms in accordance with national legislation when these can facilitate equitable access to fishery resources for small-scale fishing communities in accordance with the provisions of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Contexts of National Food Security [as long as it is in the public interest]].*

5.8 *States should ensure that small-scale fishing communities are not arbitrarily evicted and that their legitimate tenure rights are not otherwise extinguished or infringed.⁹ States should recognize that competition from other users is increasing within small-scale fisheries areas and that small-scale fishing communities, in particular vulnerable and marginalized groups, are often the weaker party in conflicts with other sectors and may require special support if their livelihoods are threatened by the development and activities of other sectors.*

5.8bis *[All parties, including States, [in private large scale initiatives should hold effective and meaningful consultations with the small-scale fishing communities prior to commencing a commercial or development project which impacts the territories and way of life of the fisheries community while complying with prior consent before investing] [should prior to the implementation of large scale development projects, consider the social, economic and environmental impact on small-scale fishing communities through impact studies, and prior informed consent of these communities.]*

5.9 States should provide small-scale fishing communities and individuals [,including vulnerable and marginalized people,] access through impartial and competent judicial and administrative bodies to timely, affordable and effective means of resolving disputes over tenure rights [determined in accordance with national legislation] , including alternative means of resolving such disputes, and should provide effective remedies, which may include an entitlement to appeal, as appropriate. Such remedies should be promptly enforced [in accordance with national legislation] and may include restitution, indemnity, [just] compensation and reparation.¹⁰

5.10 *States should strive to restore access to traditional fishing grounds and coastal lands to small-scale fishing communities that have been displaced due to natural disasters and/or armed conflict considering the sustainability of fisheries resources. States should establish mechanisms to support fishing communities affected by grave human rights violations to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Such steps should include the elimination of any form of discrimination against women in tenure practices in case of natural disasters and/or armed conflict.*

5B. Sustainable resource management

5.11. *States and all those engaged in fisheries management should adopt measures for the long term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources and to secure the ecological foundation for food production. They should promote and implement appropriate management systems, consistent with their existing obligations under national and international law and voluntary commitments including the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, that give due recognition to the requirements and opportunities of small-scale fisheries.*

⁹ Based on § 8.1 of the Tenure Guidelines

⁹ Based on § 8.1 of the Tenure Guidelines

⁹ Based on § 4.5 of the Tenure Guidelines

¹⁰ Based on § 4.9 of the Tenure Guidelines

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5.12 *All parties should recognize that rights and responsibilities come together; tenure rights are balanced by duties, and support the long-term conservation and sustainable use of resources and the maintenance of the ecological foundation for food production. Small-scale fisheries should utilise fishing practices that minimise harm to the aquatic environment and associated species and support the sustainability of the resource.*

5.13 States should facilitate, train and support small-scale fishing communities to participate in and take responsibility for, taking into consideration their legitimate tenure rights and systems, the management of the resources on which they depend for their well-being and that are traditionally used for their livelihoods. Accordingly, states should involve small-scale fishing communities [– including vulnerable and marginalized groups –]in the design[,] [and] planning [and implementation] of management measures, including protected areas, affecting their livelihood options.. Participatory management systems, such as co-management, should be promoted in accordance with national [and international] law.

[States should in particular recognise and revitalise the traditional and customary institutions and systems by using local and traditional knowledge using a bottom-up approach to management within a legal policy framework]

5.14 *States should ensure the establishment of new or promote the application of existing monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) systems applicable to and suitable for small-scale fisheries. They should provide support to such systems, involving small-scale fisheries actors as appropriate and promoting participatory arrangements within the context of co-management. States should ensure effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to deter, prevent and eliminate all forms of illegal and /or destructive fishing practices having a negative effect on marine and inland ecosystems. States should endeavour to improve registration of the activity. Small-scale fishers should support the MCS systems and provide to the state fisheries authorities the information required for the management of the activity.*

5.15 *States should ensure that the roles and responsibilities within the context of co-management arrangements of concerned parties and stakeholders are clarified and agreed through a participatory and legally supported process. All parties are responsible for assuming the management roles agreed to. All endeavours should be made so that small-scale fisheries are represented in relevant local and national professional associations and fisheries bodies and actively take part in relevant decision- and fisheries policy-making processes.*

5.16 *States and small-scale fisheries actors should encourage and support the role and involvement of both men and women, whether engaged in pre-harvest, harvest, or post-harvest operations, in the context of co-management and in the promotion of responsible fisheries, contributing their particular knowledge, perspectives and needs. All parties should pay specific attention to the need to ensure equitable participation of women, designing special measures to achieve this objective.*

5.17 *Where transboundary and other similar issues exist, e.g. shared waters and fishery resources, states should work together to ensure that the tenure rights of small-scale fishing communities that are granted are protected.*



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6 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK

6.1 *All parties should consider integrated, ecosystem and holistic approaches to small-scale fisheries management and development that take the complexity of livelihoods into account. Due attention to social and economic development may be needed to ensure that small-scale fishing communities are empowered and can enjoy their human rights.*

6.2 States should promote investment in human resource development such as health, education, literacy, digital inclusion and other skills of technical nature which generate value added of the fisheries resources as well as awareness raising. States should take steps with a view to progressively ensuring that members of small-scale fishing communities and crafts peoples have affordable access to these and other essential services through national and sub-national actions, including adequate housing, basic sanitation that is safe and hygienic, safe drinking water for personal and domestic uses and sources of energy. Preferential treatment of women, indigenous peoples, [and vulnerable and marginalized groups] – in providing services and giving effect to non-discrimination and other human rights– should be accepted and promoted when it is required to ensure equitable benefits.

6.3 States should promote social security protection for workers in small-scale fisheries. They [should] [may] take into account the characteristics of small-scale fisheries and apply security schemes to the entire value chain.

6.4 *States should support the development of and access to other services that are appropriate for small-scale fishing communities with regard to, for example, savings, credit and insurance schemes, with special emphasis on ensuring the access of women to such services.*

6.5 States should recognize as economic and professional operations the full range of activities along the small-scale fisheries value chain: both pre- and post-harvest; whether in an aquatic environment or on land; undertaken by men or by women [; in the formal or the informal economy¹¹]. All activities should be considered: part-time, occasional and/or for subsistence. Professional and organizational development opportunities should be promoted, in particular for more vulnerable groups of post-harvest fish workers and women in small-scale fisheries.

6.6 *States should take steps with a view to the progressive realization of the right of small-scale fishers and fish workers to an adequate standard of living and to work in accordance with national and international human rights standards. States should create an enabling environment for sustainable development in small-scale fishing communities. States should pursue inclusive, non-discriminatory and sound economic policies for the use of marine, freshwater and land areas, in order to permit small-scale fishing communities and other food producers, particularly women, to earn a fair return from their labour, capital and management, and encourage conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.*

¹¹ The term 'informal economy' refers to all economic activities by workers and economic units that are – in law or in practice – not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements. Their activities are not included in the law, which means that they are operating outside the formal reach of the law; or they are not covered in practice, which means that – although they are operating within the formal reach of the law, the law is not applied or not enforced; or the law discourages compliance because it is inappropriate, burdensome, or imposes excessive costs." Effect to be given to resolutions adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 90th Session (2002): (b) Resolution concerning decent work and the informal economy, Governing Body, 285th Session, Geneva, 2002 .

