



**Report of
The Twenty-First Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group
of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)**

Langkawi, Malaysia
8 - 9 November 2018



Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

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**THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Twenty-first Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or 21FCG/ASSP was convened in Langkawi, Malaysia from 8 to 9 November 2018 and was co-chaired by the representative from Thailand on behalf of the current Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC. Attended by representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat, and SEAFDEC officials led by the Secretary-General, the 21FCG/ASSP discussed the programs and activities implemented by SEAFDEC in 2018 and those proposed for 2019 under the FCG/ASSP mechanism as endorsed by the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its Forty-first Meeting (41PCM) in November 2018, the progress of other proposals implemented under the ASSP framework, as well as the policy considerations on issues of importance to the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

2. Regarding the **“Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Fiftieth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twentieth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP),”** the 21FCG/ASSP discussed the actions undertaken by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council at its 50th Meeting and the FCG/ASSP at its 20th Meeting. On the need for SEAFDEC to negotiate with the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate the inclusion of the results of discussions on fisheries issues during the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF), it was noted that the FCG mechanism is already in place for discussions on fisheries related issues between SEAFDEC and ASEAN which are reported to the SOM-AMAF through ASWGFi. On the procedure for SEAFDEC to participate in the SOM-AMAF in case there are important issues to be raised, SEAFDEC should communicate with the ASEAN Secretariat requesting permission to attend the SOM-AMAF meeting and indicate the issues to be presented and discussed. With regards to the process of developing the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP), an *ad hoc* Task Force to Conduct the Feasibility Study on the Development of the AGFP including its Terms of Reference has already been agreed. Although SEAFDEC is not included in the Task Force, SEAFDEC and other relevant organizations could still be invited to attend the discussions if necessary.

3. On the **“Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at Meetings of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries in 2018,”** the 21FCG/ASSP was informed on the results of the discussions of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries, particularly the 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (26ASWGFi), the Special Senior Official Meeting of the 39th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM 39AMAF), the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting of the Fortieth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (PREP-SOM 40AMAF), and the 40th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (40AMAF). Regarding the Policy Brief **“Applying Human Rights-Based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia,”** the 21FCG/ASSP noted the suggestion made during the SSOM 39AMAF to have the title of this document changed considering the sensitivity of the issue on human rights; and that the Prep-SOM 40AMAF tasked the ASWGFi to review the Policy Brief and submit a proposed revised title to the SOM-AMAF for consideration. This matter would be discussed at the ASWGFi Meeting in 2019.

4. For the **“FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2018-2019,”** the 21FCG/ASSP was informed on the FCG/ASSP projects which were reviewed by the 41PCM, comprising twenty-three (23) projects that have been categorized under the SEAFDEC Strategies, and two (2) Special Projects, as well as the recommendations made during the 41PCM. It was noted that two (2) projects were completed in 2018, while 22 projects would be continued in 2019, and one new project will be implemented starting in 2019. Moreover, two (2) Pipeline Projects, namely: 1) Development of Stock Assessment Method and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region; and 2) Second Phase of Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resource Management, were also noted

5. The 21FCG/ASSP noted the **“Progress of SEAFDEC-related Activities/Proposals under the ASEAN Fisheries Related Bodies”** and provided the following recommendations:

- **ASEAN Ad hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS)**
 - The 21FCG/ASSP took note of the results of the Sixth and Seventh Meetings of the ASEAN Ad hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS) held in 2018.
- **ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)**
 - The 21FCG/ASSP noted the results of the Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) held in 2018.
- **ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)**
 - The 21FCG/ASSP noted the progress of activities of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), including the results of the 8th ASA Meeting held in 2018, and the plan to conduct the 9th ASA Meeting in 2019. The 21FCG/ASSP also noted that Viet Nam would discuss with Thailand regarding the timing and arrangement of the next ASA Meeting which was proposed to be held back-to-back with the ASWGFi and AFCF Meetings.

6. With regards to the “**Policy Consideration on International Fisheries-related Issues,**” the 21FCG/ASSP provided the following recommendations:

- **Combating IUU Fishing**
 - For the “*Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain*” particularly on the results of the self-evaluation of the extent of implementation of the Guidelines by the respective countries, SEAFDEC should consider engaging independent assessors which could ensure the transparency of the evaluation process, and could also properly guide the AMSs on the aspects of the Guidelines that should be considered and implemented.
 - On the “*Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over,*” the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that SEAFDEC has developed a draft Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System, which is in the final process of submission to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration *ad referendum*. To enhance the utilization of the RFVR Database, the FCG/ASSP expressed the view that the objective of the Database should be clarified, *e.g.* to be able to confirm that fishing vessels not included in the RFVR Database are considered illegal fishing vessels, then the RFVR would be useful to support the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM).
 - On the “*ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS),*” the 21FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the electronic system of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) which is being pilot tested in Brunei Darussalam, and expansion to pilot sites in Viet Nam and Myanmar. The 21FCG/ASSP also noted that there are two traceability systems, *i.e.* the eACDS developed by SEAFDEC and the Catch Documentation and Traceability (CDT) developed by the USAID Oceans. Both systems were developed based on the same fundamental principles of the ACDS concept, but with different focus.
 - With regards to the “*Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Port State Measures,*” while agreeing that the works of SEAFDEC on Port State Measures do not duplicate with those of FAO, the 21FCG/ASSP suggested that a network comprising focal points from the AMSs should be established to fast track the communication between and among countries to support the PSM implementation, and supported the plan of SEAFDEC to continue organizing the training for inspectors to support the implementation of the PSMA in the future.
 - On the “*Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity),*” the 21FCG/ASSP requested the countries that have not yet responded to the questionnaires on

the progress made in the implementation of RPOA-Capacity, to send their accomplished questionnaires back to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by December 2018 in order that the results could be analyzed and reported to the forthcoming ASWGFi Meeting.

- **Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region**

- Regarding the “*Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region (RPOA-Neritic Tunas)*,” the 21FCG/ASSP suggested that SEAFDEC could continue providing support to the AMSs to improve their capacity in managing their tuna resources, and to convey the results of their works to the relevant RFMOs. As for the Gulf of Thailand, issues on the management of neritic tunas should be discussed at the sub-regional forum for the Gulf of Thailand in order to formulate the sub-regional joint management plan of the species. For the South China Sea area, such area is beyond the mandate of SEAFDEC. As for the Andaman Sea, SEAFDEC can share the results of its works on neritic tunas with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) which has the management mandate in this sub-region.
- On the “*Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture in the Southeast Asia*,” the Policy Guidelines for Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asian Region developed in 2018 was noted. To seek endorsement of the Policy Guidelines under the ASEAN Mechanism, SEAFDEC was requested to seek approval of the document by the Council *ad referendum*, and subsequently circulate the document to the 21FCG/ASSP countries’ head delegates and request comments for endorsement to the ASWGFi *ad referendum*. The FCG/ASSP focal points should be established in order that matters that require urgent consideration could be considered and endorsed by the FCG/ASSP *ad referendum*.
- On the “*Progress on the Establishment of an Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response System for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia*,” the ASEAN Secretariat requested that once the regional technical guidelines/mechanisms for early warning system for aquatic animal diseases is already available and approved by the SEAFDEC Council, SEAFDEC should submit this to the FCG/ASSP for endorsement to ASWGFi.
- Under the “*Updates on the Establishment of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture*,” the official launching of the Database with the web address <http://afid.seafdec.org.ph/> was noted.

- **Ensuring the Food Safety and Quality of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Seafood**

- With regards to the “*Progress on the Establishment of the Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood*,” the 21FCG/ASSP suggested that the Guidelines should be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council at its forthcoming meeting in 2019, and upon the approval of the SEAFDEC Council, the Guidelines would be circulated for endorsement by the FCG/ASSP focal points, and subsequently submitted to the ASEAN mechanism.

- **CITES Issues**

- On the commercially exploited aquatic species that are of concern to the Southeast Asian region, the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that the SEAFDEC Secretariat will organize the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on the Proposal to CITES CoP18 to facilitate the development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/coordinated position. Subsequently, the common/coordinated position once endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council will be submitted to the ASEAN mechanism.

7. Under the “**Other Matters**,” the 21FCG/ASSP took note of the proposal on “*Way Forward for Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards*

2020,” which was developed in response to the directive of the SEAFDEC Council during its Fiftieth Meeting in March 2018. The proposed workplan, which includes a review of the progress in the implementation of the RES&POA 2020 and review of the contents of the RES&POA 2020, was also noted.

8. The Report of the 21FCG/ASSP was adopted on 9 November 2018.

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

8-9 November 2018, Langkawi, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-first Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or 21FCG/ASSP was organized in Langkawi, Malaysia from 8 to 9 November 2018. The agenda of the 21FCG/ASSP included discussions on the programs and activities implemented by SEAFDEC in 2018 and those proposed for 2019 under the FCG/ASSP mechanism as endorsed by the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its Forty-first Meeting (41PCM) on 5-7 November 2018, the progress of other proposals implemented under the ASSP Framework as well as the policy considerations on issues of importance to the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. The 21FCG/ASSP was attended by representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 1**.

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The 21FCG/ASSP was co-chaired by the representative from Thailand, *Mr. Bunchong Chumnongsittathum* on behalf of the current Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) and by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn*. In his capacity as the Co-Chair for SEAFDEC of the 21FCG/ASSP, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General welcomed the participants to the Meeting and reiterated that the FCG/ASSP Meeting is a very important forum as it serves as a joint platform for the ASEAN and SEAFDEC for discussing the collaborative programs of activities that address several fisheries-related issues and challenges confronting the region. He added that the recommendations from the FCG/ASSP Meeting are crucial in ensuring that ongoing and future activities of SEAFDEC properly address the fisheries-related priorities and needs of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. His Welcome Remarks appears as **Annex 2**.

3. The Co-Chair for the ASEAN of the 21FCG/ASSP, *Mr. Bunchong Chumnongsittathum* also welcomed the participants to the Meeting and thanked the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department of SEAFDEC for the arrangements of the Meeting. He cited that the technical cooperation between the ASEAN and SEAFDEC for the development and management of sustainable fisheries has been established since 1998 in order to support the various fisheries activities of the ASEAN Member States (AMSs). He stated that the various programs and activities implemented under the FCG/ASSP mechanism especially on management strategies/measures, combating IUU fishing, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, climate change and mitigation measures, catch documentation and traceability of fish and fishery products are important issues in moving forward to attain sustainability in the region's fisheries. After expressing his insights about the significance of the FCG/ASSP mechanism, he declared the Meeting open. His Opening Remarks appears as **Annex 3**.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Agenda which appears as **Annex 4** was adopted.

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

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



5. The 21FCG/ASSP took note of the follow-up actions undertaken by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council during its Fiftieth Meeting on 26-30 March 2018 and the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) during its Twentieth Meeting on 30 November-1 December 2017, as shown in **Annex 5** and **Annex 6**, respectively.

6. During the discussion, the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that as recommended during the Fiftieth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the need for SEAFDEC to negotiate with the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate the inclusion of the results of discussions on fisheries issues, should be addressed. In this connection, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the 21FCG/ASSP that the FCG mechanism is already in place for discussions on fisheries related issues between SEAFDEC and ASEAN which are reported to the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) through ASWGFi.

7. In response to the concern of the representative from Indonesia on the procedure for specific organizations to participate in the SOM-AMAF, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat explained that a number of requests are received from various organizations to take part in this high-level meeting. However, organizations allowed to attend the SOM-AMAF and AMAF are usually those that have no mechanisms to report their works that are beneficial for the ASEAN. As for SEAFDEC, the mechanisms already exist, *i.e.* through the FCG/ASSP and the ASWGFi where SEAFDEC could report their works, and such mechanisms should therefore be mobilized. In cases where there are important issues that SEAFDEC would like to raise to SOM-AMAF, SEAFDEC should communicate with the ASEAN Secretariat requesting permission to attend the SOM-AMAF meeting and indicate the issues to be presented and discussed. The ASEAN Secretariat would then circulate through the FCG/ASSP and ASWGFi for subsequent submission to SOM-AMAF for approval.

8. While noting that although there is already an existing mechanism for SEAFDEC to report its work, the representative from Viet Nam expressed the view that as the AMSs is in the process of developing the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP), the participation of SEAFDEC at the meetings of high-level authorities of the ASEAN would therefore be useful. In this connection, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat clarified that an *ad hoc* Task Force to Conduct the Feasibility Study on the Development of the AGFP including its Terms of Reference (TOR) has already been agreed by the Special SOM-39AMAF, and the ASEAN Secretariat has already sent out the letters requesting the AMSs to nominate their respective Task Force members. Although SEAFDEC is not included in the Task Force, SEAFDEC and other relevant organizations could still be invited by the Ad Hoc Task Force to attend the discussions, if necessary. He added that the TOR of the Task Force to conduct the feasibility study indicated that the study should be completed in two years. It is therefore expected that after the nomination of the Task Force members from the AMSs, the first meeting of the Task Force could be organized in 2019. In the mean time, the ASEAN Secretariat is also developing a proposal for funding support from the ASEAN dialogue partners to support the Task Force.

3.2 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at Meetings of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries in 2018

9. The 21FCG/ASSP noted the results of the discussions of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries, particularly at the 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (26ASWGFi) on 9-12 May 2018 in Thailand, the Special Senior Official Meeting of the 39th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM 39AMAF) on 27-28 August 2018 in Thailand, the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting of the Fortieth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (PREP-SOM 40AMAF) on 8-9 October 2018 in Viet Nam, and the 40th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (40AMAF) on 11 October 2018 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, as shown in **Annex 7** and presented by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat.

10. Specifically, the Policy Brief “Applying Human Rights-Based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia” was submitted for endorsement by the Special SOM-39AMAF in August 2018. However, the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that the Special SOM-39AMAF suggested to have the title of this document changed considering the sensitivity of the issue on human rights. During the subsequent Prep SOM-40AMAF, the Meeting therefore tasked the ASWGFi to review the Policy Brief

taking into consideration the suggestion to change its title and also to submit a proposed revised title to the SOM-AMAF for consideration.

11. The 21FCG/ASSP was also informed that the abovementioned Policy Brief only provides clarification on the basic elements of the human rights-based and gender approaches as stipulated in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. However, considering the decision of the SOM-AMAF, the representative from Indonesia suggested that the ASEAN Secretariat should consider discussing this issue again with the SOM Leader of Cambodia in order that the ASWGFi could come up with the suggested appropriate title. Moreover, the representative from the Philippines also suggested that initial discussion should be made between Thailand and Cambodia to address this issue prior to the next ASWGFi Meeting. In this connection, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat reiterated that this matter would be discussed at the ASWGFi Meeting in 2019, in which the ASWGFi was tasked to review the Policy Brief and submit the proposed revised title to SOM-AMAF. The representative from Cambodia therefore agreed with the suggestion of the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat that this matter should be brought back for consultation with concerned officers prior to the next ASWGFi Meeting.

IV. ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2018-2019

4.1 Summary Report on the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2018-2019

12. The Collaborative Programs under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) mechanism for 2018-2019 were reviewed by the 41PCM held in Langkawi, Malaysia from 5 to 7 November 2018. The results of the program scrutiny and the recommendations of the 41PCM (**Annex 8**) were summarized and submitted to the 21FCG/ASSP for subsequent submission to the higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC for consideration and endorsement.

13. At the outset, the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that 23 projects have been categorized under the SEAFDEC Strategies adopted by the SEAFDEC Council in 2017, and two projects “Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia” and the “Ocean and Fisheries Partnership” classified as ‘Special Projects.’ The 21FCG/ASSP also noted that two projects were completed in 2018, twenty projects that were implemented in 2018 will be continued in 2019, and one new project will be implemented starting in 2019. Moreover, two Pipeline Projects “Development of Stock Assessment Method and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region” and “Second Phase of Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resource Management” were also scrutinized by the 41PCM.

14. With regards to the project “Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region,” the 21FCG/ASSP agreed with the suggestion made by the representative from Indonesia that the proposed activities for 2019 should focus on enhancing the capacities of the Member Countries, *i.e.* providing technical assistance to the Member Countries in establishing their respective national reference points towards and harvest control rules of transboundary stocks, and in the analysis of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and Total Allowable Effort (TAE) of target species.

15. As for the Pipeline Project “Development of Stock Assessment Method and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region,” which is proposed for its Phase II, the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that this Phase of the Project is planned for implementation starting 2019 with possible funding support from Japan-ASEAN Integrated Fund (JAIF). In this regard, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat viewed that as SEAFDEC Secretariat is still in the process of securing the necessary funding from JAIF for the project, the 21FCG/ASSP could only take note of this pipeline project, and the endorsement could be made when the detailed proposal is available for submission to the appraisal and approval process of ASEAN. He reiterated that in addition to the proposal for Phase II of the Project, SEAFDEC should also submit the Project Completion Report as well as the Project Financial Report which are required for the consideration of Phase II of the Project.



V. PROGRESS OF SEAFDEC-RELATED ACTIVITIES/PROPOSALS UNDER THE ASEAN FISHERIES RELATED BODIES

5.1 ASEAN Ad hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS)

16. The 21FCG/ASSP took note of the results of the Sixth Meeting of the Ad hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS) on 18-19 January 2018 in Lombok, Indonesia, and the Seventh AHSCCC-FS on 28-30 June 2018 in Da Nang, Viet Nam as presented by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, which appear in **Annex 9**.

5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)

17. The 21FCG/ASSP noted the presentation of the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat on the results of the Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) on 7-8 May 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, which appears as **Annex 10**.

5.3 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)

18. The 21FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of activities of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) including the results of the Eight Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance on 21-22 March 2018 in Thailand which was presented by the representative from Thailand as the interim Secretariat of the ASA, and shown as **Annex 11**.

19. During the discussion, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat sought clarification on the next meeting of the ASA which was planned to be organized back-to-back with the ASWGFi in 2019 in Viet Nam. He expressed the concern that since the Meeting of ASWGFi usually takes three (3) days while that of AFCF takes two (2) days, and with the ASA Meeting which was proposed to be held back-to-back with the ASWGFi and AFCF Meetings, this could result in longer meeting days. In this connection, the representative from Viet Nam informed the Meeting that this issue would be discussed with Thailand, especially on the timing and arrangement of the next ASA Meeting, considering that the meetings of ASA and AFCF could be arranged for one day each only or could be organized parallel with each other.

VI. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES-RELATED ISSUES

6.1 Combating IUU Fishing

6.1.1 Progress on the Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain

20. The Meeting noted the progress made by MFRDMD on the promotion of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain (Guidelines) as shown in **Annex 12**, particularly the results of the consultations carried out by MFRDMD with the AMSs for the self-evaluation of the extent of implementation of the Guidelines by the respective countries.

21. During the discussion, a query was made regarding the scoring of the extent of implementation of the Guidelines by each AMS. In response, the representative from MFRDMD explained that through self-evaluation each AMS determined their own score according to the five actions indicated in the Guidelines, namely: 1) Managing of the fishing activities within an ASEAN Member States (AMSs); 2) Regulating transshipment and landing of fish/catch across borders; 3) Preventing poaching in the EEZ of ASEAN Member States; 4) Controlling illegal fishing and trading practices of Live Reef Food Fish (LRFF), Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species; and 5) Strengthening the management of fishing in the high seas and Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) areas. He added that the detailed report of the self-evaluation would be made available by the end of 2018.

22. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat inquired whether there is an existing mechanism that could be used to verify the results of the self-evaluation by each AMS to ensure the transparency of the process, *e.g.* peer review by other AMSs or by external bodies. He also expressed the view that the AMSs should continue their efforts in implementing the Guidelines.

23. The representative from Indonesia shared the experience of Indonesia during the self-evaluation exercise that was undertaken by MFRDMD which involved meeting with relevant technical persons from concerned agencies in Indonesia to discuss and clarify each item in the questionnaire. During such meeting, discussion was also made on how the country could move forward to further the implementation of each actions of the Guidelines. Nevertheless, she also agreed with the view raised by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat that engaging independent assessors could also properly guide the AMSs on the aspects of the Guidelines that should be considered and implemented.

6.1.2 Progress on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over

24. The 21FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 m in Length and Over (RFVR) as shown in **Annex 13**, and presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, and was informed that SEAFDEC has developed a draft Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System in response to the recommendation of the 24th Meeting of the ASWGFi in 2016, which is in the final process of submission to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration *ad referendum*.

25. During the discussion, the 21FCG/ASSP also noted the absence of data from Viet Nam since 2016. In this regard, the representative from Viet Nam explained that the classification of the country's size of fishing vessels is now being changed from horsepower to length class, and as a result its national database would be modified accordingly. Furthermore, Viet Nam has recently modified the definition of its fishing vessels to also include carrier vessels, and is still in the process of completing the database for these vessels. Nonetheless, she assured the 21FCG/ASSP that Viet Nam should be able to provide the data for the RFVR by the end of 2018.

26. With regard to enhancing the utilization of the RFVR Database, the representative from Viet Nam also expressed the view that the objective of the Database should be clarified, because if it could be confirmed that fishing vessels not included in the RFVR Database are considered as illegal fishing vessels, then the RFVR would be very useful to support the implementation Port State measures (PSM). In such a case, the Database should also be made accessible to relevant users such as the authorities at ports.

6.1.3 Progress on the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme

27. The Meeting noted the progress on the development of the electronic system of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) being pilot tested in Brunei Darussalam and also the expansion of pilot site to Viet Nam and Myanmar (**Annex 14**) as presented by the representative from TD.

28. While expressing the confusion of having two traceability systems, *i.e.* the eACDS developed by SEAFDEC and the Catch Documentation and Traceability (CDT) developed by the USAID Oceans, the representative from Thailand inquired whether it is possible for these systems to be combined and come up with only one harmonized system that could be applied by the countries. In response, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC explained that the two systems have the same fundamental principles based on the ACDS concept. However, the eACDS was developed to ensure its applicability for multi-species catch such as those from trawlers or purse seiners, while the CDT focuses mainly on tunas.

29. The representative from TD also informed the Meeting on the differences between the CDT and eACDS, *i.e.* the CDT has less key data elements than the eACDS; the CDT focuses on large-scale tuna fisheries while eACDS could also be applied for small-scale fisheries; and the data for CDT could be derived directly from fishing vessels including the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data, while eACDS can also use the data from logbooks to be manually inputted into the system.

30. The representative from Viet Nam also shared the view that having two systems such as the eACDS and CDT is complicated, and there should be a unified system that could be used by the countries.



Meanwhile, the representative from Indonesia shared the experience on the implementation of the CDT in Bitung, Indonesia as one of the learning sites of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Oceans, and explained that the CDT will adopt the existing catch documentation system which would be linked from catch to market. The representative from the Philippines also shared the experience on the implementation of the CDT in another learning site in General Santos City, Philippines. He added that the Philippines is also developing a traceability system for other commodities, and will explore whether the eACDS could be applicable.

31. The representative from Indonesia reiterated that during the USAID Oceans Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting on 16-18 July 2018, the TWG recommended that the USAID Oceans should make presentations to the AMSs on the mechanism of the CDT from catch to market.

32. Furthermore, the 21FCG/ASSP was informed that the pilot site of eACDS in Brunei Darussalam is currently undergoing verification process, and any system error is being fixed by SEAFDEC in order that the eACDS could be introduced to the other SEAFDEC Member Countries.

6.1.4 Progress on the Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Port State Measures

33. The 21FCG/ASSP took note on the progress of the Regional Cooperation for the Implementation of the Port State Measures (**Annex 15**) as presented by the representative from TD.

34. In the discussion, the representative from Viet Nam concurred that the works of SEAFDEC on Port State Measures do not duplicate with those of FAO. She added that early in 2018, FAO started supporting the efforts of the countries to undertake gap analysis of the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), considering that some AMSs have already ratified the PSMA while there are still some countries that are compiling the necessary documentations for ratification. She then suggested that a network comprising focal points from the AMSs should be established to fast track the communication between and among countries to support the PSM implementation. She also supported the plan of SEAFDEC to continue organizing the training for inspectors to support the implementation of the PSMA in the future.

35. While expressing support to the establishment of PSM network among the AMSs, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General suggested that once established the contact details of the focal points could be made available in the SEAFDEC website. He also agreed on the proposal for SEAFDEC to conduct in the future, training for inspectors in collaboration with partners including FAO.

6.1.5 Progress on the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)

36. The 21FCG/ASSP was informed on the progress of implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) as shown in **Annex 16**, and presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. The 21FCG/ASSP also noted that the SEAFDEC Secretariat has sent out questionnaires to the AMSs to follow-up on the progress made by the countries in the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity.

37. In the discussion, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat inquired whether the results from the questionnaire survey could be submitted to the ASEAN mechanism. In response, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat indicated that only three countries have so far provided their response to the questionnaires. The 21FCG/ASSP therefore asked the other countries to send their accomplished questionnaires to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by December 2018 in order that the results could be analyzed and reported to the forthcoming ASWGF Meeting.

38. In this regard, the Chief of MFRDMD explained that with the collaboration of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, MFRDMD also plans to conduct an assessment of the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity once the project proposal receives the necessary funding for implementation. Therefore, he cited that MFRDMD could not yet confirm at this stage that the results of the questionnaire survey could be generated in time for reporting to the next ASWGF Meeting.

39. With regards to the proposed establishment of a permanent technical/policy coordination unit for the management of fishing capacity (RPOA-Capacity Secretariat), the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat inquired whether there could be a particular AMS that volunteers to serve as the RPOA-Capacity Secretariat. In this connection, the Meeting viewed that more detailed information would be necessary and the terms of reference for the RPOA-Capacity Secretariat should be developed prior to undertaking further discussions with the AMSs on this matter.

6.2 Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region

6.2.1 Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region

40. The 21FCG/ASSP took note of the progress in the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in ASEAN Region (RPOA-Neritic Tunas) shown as **Annex 17** and presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

41. In responding to the query of the representative from Thailand about the ASEAN mechanism in relation to tunas, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that there is an ASEAN Tuna Working Group (ATWG) under the ASEAN Joint Committee on Agriculture and Forest Product Promotion Scheme (Joint Committee). Such ATWG is a collaborative mechanism between governmental and private sectors to strengthen trade promotion on tuna although its meetings are usually attended by the AMSs that have tuna fishing industry such as Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Considering that the ATWG is not under the ASWGF_i framework, but when necessary, the recommendations on tuna fisheries management arising from the FCG/ASSP through the ASWGF_i could be shared to the Joint Committee.

42. The representative from Thailand emphasized that a series of data has been collected under the RPOA-Neritic Tunas that could be used in coming up with management recommendations, and which could also be used to support management for the sustainability of the neritic tunas in the region. She also emphasized that as the South China Sea area is not covered by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), management of neritic tunas in this area should be undertaken by relevant countries in the region. In response to her query on the availability of tuna fisheries management mechanism in the ASEAN, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat clarified that as the ASEAN and SEAFDEC have no management function and mechanism similar to the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), hence issues on fisheries management of shared and migratory fish stocks should be under the purview of concerned RFMOs.

43. While responding to the query of the representative from the Philippines on how the policy recommendations on neritic tunas are recognized and receive policy support from the ASEAN mechanism, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the Meeting that the ASWGF_i only took note of the results of the stock assessment. Nevertheless, if the AMSs could reach a consensus to consider the policy measures, then the ASWGF_i can endorse the recommendations for consideration by SOM-AMAF.

44. While confirming that the ASEAN and SEAFDEC do not have management mandate for fishery resources, the representative from Indonesia expressed the concern that since WCPFC does not cover the management of neritic tunas, SEAFDEC could therefore continue to provide support to AMSs to improve their capacity to manage their tuna resources, and convey the results of their works to the relevant RFMOs.

45. In response to the concern raised by the representative from Thailand for SEAFDEC to explore the possibility on how the management recommendations on neritic tunas could be put into practice in the Southeast Asian region, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General indicated that as for the Gulf of Thailand which is not within the jurisdiction of the WCPFC, issues on the management of neritic tunas should be discussed at the sub-regional forum for the Gulf of Thailand in order to formulate the sub-regional joint management plan of the species. For the South China Sea area which also involves non-SEAFDEC Member Countries such as China, management of neritic tunas in such area may be beyond the mandate of



SEAFDEC. As for the Andaman Sea, SEAFDEC can share the results of its works on neritic tunas with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) which has the management mandate in this sub-region.

6.2.2 *Progress on the Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture in the Southeast Asia*

46. The 21FCG/ASSP took note of the progress made by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with IFRDMD and AQD on the Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture in the Southeast Asia (**Annex 18**). Specifically, the 21FCG/ASSP also noted the Policy Guidelines for Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asian Region which was developed during the Second Regional Meeting on Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia organized on 18-19 October 2018 in Thailand.

47. The Chief of AQD inquired about the timeline for the implementation of activities on the conservation and management of eels considering that the AQD scientists involved in the project would be retiring from the service soon. In response, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat reiterated that the first phase of the project will be completed by mid 2019, and second phase would continue for another two years.

48. The representative from Myanmar expressed his support to the implementation of the project, especially the study on genetic diversity and structure, and informed the Meeting that Myanmar is now improving its eel fisheries management considering the importance of this species to Myanmar.

49. With regards to the Policy Guidelines for Conservation and Management of Anguillid Eels, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General reiterated that this is important considering that catadromous eel species had been discussed by the Conference of Parties (CoP) to CITES during the past few years. He encouraged the 21FCG/ASSP to endorse the Policy Guidelines through the ASEAN mechanism in order that this could be raised at the CITES CoP 18 to be organized in Sri Lanka on 23 May-3 June 2019 and the AMSs would be able to justify to CITES that measures for the management of tropical anguillid eels are in place.

50. The 21FCG/ASSP noted that the SEAFDEC Secretariat will seek approval of the Policy Guidelines from the SEAFDEC Council *ad referendum*, and subsequently circulate to the 21FCG/ASSP countries' head delegates requesting comments within two weeks for *ad referendum* endorsement to ASWGFi. The Policy Guidelines will also be shared and consulted with the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG-CITES & WE) prior to submission to SOM-AMAF for endorsement.

51. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat clarified that those policy documents submitted to the FCG/ASSP were already endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council. He also suggested that FCG/ASSP focal points should be established in order that matters that require urgent consideration could be considered and endorsed by the FCG/ASSP *ad referendum*. In this connection, the 21FCG/ASSP requested the ASEAN Secretariat to send letters to the AMSs requesting for nominations of their respective FCG/ASSP focal points while SEAFDEC should also send a letter to Japan, requesting for nomination of its FCG/ASSP focal point.

6.2.3 *Progress of the Establishment of an Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response System for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia*

52. The 21FCG/ASSP noted the Establishment of the Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems (AEPRS) for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia (**Annex 19**) which was an offshoot of the ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia on 20-22 August 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

53. During the discussion, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat commended AQD for facilitating the development of the AEPRS as this has been considered a priority issue by the SOM-

AMAF. He also requested that once the regional technical guidelines/mechanism for early warning system for aquatic animal diseases is already available and approved by the SEAFDEC Council, then SEAFDEC should submit this to the FCG/ASSP for endorsement to ASWGF.

6.2.4 *Updates on the Establishment of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture*

54. The 21FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture (**Annex 20**) which was officially launched on 13 July 2018 with the web address <http://afid.seafdec.org.ph/> as presented by the Chief of AQD.

6.3 Ensuring the Food Safety and Quality of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Seafood

6.3.1 *Progress on the Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood*

55. The Meeting took note of the Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Fish and Fishery Products in the ASEAN Region (**Annex 21**) which was developed by MFRD and finalized during the End-of-Project Meeting on Cold Chain Management for Seafood in April 2018 in Singapore.

56. During the discussion, and considering that this Regional Guidelines has not yet been submitted to and endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council prior to submission to this Meeting, the 21FCG/ASSP suggested for the Guidelines to be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council at its forthcoming meeting in 2019. Upon the approval of the SEAFDEC Council, the Guidelines would be circulated for endorsement by the FCG/ASSP focal points, and subsequently submitted to the ASEAN mechanism.

57. The 21FCG/ASSP requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat and ASEAN Secretariat to carefully look into the agenda of the future FCG/ASSP meetings to ensure that the documents submitted for consideration by the FCG/ASSP are those that have already been endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council and within the purview of the FCG/ASSP.

6.4 CITES Issues

58. The 21FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the international and regional initiatives on CITES related issues including the results of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Animal Committee (AC30), particularly on the commercially exploited aquatic species that are of concern to the Southeast Asian region (**Annex 22**). The 21FCG/ASSP also noted that the SEAFDEC Secretariat will organize the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on the Proposal to CITES CoP18 prior to the CITES CoP18 to facilitate the development of the ASEAN common/coordinated position on the proposals to CITES CoP18. Subsequently, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common position once endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council will be submitted to the ASEAN mechanism.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

7.1 Way Forward for Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020

59. The 21FCG/ASSP took note of proposal on the Way Forward for Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 (RES&RPOA 2020) shown as **Annex 23** and presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

60. The 21FCG/ASSP also recalled that the proposal was developed in response to the directive of the SEAFDEC Council during its Fiftieth Meeting in March 2018 considering that the RES&POA 2020 would be approaching its timeline of 2020 very soon. While noting that the proposed workplan includes a review of the progress in the implementation of the RES&POA 2020, and review of the contents of the RES&POA 2020 whether it should be revised and how should it be revised, the representative from Singapore also suggested that the number “2020” indicated in the workplan should be dropped from the revised version of the RES&POA to avoid confusion.



VIII. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT OF THE MEETING

61. The 21FCG/ASSP considered and adopted its recommendations and the Report of its Twenty-first Meeting as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat on 9 November 2018.

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

IX. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

63. The Co-Chair for the ASEAN of the 21FCG/ASSP, *Mr. Bunchong Chumnongsittathum* expressed his appreciation to the representatives of the 21FCG/ASSP for their active participation and for providing valuable inputs to the Meeting. He also thanked the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, and SEAFDEC Secretariat for the excellent arrangements of the Meeting. His Closing Remarks appears as **Annex 24**.

64. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* thanked the representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries for their cooperation and active participation during the Meeting and for providing constructive comments and suggestions as well as policy recommendations. He also expressed his appreciation to the SEAFDEC Departments for their cooperation and support, and the Secretariat of the Meeting for the excellent arrangements, and then he declared the Meeting closed. His Closing Remarks appears as **Annex 25**.

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WELCOME REMARKS

By *Dr. Kom Silapajarn*,
Secretary-General of SEAFDEC

My Co-Chair for the ASEAN-Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries, *Mr. Bunchong Chumnongsittathum*,
Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Members Countries,
Representative from the ASEAN Secretariat,
SEAFDEC Senior Officials,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

On behalf of SEAFDEC, it is indeed my pleasure to welcome you all to this Twenty-first Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership or FCG/ASSP, in this beautiful city of Langkawi, Malaysia.

For SEAFDEC, the FCG/ASSP Meeting is very important forum serving as a joint platform for ASEAN and SEAFDEC to discuss on collaborative programs of activities, as well as on coordinated approaches to address several fisheries-related issues and challenges faced by countries in the region, especially on those that may impede the sustainable contribution from fisheries to food security, people's well-being, and economic development.

We must acknowledge with profound gratitude the great efforts of the SEAFDEC Program Committee which convened its three-day meeting from Monday until yesterday, to review and scrutiny the programs implemented in 2018 under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism, as well as the proposed programs for 2019. The progress and future plans of SEAFDEC programs and projects, as well as other recommendations of the SEAFDEC Program Committee would be presented for your consideration at this Meeting together with progress made by SEAFDEC in addressing other important fisheries-related issues.

The recommendations to be made from this FCG/ASSP Meeting today is therefore very crucial to ensure that the on-going and future activities of SEAFDEC would properly address the fisheries-related priority and needs of ASEAN and the Member States.

Once again, I welcome all of you and hope that all of you will have a pleasant stay in Langkawi.

Thank you and have good day!

OPENING REMARKS

By *Mr. Bunchong Chumnongsittathum*
Chair of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries

SEAFDEC Secretary General: *Dr. Kom Silapajarn*,
Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Senior Officials of SEAFDEC,
Representative from ASEAN Secretariat,
Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning to everyone.

Since 1998, technical cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC towards sustainable fisheries development has been initiated under the regional ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group Mechanism (FCG) framework; and the promotion of sustainable fisheries development through this mechanism is well accredited within the ASEAN.

To assure that the efforts of ASEAN and SEAFDEC in tackling a number of challenges that have impacts on the development and management of the fisheries sector are sustained, and in support of various activities for the benefit of Member Countries, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) was formalized in 2007. ASSP is envisaged to enhance closer cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC and its Member Countries, paving the new phase for ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaboration in achieving long term common goals towards collective regional development and management of sustainable fisheries.

It has been over decade that the cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC is one of the best strategies to initiate, maintain, develop and strengthen regional sustainable fisheries for the highest benefit of its people. Therefore, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for all of your assistance and support for ASEAN Member States.

For today and tomorrow, we will be deliberating on the various programs and activities implemented under the FCG/ASSP mechanism in 2017 and those that are planned for 2018 and beyond. These relate to Management Strategies/Measures, Combating IUU Fishing, Sustainable Fishing and Aquaculture, Climate Change and Mitigation Measures, Catch Documentation and Traceability of Fish Products, among others. These are of importance in moving forward to sustainable fisheries in the region.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, May I likewise express gratitude to the SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), led by the Chief of the Department, *Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan*, for graciously hosting this meeting in this beautiful island of Malaysia.

As the Co – chair of the meeting, let me reiterate my sincere confidence that this meeting will result in success and with your cooperation will establish a constructive and fruitful discussions for the highest benefit of our region.

Thank you.

AGENDA

Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda 2: Adoption of the Agenda

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

- 3.1 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the 50th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and 20th 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 during 2018

Agenda 4: ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2018-2019

- 4.1 Summary Report on the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2018-2019

Agenda 5: Progress of SEAFDEC-related Activities/Proposals under the ASEAN Related Bodies

- 5.1 ASEAN Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS)
- 5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)
- 5.3 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)
- 5.4 Others

Agenda 6: Policy Considerations on International Fisheries-related Issues

- 6.1 Combating IUU Fishing
 - 6.1.1 Progress on Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain
 - 6.1.2 Progress on Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24m in Length and Over
 - 6.1.3 Progress on the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme
 - 6.1.4 Progress on the Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Port State Measures
 - 6.1.5 Progress on the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)
- 6.2 Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region
 - 6.2.1 Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region
 - 6.2.2 Progress on the Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture in the Southeast Asia
 - 6.2.3 Progress on the Establishment of an Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response System for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia
 - 6.2.4 Updates on the Establishment of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture



6.3 Ensuring the Food Safety and Quality of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Region

6.3.1 Progress on Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood

6.4 CITES Issues

6.5 Others/Emerging Issues

Agenda 7: Other Matters

7.1 Way Forward for Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020

Agenda 8: Adoption of Recommendations and Report of the Meeting

Agenda 9: Closing of the Meeting

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE 50TH MEETING OF THE SEAFDEC COUNCIL

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
INTRODUCTION				
AGENDA II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL				
1. Capacity building for the local communities in Lao PDR on the application of EAFM	13	TD - Lao PDR requested SEAFDEC to explore possible funding sources to continue providing on-site capacity building for the local communities in Lao PDR on the application of EAFM to strengthen their capacity in fisheries management.	The HRD project plans to provide the onsite-capacity building for key officers in Lao PDR through the project learning site implementation which will apply the EAFM concept for sustainable fisheries as a case study for Lao PRD.	The project has been starting to implement the sub-project activity in Lao PDR. The initial meeting with key officers and the project site selection was carried out in October, 2018.
2. Annual report	15	SEC - Indonesia suggested that in order to improve better understanding of the SEAFDEC activities, a one-page executive summary should be included at the beginning of the annual report, while a short overview of the programs and projects for implementation in the succeeding year should also be included in future annual reports.	Executive summary was added in SEAFDEC Annual Report 2018. Overview of programs in succeeding years will be added in future Annual Report.	Done
3. Application of fish passage design and Fish Enhancing Devices (FEDs)	17	TD - Myanmar requested SEAFDEC to share the results of the implementation of the activities on application of fish passage design, as well as on the design and appropriate deployment of Fish Enhancing Devices (FEDs) for small-scale fisheries.	RDD and TRSD: RDD - FEDs: Noted. The survey report of the FEDs (as well as the FADs) utilization and deployment in the coastal zones of Thailand by TD is currently prepared and will be published and distributed to SEAFDEC Member Countries. TRSD - Fish passage: The information on fish passage design for indigenous species (Thailand) as a result of the implementation accomplished by TD will be	1. Publication materials had produced <i>e.g.</i> Backdrop, roll up, poster, and brochure. Definition of FADs and FEDs has already defined by researchers and experts in Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries Resources Enhancement, from 24 to 26 April 2018 2. Portable acrylic fish passage model for demonstration purpose had been produced and supported to Lao PDR.

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
			available for download on SEAFDEC Website on the following items; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schematic diagram of the vertical slot experimental model 2. Results of fish swimming performance through vertical slot fish passage at slopes between 5 to 12 degrees 3. Other related information available in electronic files (presentations, posters, roll up, backdrops and brochures) TD is also willing to collaborate with Member Countries and other organizations to maximize the utilization of the fish passage experimental model and to have a joint research on this topic together.	
AGENDA III .NOTES OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE FORTIETH MEETING				
4. Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) for Member Countries to discuss relevant issues during the COFI	20	SEC - SEAFDEC should consider conducting a Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) for Member Countries to discuss relevant issues during the COFI.	Secretariat organized the RTC on 20-22 June 2018. The participants from 10 ASEAN Member States and Senior officials from all SEAFDEC Technical Departments and Secretariat as well as the representatives from FAO/RAP and NACA joined the RTC. The results of the meeting including recommendations were disseminated to all MCs for their references for addressing at the FAO-COFI33 in July 2018 and for future relevant international/regional events.	Done
AGENDA V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES				
5.1 Issues on Combating IUU Fishing				
5.1.1 ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain				
5. Progress made by each AMS in the implementation of the Guidelines	27	MFRDMD - Japan expressed the view that the meeting document for this agenda has insufficient information on the progress of works, and requested SEAFDEC to also include in the report for the next annual Council	MFRDMD will continue to promote implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in all member countries in 2018. The comprehensive progress of work by each AMSs will be presented at the Program Committee Meeting in November 2018 and SEAFDEC Council Meeting in 2019.	MFRDMD continue promoting the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in AMSs. Consultative visit to Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam will be conducted in 2018. Status of

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
		Meeting information on the progress made by each AMS in the implementation of the Guidelines.		implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in the visited AMSs will be presented at the 41 st PCM and the SEAFDEC Council Meeting in 2019.
5.1.2 Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)				
6. Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System	29	TD - SEAFDEC should establish clear procedures on “Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System” to address request of the RFMOs to access into the system.	The drafted Protocol will be submitted to the CM for consideration and approval. TD will follow the directives as given by the CM.	In collaboration with SEAFDEC/SEC the draft of protocol was done.
7. RFVR Database	31	TD - Indonesia reiterated that during the 49 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, an inquiry was made whether those vessels not listed in the RFVR Database should be considered as illegal fishing vessels, in which case the Council viewed that vessels not listed in the existing RFVR Database may not necessarily be considered as illegal fishing vessels. In this connection, he expressed the view that the Council should set transitional periods, <i>e.g.</i> two years, for all AMSs to improve their systems and record; after such transitional periods, vessels that are not in the RFVR Database could already be considered and treated as IUU fishing vessels.	TD will update information on RFVR Database based on AMS submitted to TD. However, this issue will be discussed in the RFVR meeting in August 2018.	The questionnaire on preparation of the expert meeting on the RFV: use and way forward of RFVR database as a management tool to reduce IUU fishing in Southeast Asia was sent to Member Countries. The questionnaire also ask opinion of Member Countries for benefit of RFVR 24 meters and over through below 24 meters. The results from questionnaire will use to discuss in the expert meeting which plan to organize before the end of this year and also develop of RFVR database.
	35	TD - Viet Nam added that while the information on fishing vessels in the RFVR Database is based on information submitted by the	TD will update information on RFVR Database base on AMS submitted to TD. However, this issues will be discussed in the RFVR meeting in August 2018	The questionnaire on preparation of the expert meeting on the RFV: use and way forward of RFVR database as a management tool to reduce IUU fishing in

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
		AMSs; there should be a clear system for providing the necessary inputs, <i>e.g.</i> the time gap between for reporting, to ensure that the RFVR Database is always updated.		Southeast Asia was sent to Member Countries. The questionnaire also ask opinion of Member Countries for benefit of RFVR 24 meters and over through below 24 meters. The results from questionnaire will use to discuss in the expert meeting which plan to organize before the end of this year and also develop of RFVR database.
	37	<p>SEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEAFDEC was requested to amend the Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Council, and submit the revised Protocol for consideration by the Council again <i>ad referendum</i>. 	SEAFDEC/SEC has amended the Protocol suggested by the 50 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in March 2018 and circulated to all Member Countries for endorsement as referendum by end of May 2018. In this connection SEAFDEC received endorsement from 3 Member Countries namely Japan, Malaysia, Cambodia. In addition, Singapore comments on the draft Protocol that did not meet the requirements suggested by the CM50 and request SEAFDEC to take look again for further consideration by Council. Regarding this, SEAFDEC may need to revisit the comments from Singapore and address again in the SEAFDEC Meetings such as Next PCMs or FCG/ASSP.	SEAFDEC has revised the Protocol and sent to Singapore for finalizing the document. The progress of endorsement of this document will be informed to the FCG/ASSP Meeting.
5.1.3 ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme				
8. ACDS mobile application	42	<p>SEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thailand commended SEAFDEC for the advancements it has made in developing the eACDS, and expressed the concern that as the ACDS mobile application would involve large groups of people accessing and providing inputs to the system, SEAFDEC should be very cautious and ensure that accessing the system is secured and traceable. 	<p>The eACDS prototype software is developed taking into consideration the securing on accessing the system for examples the user accounts for fishing master will be generated every time when they received approval for sailing to the sea. All fish buyers and processors are needed to register as part of supply chains to access to the software for reporting the amount of catch by weight and species they purchased.</p> <p>Done</p>	MFRDMD take note and collaborate with SEAFDEC-Sec on development and pilot testing of the e-ACDS in Brunei Darussalam

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
5.1.4 Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of the Port State Measures in ASEAN Region				
9. Review the results of the project's support implementation of PSM	45	TD - Indonesia suggested that SEAFDEC should review the results based on the objectives of the current project, and use this in formulating the activities that should be undertaken under the new JTF-7 project.	Ongoing	Ongoing
10. Future activities of PSM project	46	TD - For future project, SEAFDEC should distinguish the activities that target the AMSs that have not yet ratified the PSMA which should include assistance in conducting legal analysis to enable these countries to amend their regulations, from the activities for those AMSs that have already ratified the PSMA which should include capacity building to enable them to implement the PSMA.	As TD has no expertise on this issue, TD will therefore collaborate with FAO for this issue as follow requirement from each Member Countries. Capacity building of the AMSs for implementation the PSMA will be continued in collaboration with relevant international organization.	As TD has no expertise on this issue, TD will therefore collaborate with FAO for this issue as follow requirement from each Member Countries. Capacity building of the AMSs for implementation the PSMA will be continued in collaboration with relevant international organization.
11. Expertise of other countries and agencies for training on PSM	47	TD - SEAFDEC should tap on the expertise of other countries and agencies, <i>e.g.</i> Thailand, EU, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). - Suggestion on new areas for cooperation among Member Countries by sharing information on detecting IUU fishing vessels, as this would help the countries that has yet to ratify the PSMA in preventing the landing of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing vessels at their ports.	Ongoing	Ongoing and collaboration with other international agencies.

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
12. Coordination with FAO in addressing the requirements of particular AMSs	49	TD - The Council requested SEAFDEC to coordinate closely with FAO in addressing the requirements of particular AMSs since its support is meant not only to the countries that ratified, but also to those that are yet to ratify the PSMA. Council Director for Indonesia suggested that SEAFDEC and FAO should consider discussing these options and come up with the appropriate support that FAO and SEAFDEC could provide to the AMSs to enable the countries to implement the PSMA.	Ongoing	Ongoing and collaboration with FAO through other agencies.
13. Re-formulate the project	51	TD - For 2019, SEAFDEC should reformulate the project, especially the objectives and activity plan as well as the coordination mechanism, taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Council, and submit the project proposal for consideration during the next SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting.	Ongoing	Ongoing
5.1.5 Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity				
14. Duplication of the efforts with the concerned RFMOs	54	SEC - SEAFDEC should not duplicate the efforts of these RFMOs in controlling the amount of catch in the Southeast Asian waters based on the results of the stock and risk assessment of economically-	SEAFDEC intention is not to duplicate the effort made by RFMOs, please be noted that not all SEAFDEC Member Countries are members of the RFMOs. Therefore, SEAFDEC's work on Stock Assessment particular for neritic tuna are intended to enhancing the capacity on stock assessment of	Done

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
		important fishes such as the neritic tunas.	MCs. In addition, promote the regional cooperation on managing fishing capacity based on the results from stock assessment. Done	
15. Activity under the RPOA-Capacity	55	SEC - SEAFDEC should consider working on this aspect in a more systematic manner, and should focus on its role as a technical organization. He also suggested that SEAFDEC should refocus its activities on the management of fishing capacity of priority shared stocks in the region other than tunas, <i>e.g.</i> Indo-Pacific mackerels, that are not covered by any RFMOs.	SEAFDEC already proposed the expansion of Scientific Working Group to work on stock assessment for other important economically small-pelagic species. Done	Done
	56	PPC/SEC - Myanmar supported the scientific cooperation for management of fishing capacity among Member Countries and requested SEAFDEC to continue extending the activities that contribute to such scientific cooperation to Myanmar and other AMSs in the future.	Noted, the SWG-Neritic tunas will continue work on stock assessment.	Done
5.2 Regional Cooperation to Promote Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in the ASEAN Region				
5.2.1 Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region				
16. Provide the scientific information to WCPFC for their information.	60	SEC - Japan suggested that since the scientific information is already available from the SEAFDEC activities, SEAFDEC could provide such information to WCPFC for their information.	Noted and will proceed as suggested.	Done

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
5.2.2 Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture				
17. Technical assistance to Myanmar	66	IFRDMD/SEC - Myanmar requested SEAFDEC to consider extending technical assistance to Myanmar in improving the survival rate of eel juveniles in aquaculture, and expressed the willingness of Myanmar to cooperate with SEAFDEC in the planned genetic study of eels.	Collecting anguillid eels sample in Myanmar for DNA analysis.	Ongoing
18. CITES International Technical Workshop on Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.) would be organized on 18-20 April 2018 in London	69	SEC - Japan encouraged the AMSs or SEAFDEC to make presentations with respect to the efforts of the region in the conservation of <i>A. bicolor</i> .	SEAFDEC has participated to international meetings/events to present the results from the regional effort and support the concerned AMS in managing and conserving resources of <i>Anguilla bicolor</i> . Ongoing	Ongoing
5.2.3 Regional Policy Recommendations for Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredients in Aquaculture Feed Formulations: Establishment of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture				
19. Regional Database	71	AQD - Myanmar shared his comment that the Regional Database should also include additional information, such as other key ingredients and factors (e.g. amino acid, fatty acid, vitamin), models (software modeling and statistical information), resources (education, associations and organizations, universities), about us (who we are, team, partners), feedback/questions (to improve the database) and suggested that AQD should also look into relevant information from the International Aquaculture Feed	AQD recently concluded the Workshop on Regional Database on Alternative Feed Ingredient in Aquaculture last 17 May 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. The suggested information were being incorporated to the database including additional suggestions from the participants of the meeting.	AQD officially launched the database during its 45 th Anniversary Celebration. The website is now available to the public through afid.seafdec.org.ph . Receiving and encoding of contributions from AMSs is ongoing together with improvements, maintenance, and updating of the website.