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6.7. *States and other stakeholders should support already existing, or the development of, complementary and alternative income-generating opportunities – in addition to earnings from fisheries-related activities – for small-scale fishing communities, as required and in support of sustainable resource utilization and livelihood diversification. The role of small-scale fisheries in local economies and the links of the subsector to the wider economy need to be recognized and benefited from. Small-scale fishing communities should equitably benefit from developments such as community-based tourism and small-scale responsible aquaculture. *

6.8. *States and all parties should create conditions for men and women of small-scale fishing communities to fish and to carry out fisheries-related activities in an environment free from crime, violence, mafia activities, piracy, theft, sexual abuse, corruption and abuse of authority. All parties should take steps to institute measures that aim to eliminate violence and to protect women exposed to such violence in small-scale fishing communities. States should ensure access to justice for victims of violence, abuse etc., including within the household or community.*

6.9. *[States and small-scale fisheries actors, including traditional and customary authorities, should understand, recognize and respect the role of migrant fishers and fish workers, given that migration is a common livelihood strategy in small-scale fisheries. States and small-scale fisheries actors should ensure fair and adequate integration of migrants who engage in sustainable use of fisheries resources and who do not undermine local community-based fisheries governance and development.]*

6.9alt *[Migration is an established livelihood strategy for many small -scale fishers and fish workers. States and small-scale fisheries actors should recognize the strategies of these migrants. In order to enhance the orderly integration of these migrant, policies and management measures have to be worked out in consultation with small-scale fisheries organizations, taking into consideration that migration within a country have to be dealt with by national fisheries authorities, while migration across national borders have to be agreed by the respective national governments.]*

6.9bis. [States should recognize and address the underlying causes and consequences of transboundary movement of fishers, leading to the arrest or detention of fishers [in relation to fisheries violations] outside their countries. In such cases, fair and just treatment of the affected persons [and respect for their human rights] must be [ensured] [promoted]. States and other parties should contribute to the understanding of transboundary tenure issues affecting communities, such as fishing grounds of small-scale fishers, which lie across international boundaries.] (*former 6.15*)

6.10. *States should address occupational health issues and unfair working conditions of all small-scale fishers and fish workers by ensuring that the necessary legislation is in place and is implemented in accordance with national legislation and international human rights standards and international instruments to which a state is party, such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). All parties should strive to ensure the inclusion of the aspect of occupational health and safety as an integral part of fisheries management as well as development initiatives.*

6.11. *States should eradicate forced labour, prevent debt-bondage of women, men and children and adopt effective measures to protect fishers and fish workers, including migrants, with a view to the complete elimination of forced labour in fisheries including small-scale fisheries.*



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6.12. *States should provide and enable access to schools and education facilities that meet the needs of small-scale fishing communities and that facilitate gainful and decent employment of youth, respecting their career choices and providing equal opportunities for all boys and girls and young men and women.*

6.13. *Small-scale fisheries actors should recognize the importance of children's well-being and education for the future of the children themselves and of society at large. Children should go to school, be protected from all abuse and have all their rights respected in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

6.14. *All parties should recognize the complexity that surrounds safety-at-sea issues (in inland and marine fisheries) and the multiple causes behind deficient safety. This applies to all fishing activities. States should ensure the development, enactment and implementation of appropriate national laws and regulations that are consistent with international guidelines of FAO, the ILO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for work in fishing and sea safety in small-scale fisheries¹² [add year].*

6.15. *States should recognize that improved sea safety, which includes occupational health and safety, in small-scale fisheries (inland and marine) will best be achieved through the development and implementation of coherent and integrated national strategies, with the active participation of the fishers themselves and with elements of regional coordination, as appropriate. Further, safety at sea of small-scale fishers should also be integrated into the general management of fisheries. States should provide support to, among other things, maintenance of national accident reporting, provision of sea safety awareness programmes and introduction of appropriate legislation for sea safety in small-scale fisheries. The role of existing institutions and community-based structures for increasing compliance, data collection, training and awareness, and search and rescue operations should be recognized in this process. States should promote access to information and to emergency location systems for rescue at sea for small-scale vessels.*

7. VALUE CHAINS, POST-HARVEST AND TRADE

7.1 * All parties should recognize the central role that the small-scale fisheries post-harvest subsector and its actors play in the value chain. All parties should ensure that post-harvest actors are part of relevant decision-making, recognizing that there are sometimes unequal power relationships between value chain actors and that vulnerable and marginalized groups may require special support.*

7.2 *All parties should recognize the role women often play in the post-harvest subsector and support improvements to facilitate women's participation in work. States should ensure that amenities and services appropriate for women are available as required, to enable women to retain and enhance their livelihoods in the post-harvest subsector.*

¹² These include, *inter alia*, the 1968 Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels (since revised), the 1980 FAO-ILO-IMO Voluntary Guidelines for the design, construction and equipment of small fishing vessels and the 2010 Safety Recommendations for decked fishing vessels of less than 12 meters in length and undecked fishing vessels.

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7.3 *States should foster, provide and enable investments in appropriate infrastructures, organizational structures and capacity development to support the small-scale fisheries post-harvest subsector in producing good quality and safe fish and fishery products, for both export and domestic markets, in a responsible and sustainable manner.*

7.4 *States and development partners should recognize the traditional forms of associations of fishers and fish workers and promote their adequate organizational and capacity development in all stages of the value chain, in order to enhance their income and livelihood security in accordance with national legislation. Accordingly, there should be support for the setting up and the development of cooperatives, professional organizations of the small-scale fisheries sector and other organizational structures, as well as marketing mechanisms, e.g. auctions, as appropriate. *

7.5 *All parties should avoid post-harvest losses and waste and seek ways to create value addition, building also on existing traditional and local cost-efficient technologies, local innovations and culturally appropriate technology transfers. Environmentally sustainable practices within an ecosystem approach should be promoted, deterring, for example, waste of inputs (water, fuelwood etc.) in small-scale fish handling and processing.*

7.6 States should facilitate access to local, national, regional and international markets and promote equitable and non-discriminatory trade for small-scale fisheries products States should work together to introduce trade regulations and procedures that support regional trade in products from small-scale fisheries and which are consistent with the [mandate, principles, rights and obligations established in WTO agreements.]

7.7 [All parties should recognize that no fisheries products including from small-scale fisheries should be marginalized in markets [as a result of ecolabelling and certification schemes]. These schemes should [as applicable be consistent with the principles, rights and obligations established in the WTO agreements while recognising that they need to] take the characteristics and circumstances of the small-scale fisheries sector into account. [All parties should enable or encourage certification and ecolabelling schemes relevant to small-scale fisheries to be consistent with the FAO Guidelines for the eco-labelling of fish and fisheries products from marine capture fisheries and the FAO Guidelines for the eco-labelling of fish and fishery products from inland capture fisheries.] [An enabling environment for small-scale fishing communities to develop their own area-specific labelling schemes or to participate in established international schemes [should] [could] be provided.]

[[States should [give due consideration] [endeavour] [to understand] the impact of international trade in fish and fishery products and of vertical integration on local small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities]. States should ensure that promotion of international fish trade and export production do not adversely impact the nutritional rights and needs of people for whom fish is critical to a nutritious diet, their health and well-being and for whom other comparable sources of food are not readily available or affordable.]¹³

7.8. [[States should [give due consideration] [endeavour] [to understand] the impact of international trade in fish and fishery products and of vertical integration on local small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities]. States should ensure that promotion of international fish trade and export production do not adversely impact the nutritional rights and needs of people for whom fish is critical

¹³ Based on § 11.2.15 of the CCRF



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to a nutritious diet, their health and well-being and for whom other comparable sources of food are not readily available or affordable.]¹⁴

7.9. States, small-scale fisheries actors and other value chain actors should recognize that high export prices for their products can be beneficial if distributed fairly. However, if there is no responsible and effective fisheries management system in place, states should be aware that increasing demand in international markets may also incite overexploitation, resulting in a threat to food security and nutrition. Market demand has to be matched by effective fisheries management, including responsible post-harvest practices, policies and actions.

7.10. States should adopt policies and procedures, including environmental and social assessments, to ensure that adverse impacts by international trade on the environment, small-scale fisheries livelihoods and food security needs are equitably addressed. Consultation with concerned stakeholders should be part of these policies and procedures.¹⁵

7.11. States should enable access to relevant market and trade information – for example, on changes in global seafood trade and on other aspects of globalization, sustainability, traceability, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and food security and nutrition – for stakeholders in the small-scale fisheries value chain. Small-scale fisheries stakeholders must be able to access timely and accurate market information to help them adjust to changing market conditions. Capacity development is also required so that small-scale fish workers, and especially women and vulnerable and marginalized groups, can adapt to and benefit from opportunities of global trends and local situations while minimizing any potential negative impacts.

7.12. States should invest in the promotion of fish consumption and consumer education programmes, including in school curricula, in order to increase awareness of the nutritional benefits of eating fish and impart knowledge of how to assess fish and fishery product quality.