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
		Formulation Database (IAFFD) through the website: <i>http://www.iaffd.com/home.html</i> , and the National Animal Nutrition Program through <i>https://animalnutrition.org/feed-databases</i> .		
	72	AQD - Philippines suggested that more alternative ingredients, particularly agricultural by-products should also be included in the Regional Database.	The database includes a feed category for animal and plant by-products. Alternative feed ingredients including poultry by-product, chicken viscera, to name a few were included in the database.	Done
5.2.5 Supporting Program for Implementing the Regional Approaches for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF)				
20. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.6	80	SEAFDEC - SEAFDEC should consider finding the ways and means of addressing the issues on fisheries subsidies for small-scale fisheries in the region as soon as possible.	Ongoing	Ongoing
5.2.6 Supporting the Implementation of Gender Perspectives in ASEAN Fisheries and Institutions				
21. Concept note on “Support for the Integration of Gender Perspectives in Fisheries within SEAFDEC and Its Member Countries”	84	SEAFDEC - Integrating gender in future programs and projects of SEAFDEC, and the draft Strategy should be submitted to the Forty-first Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee for comments and subsequently to the next meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration.	RDD: Based on the proposed timeline on the process for the development of the gender strategy, the following activities have been completed/planned: • A Concept Note on support for the integration of gender perspectives in fisheries within SEAFDEC and its Member Countries • Gender Working Team’s Terms of Reference • Consultation meeting with some senior staffs at the Secretariat was conducted in July 2018. • Finalization of questionnaires for gender assessment had been made and undertook the survey. • Brainstorming with GWT for the assessment plan and process was conducted in June 2018. • Initiated the process for the nomination of the	SEAFDEC aimed to express our gender sensitivity and responsive through create gender strategy to mainstream gender in to organization and integrated into current and future projects/programs. The strategy was approved to develop from 50 th council meeting. After that we start to develop it with all departments through Inter-department meeting. The first draft version of SEAFDEC gender strategy will be presented in the 41 st PCM meeting to gain more comment and agreement to purpose for adoption in next council meeting.

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
			SEAFDEC Departments' focal persons for consultation and to seek inputs and suggestions on issues related to the SEAFDEC gender strategy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft of strategy is expected to be ready by September 2018. 	
22. To conduct of gender analysis and training in Myanmar	85	SEAFDEC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Myanmar requested SEAFDEC to support the conduct of gender analysis and training in Myanmar. 	RDD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A back-to-office report for “Validation workshop on social profiles livelihood activities and Value chain with integrated gender dimension in Pu Lone Tone Tone, Kawthaung Township, Myanmar” is being prepared. • The report on the result of data collection will be accommodated and consolidated from three (3) countries namely; Cambodia, Myanmar, and Thailand. • A paper on “Understanding gender dynamics and livelihoods opportunities and markets along the value chain in Pu Lone Tone Tone, Myanmar” will be presented at the 3rd World Small Scale Congress organized in Chiangmai, Thailand during 22- 26 October 2018. • A paper on “Fish marketing at Pu Lone Tone Tone, Myanmar” is being prepared for a journal publication. 	SEAFDEC/TD's Gender team have done research on Social profiles livelihood activities and Value Chain with integrated gender dimension in Pu Lone Tone Tone, Kawthoung Tounship, Myanmar. The results of the research have been presented in 3 world small scale congress in Thailand. For public in journal we plan to do it in next year. About training program, accordingly to tight schedule of work for gender team and budget limited for this year therefore, gender team will propose the training in Myanmar for next year.
5.3 Other Emerging Issues				
5.3.1 CITES-related Issues				
5.3.2 Supporting the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development				
23. compile the information on the efforts of the Member Countries with respect to SDG14 and provide such information to the Member	90	SEC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEAFDEC should also raise the awareness of the Member Countries to be able to understand the cooperation between SEAFDEC and the UN Environment to work together in reducing the impact of fisheries to the environment. 	Secretariat may consult with the Project Coordinating Unit under the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF project to continue developing new project-related to reducing the impact of fisheries to environment.	ongoing

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
Countries				
VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC				
24. Commitment and Support for the Implementation of the Adopted Guidelines by the SEAFDEC Member Countries	102	SEC - The Council recommended that SEAFDEC should negotiate with the ASEAN Secretariat to also include discussions on fisheries issues during SOM and subsequently at the AMAF.	Secretariat will communicate with ASEAN SEC to often information on whether such as adopted guidelines has been utilized by AMSs.	ongoing
25. Delay in Transferring of Budget for Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> Project to Participating Member Countries		The participating countries were therefore requested to send official letters to SEAFDEC Secretariat explaining the situation, and for the SEAFDEC Secretariat to take appropriate action with the Project Director and the UNEP Task Manager for them to address the issue and alleviate the problem on the delay in transferring of budget.	There are many reasons that the PCU have to slow down the activities during the 2017 till 1 st Quarter of 2018, the PCU must apology on this matter without any clear clarification. However, after the 3 rd Quarter of 2018, the PCU continued the support and activities. The 1 st Regional Scientific and Technical Meeting was organized in September. And the 1 st Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled in early of December 2018. Put back all agenda and activities as planned. The Progress of the project implementation will be reported at the 9 th GEF International Waters Conference held in Marakesh, Morocco during 5-8 November 2018.	
26. Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020	102	SEC - Considering that the Resolution and Plan of Action has specific timeframe towards 2020 which would be approaching very soon, the document should be reviewed in order to ensure that it is still up to date. Moreover, as the Resolution and Plan of Action was endorsed under the ASEAN mechanism, the need to review this document should be raised at the forthcoming meetings of the FCG/ASSP and ASWGFi. Upon consideration by these two meetings, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries agreed to designate their respective	SEAFDEC will communicate with AMS to obtain the focal points for conducting the review. Results from the review will be submitted and discuss at the upcoming FCG/ASSP and ASWGFi.	The regional training program on PSM will be organized in next year. TD will collaboration with DOF, Thailand and also other partner for capacity building to support PSM implementation in the region.

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
27. Sharing of Lessons and Experiences from DOF of Thailand in Combating IUU Fishing	102	focal points to review the Resolution and Plan of Action. TD in collaboration with DOF-Thailand - In the process of implementation of the PSMA and amendment of its legal frameworks to comply with the requirements of the PSMA for combating IUU fishing, the DOF of Thailand has gained the experience, e.g. on vessel inspections, establishment of the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC), that could be shared with other AMSs through regional training programs to be organized by TD.	SEAFDEC facilitate for update and share information on the issues/areas and efforts on combat IUU fishing by using PSMA between Thailand Viet Nam in Bilateral Technical Meeting on Effective Fisheries Management between Thailand and Viet Nam organized under the support of SEAFDEC-Sweden Fund during 12-13 June 2018.	The regional training program on PSM will be organized in next year. TD will collaboration with DOF, Thailand and also other partner for capacity building to support PSM implementation in the region.
IX .MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER				
9.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels				
28. Process of obtaining approval from the relevant national authorities of Viet Nam	104	TD - Viet Nam explained the process of obtaining approval from the relevant national authorities of Viet Nam which would take at least one month; and requested SEAFDEC to notify Viet Nam through official letter on the updated schedule of the survey after discussion with the other participating countries in order to expedite such process.	Noted. Currently, the schedule of the survey (The Collaborative Research Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand) is finalized from 17 August to 11 November 2018. A call for the regional technical meeting to all Participating Countries in order to finalize the operational procedure and planning in details will be carried out in July 2018. An official letter issued by TD to obtain an approval from the Government of Viet Nam to carry out the survey in Viet Nam waters was already done (05 June 2018)	M.V. SEAFDEC 2 No.56-1/2018: Cruise Collaborative Research Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand by M.V.SEAFDEC2 (17 August - 18 October 2018). Total numbers of survey station are 73 stations. Total days of shipboard survey are 63 Days. Viet Nam did not submit the survey permission document to SEAFDEC/TD, so that the survey cannot conduct in Viet Nam Waters in year 2018. SEAFDEC will provide technical support to Viet Nam in National Survey in year 2019 under cost sharing scheme. Post survey meeting will be conducted

Issues	Para	Recommendations made by the Council	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (1 st Quarter)	Follow-up Actions by SEAFDEC (2 nd Quarter)
				before end of year 2018. This is in order to summarize the cruise survey and complete research topics that may be modified according to the data and sample collection during the survey.
29. Utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2	106	<p>TD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Japan expressed the view that the total number of days at sea of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is relatively low compared to the normal utilization of other research vessels which should be at least 150 days per year. He also encouraged the other Member Countries to make more use of the vessel in the future, although cost-sharing would be applied to countries utilizing the vessel. 	RDD has core division to lead on the Collaborative Research Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand.	<p>Total numbers of survey station are 73 stations. Total days of shipboard survey are 63 Days. The major hindrance of SEAFDEC Member Countries to Utilize of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is budget constraint.</p> <p>It should be noted that after M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has continuously serviced to SEAFDEC Member Countries for 14 years, vessel instruments, accessories of navigation and engine and deck machineries has been out of date and some of them out of order. It is very important and priority to SEAFDEC to maintain safety and improve M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to serve SEAFDEC Member Countries on fisheries resources research survey and shipboard training program.</p>

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE 20TH MEETING OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP)

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Response to the Recommendations (1 st Quarter)	Response to the Recommendations (2 nd Quarter)	Status of the Project
III. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE MEETINGS OF SEAFDEC COUNCIL AND ASEAN BODIES RELATED TO FISHERIES					
3.1 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Forty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Nineteenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)					
- SEAFDEC to facilitate an ASEAN-wide cooperation in support for the implementation of Port State Measures Agreement by taking consideration also to the fishing capacity and flag State responsibilities to combat IUU fishing in the region	7, 9	TD	TD in collaboration with FAO and NOAA organized “The Regional Training on PSM Implementation in Southeast Asia from 20-23 February 2018	TD has been negotiated and collaboration with FAO, USAID and NOAA plan to organize “The Regional Training on PSM inspection” in next year	Ongoing
- On the preliminary surveys on anguillid eels conducted by IFRDMD and AQD, the results of the surveys should be disseminated to the AMSs whenever possible.	10	IFRDMD & AQD	Results have been disseminated during the First Regional meeting of the JAIF project on Anguillid eels held last 25 January 2018. AQD presented the results of the aquaculture survey as well as the aquaculture experiments being conducted at BFS to the country representatives of SEAFDEC who were present during the Regional meeting (Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Myanmar, Thailand, Philippines). There were no representatives from the other ASEAN MCs since they do not have anguillid eel fishery or culture.	IFRDMD: Collecting not only the eel statistical data, but also anguillid eel samples for DNA analysis in targeted countries. Disseminating the data to the AMSs through the meetings held in Palembang and Bangkok from 2017 to 2018. AQD: AQD will be participating to the Workshop on Regional Awareness Raising in Asia on Prospective Species Proposals to CITES COP18 and Preparation of Fisheries Related Information to Support Review of Species Proposal Against CITES	Ongoing

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Response to the Recommendations (1 st Quarter)	Response to the Recommendations (2 nd Quarter)	Status of the Project
				Listing Criteria on 24-25 October 2018 in Palembang, Indonesia by invitation of IFRDMD. The workshop aims to make recommendations to support assessment of anguillid eels against the CITES criteria for listing and its implications for trade. Studies on anguillid eels will continue in 2019	
- IFRDMD and TD should also be involved in this project to take action on the use of mechanization in restoring the environment.	18	AQD/TD	<p>AQD: Survey conducted by AQD in September 2017 was in coordination with the TD and IFRDMD. AQD staff went to Cagayan province together with the other two department staff for the survey. AQD joined the fisheries survey and TD and IFRDMD joined the aquaculture farm survey.</p> <p>TD: The project organized the Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries Resources Enhancement, scheduled in April 2018. Taken into consideration, TD invited AQD to participate the meeting on resource enhancement meeting and involve AQD in the implementation of the resource enhancement project specifically, the re-stocking activity.</p>	AQD: AQD attended TD's Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries Resources Enhancement last 24-26 April 2018	AQD: Ongoing TD: The project manager will discuss with JTF manager to invite AQD researchers to participate the Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries Resources Enhancement.
- SEAFDEC should consider inserting a column on the status of project implementation Appendix 1 of Annex 8 (template of the follow-up) and the progress of such projects should be summarized and concluded	21	SEC	SEC accommodated the comments as seen from this template.	-	Done

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Response to the Recommendations (1 st Quarter)	Response to the Recommendations (2 nd Quarter)	Status of the Project
for better understanding of the status of the project implementation					
- SEAFDEC should submit the list of collaborative programs proposed by SEAFDEC for 2018 under the FCG-ASSP to ASWGFi only for notation, unless the specific proposal would require funding under the ASEAN mechanism then endorsement from ASWGFi can be requested.	22	SEC	SEC noted the comments from ASEC	-	After the 50CM, SEC will submit the list of collaborative programs to ASWGFi for notation, This practice will be made annually basis.
VI. Policy Considerations on International Fisheries-Related Issues					
6.1 CITES Issues					
- ASEAN Secretariat should be represented during the meeting that would be organized by IFRDMD and that the proposal to down-list crocodiles in Southeast Asia from Appendix I of the CITES to Appendix II which was submitted in the previous CITES-CoP16 and CITES-CoP17, should be discussed again.	36	ASEC/ IFRDMD	IFRDMD will certain services in support of the FAO Regular Program and “CITES and commercially-exploited aquatic species, including the evaluation of listing proposals - GCP/INT/228/JPN.	IFRDMD Participated at CITES Animal Committee in London and CITES Standing Committee in Genova and presented “Status and resources management of tropical anguillid eels in Southeast Asia”.	International workshop on anguillid eels was organized by IFRDMD in Oct. 2018.
- ASEAN Secretariat was requested on the presence of high level authorities in such meeting would be encouraged to empower the negotiation during the CITES-CoP Meetings.		ASEC			
6.2 Combating IUU Fishing					
<i>6.2.1 Progress on the Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Activities into the Supply Chain</i>					
- A system should be developed for the promotion of the Guidelines to the different segments of the value chain.	44	MFRDMD	During country visit MFRDMD will brief all stakeholders regarding implementation of the Guidelines. Self-evaluation by country will be discuss and compile during the visit and also another feed-back in	MFRDMD continue promoting the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in AMSs. Consultative visit to Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam	MFRDMD will continue promoting implementation of the Guidelines in AMSSs, for 2018 country consultative visit will be conducted in AMSs to

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Response to the Recommendations (1 st Quarter)	Response to the Recommendations (2 nd Quarter)	Status of the Project
			the 3 rd quarter of 2018	will be conducted in 2018. Status of implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in the visited AMSs will be presented at the 41 st PCM and the SEAFDEC Council Meeting in 2019.	strengthen implementation of the Guidelines
6.2.4 Progress on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of the Port State Measures					
- SEAFDEC to seek the possibility of establishing the network among AMS and strengthening the regional cooperation for sharing of relevant information, e.g. list of carrier vessels.	51	TD	The cooperation with AMS of update information on RFVR database will be conducted as agreement from RFVR consultation in 2017. The official letter to remind and request update information were sent to AMS in February 2018. This database is also support PSM activities for AMS	Sharing information on carrier vessels list is in RFVR database. The update of data was done. However, some countries still not the data and information for update although TD send requirement officer letter to that countries.	Ongoing
6.2.5 Progress on Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)					
- SEAFDEC avoid duplication of the efforts by developing management measures for tuna species. Nevertheless, research on stock assessment of the shared stocks within the EEZs of Southeast Asian countries could still be undertaken by SEAFDEC to support the Member Countries in management of their fisheries resources.	53	SEC	The management measures based on the stock assessment program for shared stock in the Southeast Asia are reflected to the AMS cooperation at sub-regional level. The program is aims to enhance the capacity as well as improve the data collection system in which alignment with the RPOA-Capacity requirements.	Questionnaire was sent to the MCs to monitor the works/activities under the framework of RPOA-capacity implemented / implementing by the MCs. Feedback from the MCs on this matter has been analyzed, and to be presented to the 21FCG/ASSP Meeting in Nov. 2018.	MFRDMD found there was no duplication of effort between SEAFDEC and other RFMOs pertaining to management of neritic tuna species in the South China Sea areas.
6.3 Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region					
6.3.1 Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region					
- Indonesia commented that management of tunas should be undertaken under the purview of the relevant RFMOs and that SEAFDEC should not duplicate their efforts by developing management measures for tuna species.	56	SEC & MFRDMD	MFRDMD will provide technical support to AMS for managing tuna resources in the South China Sea areas through regional training programs and consultative meetings	MFRDMD will continue to provide technical advice on request by AMSs for management of tuna resources.	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD need to focus on management of neritic tuna species in this region due to less effort has taken up by RFMO especially in the South China Sea area. Full report on these