7.13. All parties should take into account the impact that climate change may have on the post-harvest subsector in the form of changes in fish species and quantities, fish quality and shelf-life, and implications with regard to market outlets. States should provide support to small-scale fisheries actors with regard to adjustment measures in order to reduce negative impacts. When new technologies are introduced, they need to be flexible and adaptive to future changes in species, products and markets, and climatic variability.

¹⁴ Based on § 11.2.15 of the CCRF

¹⁵ Based on § 61 of the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 11. Responsible Fish Trade.

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8. GENDER EQUALITY

8.1. These Guidelines recognize that women and men play important and complementary roles in the governance and development of small-scale fisheries, and that they should enjoy equal respect and human rights in all aspects of life and in decision-making. Gender equality in small-scale fisheries should be promoted and supported in accordance with international human rights standards and the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Guidelines recognize that although the concept of gender, by definition, deals with both men and women – and boys and girls – and the socially, culturally and economically established roles and relationships between them, women are often more disadvantaged than men. Gender equality efforts, therefore, often involve supporting and empowering women while working with both men and women.

8.2. All parties should recognize that achieving gender equality requires concerted efforts by all and that gender mainstreaming should be an integral part of all small-scale fisheries development strategies. These strategies need to be culturally sensitive and different approaches may be required in different cultural contexts.

8.3. States should comply with international human rights standards and implement relevant instruments, in particular CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. States should adopt specific measures to address discrimination against women, while creating spaces for civil society organizations, in particular for women fish workers and their organizations, to participate in monitoring their implementation. Women should be encouraged to participate in fisheries organizations, and relevant organizational development support should be provided.

8.4. States should ensure that adequate policies and legislation are in place for achieving gender equality. Any policy or legislation that is not compatible with gender equality should be amended. States should be at the forefront of implementing actions for improving gender equality by, *inter alia*, recruiting both men and women as extension staff, offering staff training in gender-sensitive fisheries technologies and other aspects, and ensuring that both men and women have access to extension and technical services related to fisheries.

9. DISASTER RISKS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

9.1. These Guidelines recognize that many small-scale fishing communities are especially vulnerable to natural and human-induced disasters and climate change. Small-scale fishing communities are often located in areas that are prone to natural disasters and climate change impact, given that the land-water interface is one of the most dynamic environments on earth. The particular characteristics of small-scale fisheries need to be considered in disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) policies and interventions. The Guidelines promote the integration of disaster risk and climate change considerations in small-scale fisheries governance and development, including strengthening of resilience and considering the needs of both men and women and of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

9.2. States should develop policies and plans to address climate change in fisheries, in particular strategies for adaptation and mitigation as well as for building resilience, in full and effective consultation with fishing communities, including men and women, paying particular attention to



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vulnerable and marginalized groups. Special considerations must be given to small-scale fishing communities living on small islands where climate change may have particular food security and nutrition implications.

9.3. All parties should recognize the need for integrated and holistic approaches, including cross-sectoral collaboration, in order to address disaster risks and climate change in small-scale fisheries. States should take steps to address issues such as pollution, coastal erosion and destruction of coastal habitats due to human-induced non-fisheries-related factors. Such concerns seriously undermine the livelihoods of fishing communities as well as their ability to adapt to possible impacts of climate change.

9.4. States should guarantee compensation and rehabilitation of small-scale fishing communities affected by climate change and all forms of disaster, natural or caused by humans, including occupational rehabilitation in the same or a related occupation of their choice.

9.5. States should understand how emergency response and disaster preparedness are related in small-scale fisheries and apply the concept of the relief-development continuum. Longer term development objectives need to be considered throughout the emergency sequence, including in the immediate relief phase, and rehabilitation, reconstruction and recovery should include actions to reduce vulnerabilities to potential future threats. The concept of 'building back better' should be applied in disaster response and rehabilitation.

9.6. All parties should promote the role of small-scale fisheries in efforts related to climate change and should encourage and support energy efficiency in the subsector, including the whole fishery system – fishing, post-harvest, marketing and distribution. The potential impact of small-scale fisheries on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies of other sectors should be assessed in accordance with the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

PART 3: ENSURING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION

10. POLICY COHERENCE, INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

10.1. These Guidelines recognize that small-scale fisheries are linked to and impacted by policies and developments outside the subsector itself. There is a need to engage in policy and legislative processes also in other sectors in order to support small-scale fisheries. The Guidelines support policy coherence and enhanced linkages between small-scale fisheries, conservation and responsible use of biodiversity, overarching fisheries sectoral policies and strategies and other national planning processes.

10.2. States should recognize the need for and work towards policy coherence with regard to, *inter alia*, national legislation; international human rights standards; treaties with indigenous peoples; economic development policies; energy policies, education, health and rural policies; environmental

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protection; food security and nutrition policies; labour and employment policies; trade policies; DRM and CCA strategies; fisheries access arrangements; and other fisheries sector policies, plans, actions and investments. Special attention should be paid to mainstreaming gender issues.

10.3. States should use spatial planning approaches as appropriate. Through consultation, participation and publicizing, gender-sensitive policies and laws on regulated spatial planning should be developed. Where appropriate, formal planning systems should consider methods of planning and territorial development used by small-scale fishing and other communities with customary tenure systems, and decision-making processes within those communities.¹⁶

10.4. States should adopt specific policy measures to ensure the harmonization of policies impacting the health of inland water bodies and ecosystems and to ensure that fisheries, agriculture and other natural resource policies collectively enhance the interrelated livelihoods derived from these sectors.

10.5. States should ensure that fisheries policy provides a long-term vision for small-scale fisheries and the eradication of hunger and poverty, using a human rights based approach and through clear specification and prioritization of objectives and appropriate policy measures to achieve these objectives. The overall policy framework for fisheries – including large-scale fisheries, recreational fisheries and aquaculture – should be coherent with the long-term vision and policy framework for small-scale fisheries and international human rights standards, paying particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups.

10.6. States should establish and promote the institutional structures and linkages – including local-national-regional-global linkages and networks – necessary for achieving policy coherence, cross-sectoral collaboration and the implementation of holistic and inclusive ecosystem approaches in the fisheries sector. At the same time, there is a need for clear responsibilities and there should be well-defined points of contact in government authorities and agencies for small-scale fishing communities.

10.7. Small-scale fisheries actors should promote collaboration among their professional associations and CSOs. They should establish networks and platforms for the exchange of experiences and information and to facilitate their involvement in policy- and decision-making processes relevant to their communities.

10.8. States should promote the principle of subsidiarity, as appropriate and in accordance with national law. Responsibilities for small-scale fisheries governance and development should be vested at the most appropriate and effective decentralized level.

10.9. States should promote enhanced international, regional and subregional cooperation and aid effectiveness in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. States should foster the strengthening of Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), basin commissions and other relevant transboundary and international organizations. They should support capacity development in such organizations to enhance their understanding of small-scale fisheries and assist the subsector in matters that require regional or international collaboration.

¹⁶ Based on § 20.2 of the Tenure Guidelines.

11. INFORMATION, RESEARCH AND COMMUNICATION

11.1. These Guidelines recognize the need for a wide range of information, including bio-ecological, social, cultural and economic data, for decision-making on governance and development of small-scale fisheries and for the visibility of the subsector. Lack of access to knowledge tends to disproportionately affect the poor, women and vulnerable and marginalized groups. Access to information can influence empowerment; equally, the withholding of information can distort decision-making. The Guidelines promote the use of a combination of scientific data and local, traditional or indigenous knowledge and research. They acknowledge that access to information and communication are essential for human dignity, social equity and justice.

11.2. States should ensure that transparency is a priority consideration. This is important for ensuring accountability and for enabling meaningful participation of small-scale fishing communities and other stakeholders. *States should endeavour to prevent corruption, particularly through increasing transparency, holding decision-makers accountable, and ensuring that impartial decisions are delivered promptly*¹⁷ and through appropriate communication with small-scale fishing communities.

11.3. All parties should recognize small-scale fishing communities as holders, providers and receivers of knowledge; information is required about, from and to them. It is particularly important to understand the need for access to appropriate information by small-scale fishing communities and their organizations in order to help them cope with existing problems and empower them to improve their livelihoods. These information requirements depend on current issues facing communities and concern the biological, legal, economic, social and cultural aspects of fisheries and livelihoods.

11.4. States should ensure that the information necessary for responsible governance of fisheries and sustainable development is available. It should relate to, *inter alia*, disaster risks and climate change, with particular attention to the situation of vulnerable and marginalized groups. Information systems that are low on data requirements should be developed for data-poor situations.

11.5. All parties should ensure that the knowledge, culture, traditions and practices of small-scale fishing communities are recognized and supported and that they inform responsible governance and sustainable development processes, including co-management. The specific knowledge of women fishers and fish workers must be recognized and supported. States should investigate and document traditional fisheries knowledge and technologies and assess their application to sustainable fisheries conservation, management and development.¹⁸

11.6. All parties should support the collection, compilation and analysis of disaggregated data allowing for an improved understanding and visibility of the importance of small-scale fisheries and its different components. The collection of gender-disaggregated statistics and enumeration of women's work in both inland and marine fisheries, and in all aspects of the fisheries chain, should be ensured.

11.7. All parties should promote the availability, flow and exchange of information through the establishment or use of appropriate existing platforms and networks at community, national,

¹⁷ § 10.5 of the Tenure Guidelines

¹⁸ Based on § 12.12 of the CCRF

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subregional and regional level, including both horizontal and vertical two-way information flows. Appropriate approaches, tools and media should be used for communication with and capacity development for small-scale fishing communities.

11.8. States should ensure that funds are available for small-scale fisheries research, and collaborative and participatory data collection, analyses and research should be encouraged. Research organizations and institutions should support capacity development to allow small-scale fishing communities to participate in research and in the utilization of research findings. Research priorities should be agreed upon through a consultative process focusing on the role of small-scale fisheries in food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization, including also DRM and CCA considerations.

11.9. States should promote research into the conditions of work, health, education etc. in the context of gender relations, in order to inform strategies for ensuring equitable benefits for men and women in fisheries. Sex-disaggregated statistics and gender-related data are key for understanding men's and women's contributions to the subsector and their specific needs. Efforts to mainstream gender should include the use of gender analysis in the design phase of policies, programmes and projects for small-scale fisheries, in order to design sensitive interventions. Gender-sensitive indicators should be used to monitor and address gender inequalities.

12. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

12.1. These Guidelines recognize the fundamental importance of capacity development for empowering small-scale fishing communities and creating an enabling environment that allows them to effectively participate in decision-making and contribute to responsible governance and sustainable development. The Guidelines support capacity development that is demand based, uses bottom-up approaches, takes the needs of both men and women into consideration and is participatory with regard to needs assessments, design, implementation and monitoring. Special measures may be required to ensure the empowerment and participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

12.2. All parties should contribute to the creation of legitimate, democratic and representative structures at various decision-making levels. It should be ensured that the range and diversity of the small-scale fisheries subsector along the entire value chain is appropriately represented. The enhancement of people's self-determination capacity and their right of choice should be given particular attention in accordance with international human rights standards. Specific attention must be paid to the need to work towards the equitable participation of women in such structures. Where appropriate and necessary, separate spaces and mechanisms may be provided to enable women to organize autonomously at various levels on issues of particular relevance to them.

12.3. In collaboration with relevant organizations and actors, states should support the strengthening of capacities, including organizational development, of small-scale fisheries actors – involving both men and women and paying particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups– to participate in decision-making and co-management processes. Existing relevant collective action initiatives should be recognized and built upon. States should provide adequate extension and advisory services for supporting small-scale fisheries governance and development.

12.4. All parties should recognize that capacity development should build on existing knowledge and skills and be a two-way process of knowledge transfer, providing for flexible and suitable



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learning pathways to meet the needs of individuals, including both men and women and vulnerable and marginalized groups. Moreover, capacity development should include building the resilience and adaptive capacity of small-scale fishing communities in relation to DRM and CCA.

12.5. States should ensure that government authorities and agencies at all levels have adequate knowledge and skills to support small-scale fisheries governance and development and to guarantee successful co-management arrangements. Particular attention should be given to decentralized and local government structures directly involved in governance and development processes together with small-scale fishing communities, but also in, for example, the area of research.

13. IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

13.1. These Guidelines recognize the need for broad support of the implementation of their provisions in order to make them effective and have a real impact on food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, equitable development and sustainable resource utilization. The Guidelines emphasize that implementation policies or strategies should be developed through participatory and transparent processes involving small-scale fishing communities and other relevant stakeholders.

13.2. All parties should ensure that programmes, policies and technical assistance to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries through the implementation of the Guidelines should be consistent with existing obligations under international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.¹⁹

13.3. All parties should collaborate and promote the implementation of these Guidelines, promoting aid effectiveness and responsible use of financial resources. *Development partners, specialized agencies of the United Nations, and regional organizations are encouraged to support voluntary efforts by States to implement these Guidelines, including through South-South cooperation*²⁰. Such support could include technical cooperation, financial assistance, institutional capacity development, knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences, assistance in developing national small-scale fisheries policies and transfer of technology.²¹

13.4. States and all other parties should work together to create awareness of the Guidelines, also by disseminating simplified and translated versions for the benefit of those working in small-scale fisheries. States and all other parties should develop a specific set of materials on gender to secure the effective dissemination of information on gender and women's role in small-scale fisheries and to highlight steps that need to be taken to support their work.

13.5. States should elaborate assessment methodologies that allow a better understanding and documentation of the true contribution of small-scale fisheries, including both men and women. States should modify and adopt information and statistical systems that allow monitoring and evaluation of vulnerability and poverty in small-scale fishing communities.

¹⁹ Based on § 1.1 of the Tenure Guidelines

²⁰ Sentence cited from § 26.3 of the Tenure Guidelines

²¹ Based on § 26.3 of the Tenure Guidelines

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13.6. States should facilitate the formation of national level platforms, with cross-sectoral representation and with strong representation of CSOs, to oversee implementation of the Guidelines. Legitimate representatives of small-scale fishing communities should be involved both in the development and application of implementation strategies for the Guidelines and in monitoring and evaluation.

13.7. States should recognize the importance of accountability and put in place monitoring and evaluation systems that assess progress towards implementation of the objectives and recommendations in these Guidelines. Such systems should allow for accountability monitoring and evaluation at local, national and international level. Assessments of the impact on the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and on poverty eradication should be included. These mechanisms should be in line with the guiding principles on human rights impact assessments by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. Mechanisms allowing the results of monitoring and evaluation to feed back into policy formulation and implementation should be included. Gender should be taken into consideration in monitoring and evaluation by using gender-sensitive approaches, indicators and data.

13.8. All parties should support the undertaking of regular reviews on the implementation of these Guidelines, using participatory assessment approaches and engaging relevant associations and organizations.

13.9. States should give FAO the mandate to compile monitoring and evaluation information and assess progress towards achieving the objectives of these Guidelines, while ensuring that the institutional capacity within FAO for the same is strengthened. These monitoring and evaluation reports should be made available to all parties. States should also recommend FAO to establish a mechanism to allow for participatory and inclusive discussions on best practices with a view to accelerating learning across states.

13.10. States should consider requesting the Committee on World Food Security to monitor the implementation of the Guidelines. Given the strong links of the Guidelines with food security, the office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food may be requested to support this monitoring process.

REGIONAL COOPERATION ON SUSTAINABLE NERITIC TUNA FISHERIES IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN WATERS

I. BACKGROUND

Throughout the Southeast Asian region, tunas are commonly found and abundant, including several species of oceanic and neritic tunas. While the oceanic tunas migrate over larger areas, the neritic tunas such as longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*), kawakawa or eastern little tuna (*Euthynnus affinis*), frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*) and bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*) are more common within the economic zones and sub-regional seas of Southeast Asia. In common, all tuna resources have a high economic importance generating export revenues for the countries of the region as well as to provide important protein sources for domestic consumption. While availability of oceanic tuna has been declining, neritic tuna species are gaining more economic importance. Neritic tuna species have increasingly become the target for commercial and local fisheries as attractive prices are offered by processing companies. However, there are still uncertainties on the distribution, migration utilization of tuna stocks in the waters and sub-regions of Southeast Asia. Without further clarification and dialogue, it would be difficult to develop appropriate tuna management plans at national and sub-regional levels.