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Response to the Recommendations (1 st Quarter)	Response to the Recommendations (2 nd Quarter)	Status of the Project
					species will be ready in the third quarter of 2019. MFRDMD will utilize results from genetic population study to confirm stock structure for Longtail tuna
Other Issues					
7.1 Management Strategies and Measures for Purse Seine Fishery in the South China Sea					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indonesia clarified that the countries in South China Sea are not only the Southeast Asian countries but also include China and Chinese Taipei that also share large amount of fish catch. However, he also commended that MFRDMD could obtain secondary data from various sources, e.g. technical publications. - MFRDMD to follow-up with the project participating countries for receiving data and information on purse seine fisheries in order to come up with regional synthesis of purse seine fisheries in the South China Sea. 	69, 70	MFRDMD	<p>MFRDMD will pursue information from secondary data from various sources to identify stock structure for small pelagic species. For example, earlier study on <i>Decapterus maruadsi</i> showed that a different genetic structure between South China Sea areas and Northern Viet Nam. It is hypothesized that species from Northern Viet Nam is the same stock with that of China and Chinese Taipei (North China Sea).</p> <p>MFRDMD will send reminder to participating countries for submission of data and information on purse seine fisheries.</p>	MFRDMD succeeded in obtaining additional updated information from AMSs and utilized for regional synthesis to look at status of purse-seine fisheries	A regional synthesis of the purse-seine fisheries will be published in 2019

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT ASEAN BODIES RELATED TO FISHERIES DURING 2018

In Chronological Order

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE TWENTY SIXTH MEETING OF
ASEAN SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES**

(26th ASWGFi Meeting)

9-12 May 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

AGENDA ITEM 4: DEVELOPMENT OF ASEAN COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

44. Following SOM-AMAF's directives to revise the draft TOR of the proposed Ad Hoc Task Force to Conduct a Feasibility Study on the Development of the ASEAN Common Fisheries Policy, the Meeting discussed the TOR and agreed on Indonesia's suggestion to change the term ASEAN Common Fisheries Policy (ACFP) into ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP).

45. The Meeting agreed to submit the final draft TOR of the *Ad Hoc* Task Force to SOM-AMAF for consideration and adoption. The final draft TOR appears as Annex 5.

46. The Meeting noted ASEC's Information Paper indicating the possibility to have funding support from Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI), which appears as Annex 6.

Action Line: AMSs and ASEC

AGENDA ITEM 8: ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) PROGRAMME

8.1 Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASSP

47. The Meeting adopted the Report of the 20th Meeting of the FCG-ASSP held on 30 November- 1 December 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. The report appears as Annex 18.

Action Line: SEAFDEC and FCG-ASSP

8.2 Progress in the Implementation of Measures/Activities Under FCG/ASSP

8.2.1 Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products

48. The Meeting noted the Check List with draft inputs by SEAFDEC Secretariat outlining the progress made in the implementation of activities that support AMSs in the implementation of the 11 key actions in the Joint Declaration to combat IUU fishing and enhance the competitiveness of ASEAN fish and fishery products, which appears as Annex 19.

49. The Meeting tasked SEAFDEC to consult AMS on the draft Check List and to present it to FCG-ASSP for further discussion.

Action Line: SEAFDEC and FCG-ASSP

8.2.2 CITES Related Issues

50. The Meeting noted the follow-up actions ensuing the 29th Session of the Animal Committee of CITES (AC29) held in Geneva, Switzerland in 2017, which include: i) improving the capacity of AMSs to collect information on sharks and rays to support them in making strong non-detriment findings; ii) organizing workshops to review non-detriment findings (NDF) of AMSs; and iii) supporting the data compilation and assessment of the tropical anguillid eels. The Information Paper of SEAFDEC appears as Annex 20.

51. With regard to the issue of inviting ASWGFi Focal Points to the future meetings of AWG CITES and WEN, the Meeting agreed to request SOM-AMAF to update the list of AWG CITES and WEN Focal Points for possible inclusion of representatives from ASWGFi.

52. The Meeting agreed that Common Position on CITES related to fisheries should be discussed at the ASWGFi Meeting and consulted with AWG CITES and WEN prior to submission to SOM-AMAF for consideration and adoption.

Action Line: ASWGFi and ASEC

8.2.3 Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)

53. The Meeting noted the progress made in the implementation of RFVR focusing on the development of Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System by non-AMSs and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), including the strategies to improve, promote and utilize the RFVR Database to combat IUU fishing in the region. The Information Paper of SEAFDEC appears as Annex 21.

Action Line: SEAFDEC and FCG-ASSP

8.2.4 ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS)

54. The Meeting noted the progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme, which include: i) the development of web and mobile applications of an electronic ACDS; ii) pilot-testing of eACDS by Brunei Darussalam on April 2018; iii) publication of User's Manual for eACDS and Infographics on ACDS Guide; iv) development of procedural steps on the implementation of eACDS; and v) and gap analysis of existing national framework using existing framework and system at the national level. The Information Paper of SEAFDEC appears as Annex 22.

Action Line: SEAFDEC and FCG-ASSP

8.2.5 Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of the Port State Measures (PSM) in ASEAN Region

55. The Meeting noted the progress made on the Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of the Port State Measures in the ASEAN Region, including the suggestions and recommendations made by the SEAFDEC Council at its 50th Meeting in March 2018, which appears as Annex 23.

56. The Meeting noted that SEAFDEC will conduct a questionnaire-based survey to update the status of PSMA implementation among AMSs. In this regard, the Meeting requested FCG-ASSP to support SEAFDEC by providing the information needed for the survey.

Action Line: SEAFDEC and FCG-ASSP

8.2.6 Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilisation of Neritic Tunas in Southeast Asian

57. The Meeting noted the progress made on the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilisation of Neritic Tunas in Southeast Asia, particularly: i) the results of 2016 stock and risk assessment suggesting for the reduction of Total Allowable Catch of Longtail Tuna (LOT) and Kawakawa (KAW) in Eastern Indian Ocean; ii) development of management measures for LOT in the Andaman Sea sub-region; iii) genetic studies on LOT; and iv) proposed removal of longtail tuna from the Consumer Red List of World Wildlife Fund. The Information Paper of SEAFDEC appears as Annex 24.

Action Line: SEAFDEC and FCG-ASSP

8.2.7 Policy Recommendations on the Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture

58. The Meeting noted the progress made in the implementation tropical anguillid eel project focusing on: i) the review of existing trade of anguillid eels in Southeast Asia; ii) outcomes of the 1st Regional Meeting of Anguillid eel; and iii) the draft recommendations of the Working Group on Non-listed Anguillid eels arising from the CITES Technical Workshop on *Anguilla spp* held on 18-20 April 2018 in London, UK. The Information Paper of SEAFDEC appears as Annex 25.

Action Line: SEAFDEC and FCG-ASSP

8.2.8 Policy Recommendations and Strategic Plans for Fisheries Resource Enhancement in the Southeast Asian Region

59. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asia held on 24-26 April 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, which identified the constraints faced by AMSs in the implementation of fisheries resource enhancement activities, including policy recommendations to improve the promotion of sustainable fisheries resource enhancement measures. The Information Paper of SEAFDEC appears as Annex 26.

60. The Meeting also noted the progress made on the Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand focusing on: i) the conduct of Country Consultations on the Identification and Establishment of Fisheries *Refugia* Sites; ii) Fisheries *refugia* profile reports, including GIS maps and site characterisations, published for 14 priority sites; and iii) review of information collated by the South China Sea Project on links between fish life-cycle and critical habitats.

Action Line: SEAFDEC and FCG-ASSP

8.2.9 Policy Recommendations on Early Mortality Syndrome and Other Transboundary Diseases

61. The Meeting was informed by SEAFDEC that the ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease has already received funding support from Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) and that the Letter of Agreement to formalize the arrangement between Thailand Department of Fisheries-Aquatic Animal Health Research and Development Division and SEAFDEC/AQD is under reviewed by both institutions. SEAFDEC will inform AMSs the date and venue of the RTC in due course. The Information Paper of SEAFDEC appears as Annex 27.

Action Line: SEAFDEC and FCG-ASSP

8.2.10 Regional Approaches for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries (SSSSF)

62. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the Experts Workshop on Regional Approach for the Implementation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Human Rights-Based Approach and Gender-Equitability held on 26-28 September 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand which provide clarity on the basic principles of the SSSSF guidelines and drafted a Policy Brief on Applying human rights-based and gender equality approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia.

63. The Meeting requested AMSs to provide comments to ASEAN Secretariat on the draft Policy Brief by 15 June 2018. If no further comment is received by the deadline, the draft Policy Brief will be submitted to SOM-AMAF for consideration and endorsement. The draft Policy Brief appears as Annex 28

Action Line: AMSs, ASEC and SEAFDEC

8.3 Collaborative Projects

8.3.1 On-going Projects / Existing Programmes

64. The Meeting noted the 23 existing ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative projects, which appears as annex 29.

8.3.2 New Initiatives (Proposed New Projects for the Year 2017)

65. The Meeting supported the implementation of the SEAFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II and the project on Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS and Remote Sensing Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture under the FCG-ASSP mechanism to be led by Malaysia and Thailand, respectively.

Action Line: Malaysia, Thailand, SEAFDEC and FCG-ASSP

**SPECIAL SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING OF THE 39th MEETING OF
THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
(SPECIAL SOM-39th AMAF)
27-28 August 2018, Pattaya, Thailand**

5.2.3. Cooperation in Fisheries

59. The Meeting adopted the Report of the 26th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries, held on 9-12 May 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Report appears as Annex 42.

60. The Meeting agreed on the Establishment of an Expert Working Group on ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices (EWG–ASEAN GAqP) to support the implementation and management of ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP, and approved its TOR and ROP, which appear as Annex 43.

61. Regarding the ASEAN General Fishery Policy (AGFP), the Meeting agreed on the establishment of the Ad Hoc Task Force to conduct a Feasibility Study on the development of the AGFP and approved its TOR, which appears as ANNEX 44. Noting the availability of support from the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READi), the Meeting tasked the ASEAN Secretariat in coordination with the Task Force to work with E-READi to develop the feasibility study.

Action Line: ASEAN Secretariat

62. The Meeting noted the indicative deliverables for fishery sector for 2019, as follows:

- i. Develop regional mechanism for warning system for aquatic health and diseases (Thailand)
- ii. Conduct assessment on the implementation of the RPOA Fishing Capacity (Malaysia)

63. With regard to the Policy Brief on Applying Human Rights-Based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries, the Meeting requested Thailand, as the Chair of ASWGFi, to facilitate the revision of the title of the Policy Brief taking into account the sensitivity of the issue on human rights and submit it to the PrepSOM-40th AMAF for endorsement.

Action Line: Thailand, ASWGFi and ASEAN Secretariat

64. The Meeting noted that the Annual Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) will be held back to back with the ASWGFi Meeting, while maintaining the Chairmanship of Thailand.

Action Line: ASA and ASA Secretariat

65. The Meeting noted that the 27th ASWGFi Meeting will be held in 2019 in Viet Nam.

Action Line: Viet Nam

8.3 Procedures of Organising Meetings and Activities under SOM-AMAF

126. The Meeting noted the difficulty of organising annual meetings of several working groups under SOM-AMAF, including its workshops and trainings due to low participation of AMSs. In order not to burden the host country in arranging the events, the Meeting agreed that such event must be re-scheduled if less than 6 AMS confirm their participation. In addition, the Meeting further agreed that invitation shall be issued by the host country at least 3 months before the meeting, while participation at the meeting shall be confirmed by AMSs at least 1 month before the meeting.

Action Line: All WGs under SOM-AMAF/AMAF

**THE PREPARATORY SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING OF
THE FORTIETH MEETING OF THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND
FORESTRY (PREP-SOM - 40th AMAF)
8-9 October 2018, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

AGENDA ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Policy Brief: Applying Human Rights Based and Gender Equality Approaches for Small-scale Fisheries in South-east Asia Region

26. Recalling the request of the Special SOM-39th AMAF Meeting for Thailand as Chair of the ASWGFi to facilitate the revision of the Title of the Policy Brief considering the sensitivity of the issue on human rights, the Meeting noted Thailand's letter informing that it would be difficult to change the title without revising the content of the Policy Brief. Thailand's letter and the Policy Brief appear together as Annex 22. Considering that the revision process would require face-to-face consultation among AMSs and other organisations, the Meeting tasked the ASWGFi to further review the Policy Brief and submit a proposed revised title to SOM-AMAF for consideration.

Action Line: ASWGFi

**THE FORTIETH MEETING OF
THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY (40th AMAF)
11 October 2018, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY FRAMEWORKS
RELATED TO ASEAN COOPERATION IN FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND
FORESTRY**

C3. Cooperation in Fisheries

23. The Meeting noted the establishment of the Expert Working Group on ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices (EWG–ASEAN GAqP) to support the implementation and management of ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP and the establishment of the Ad Hoc Task Force to conduct a feasibility study on the development of the ASEAN General Fishery Policy.

E. Cooperation in Trade in Agricultural and Forestry Products

31. The Meeting adopted the following documents:

- i. ASEAN Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Production of Good Quality Cacao Beans in the ASEAN Region
- ii. ASEAN Tuna Eco-Labeling (ATEL): Policy Paper on the Establishment of ASEAN Regional Eco-Labeling Scheme

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

The 21st FCG-ASSP Meeting may wish:

- To note the key outcomes of the ASWGFi and SOM-AMAF/AMAF related meetings that are relevant to fisheries cooperation.
- To consider the request of ASWGFi for SEAFDEC to consult AMS on the draft Check List outlining the progress made in the implementation of the 11 key actions in the Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration to Combat IUU Fishing and Enhance Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products.

- To consider the request of ASWGFi for FCG-ASSP to support SEAFDEC by providing the information needed for the questionnaire-based survey on the status of implementation of Port State Measure Agreement.
- To note that SOM-AMAF has tasked ASWGFi to further review the Policy Brief on Applying Human Rights-Based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries taking into account the sensitivity of the issue on human rights, and to submit a proposed revised title to SOM-AMAF for consideration.

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS UNDER THE
ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP
(FCG/ASSP) FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The programs of activities under the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Mechanism for the year 2018-2019 were reviewed by the Forty-first Meeting of the Program Committee (41PCM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) held in Langkawi, Malaysia from 5 to 6 November 2018. Results of the program scrutiny and the adopted recommendations are summarized and submitted to the Twenty-first Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (21FCG/ASSP), for consideration and endorsement.

II. SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP MECHANISM FOR THE YEAR 2018-2019 AND RECOMMENDATIONS RAISED DURING THE FORTY-FIRST MEETING OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

2. The programs under the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Mechanism, as well as the progress and achievements made in the year 2018, and the proposed activities for 2019, appear in *Appendix 1*. Twenty-three projects that have been categorized under the six (6) SEAFDEC Strategies and two (2) Special Projects for 2018-2019 were reviewed by the 41PCM. In addition, the 41PCM noted the two (2) Pipeline Projects, of which SEAFDEC is securing the necessary funding for their implementation. Results of the review process as well as the recommendations of the 41PCM will be submitted to the ASWGF_i through the 21FCG/ASSP for endorsement and also to the forthcoming meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and approval. The 41PCM approved the implementation of the programs in 2018-2019, and provided recommendations summarized as follows:

Strategy I: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region

(1) Human Resource Development for Sustainable Fisheries

- TD to consider in the future, the possibility of supporting the introduction of EAFM concept in three sites in Thailand, two for inland and one for coastal areas
- TD to consider supporting an initiative in the promotion of EAFM at a new pilot site in Kaw Thaug, Myanmar
- TD to consider extending the future project activities in Tonle Sap Lake of Cambodia
- TD to share the lessons learnt from the different pilot sites, and consider the development of KPIs for the project

(2) Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities

- TD to consider conducting a pilot demonstration in 2019 for improving fish handling onboard tuna purse seiner in Bin Dinh Province, Viet Nam
- TD to investigate the significant outcomes of the project using measurable indicators to compare the situation before and after the project implementation

(3) Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement Measures in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia

- TD to consider engaging aquaculture in resource enhancement projects to enhance the production of the species for conservation, such as production of multi-species seeds for stock enhancement in natural habitats
- TD to consider incorporating the development of effective FADs and FEDs, as well as formulating standard procedures for assessing the abundance of the resources prior to and after the deployment of FADs and FEDs

- TD to consider extending the activities on crab bank to other sites in Cambodia, *i.e.* Kampot Province and to provide awareness raising materials for dissemination in the landing sites of the four coastal provinces
 - TD to invite Malaysia to take part as observer in the workshop on hilsa resources that will be conducted for Myanmar and Thailand
 - TD to consider conducting a workshop to introduce FEDs in Indonesia in 2019
 - TD to develop a basic model on sustainable resource enhancement that would also include aquaculture to guide the communities in making their own fisheries management programs
- (4) Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia**
- IFRDMD to develop guidelines aimed at raising the awareness of local people about the importance of glass eels
 - IFRDMD to conduct biological studies aiming for the conservation of the eel resources
 - IFRDMD to consider the possibility of adopting appropriate stock assessment models that could make use of very limited data
- (5) Promotion of Responsible Utilization of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia**
- IFRDMD to continue exerting efforts to link this project with other relevant programs of IFRDMD related to the promotion of inland capture fisheries
- (6) Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management**
- The 41PCM noted that the project would be completed in 2018
- (7) Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities**
- TD to consider in its plans for combating IUU fishing the following activities: 1) capacity building on fisheries surveillance to combat IUU fishing; and 2) regional capacity building on investigation and inspection techniques, and fisheries law enforcement to combat IUU fishing
 - TD to consider expanding the scale and contents of the project on combating IUU fishing
 - TD to seek the consensus of the Member Countries prior to the expansion of the RFVR to cover those vessels less than 24 meters in length
 - TD to consider communicating with FAO to request for updated information on the development of the Global Fishing Vessel Record ; and linking the RFVR with and serve as inputs to the FAO Global Fishing Vessel Record
 - TD to consider establishing a regional network for facilitating communication and exchange of information on the status of implementation of the PSMA among the ASEAN Member States (AMSs)
 - TD to consider organizing an expert consultation to develop a harmonized protocol for vessel inspection at sea especially in areas within and beyond national jurisdictions, by contacting the concerned RFMOs to obtain information on their respective procedures for vessel inspection at sea
 - TD to consider conducting Training of Trainer on vessel inspection, as well as observer onboard fishing vessel
- (8) Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**
- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019
- (9) Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia**
- TD to consider involving Thailand in the activity on tuna stock assessment in Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, and to extend its training course on growth analysis based on otolith samples to Thailand
 - TD to check with concerned RFMOs on their activities related to tuna stock assessment to ensure that the SEAFDEC stock assessment initiatives would support rather than duplicate the work of such RFMOs
 - TD to include brief results from the stock assessment activity when reporting the progress to the next PCM as this would be useful in the discussion of the future workplan
 - TD to continue conducting stock assessment of tuna in Sulu-Sulawesi Sea, the results of which could be conveyed to WCPFC for reference

- TD to continue assisting Cambodia in strengthening the capacity of the country's fishery officers in analyzing the data and finalizing the results of the survey undertaken in 2018 using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2
- TD to exchange and disseminate information with the CTI-CFF especially on the results of the works undertaken by SEAFDEC in this particular area
- TD to consider including in this project, the modernization of fishing vessels for the sustainability of fishery resources

(10) Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region

- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019

(11) Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region

- MFRDMD to establish reference points towards and harvest control rules for transboundary stocks, as well as to conduct biological studies on other important species such as round scads, neritic tunas, and sardines
- MFRDMD to consider including the analysis of appropriate Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and Total Allowable Effort (TAE) of target species in the project future plan

(12) Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region

- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019

(13) Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia

- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019

(14) SEADFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II

- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019

(15) Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS (Geographic Information System) & RS (Remote Sensing) Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at AMS

- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019

Strategy II :Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region

(16) Environment-Friendly, Sustainable Utilization and Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources

- The 41PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2018 and the proposed activities for 2019

(17) Reinforcement and Optimization of Fish Health Management and the Effective Dissemination in the Southeast Asian Region

- AQD to consider including Thailand as participating country for Activity 5: Technology Extension and Demonstration considering that Thailand has large-scale aquaculture industry

Strategy III :Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region

(18) Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia- Biotoxins (ASP, AZA and BTX) and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the ASEAN Region

- MFRD to consider including the harmonization of techniques for detecting and analyzing biotoxins from harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the region and the development of reference points for biotoxin analysis

Strategy IV: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements

(19) Cold Chain Management for Seafood

- MFRD to submit the guidelines on Cold Chain Management of Seafood to FCG/ASSP for support and subsequently, for submission to the next SEAFDEC Council Meeting for endorsement

(20) Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to update the information on international fish trade-related issues, and to upload the information on international trade in the respective countries of current RFPN members, in the SEAFDEC website by the end of 2018

Strategy V: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries

(21) Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues

- SEAFDEC to include Malaysia as one of the project sites in 2019 for the eACDS activities
- SEAFDEC to ensure that the eACDS would target not only commercial fisheries but also small-scale fisheries as this is very important sub-sector for the region

Strategy VI: Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries

(22) Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2

- TD to consider the proposal of Viet Nam on the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the conduct of a survey of marine fisheries in Viet Nam for a period of two months from June to August 2019
- TD to provide the services of its resource persons to support the conduct of a training course in Thailand on marine resources survey onboard a Thai research vessel in 2019
- TD to consider the proposal of Malaysia on the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for its mid-water trawl survey in Malaysian waters in 2019

(23) Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries

- TD to extend assistance to Cambodia in the modification of its marine fishing vessel database to accommodate changes in the vessel classification from Horsepower to length class
- SEAFDEC to sustain the regional and/or sub-regional mechanism in addressing fisheries-related issues, as well as to maintain such network for long-term after the completion of the relevant project supporting the mechanism

Special Projects

(1) Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia

- SEAFDEC to communicate with the Government of Sweden requesting for the possible extension of the project after its completion in 2019
- SEAFDEC to promote the application of the SEAFDEC gender toolkit in Myanmar in 2019
- SEAFDEC to continue extending its support in strengthening the transboundary fisheries management in the upper Mekong River Basin between Lao PDR and Thailand (Bo Keo in Lao PDR and Chiang Rai in Thailand)
- SEAFDEC to discuss with the ASEAN Secretariat the possible submission of the results of the stock assessment and risk assessment of neritic tunas to concerned policy makers in the future
- SEAFDEC to sustain the activities on neritic tunas in order to obtain data that could serve as scientific basis towards the sustainable utilization of the species, considering that such work would complement the work of IOTC, and not duplicate any of the stock assessment initiatives of WCPFC

(2) The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans)

- USAID Ocean to establish appropriate channel for sharing of information particularly on the progress of works in the project learning sites so that the developed technologies could be adopted by other countries
- USAID Ocean to respond to the request of Thailand during the last ASWGFi and the Oceans Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting in 2018 on how the information collected from the learning sites could be shared, and on how the activities in the expansion sites in Thailand could move forward
- USAID Oceans to provide information to Thailand on the exact schedule and detailed workplan in support of expansion I and II sites as indicated in the 2019 project workplan

Pipeline Projects

(1) Development of stock assessment method and strengthening of resources management measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to continue seeking support from JAIF for the implementation of this project

(2) Second Phase of Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management

- MFRDMD to continue seeking funding from JAIF and other potential donors to be able to extend the project to Member Countries not involved in Phase I of the Project, *e.g.* Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

- 1) The Meeting is requested to consider and endorse the achievements of the projects implemented under FCG/ASSP Mechanism in 2018 and the proposed project activities for 2019 including the abovementioned recommendations, as well as the Pipeline Projects, for submission higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC.
- 2) The Meeting is also invited to provide suggestions on the areas of improvement of the program formulation and implementation to enhance the impacts of the projects and maximize the benefits to the Member Countries

Projects Under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Mechanism for the Year 2018-2019

No.	Strategy/Project Title	Lead Department	2018	2019
Strategy I: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region				
1	Human Resource Development for Sustainable Fisheries	TD	Y	Y
2	Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities	TD	Y	Y
3	Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement Measures in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
4	Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia	IFRDMD	Y	Y
5	Promotion of Responsible Utilization of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia	IFRDMD	Y	Y
6	Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management	MFRDMD	Y	N
7	Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing Activities	TD	Y	Y
8	Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	TD	Y	Y
9	Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
10	Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region a. Improving the Data Collection of the Commercially-exploited Aquatic and Threatened Species b. Facilitating Fisheries Activity Information Gathering through Introduction of Community-based Resources Management/Co-management	TD	Y	Y
11	Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
12	Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
13	Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia	SEC	Y	Y
14	SEADFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II	SEC	Y	Y
15	Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS (Geographic Information System) & RS (Remote Sensing) Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at AMS ¹	TD	N	Y
Strategy II :Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region				
16	Environment-Friendly, Sustainable Utilization and Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources	AQD	Y	Y
17	Reinforcement and Optimization of Fish Health Management and the Effective Dissemination in the Southeast Asian Region	AQD	Y	Y
Strategy III :Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region				
18	Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia – Biotoxins (ASP, AZA and BTX) and Harmful Algal Bloom(HABs) in the ASEAN Region	MFRD	Y	Y
Strategy IV: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements				
19	Cold Chain Management for Seafood	MFRD	Y	N
20	Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products	MFRDMD	Y	Y

¹ This project was approved in 2018 and will be implemented in 2019.

No.	Strategy/Project Title	Lead Department	2018	2019
Strategy V: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries				
21	Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues	SEC	Y	Y
Strategy VI: Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries				
22	Fisheries Resource Survey & Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	Y	Y
23	Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries	SEC	Y	Y

○ **Special Projects**

No.	Project Title	Lead Department	Period
1	Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia	SEC	2013-2019
2	The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans)	SEC	2015-2019

○ **Pipeline Projects**

No.	Project Title	Lead Department	Period
1	Development of Stock Assessment Method and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures on Tropical Anguillid Eels in ASEAN Region	SEC	-
2	Second Phase of Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management	MFRDMD	-

Y = Program implemented during the year

N = Program not implemented during the year

**ASEAN AD-HOC STEERING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE
AND FOOD SECURITY (AHSCCC FS)**

6th Adhoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (6th AHSCCC-FS)

- The 6th Ad-Hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (6th AHSCCC-FS) was held on 18-19 January 2018 in Lombok, Indonesia.

The Meeting discussed the following key issues:

- **SHARED** views on the need to have a more integrated framework (platform) to improve cooperation/coordination among sectoral bodies addressing climate change in ASEAN, and that joint initiatives/programmes may be considered to facilitate dialogue among sectors and enhance cooperation to address climate change in a more coherent way.
- **UPDATED** the implementation of climate change initiatives in respective sectors (crops, agriculture R&D, forestry, fisheries and environment).
- **NOTED** the progress on the development of the multi-sectoral conceptual framework for climate change and food security focusing on AFCC Component 4 towards developing a more comprehensive multi-sectoral strategic framework as an integrated approach.

7th Adhoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (7th AHSCCC-FS)

- The 7th Adhoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (7th AHSCCC-FS) was held on 28-30 June 2018 in Da Nang, Viet Nam.

The Meeting discussed the following key issues:

- **NOTED** that the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework for Climate Change (AFCC): Agriculture and Forestry Towards Food and Nutrition Security and Achievements of Sustainable Development Goals had been approved by SOM-AMAF through ad-referendum on 30 June 2018;
- **IDENTIFIED** priority actions for the implementation of AFCC. The proposed priority actions for the fisheries sector include:
 - i) Undertake studies to determine indicators and climate change impact mitigation and adaptation strategies.
 - ii) Establish national data and information sharing network on critical habitat such as mangrove as well as the linkage between relevant institutions in AMS.
 - iii) Identify and promote green technologies for adoption, such as low greenhouse gas emission, carbon sequestration from marine waters technology for aquaculture, and Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture.
 - iv) Develop and promote regional guidelines on the use of practical and simple indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries within the national fisheries management framework, to facilitate adaptation to the impact of climate change.
 - v) Develop mechanism for sharing information and knowledge among AMS on climate change initiatives.
 - vi) Develop networking in addressing the adverse impact of climate change on fisheries
- **DEVELOPED** several recommendations for SOM-AMAF consideration, amongst others:

- i) To enhance coordination/collaboration between SOM-AMAF and other SOMs (environment, RDPE, health, science and technology) to implement the AFCC and to identify platform/mechanism for coordination across the sectors.
- ii) To strengthen the Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security as a permanent platform to oversee the implementation of the AFCC.
- iii) To develop joint initiative (programme) that can accelerate and improve inter-sectoral collaboration in addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- iv) To continue inviting relevant sectors from different pillars of the ASEAN Cooperation to the Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change.
- v) To expand partnerships with relevant international partners and where necessary to enhance private sectors and CSOs engagement in the dialogue of climate change
- vi) The Chair of SOM AMAF to lead and coordinate with other relevant SOMs (*e.g.* ASOEN, AWGCC) to implement the AFCC Conceptual Framework to enhance integrated effort in addressing the adverse impact of climate change.

REQUESTED ACTION:

The 21st FCG-ASSP Meeting may wish to note the key outcomes of the 6th and 7th AHSCCC-FS Meetings.

ASEAN FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM (AFCF)

10th ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) Meeting

- The 10th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum was held on 7-8 May 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Meeting discussed the following key issues:

Fishing Capacity and Zoning System

- **NOTED** that Malaysia will be working with SEAFDEC/MFRDMD to assess the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity in each AMS, which will include dissemination of questionnaire to determine the status, issues, challenges as well as need assessment in the implementation of RPOA-Capacity; and **REQUESTED** AMS to support Malaysia by providing the needed information once the questionnaire will be available for distribution.
- **NOTED** that Malaysia has requested the Japanese Trust Fund (7) of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD to develop a Regional Fisheries Information System for Fish Stock Management (RFRIS). This project will largely be dependent upon the funding approval and it will only start in 2020 and will run for 4 years. Hence, the timeline in the AFCF work plan may need to be amended accordingly.
- **WAS INFORMED** that Malaysia is developing a concept note for the Assessment and Implementation of the Fishing Capacity and Zoning System in Southeast Asia Project in accordance with the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity; and **REQUESTED** Malaysia to submit the concept note to ASEAN Secretariat by June 2018 in order to seek possible funding support from Dialogue Partners.
- **NOTED** the following updates: i) Myanmar has initiated the programme to stop the building, importing, and licensing of trawler fishing vessels; ii) Indonesia has established fishing license moratorium to foreign/ex-foreign fishing vessels and regulations on various fishing gears as part of its fishing capacity management plan; and iii) Thailand has established a legal framework to transform Thai Fisheries from the open access to limited access. Total allowable catch for three main fish stocks are based on balancing the fishing efforts with the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) assessment.

Sustainability of Small-Scale Fisheries

- **WAS INFORMED** that SEAFDEC has developed a policy brief on securing sustainable small-scale fisheries clarifying issues on governance tenure, social development and decent work, and gender equality based on the available ASEAN documents and declarations.
- **NOTED** that Cambodia has implemented a decentralized system to manage small-scale fisheries, while Brunei Darussalam is currently embarking on aquaculture development through promotion of contract-farming for small-scale aquaculture farmers.
- **REQUESTED** ASEAN Secretariat to share to AFCF the Roadmap for Agriculture Cooperative once adopted by AMAF.
- **NOTED** the progress made by Indonesia on the implementation of activities to promote sustainable small-scale fisheries; and **REQUESTED** Indonesia (Lead Country) and AMSs to develop regional collaborative activities aiming to ensure the sustainability of small-scale fisheries. As an initial step, a concept note could be developed taking into account the activities in the AFCF Workplan.

- **WAS INFORMED** that Thailand will host the World Small-scale Fisheries Congress on 22-26 October 2018 in Chiang Mai, Thailand and that the abstract submission deadline will be on 15 July 2018.

Resource Rehabilitation and Enhancement

- **WAS BRIEFED** by Cambodia on their national activities related to resource rehabilitation and enhancement focusing on: i) the new establishment of Marine Fisheries Management Areas with clear zoning including conservation zone, protected zone, fish *refugia* for anchovies and blue swimming crab, and under-water eco-tourism zone; ii) deployment of artificial reefs; and iii) mangrove replanting programme and coral reef restoration.
- **WAS APPRISED** by SEAFDEC on the progress made on the establishment and operation of a regional system of fisheries *refugia* in the South China sea and Gulf of Thailand. The project has been implemented in the 2nd Quarter of 2017 with SEAFDEC as the executing agency of the project, and involves Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- **FURTHER INFORMED** that there are 14 sites for the establishment of Fisheries *Refugia* in six (6) AMSs, and that SEAFDEC will be organizing the Steering Committee Meeting on Fisheries *Refugia* at the 6th GEF Assembly scheduled on 23-29 June 2018 in Danang, Viet Nam.