While management efforts with regards to the exploitation of oceanic tunas is covered by recommendations provided by the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, such as the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the West Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), there are important work to be done within the Southeast Asian Region to promote common approaches to management of the utilization of neritic tunas. To ensure the sustainable use of available regional resources and to maximize economic benefits for the Region, it is crucial to seek for collaborative management plans for neritic tuna fisheries in the region and sub-regions. Regional collaboration will be continued to be, crucial for the sustainability of these rich and important trans-boundary resources. This was also emphasized by the 45th SEAFDEC Council Meeting in 2013 that called for the development of a plan of action regional cooperation on neritic tunas in the Southeast Asian Region.

During the 45th SEAFDEC Council Meeting, the SEAFDEC Council Directors supported a proposal to strengthen regional cooperation to promote conservation and management for sustainable neritic tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian Waters as proposed by SEAFDEC Secretariat. Through regional and sub-regional cooperation the countries – and producers – need to be able to show and verify the sustainability of targeted neritic tuna fisheries.

The Council Directors agreed that SEAFDEC Secretariat should develop a plan of action, which could include aspects such as efforts to enhance traceability, tuna catch certification, the conduct of joint stock assessments of tuna resources, etc. Successful implementation would help combating illegal and destructive (IUU) fishing on neritic tuna resources in the Southeast Asian Region.

II. PROGRESS

In follow-up the guidance made by the Councils, SEAFDEC with fund supported from the Swedish International Development Cooperation (Sida) together with ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries organized the “*Consultative Meeting on Regional Cooperation Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries in Southeast Asian Waters*”, held from 8 to 10 October 2013, Songkhla province, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by representatives from ASEAN countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), Embassy of Sweden, ASEAN Tuna Working Group, the Secretariat of the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in South East Asia (RPOA-IUU), private sector Thai Union Manufacturing Co., Ltd. And Thai-Abba Tonggol Project as well as SEAFDEC officials and the members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network also attended the Meeting.

At this first step, the Meeting provided a platform to initiate and coordinate a process to improve dialogue and cooperation on “regional” (neritic) tuna resources. Information on the status of neritic tuna in the



region and sub-regions were revealed as well as experiences available at SEAFDEC and partner organizations at regional and sub-regional level were shared.

During the Meeting, the issues and concerns of neritic tuna fisheries were discussed based on sub-regional groups/fishing grounds, namely: South China Sea, Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas. It was highlighted that the status and trend of neritic tuna resources should be updated and improvement of data/information due to inadequate data collection system in many countries. In addition, attempts would also try to build upon the sub-regional management of neritic tuna and cooperation among countries and with sub-regional, regional, international organizations.

Issues to be Considered for Drafting the Plan of Action

The meeting identify issues to be used for drafting the Plan of Action Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries (RPOA-Neritic Tuna) in Southeast Asian Waters taking into accounts both national and regional levels. The list of issues to be considered are as follows:

At National Level:

- Open Access, management of fishing capacity
- Resources, status and trend of neritic tuna
- Insufficient data/information, Data collection system
- IUU Fishing
- Transshipment
- Double flagging, poaching
- Post-harvest losses
- Appropriated technology of fishing gears and devices
- Infra-structure of fishing port /landing sites
- Unfair benefits allocation, Working condition, Labor issues
- Supporting policy from Government
- Capacity building

At Regional Level:

- Sub-regional fisheries management for neritic tuna
- Assessment of the status and trends of neritic tuna at sub-regional level through establishment of WG
- Enhancing intra-regional trade through harmonized standard catch documentation system
- Sharing of data and information, *e.g.* list of fishing vessels etc.
- Cooperation with other sub-regional, regional, international cooperation

In order to proceed forward, the Meeting proposed for the Drafting of the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries (RPOA-Neritic Tuna) in Southeast Asian Waters that could be carried out through a series of Regional Technical Consultations starting from 2014 and onward.

The Meeting was also suggested the establishment of working groups (*e.g.* South China Sea, Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, Gulf of Thailand, and Andaman Sea). In this regard, it would be necessary to develop the Strategic Plan and TOR of the Working Groups/task force. Meanwhile, the necessary to develop capacity building/training programs should also conduct in order to improve the basic knowledge include the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), tools and standardized data collection system, which is crucial for the stock assessment of neritic tuna species. In addition, biological study on the neritic tuna could be carried out to support the development of management plan for sustainable neritic tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian region.

A solid basis for the development of a **PoA for regional cooperation on neritic tuna** in the Southeast Asian Region, and parallel to the establishment of working groups, closer cooperation will be worked out with countries and partners at sub-regions, such as the Andaman Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas and the Arafura-Timor Seas. In the ASEAN/Southeast Asia region dialogue will be maintained with the ASEAN Secretariat (and relevant ASEAN Working Groups and initiatives), the RPOA-IUU as well as FAO/APFIC.

Proposed Work Plans

Activities	Duration	Responsible agencies
1. Development of Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries in Southeast Asian Waters		
1.1 Drafting the RPOA-Neritic Tuna 1.2 Finalizing the RPOA-Neritic Tuna 1.3 Country Adoption 1.4 Awareness campaign	2014-2015	SEAFDEC/SEC and MCs
2. Establishment of Workshop Groups¹		
2.1 Establishing 3 sub-regional Working Group 2.2 Develop the Strategic plan and TOR of Working groups 2.3 Country Adoption	2014-2015	SEAFDEC/TD and MCs
3. Capacity Building		
3.1 Developing the capacity building/training programs 3.2 Develop SOP, tools, standardize data collection system 3.3 Conduct regional training programs	2014-2017	SEAFDEC/TD and MCs

III. REQUIRED ADVICES/COMMENTS FROM THE MEETING

The Meeting is requested to provide advice and feedback for further report to the 46th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in April 2014.

¹ Funding support under cost shared policy during full operation by the Working Group.

**REGIONAL POLICY CONSIDERATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD FOR VESSELS 24 METER
IN LENGTH AND OVER**

I. INTRODUCTION

The decline in the region's fishery resources which has been attributed to over-capacity and un-controlled fisheries, has already reached a level of un-sustainability that is becoming very alarming. One of the recognized root causes of the declining fishery resources is the persistent practice of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing by many fishers in the waters of Southeast Asia. IUU fishing which can take place in all capture fisheries whether within national jurisdictions or in the high seas, could easily undermine all efforts to conserve and manage the fishery, leading to possible collapse of the fisheries and seriously impairing efforts to rebuild fish stocks that have already been depleted. This scenario could lead to the loss of both short- and long-term social and economic opportunities for fishers and negatively impacting on the region's food security. The countries in the region, while increasingly recognizing the magnitude of the problem, have been trying to initiate efforts to address such problem through their respective fisheries agencies at the national level, and with the collaboration of SEAFDEC at the regional level.

In promoting the establishment of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) in ASEAN region as a tool to combat effectively the IUU fishing, the SEAFDEC Training Department has been implementing the activity with the financial support from the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF). The preparatory work was carried out by two separate meetings of fisheries experts: Regional Core Experts Meeting on Fishing License, Boat Registration, and Information on Export of Fisheries Products in Southeast Asia in October 2011, and Expert Group Meeting on Fishing License and Boat Registration in June 2012. Agreement has been reached by all SEAFDEC Member Countries that the RFVR should focus on the information on the larger fishing vessels with the length of 24 meters and over. The SEAFDEC Council has approved as submitted the establishment of RFVR at its 45th Meeting, held in April 2013 in Cebu City, Philippines.

**II. PROGRESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
REGIONAL FISHING VESSEL RECORD FOR VESSELS 24 METER IN LENGTH AND
OVER DURING OCTOBER 2012 – OCTOBER 2013**

In implementing this activity, the SEAFDEC Training Department designed and submitted the questionnaire on Regional Fishing Vessel Record to eight concern SEAFDEC Member Countries *i.e.* Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippine, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, aims to identify the possibility of data sharing, especially of the agreed basic information requirement; and updating the existing information on the number of the national fishing vessels, 24 meters and over.

The analysis of reply questionnaire is on processing. However, presently (15 November 2013), we are still waiting the reply questionnaire from Malaysia and Vietnam. The results of this questionnaire will be used as information to organize a workshop on RFVR with Member Countries concerned to find out obstacles including integration on items of basic requirement information with of RFVR implementation in the next year.

Updating of the number of fishing vessels 24 meters and over in length

Country	Total	Less than 24 meters	24 meters and over
Brunei Darussalam	2,427	2,421	6
Indonesia	570,827	569,105	1,722
Myanmar	30,349	Power 14,222 Non Power 15,463	664
Philippines	473,400	472,804	596
Singapore	36	36	Nil
Thailand	40,742	39,995	747



III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 16TH FCG/ASSP

The 16th FCG/ ASSP Meeting is requested to take note and provide policy support to the development of the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) as well as to support the regional cooperation policy for data sharing of the vessel records.

REGIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTING LANDING, EXPORT AND IMPORT OF IUU FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS IN THE ASEAN REGION

I. INTRODUCTION

To continue addressing the issues related to export of fish and fishery products, and the corresponding processes and procedures, MFRDMD under the JTF II project on Preventing Export of IUU Fishing Products, developed a set of questionnaires to gather the relevant information on export of fish and fishery products from the Southeast Asian countries in 2011.

Subsequently, the Regional Core Expert Meeting on Preventing Export of IUU Fishing Products was organized by MFRDMD in November 2012 in Malaysia with the objective of (a) reviewing the issues, processes and procedures in the export of fish and fisheries products from Southeast Asia; (b) identifying and harmonizing the essential information needed for the development of the regional guidelines to prevent the export of IUU fish and fishery products; (c) formulating the draft regional guidelines to prevent export of IUU fish and fishery products; and (d) discussing the way forward and project activities for future implementation. The output of the said meeting is an outline of the draft regional guidelines for preventing the landing, export and import of the IUU fish and fishery products.

II. RATIONALE

With nearly 40% of the world's fishery production traded internationally, it follows that trade measures may have an impact on preventing IUU fishing through the regulation of trade. Experience indicates that catch certification and landing surveillance for fishery trade can be an effective tool for fisheries management officials trying to prevent circumvention of agreed international conservation goals.

Regional guidelines for preventing landing, export and import of IUU fish and fishery products is envisaged to be used as a basis by governments to formulating relevant policies and provide enabling environment for countries in the region to enable them to perceive clear direction and understanding of the promotion and implementation of catch documentation system and landing surveillance for fishery trade to prevent trade of IUU fishing products.

III. PROGRESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON THE REGIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTING LANDING, EXPORT AND IMPORT OF IUU FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS DURING OCTOBER 2012 – OCTOBER 2013

The issues related to export of fish and fishery products, and the corresponding processes and procedures was addressed by MFRDMD under the JTF II project on Preventing Export of IUU Fishing Products by developing a set of questionnaires to gather the relevant information on export of fish and fishery products from the Southeast Asian countries and was discussed in the joint regional core expert meeting with SEAFDEC/TD in Bangkok in 2011.

Subsequently, the Regional Core Expert Meeting on Preventing Export of IUU Fishing Products was organized by MFRDMD in November 2012 in Malaysia with the objective of (a) reviewing the issues, processes and procedures in the export of fish and fisheries products from Southeast Asia; (b) identifying and harmonizing the essential information needed for the development of the regional guidelines to prevent the export of IUU fish and fishery products; (c) formulating the draft regional guidelines to prevent export of IUU fish and fishery products; and (d) discussing the way forward and project activities for future implementation. The output of the said meeting is an outline of the draft regional guidelines for preventing the landing, export and import of the IUU fish and fishery products.

The outline of the guideline was further developed as a draft guideline by MFRDMD for discussion for the 2013 meeting. But then during the 2013 meeting, the meeting preferred to use the outline of the guideline as agreed during the 2012 meeting rather than the draft guideline developed by MFRDMD. The outline of

the guideline as agreed in the 2012 meeting was then use during discussion. Further changes were made to the guideline but the output from the discussion is still a preliminary draft of the regional guideline.

The timeline for finalisation of the ‘Regional Guidelines for Preventing Landing, Import and Export of IUU Fish and Fishery Products’ was discussed and agreed by all participants. The timeline is tabulated as below:

No.	Action	Deadline	Implementer
1.	Second draft of Regional Guideline	31 Jan 2014	MFRDMD & Secretariat
2.	Review by Member Countries	31 March 2014	Member Countries
3.	Core Expert Meeting: Finalise the draft and initial development of regional catch documentation system	31 June 2014	Member Countries & MFRDMD
4.	Completion of Regional Guideline (include public engagement)	31 Aug 2014	Member Countries
5.	Presentation of Regional Guideline to PCM	Nov 2014	MFRDMD
6.	First draft of development of regional catch documentation system	December 2014	SEAFDEC & Member Countries
7.	Presentation of Regional Guideline to SEAFDEC Council Meeting	April 2015	Secretariat
8.	Presentation of Regional Guideline to ASWGF	2015	Secretariat

IV. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 16TH FCG/ASSP

MFRDMD with the help of SEAFDEC/Secretariat will proceed developing the guideline as agreed according to the timeline. SEAFDEC needs full cooperation from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to develop the guideline as planned.

REGIONAL POLICY CONSIDERATION ON REGIONAL COMMON ISSUES AND WAY FORWARD FOR SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PORT STATE MEASURES

I. INTRODUCTION

Since the late 1990s, a number of international fora issued calls to combat IUU fishing, and in March 2001, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) adopted the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (IPOA-IUU) which was applied on a voluntary basis. A large and diverse set of measures for States was bounded to combat IUU fishing, individually and in collaboration with other States. Some of these measures are designed for use by all States; others are tailored for application by flag States, coastal States and port States.

Improved strength and coordination of port State measures and other surveillance activities will be necessary to maximize the benefit from such surveillances. FAO has played a leading role in this regard, culminating in the acknowledgement by COFI at its Twenty-sixth Session in 2005 that there was a need to strengthen port State measures as a means of combating IUU fishing in a more substantive manner given that the lack of agreed, binding measures provided a loophole. The Committee endorsed the FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing, and agreed that follow-up work should be undertaken, especially with respect to operate the FAO Model Scheme.

Port State measures have been increasingly adopted by RFMOs, and are also addressed in a number of international instruments. This culminated at the Twenty-seventh Session of COFI in March 2007 when the Committee acknowledged the urgent need for a comprehensive suite of port State measures and the strong support expressed on the proposal to develop a legally binding instrument for port State measures which were based on the 2001 FAO IPOA-IUU and the FAO Model Scheme.

In the Southeast Asian Region, there were discussion and clarification to enhance awareness of the importance of the port State measures, update on the FAO Model Scheme and the progress in the development of the Draft Agreement at the Regional Workshop on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing co-organized by the FAO, APFIC and SEAFDEC during 31 March to 4 April 2008. Taking into accounts on the instrument, SEAFDEC was requested to coordinate with the Member Countries and consolidate their capacity building requirements in order to further develop a policy brief document on the issue, outlining the background, status, key required strategies (areas that need to be addressed) and seek the support from the ASEAN to help the Member Countries in the implementation.

Therefore, the project on Promotion of Fishing License, Boats Registration and Port State Measures to Combat with IUU Fishing in the Region and Promotion of Counter Measures to Reduce IUU Fishing had been implemented from 2011 to 2012 and from 2013 to 2017 respectively by the Training Department with funding support from Japanese Trust Fund

II. PROGRESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON REGIONAL COMMON ISSUES AND PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES FOR SUPPORTING PORT STATE MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REGION DURING OCTOBER 2012 – OCTOBER 2013

The activities relevant to Port State Measure had been implemented by the Training Department (TD) under the project of “Promotion of Fishing License, Boats Registration and Port State Measures to Combat with IUU Fishing in the Region” (2011-2012) and “Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing” (2013-2017). The Experts Group Meeting on Port State Measures (PSM) in Southeast Asia was organized in November 2012 to find out the obstacle and suitable tangible activities on PSM and other surveillance activities implementation in the region. The outputs of the meeting and the information provided by the national experts were compiled and used to develop the implementing guide of Port State Measures and other measures such as Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) and Catch Certification as onward activities in the region.