Impacts of Climate Change to Fisheries and Aquaculture

- **NOTED** the plans and programmes of the Philippines on climate change disaster risk reduction and management focusing on fisherfolk and boat registration, establishment of community fish landing, fabrication and provision of fiber glass fishing boats, deployment of fish aggregating devices, mangrove rehabilitation, climate resilient aquaculture, and provision of post-harvest facilities.
- **NOTED** the climate-related projects implemented by Viet Nam focusing on: i) climate change adaption and sustainable livelihoods; ii) enhancing community resilience to climate change by promoting climate smart aquaculture; and iii) climate change impacts to agriculture and aquaculture in Mekong Delta for improving and promoting adaptively inclusive business models for small-scale producers.
- **NOTED** the proposal of Viet Nam to conduct a regional consultative workshop to share lessons and good practices to address climate change impacts on fisheries and aquaculture in the region, to assess the progress made in fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the region in the context of climate change, and to develop regional action plan to address climate change impacts on fisheries and aquaculture.
- **REQUESTED** Viet Nam to prepare the concept note/project proposal to be submitted to ASEAN Secretariat by June 2018 for possible funding support from Dialogue Partners.
- **NOTED** that Myanmar is implementing the FishAdapt project in collaboration with FAO aim at building adaptive capacity and resilience of fisheries and aquaculture dependent livelihood

Combating IUU Fishing

- **NOTED** the updates from RPOA-IUU Secretariat on the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU).focusing on information sharing on IUU fishing vessels, conduct of workshop to review the implementation of NPOA-IUU, implementation and strengthening of MCS system, and the finalization of RPOA resolution of fishing vessels without nationality.

- **NOTED** that Thailand has offered willingness to share its experience on the implementation of the Port State Measures (PSM), and that SEAFDEC will work with Thailand in the conduct of training programme on PSM.
- **UPDATED** by SEAFDEC on the progress made in the implementation of OCEAN's Catch Documentation and Traceability (CDT) Project, which include: i) the publication of Technical Concept and Specification on the fisheries CDT system; ii) conduct of gap analysis in the implementation of ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Viet Nam; and iii) the adjustment on the work plan of the OCEAN's project.
- **NOTED** that Malaysia with the assistance from FAO will be conducting studies to identify and analyse the policy, legislative framework and operational gap for Malaysia to explore the possibility of becoming a party to Port State Measure Agreement and UN Fish Stock Agreement.
- **NOTED** that Malaysia will be conducting three (3) main activities to promote responsible fishing practices especially in combating IUU Fishing which are: a) to prioritize actions on becoming Party to PSMA; b) to establish National Plan of Control and Inspection (NPCI); and c) the Establishment of repository for IUU Fishing involving foreign fishing vessel in Malaysia's waters.
- **NOTED** that Viet Nam has developed a roadmap to ratify the PSMA, while Myanmar is formulating a National Strategy and Action Plan in compliance with PSMA to prevent, eliminate and deter IUU Fishing.
- **NOTED** SEAFDEC's suggestion for AMSs to implement the PSM in conjunction with other initiatives to combat IUU Fishing (*e.g.* ACDS and RFVR) in order to effectively prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the region.

Traceability of Fisheries and Aquaculture Products

- **NOTED** Singapore's project proposal on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Aquaculture, which was for submission to ASEAN Secretariat in order to seek possible funding support from Dialogue Partners.
- **WAS INFORMED** that the ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease has been approved by JAIF and the funding has been transferred to SEAFDEC/AQD.
- **NOTED** that Thailand has developed a National Strategic Plan on AMR (2017-2021) and has conducted workshop and training course on the prudent use of antimicrobials in aquaculture
- **NOTED** that Indonesia has developed National Plan of Action on AMR in aquaculture and guidelines for the conduct of technical survey on AMR, as well as conducted several capacity building programmes on awareness improvement of AMU and AMR.
- **NOTED** that Malaysia has launched the Malaysian Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (MyAP-AMR) under One Health approach which includes distinct actions to be taken to combat AMR between human, livestock, livestock and aquaculture sector.
- **NOTED** NACA's suggestion for AMSs to consider existing regional projects on AMR to avoid possible duplication of activities. It was also suggested that new regional projects could build on existing ones.

JAPAN-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) Socialisation Session

- **EXPRESSED** appreciation to JAIF for supporting some of the activities of the fisheries sector and looked forward for further future collaboration.

- **WAS INFORMED** by JAIF that regional organisations may apply for JAIF support provided that projects will be implemented in collaboration with AMSS. The concept note to be submitted to JAIF would only require the initial endorsement from sectoral bodies, and would be further developed into full proposal for submission to the project appraisal and approval process of ASEAN.
- **WAS INFORMED** that SEAFDEC/MFRDMD is also requesting financial support from JAIF on the Continuation of the Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management.

FAO

- **NOTED** FAO initiatives on AMR in the ASEAN region focusing on: i) implementing the AMR Action Plan; ii) improving awareness on AMR and related threats; iii) developing capacity for surveillance and monitoring of antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use in food and agriculture; iv) strengthening governance related to antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance in food and agriculture; and v) promoting good practices in food and agriculture systems and the prudent use of antimicrobials.

Global Fishing Watch

- **WAS BRIEFED** by Global Fishing Watch on the transparency platform that would reveal the location and behaviours of commercial fishing fleets everywhere in the oceans through a freely accessible fishing activity map and processed data set.

NACA

- **NOTED** NACA's suggestion to move forward with the implementation of resilient aquaculture systems, namely: i) Setting up of regional climate change impact assessment; ii) Defining adaptation strategies for environmental, disease and genetic threats caused by climate change; iii) Communicating the results of vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies at all levels; iv) Implementing pilot projects on adaptation and providing capacity building to manage aquaculture system; and iv) Establishing early warning system, and preparedness plan on climate change.

REQUESTED ACTION:

The 21st FCG-ASSP Meeting may wish to note the key outcomes of the 10th AFCF Meeting.

ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE (ASA)

Executive Summary of the 8th Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance

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 member of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA). Department of Fisheries, Thailand is the Secretariat of ASA and SEAFDEC is the collaborating partner of ASA. Objectives of ASA are to develop ASEAN Shrimp Culture Practices; discuss on trade related issues 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 ASEAN 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.

Progress of ASA for 2018

The 8th Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance was organized during 21–22 March 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, and was hosted by the Department of Fisheries of Thailand as the ASA Secretariat.

AMS's representatives presented the current status on implementation of ASEAN shrimp GAP applied to national shrimp GAP. The Meeting was informed of the certification system for ASEAN shrimp GAP and discussed the logo recognition for the standard certificate and its promotion campaign as well as was informed of the regulations and rule establishing the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) applies to seafood entering the U.S. from foreign country.

The Meeting suggested considering the proper usage of common ASEAN farmed shrimp logo and ASEAN Regional Scheme preparation to be a well – known certification scheme and to be accepted by buyers or customers. A Roadmap of strategic plan should be established and a working group that study the AMSs standards and regional mechanism to certify the ASEAN standard should be notified, established and supported by the AMSs, in order to complete the first step of regional scheme certification preparation. The Meeting also agreed to set up a platform for AMSs to react quickly to the requirement of the importing countries with the involvement from private sector, transferring information and also join hands as one common voice of ASEAN.

The Meeting agreed that rotation of the next organization of ASA Meeting should be raised for further discussion during the 26th ASWGF, SOM – 39th AMAF and 40th AMAF, respectively. Recently, the rotation of the 9th Meeting of ASA has been noted by the 40th AMAF Meeting already.



**REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE
21-22 March 2018, Bangkok, Thailand**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Eighth Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) was organized during 21-22 March 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand, and was hosted by the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand as the ASA Secretariat.
2. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), namely, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and Viet Nam as well as the representatives from relevant international/regional organizations and private sector, namely, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), the Network of Aquaculture Centres in the Asia-Pacific (NACA), the Thai Frozen Foods Association, and the Thai Shrimp Association. The Meeting was also attended by the officials from the Department of Fisheries (DOF) and National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, Thailand. The List of Participants appears as Annex 1.

II. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*, Deputy Director – General, Department of Fisheries of Thailand delivered the opening remark. He referred that in the past decade, exporting countries have encountered trade barriers regarding aquaculture standard, food additives & contaminants inspection, US anti – dumping on imported shrimp, shrimp farming that have a devastating effect on environment, child labor and alien labor. With these reasons, exporting countries in ASEAN has integratedly developed ASEAN Shrimp Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP) and expected that it will be internationally recognized to empower ourselves in a negotiation with importing countries. Another challenge shrimp industry facing is that importing countries has forced their contracted farmers to operate shrimp farm according to their standards causing farmers to make a costly investment on farming system improvement and then on the process of farm inspection and assessment. Moreover, for the past years, international organizations have established their aquaculture standards which confusing farmers and put more burden in compliance with those standards. In this way, ASEAN Shrimp GAP will be a tool to deal with the aforesaid challenges. ASEAN Shrimp GAP consists of 4 principles; namely Food Safety; Animal Health and Welfare; Environmental Integrity; and Socio – economic Aspects. He also referred the results of the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries held during 14 – 19 May 2017 in Singapore, Thailand as the interim Secretariat of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance reported the progress of benchmarking implementation to the Meeting that most of ASEAN Member States has completely benchmarked their National Shrimp GAP with ASEAN Shrimp GAP, except for Cambodia that plan to finish the benchmarking in 2017 while Lao PDR and Singapore are non – commercial shrimp producer so benchmarking will not be implemented. He also expected the meeting will help strengthening cooperation among us, create unity and ensure that regional shrimp industry will be developed and strengthened with sustainability. He then declared the Meeting open. His Opening Remarks appear as Annex 2.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, which appears as Annex 3.

IV. REVIEW OF STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ASEAN SHRIMP GAP APPLIED TO NATIONAL SHRIMP GAP

5. The representative from Cambodia, *Mr. Suy Serywath*, Director of Marine Fisheries Research and Development Institute, the Fisheries Administration (FiA), presented the situation of marine fisheries production, included the status of marine fisheries production, strategic planning, as well as building legal instruments and integrated cooperation among ministries in Cambodia. He informed the meeting that coastal areas of Cambodia are suitable for aquaculture development, including shrimp farming. However, it was affected by development of many infrastructures and tourism projects along coastal areas. According to the fisheries strategic planning framework (2015-2024), there are two pillars focusing the activities related to development of aquaculture and fisheries value chain which development of guidelines on the aquaculture good practice and promotion of GHP, GMP, and HACCP guidelines for SMEs were covered. The details of fisheries strategic plan also indicated that implementation of Good Aquaculture Practices for commercial aquaculture farms will be started within the period of this phase. To achieve this target, he mentioned that enhance capacity building of officers and farmers is needed. His presentation appears as Annex 4.

6. The representative from Republic of Indonesia, *Mrs. Debora Prihatmajanti*, Chief of Brackishwater & Marine Culture Sub-division, Directorate General of Aquaculture, presented the status of Indonesian shrimp culture, included implementation of Indonesian shrimp GAP standard and national biosecurity. She explained that there are two major species commercial farmed marine shrimps in Indonesia, namely Giant Tiger Prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) and Whiteleg Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*). Presently, the Indonesian Government has worked closely with private sector focusing on “Improvement of Shrimp Culture Program” which operated many activities related to cluster management, rising productivity, coastal rehabilitation, biosecurity on farm, social forestry integrated with aquaculture, as well as environment improvement through communal approach. Furthermore, surveillance and monitoring program, risk analysis, disease control, and emergency response national strategy were also included in the details of national fisheries strategy. She reported that shrimp disease outbreak (White spot disease and Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis, IHHN) was found at some of shrimp farming areas in 2017. In order to control situation of disease outbreak, the Disease Reporting Mechanism was established. Moreover, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, in collaborative with the FAO, has published and disseminated documents on Shrimp Health, included Guidelines for surveillance of shrimp diseases and Guidelines for emergency preparedness and contingency plan on shrimp disease, etc. Her presentation appears as Annex 5.

7. The representative from Malaysia, *Mr. Roslan Abu Hasan*, Fishery Officer, Aquaculture Development Division, Department of Fisheries of Malaysia, presented the current status of national good agriculture practices in aquaculture sector. It was mentioned that development of the myGAP certification was started in 2013, involving 3 sub-sectors namely: agriculture, livestock, and aquaculture (fisheries). Additionally, in 2017, MyGAP MS 1998:2007 Good Aquaculture Practice (GaqP) – Aquaculture Farm was revised and updated to MS 1998:2017. He explained that under MyGAP, there are many activities related to promotional and capacity building Programmes, including exhibition, mass media, publication, direct selling of myGAP product: at hypermarket, as well as provision of technical assistance to auditors and farmers. It was mentioned that limitation of MyGAP acceptance could be found due to low awareness of consumers and ignorance of differentiation with non-certification products. He also presented the main problems and obstacles in shrimp farming industry, which climate change, diseases occurrence and environment concern were included. In addition, the Malaysian Government has planned to harmonize/benchmark MyGAP with other international scheme in the near future. He concluded that MyGAP has moved from fulfilling food safety and quality, environmental and good practices requirements into important market tool for wider international market access and recognition. His presentation appears as Annex 6.

8. The representative from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, *Mr. Saw Lah Phaw Wah*, Director of Aquaculture Division, Department of Fisheries, explained the status of aquaculture development in

Myanmar, including fisheries policy and fisheries development plan. The objectives of fisheries policy are to ensure food security and food safety by conserving fisheries resources and sustaining development of the fisheries sector in accordance with fisheries law. There are several activities under development plan of action which Good Aquaculture Practices was also included. He mentioned that development of aquaculture has been sped up significantly due to encouragement of the Government and close monitoring of DoF. It was reported that freshwater fish culture is dominant aquaculture in Myanmar, while the most popular farmed shrimps are Black Tiger Prawn, White leg Shrimp and Giant Freshwater Prawn. However, the culture relies mostly on post - larvae imported from neighboring countries, especially Thailand. He also reported that the GAP extension team was established in 2016 providing technical assistance through 17 training courses at the farming areas in 5 Regions and 2 States. This could assist the fish farmers to understand the basic principles of food safety, traceability and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP). It was confirmed that the National Shrimp GAP has aligned with ASEAN Shrimp GAP. His presentation appears as Annex 7.

9. The representative from Thailand, *Dr. Chutima Khomwilai*, Senior Fisheries Biologist from Coastal Aquaculture Research and Development Division, Department of Fisheries, presented the status of implementation of ASEAN Shrimp GAP and National Shrimp GAP shrimp farming in Thailand. She reported that production from shrimp farming has rapidly increased after expansion of intensive Black Tiger Prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) farming. However, the outbreak of Slow Growth Syndrome resulted in the collapse of farming, therefore; white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) was introduced instead to maintain the level of shrimp production reaching a peak level of production in 2012 with amount of 497,834 tonnes. In 2013-2015, shrimp production subsequently declined as a result of outbreak of viral diseases. The data showed that total shrimp production in 2017 was 255,125 tonnes, which about 85% of total production was exported to many countries including the U.S., Japan, Viet Nam, the EU, Canada, Australia, and South Korea, etc. According to the statistical data from the Thai DoF, there are almost 9,400 certified shrimp farms and hatcheries distributing in the coastal provinces throughout the country. The existing certification standard included GAP-DoF, the CoC, GAP-TAS 7401-2014, GAP-TAS 7432-2015, and GAP-TAS 7422-2010. She clarified that GAP – TAS 7401 2014 has been aligned with the ASEAN Shrimp GAP already. She also mentioned that occurrence of shrimp diseases (WSSV, EMS, EHP) in farming areas is the most problem. In order to improve shrimp farm management, the Thai DoF has taken an action on surveillance and monitor shrimp diseases according to OIE listed diseases with close collaboration through diseases reporting network among officials, researchers and farmers. She added that the other obstacles in the Thai shrimp farming industry are insufficient supplies of shrimp production, high competition among producing countries, and trade barrier. Her presentation appears as Annex 8.

10. The representative from Viet Nam, *Mrs. Nguyen Thi Bang Tam*, Official of Aquaculture Department, Directorate of Fisheries presented the status of implementation of VietGAP standard which is the national standard for good aquaculture practices and guidelines applying to Pangasius, Black Tiger Prawn, Whiteleg Shrimp and Tilapia. She also presented its scope and subjects including the issues of legal document development, certification and accreditation system, as well as human resources to implement VietGAP program, VietGAP application and benchmarking. There are 5 important components under the VietGAP standard, including: 1) general regulation; 2) food safety and quality; 3) aquatic animal health management; 4) environmental integrity; and 5) social economic aspect. The information of VietGAP Guidelines has been continuously disseminated via mass media. She informed the meeting that VietGAP website was established since 2012 (www.vietgap.tongcucthuysan.gov.vn) in order to provide online services for the applicants. The objectives of the website are publicizing information of legislation documents, related technical regulation, certified producers, accredited CBs, and images related to safety products in general and farming production. VietGAP code will be provided automatically when the application is accepted. This will also allow the users to access their important information, such as name of certified farmers, total area, production, etc. It was reported that 1,060 farmers and 210 local authorities were attended the training course on ISO 9001:2008, TCVN 7457:2004, ISO 17011, 17065, VietGAP. She also informed that the government has signed and implemented the MoU on benchmarking between DFish with GlobalGAP, BAP, ASC and GSSI. Her presentation appears as Annex 9.