The Conclusion and Recommendations from “The Experts Group Meeting on Port State Measures (PSM) in Southeast Asia in November 2012”

Regional Common Issues and Constraints	Meeting Recommendations	Remarks
<i>General Issues</i>		
<p>Difficulties in implementing the FAO PSM Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple jurisdictions by multiple agencies involved in implementing PSM - This Agreement apply to not only fishing Vessels and also transship vessels and Container vessel carrying fish and fish products 	<p>Strengthen in-country and regional coordination in implementing PSM</p> <p>Consider regional cooperation in the implementation of the minimum standards in the PSM Agreement.</p> <p>Learn from the experience of some countries for the implementation of PSM.</p> <p>Raise the awareness of related national agencies on PSM for the effective implementation of PSM</p>	<p>Member Countries to collaborate with FAO and SEAFDEC</p> <p>Refer to Annexes in PSM Agreement</p> <p>Refer to the SOP of Malaysia for the implementation of PSM</p> <p>Refer to 2011 Plan of Action</p>
<p>Review countries’ existing legislations and legal framework to implement PSM with respect to the provisions of the FAO PSM Agreement</p>	<p>Member Countries should review existing legislations and legal framework to implement PSM with respect to the provisions of the FAO PSM Agreement</p> <p>Refer to the study conducted by FAO to compare the basic provisions in the PSM Agreement with relevant legislations of three countries in the region, namely: Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand for improving or amending or harmonizing as the case may be of the current relevant laws and regulations.</p> <p>Provide technical assistance to countries in amending their respective legislations to include provisions on the implementation of PSM.</p> <p>Consider that policy makers exert efforts to adjust the national legislations and policies in accordance with the provisions in the FAO PSM Agreement. Such initiatives should be submitted for the consideration of FAO COFI, RPOA-IUU, SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi.</p>	<p>Member Countries to review their respective legislations in collaboration with FAO, SEAFDEC, and RPOA-IUU.</p> <p>Member Countries to consider this issue with assistance from SEAFDEC, FAO and ASEAN Secretariat. Refer to the 2011 Plan of Action on the commitment of the Member Countries on the promotion of PSM.</p>
<p>(Other relevant measures) Promotion of catch documentation and certification schemes</p>	<p>Facilitate implementation of catch documentation scheme and catch certification scheme on domestic and foreign fishing vessels.</p> <p>Develop standard operating procedures on ports inspection and relevant port procedures.</p>	<p>Member Countries to consider this issue.</p>

Regional Common Issues and Constraints	Meeting Recommendations	Remarks
<i>Specific Issues</i>		
Implementation working model for ports using PSM and other relevant measures	<p>Building capacity and learning from the example of such model ports, for the countries.</p> <p>Consider the proposal of Thailand to develop a model port in the country where many foreign vessels land, to be used as an example for the development of model ports in the Southeast Asian countries.</p> <p>Conduct of regional and national on-site training (tailor-made) for relevant staff including inspectors and enforcers to be able to implement PSM and other relevant measures as well as to interpret legal instruments effectively.</p>	<p>Member Countries with assistance from SEAFDEC and FAO requested</p> <p>On-site training in the countries should aimed to develop the capability of port inspectors, enforcers and other concerned staff (including those from non-fisheries agencies)</p>
Improvement infrastructures and facilities to implement PSM and other relevant measures	<p>Improve capability of countries in accessing the legally updated data bases including list of fishing vessels known as IUU fishing vessels (from national central offices) for the effective enforcement of PSM through the acquisition of state-of-the-art instruments and facilities.</p> <p>Improve the facilities and capabilities in port harbors and other infrastructures to enhance the implementation of PSM.</p>	Member Countries to improve their respective facilities and capabilities.
Communications and restricted information sharing on PSM	<p>Promote exchange of experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of PSM through training cum workshops involving all target groups.</p> <p>Enhance the awareness of all stakeholders to understand the need to implement PSM and other relevant measures through prints, media, and the website (<i>e.g.</i> information materials for the awareness of target groups).</p>	Assistance of SEAFDEC in collaboration with FAO requested
<i>Other issues relevant to the implementation of PSM and other relevant measures</i>		
<p>Fishing vessel registration</p> <p>- Double flagging</p>	<p>Need to conduct internal discussions with respective Ministries of Transport or on the procedures of registration, de-registration and dual flagging, by specifically looking at the procedures of notification.</p> <p>Ensure that vessels appearing to be foreign but flying national flags are not involved in dual flagging and not engaged in IUU fishing, before gaining entry to ports.</p>	<p>Member Countries to addressing this issue as flag states accordingly.</p> <p>Should be clarified with respective Ministries of Transport or other agencies involved in vessels registration and Departments of Fisheries of the Member countries.</p>

Regional Common Issues and Constraints	Meeting Recommendations	Remarks
- Regional Fishing Vessels Record	Review of flag state control should be conducted to address possible double flagging of vessels. Request countries to facilitate in providing their respective updated information on national vessels to promote the regional fishing vessels record and enhance port monitoring activities	SEAFDEC to assist Member Countries
MCS system including VMS networking	Strengthen cooperation among neighboring (trans-boundary) countries in adapting the MCS network through sub-regional agreements	SEAFDEC to assist Member Countries
Additional information required from other Member Countries	Compile country information on the implementation of PSM for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Indonesia (may be for Lao PDR also) which were not represented during the Meeting, with assistance from the respective members of RFPN.	SEAFDEC to officially communicate this matter to the concerned countries.

III. PLAN OF ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN OF PORT STATE MEASURES AND OTHER SURVEILLANCE MEASURES IN THE REGION

The Training Department plans to implement the activities to strengthen of Port State measures and other surveillance measures to reduce IUU fishing in the region. The activities are as follows:

- Providing technical assistant to improve PSM and existing mechanism in SEAFDEC Member Countries

The technical assistance to improve PSMs and existing mechanism in Member Countries concerned will be provided. The outputs information will be used to prepare and organize an on-site training and workshop on strengthening of PSMs and other surveillance measures to reduce IUU fishing in collaboration with Member Countries.

- On-site training and workshop on strengthening of PSMs and other surveillance measures to reduce IUU fishing in the region

The on-site training and workshop on strengthen of PSMs activities and other surveillance measures to reduce IUU fishing will be organized in collaboration with Member Countries. Government agencies, stakeholders and other sectors concerned will be invited to attend this activity. The course subject will provide its participants with understanding of PSM agreement and how to implement/ improvement PSM and related activities.

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 16TH FCG/ASSP

The 16th FCG/ASSP Meeting is requested to take note and provide policy support and regional cooperation to strengthen of Port State Measures and other surveillance measures in the region.

GUIDELINE FOR CONDUCTING SCIENTIFIC SURVEY ON SEA TURTLE FORAGING HABITATS

I. INTRODUCTION

Based on the results obtained by satellite telemetry studies on sea turtle conducted by various countries in the region, several possible foraging habitats were determined especially for green turtles. The possible sea turtle foraging habitats are: Sipadan-Mabul Islands (Malaysia), Brunei Bay (Brunei D.S and Malaysia), Can Dao archipelago (Vietnam), Pahlawan Island (The Philippines) and Phuket Archipelago (Thailand), Andaman Island (Myanmar), Riau Archipelago (Indonesia), Bali Island (Indonesia) and Derawan archipelago (Indonesia).

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD had conducted two scientific surveys at sea turtle foraging habitats of Malaysian waters in 2010 and 2011. These scientific surveys were conducted in Brunei Bay from 5 to 12 July 2010 and Sipadan Island of Sabah waters of Malaysia from 28 to 31 August 2011. The objective of these surveys were (i) to gather information on sea turtle population, (ii) to gather information on the threats occurring in that area, (iii) to gather information on the seagrass bed and (iv) to gather the information on water quality. This information is vital to carry out the appropriate measures for protecting sea turtles and their foraging habitats. Currently there is lack of experiences and expertise of the researchers in this region in conducting scientific surveys in sea turtle foraging habitats. Therefore establishment of the Guideline for Conducting Scientific Survey on Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats is essential to assist the researchers in the region for collecting scientific information on sea turtle foraging habitats.

The Guideline for Conducting Scientific Survey on Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats was prepared and presented during the Regional Workshop on Management of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitat in Southeast Asian Waters from 1 to 3 November 2011 at Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

II. PROGRESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUIDELINE FOR CONDUCTING SCIENTIFIC SURVEY ON SEA TURTLE FORAGING HABITATS (OCTOBER 2012 – OCTOBER 2013)

The draft of the Guideline for Conducting Scientific Survey on Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats was presented for improvements during the Regional Meeting on Conservation of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitat in Southeast Asian Waters from 22 to 24 October 2013 in Kuala Lumpur.

III. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 16TH FCG/ASSP

The Guideline for Conducting Scientific Survey on Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats will be finalized soon and presented during the nearest FCG/ASSP meeting for consideration as the Regional Guideline.

REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION OF SEA TURTLE FORAGING HABITATS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN WATERS

I. INTRODUCTION

Study on determining migration pattern on sea turtles through satellite technology (satellite telemetry) was conducted by SEAFDEC-MFRDMD Kuala Terengganu since in the year 2000. One of the main objectives of this study is to determine the foraging habitats. In addition several countries in the region such as Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia were extensively conducting satellite telemetry studies. The majority of satellite telemetry studies was conducted on green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), followed by hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) and very few on olive Ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*). Based on the results obtained by satellite telemetry studies on sea turtle in the region, several possible foraging habitats were determined especially for green turtles, hawksbills and leatherback. The possible sea turtle foraging habitats are: Sipadan-Mabul Islands (Malaysia), Brunei Bay (Brunei D.S and Malaysia), Can Dao archipelago (Vietnam), Pahlawan Island (The Philippines) and Phuket Archipelago (Thailand), Andaman Island (Myanmar), Riau Archipelago (Indonesia), Bali Island (Indonesia) and Derawan archipelago (Indonesia). The determination of foraging habitats of sea turtles is essential to enhance conservation efforts by protecting sea turtles and their foraging habitats as well as strengthen the cooperation between neighboring countries in the region. The establishment of the Regional Plan of Action of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters is highly needed to enhance sea turtle populations in the Southeast Asian region.

The draft Management Plan on Conserving Sea Turtles Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters was presented during the Regional Workshop on Management of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitat in Southeast Asian Waters from 1 to 3 November 2011 at Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. The first draft of the Regional Plan of Action of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitat in Southeast Asian Waters was prepared in January 2012 by Technical Coordinator of JTF -V Program.

II. PROGRESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION OF SEA TURTLE FORAGING HABITATS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN WATERS (OCTOBER 2012 – OCTOBER 2013)

- The first meeting to discuss about the draft Regional Plan of Action of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters was organized by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD from 27 to 28 February 2013 at SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia.
- The second meeting to discuss on the draft Regional Plan of Action of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters was organized by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD from 21 to 22 May 2013 at Kuala Lumpur 2013.
- The final draft of the Regional Plan of Action of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters was prepared during the Regional Meeting on Conservation of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitat in Southeast Asian Waters from 22 to 24 October 2013 at Kuala Lumpur.

III. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 16TH FCG/ASSP

The document of the Regional Plan of Action of Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats in Southeast Asian Waters will be finalized soon and presented during the nearest FCG/ASSP meeting for consideration as Regional Plan.

REGIONAL GUIDELINES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TRACEABILITY FOR AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS

I. INTRODUCTION

Traceability has become a major concern of the aquaculture industry, especially since it has become a legitimate requirement in major international markets such as the EU and the US. Furthermore as aquaculture production becomes more market and consumer driven, the greatest pressure for product traceability has been coming from the general public. Consumers are getting more and more concerned on what they eat – whether the food comes from a safe and sustainable source, and whether production, transportation, and storage conditions can guarantee food safety and quality.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (2004) defines traceability or product tracing as “The ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution”. In an increasingly competitive food system, traceability has become a major tool in dealing with concerns of food safety, quality assurance, risk prevention, and gaining consumer trust. Traceability can be used to achieve different purposes or objectives, such as for food safety, bio-security and regulatory requirements or to ensure quality and other contractual requirements. For instance, external traceability allows the tracking of a product and/or attribute(s) of that product through the successive stages of the distribution chain (from farm to fork), while internal traceability (or enterprise traceability) is aimed at productivity improvement and cost reduction within a production unit (e.g. fish plant). Governments and organizations around the world have also been developing different systems on seafood traceability e.g TraceFish (EU), TraceShrimp (Thailand).

Some countries in the ASEAN region which are major exporters of seafood have began implementation of traceability systems for their aquaculture products such as Thailand (shrimps) and Vietnam (catfish). However, with increasing requirements for traceability in the international seafood markets, there is an urgent need for all countries in the region to implement traceability systems in their aquaculture industry so as to comply with the regulations of the importing countries. In addition, domestic consumers in the region who are becoming more affluent and educated also demand that a higher level of food safety and quality in their seafood. In view of these developments, MFRD has implemented a project on traceability for aquaculture products in the ASEAN region to provide a platform for the sharing of information and experiences among the ASEAN Member Countries on traceability systems to better enable the regional aquaculture industries to implement appropriate traceability systems in aquaculture products and to meet international traceability requirements in the network of aquaculture production, marketing, and trade.

The expected outcomes of the project are envisaged to be the establishment of traceability programmes for aquaculture products in the Member Countries and enhanced capability and knowledge on the development and implementation of traceability systems for aquaculture products in the Member Countries. The main expected output is a technical publication on traceability systems for aquaculture products in the ASEAN Region which will comprise the information and data from the two on-site workshops conducted in the project as well as the Regional Guidelines on Implementation of Traceability for Aquaculture Products.

II. PROGRESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT ON REGIONAL GUIDELINES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TRACEABILITY FOR AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS DURING OCTOBER 2012 – OCTOBER 2013

MFRD in consultation with all the ASEAN Member Countries will begin drafting the Guidelines after the 2nd on-site traceability workshop held in Thailand on 5-7 November 2013. The Guidelines are the basic requirements which are agreed by all Member Countries in which a basic traceability system for aquaculture products should have.

The timeline for development of the Regional Guidelines on Implementation of Traceability for Aquaculture Products is follows:

1	Draft Regional Guidelines	2 nd Quarter 2014	MFRD & Member Countries
2	Review by Member Countries	3 rd Quarter 2014	Member Countries
3	End-of-Project Meeting: Finalize draft Regional Guidelines	3 rd Quarter 2014	MFRD & Member Countries
4	Completion of Regional Guidelines	October 2014	MFRD
5	Presentation of Regional Guidelines to SEAFDEC PCM & FCG	November 2014	MFRD
6	Presentation of Regional Guidelines to SEAFDEC Council Meeting	April 2015	Secretariat
7	Presentation of Regional Guidelines to ASWGFi	2015	Secretariat

III. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 16TH FCG/ASSP

The draft Guidelines when ready by 2nd quarter 2014 will be circulated to all Member Countries for the relevant national authorities' comments and support. The Guidelines will serve as a common platform and reference for Member Countries in their implementation of traceability for aquaculture products. The support and cooperation of Member Countries are needed for the development of the Regional Guidelines.

CLOSING REMARKS

*By Mr. Hajime Kawamura
Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC
On behalf of the SEAFDEC Co-chair, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*

Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat, SEAFDEC Senior Officials,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon!

First of all, on behalf of the Co-chair for SEAFDEC of the 16th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership, Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri, please allow me to thank the representative from Lao PDR Mr. Bounthong Saphakdy, for chairing with me and our Secretary-General the Sixteenth Meeting of FCG/ASSP. Please allow me to also thank the representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and their respective delegations for their active cooperation and support during our deliberations. Your interactive involvement led us to the successful conclusion of the Meeting with significant recommendations. We hope that our recommendations would be submitted by our ASEAN counterpart, to the higher authorities of the ASEAN for consideration and endorsement.

In addition, I also like to express our appreciation for your constructive comments and suggestions as well as policy recommendations on several aspects especially with regards to the progress of implementation and development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC regional programs.

Lastly, on behalf of the Fisheries Consultative Group, I would also wish to thank the Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Ms. Mahyam Mohd Isa and her staff for the excellent arrangements of our Meeting.

Without further ado, I now declare the Sixteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership closed. For those who will be travelling out of this beautiful city of Penang and back to their respective countries, we wish you a happy and successful trip.

Once again, I thank you for your active participation during our two-day Meeting. Good day!