V. ESTABLISHMENT ON CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR ASEAN SHRIMP GAP

11. The representative from Thailand, *Ms. Montira Thavornytikarn*, Senior Fisheries Biologist from Fisheries Commodity Standard Certification and Traceability Division (FCSTD), Department of Fisheries,

presented the establishment on certification system for ASEAN Shrimp GAP. In 2009, the working group for standard development was established. The ASEAN shrimp standard was announced in 2011 and Thailand Quality Certification System was established in 2010 and Certification Body of the DoF has been accredited since 2012. In addition, the National Standard for Marine Shrimp Culture: GAP TAS 7401-2009 aligned the ASEAN Shrimp GAP and has been implemented as GAP TAS 7401-2014 since 2014. At the same year, checklist for farm auditing for both GAP-TAS 7401 and ASEAN Shrimp GAP was completely developed. It was mentioned that there are four main processes under GAP certification in Thailand, including: 1) request for application; 2) farm audit; 3) laboratory testing; and 4) certified farm approval and publicizing. She also informed the meeting to consider the proposed options regarding certification system for ASEAN Shrimp GAP as follows: 1) CB develop their own certification scheme for ASEAN Shrimp GAP; 2) AMSs design the certification mark/logo agreement for ASEAN mutual standard identification and product labelling; 3) AMSs formulate the ASEAN GAqP certification scheme; and 4) Mutual Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Agri-food Standard and Conformity Assessment (MAMRASCA).

VI. POSSIBILITY OF ASEAN SHRIMP GAP LOGO RECOGNITION FOR THE STANDARD CERTIFICATE AND ITS PROMOTION CAMPAIGN

12. The representative from Thailand, *Mr. Manat Larpphon*, Senior Standard Officer, National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, presented the Roadmap of Food Safety of MOAC. There are two types of Thai Agricultural Commodity Standard Act 2008 for Agricultural Commodity, mandatory and voluntary standards including: produce or a product derived from agriculture, fishery, livestock or forestry and their by-product. The agricultural commodity is subjected to mandatory or voluntary standard as determined by the Ministerial Regulation or the Ministerial Notification. The mandatory standard required the producers, exporters and importers of the certain agricultural commodities to have a license of inspection or certification issued by the approved certification body (CB). While the voluntary standard is inspected or certified on voluntary basis. Both standard have their own distinguished standard certification mark that displays name of the certification body, certified standard and certificated holder. The certification mark is used to ensure the consumers of the confided production system and thus the safety and quality of the products. It also a part of traceability.

13. The Meeting agreed in principle that there is a substantial need to develop a common certification scheme and certified logo for ASEAN standards and agreed to seek for approval from ASWGFi and AMAF accordingly.

VII. DISCUSSION ON THE RULE ESTABLISHING THE SEAFOOD IMPORT MONITORING PROGRAM APPLIES TO SEAFOOD ENTERING THE U.S. FROM FOREIGN COUNTRY

14. The representative from Thailand, *Mr. Chairat Bamrungsook*, Fishery Biologist, Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division, Department of Fisheries of Thailand, presented that Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) was established by NOAA fisheries to ensure that seafood entering the U.S. market are not derived from IUU fishing or subjected to seafood fraud. Consequently, seafood importers are required to submit information about the harvest of fish and to keep records from the point of harvest to the point of entry into the U.S. NOAA Fisheries published a final rule establishing the SIMP on December 9, 2016. The collection of harvest and landing documentation will be accomplished through the International Trade Data System (ITDS) while import harvest and landing data will be submitted through ITDS at the time of entry. Importer of record are the U.S. entities taking responsibility for the import under U.S. Customs regulations and will be required to hold an IFTP issued by NOAA Fisheries. The list of 13 At-Risk Seafood Species, comprises: Abalone; Atlantic Cod; Blue Crab (Atlantic); Dolphin fish (Mahi Mahi); Grouper; King Crab (red); Pacific Cod; Red Snapper; Sea Cucumber; Sharks; Shrimp; Swordfish; Tunas: Albacore, Bigeye, Skipjack, Yellowfin, and Bluefin. Additionally, compliance with reporting and recordkeeping requirements in the rule for priority species other than shrimp and abalone will be mandatory starting January 1, 2018. NOAA Fisheries stayed the effective date of the rule for shrimp and abalone until recordkeeping requirements for domestic aquaculture production can be identified. The action will be published in the Federal Register to lift the stay of the effective date of the rule pertaining to shrimp and abalone when the domestic reporting and recordkeeping gaps have been closed. Furthermore, adequate advance notice to the trade community



will be provided to allow it the opportunity to establish reporting and recordkeeping systems necessary to comply with the program.

VIII. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL MECHANISMS FOR QUICK REACTION BY EXPORTING COUNTRIES IN RESPONSE TO TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE IMPOSED BY IMPORTING MARKETS

15. Referring to the 20th Fisheries Consultative Group of the Fisheries Consultative Group/ASEAN – SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Meeting, which was held in Bangkok during 30 November – 1 December 2017, the Meeting suggested that discussion of the ASA should cover all the requirements in the whole value chain of shrimp products, including possibility of establishment of a mechanism for quick reaction by exporting countries in responding to the technical barriers to trade imposed by importing markets.

16. The Meeting suggested to consider the proper usage of common ASEAN farmed shrimp logo. Preparation of the ASEAN Regional Scheme to be a well – known certification scheme and to be accepted by buyers/customers. A Roadmap of strategic plan should be established and a working group that study the AMSs standards and regional mechanism to certify the ASEAN standard should be notified, established and supported by the AMSs, in order to complete the first step of regional scheme certification preparation.

17. The Meeting agreed to set up a platform for AMSs to react quickly to the requirement of the importing countries with the involvement from private sector, transferring information and also join hands as one common voice of ASEAN. The meeting suggested to use NACA website as a platform for information sharing as well as ASEAN Shrimp Alliance’s website.

IX. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE EIGHTH ASA MEETING

18. According to the recommendation of the 18th Fisheries Consultative Group/ASEAN SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership regarding rotation of hosting the annual ASA Meeting, the Meeting agreed that rotation of the next organization of ASA Meeting should be raised for further discussion during the 26th ASWGF Meeting.

19. The report of the 8th ASA Meeting was adopted, date and venue of the 9th ASA Meeting will be upon further consideration.

X. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

20. The Chairperson, *Dr. Chumnarn Pongsri*, expressed his appreciation to the representatives from the AMSs and regional/international organizations for their active participation and constructive suggestions that would assist ASEAN to move forward on strengthening cooperation and creating unity among AMSs regarding promoting regional shrimp trade under the ASA framework.

**PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEAN GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTING
THE ENTRY OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS FROM IUU FISHING ACTIVITIES INTO
THE SUPPLY CHAIN**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing was identified as the biggest threat to the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific region (29th Session of APFIC). In response to the need to combat IUU fishing, the issue on management of fishing capacity and combating IUU fishing was seriously addressed by ASEAN, SEAFDEC and the RPOA initiative to combat IUU fishing, as well as in the “Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020” adopted by the Ministers and Senior Officials during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference in 2011. Therefore, it is urgently needed for Southeast Asian Countries to strengthen measures to exclude IUU fish and fishery products from the supply chain through the formulation and dissemination of the “ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain” and the establishment of an ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS). The guidelines and ASEAN CDS will serve as trade measures for Southeast Asian countries to combat IUU fisheries through controlling and monitoring trade of fish and fisheries products.

After SEAFDEC/MFRDMD published the “ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain” in 2015 in cooperation with AMSs, SEAFDEC/TD and SEAFDEC/SEC. MFRDMD was required by ASEAN Member States to assist identifying possible actions to implement the Guidelines.

A Regional Technical Consultation on Promotion of ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain was held from 7 to 9 March 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to clarify current status and issues in preventing trade of IUU fishing related products in each Member Country with reference to the statements in the Guidelines.

MFRDMD visited Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam for information gathering activity on implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain. A self-evaluation of the implementation of the guidelines by every AMSs was conducted during the visits.

MFRDMD compiled and summarized the feedback from AMSs on current status of the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in ASEAN Member States and produce an interim report which will be publish in 2018.

Scores for self-evaluation on implementation of the guidelines by visited AMSs (% implemented)						
AMSs	Cambodia	Indonesia	Malaysia	Myanmar	Lao PDR	Philippines
Scores (%)	84.8	96.4	96.4	TBC	TBC	96.4

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

The 21st Meeting of the FCG/ASSP is requested to take note results of the promotion for the implementation of the “ASEAN Guidelines for preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain” in ASEAN Member States. The Meeting is also invited to provide advice and suggestion to SEAFDEC/MFRDMD on the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines in ASEAN Member States.

REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD (RFVR)**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Regional Fishing Vessels Records (RFVR) for vessels 24 meters in length and over was endorsed by SEAFDEC Council Meeting in 2013, and supported by the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-Forth Meeting of the ASEAN ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-34th AMAF). Subsequently, the Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2014 endorsed the proposed RFVR activities plan. In 2017, the “*Strategy and way forward on improvement, promotion and utilization of RFVR database for 24 meters in length and over*” was developed at the Regional Technical Consultation on Evaluation of Implementation and Utilization of the RFVR. Since then, a number of activities have been implemented by SEAFDEC Training Department (TD).

I. PROGRESS OF WORKS/ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTATION FOR RFVR-24 METERS SINCE 2015

Information in **Table 1** shows information submission by the AMSs to the database system of RFVR-24 meters since the year 2015.

Table 1 No. of the vessels provided by the AMSs into the RFVR-24 meters

No. of Vessels Reported by AMSs (Year)	BN	ID	MY	MM	PH	SG	TH	VN
2015	1	N/A	125	664	997	N/A	250	445
2016	1	380	332	N/A	N/A	1	402	Coming
2017	1	434	N/A	424	1007	1	420	Coming
2018	9	Coming	225	Coming	Coming	1	335	Coming

Remarks:

- Official letter to AMSs for updating information of the RFVR Database dated 7 February 2018
- Reminding for yearly update information of the RFVR database dated 5 July 2018 via email
- “Coming” refers to information has yet submitted by the respective countries

It can be seen from the **Table 1** that there is the trend of increasing numbers of the vessels in the RFVR-24 meters database for Indonesia whereas it is likely to decrease the number of fishing vessels in other countries. Thailand, for example, the decreasing number of fishing vessel may be due to the issuance of the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries B.E. 2558 (2015) where the level of fishing efforts has been adjusted to match with the available fishery resources.

To monitor the usefulness of the RFVR database, information on the access to the database has been collected as one of the activities of the project as shown in **Table 2**. It can be seen that AMSs has made use of the RFVR database developed and maintained currently, particularly for Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and Thailand.

Table 2 No. of access to the RFVR-24 meters (2015-2018)

Country	No. of Accounts	No. of Registers	Accumulated no. of access from 2015-2017	No. of access in 2018
Brunei Darussalam	12	4	8	1
Cambodia	12	2	3	0
Indonesia	12	1	2	0
Lao PDR	10	1	1	0
Malaysia	12	8	45	6
Myanmar	12	0	0	0
Philippines	12	1	10	0
Singapore	12	3	14	0
Thailand	12	3	23	7
Viet Nam	12	2	3	0
Total	118	23	109 (avg. 36 per year)	14

II. PROGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOCOL FOR ACCESSING THE RFVR DATABASE SYSTEM

In 2016, SEAFDEC received an inquiry from the RPOA-IUU on sharing of information in the RFVR Database with non-AMSs (*e.g.* RPOA-IUU Member Countries which are not members of SEAFDEC). The Council at its 48th Meeting in 2016, while agreeing that the database could be shared with non-AMSs and RFMOs, requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to seek approval from the ASEAN on this matter. This matter was raised at the 24th ASWGFi Meeting in 2016. The ASWGFi in principle agreed on the sharing of RFVR on the condition that guidelines or protocols for data sharing are in place. The Meeting therefore requested SEAFDEC to develop and establish guidelines or protocols for data access.

Based on the recommendations of the SEAFDEC Council and the ASWGFi Meetings, the Draft “Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System,” was prepared and submitted for consideration by the SEAFDEC Council at its 50th Meeting in 2018. The Council took note of the proposed Protocol for Accessing the RFVR database system by non-AMS and RFMOs. After the discussion, the Council requested SEAFDEC to amend the Protocol for Accessing the RFVR database system, taking into consideration the recommendation by the Council again *ad referendum*. Currently, the document is in the process of approval by the Council.

It is expected that once approved by the Council, the Final Draft Protocol would be circulated to the AMSs and the ASEAN Secretariat, before further submission to the ASWGFi Meeting for consideration and endorsement.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

The Meeting is requested to take note the progress of the regional initiatives on RFVR-24 meters database, as well as to provide policy directives to SEAFDEC and Member Countries on the implementation of this activity, as well as to enhance future usage of the RFVR database by the AMSs.

The Meeting is requested to take note on the progress made by SEAFDEC on the draft “Protocol for Accessing the RFVR Database System.” The Meeting may wish to also provide further directives on this matter.

PROGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) is one of the regional initiatives between SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) toward improving traceability of marine capture fisheries with aims to prevent the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain. Since 2014 till 2017, 5 Technical Consultation and expert meetings have been organized for deliberation on the concept of ACDS. Finally, the ACDS was endorsed at the 25th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (25ASWGF) in May 2017 in Singapore. Later the document was also adopted by the SOM-AMAF in the same year. To support the implementation of the ACDS, the electronic system is required taking into consideration the guidance from the SEAFDEC Councils that the process should not create unnecessary burden, cost or lengthy process for all supply chain, importers/exporters.

SEAFDEC initiated eACDS implementation in Brunei Darussalam as pilot testing of the ACDS since 2016. The introduction of overall system of eACDS was launched during the Inaugural Ceremony of the Forty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in June 2017.

Since the pilot testing of the eACDS was launched, the series of consultation and on-site training on the use of eACDS by all relevant Stakeholders were conducted in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam. Presently, the eACDS system is on process on testing. The development and updating system has been conducted as monitoring to solve the system and application design problems. The evaluation on eACDS implementation will be conducted with planning in 2019. Moreover, regards to requirement from Viet Nam and Myanmar in SEAFDEC Meeting, the eACDS implementation is expanding in coordination with both country.

I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the requirement of SEAFDEC Member Countries in complying with the requirements of the EC Regulation 1005/2008 since January 2010, the 13th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in December 2010 in Thailand suggested SEAFDEC Secretariat to take a proactive role in facilitating the sharing of experiences and information among the Member Countries in order to enhance the country's capacity and efforts to deal with all future market driven measures that would impact to the fisheries sectors particularly economic and social aspects in the Southeast Asian region. In response to this SEAFDEC proposed the development of the common regional catch documentation scheme with aims to ensure that the traceability of capture fisheries is improved to meet the requirements and to reduce such impacts from market measures. Later, the ASEAN Member States (AMS) expressed their support on improving the traceability for capture fisheries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries for food security toward 2020 as guided in the 2011 Resolution and Plan of Action. In connection to this, the development of common regional catch documentation scheme herein after called "ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) to enhance the intra-regional and international trade was supported at the SSOM-AMAF in 2013.

The development of the ACDS concept was initiated by SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with MFRDMD and experts/ fisheries managers from SEAFDEC Member Countries with the support from Japanese Trust Funds since 2014. One expert group meeting and one Technical consultation meeting were convened in October and December, 2014 for the 1st Draft of ACDS, respectively. Another expert meeting convened in 2015 for finalizing the draft ACDS, was also organized in accordance with the recommendations made by the 47th SEAFDEC Council Meeting. The results from three meetings in 2014 and 2015 could come up with the final draft ACDS Concept and draft info-graphic on usage of ACDS for 18 scenarios of catch/trade flows into and or among the AMS in the region. To ensure that ACDS are applicable and benefit to the relevant stakeholders namely operators of fishing vessels, suppliers, seafood processors for export and traders who export and transship, SEAFDEC convened the Stakeholder Consultations in March 2016 with aims to introduce the concept and compile their views for further development of the appropriate system of ACDS for both electronic and manual system to cover all requirements of the SEAFDEC Member Countries. SEAFDEC is recommended to develop the electronic



system of ACDS that should be included not only commercial fisheries but also considering to support small-scale fishers. In addition, at the 49th meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2016, the Council suggested that the eACDS should be developed in harmonization with other existing catch documentation schemes to ensure that this would be acceptable to the EU and US Presidential Task Force, and thus, enhance trading of fish and fishery products from the Southeast Asian region, while the Council endorsed Brunei Darussalam as a pilot testing country for the eACDS. In connection to this, the ACDS concept was also endorsed by the 25th ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) in May 2017 in Singapore. Later the Concept was also adopted by the 39th AMAF Meeting in the same year.

SEAFDEC initiated eACDS implementation in Brunei Darussalam as pilot testing of the ACDS since 2016. The introduction of overall system of eACDS was launched by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism of Brunei Darussalam, *Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin*, during the Inaugural Ceremony of the Forty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in June 2017.

II. PROGRESS ON DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEM of ASEAN CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (eACDS) IN AMS

Brunei Darussalam

Since the pilot testing of the eACDS was launched in Brunei Darussalam in June 2017. The series of consultation and on-site training on the use of eACDS by all relevant Stakeholders were conducted in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam. Presently, the eACDS system is on process on testing. The development and updating system has been conducted as monitoring to solve the system and application design problems.

Viet Nam

The representative from Viet Nam proposed in the Fortieth Meeting of the Program Committee (40PCM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) which held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2017 that SEAFDEC could also support Viet Nam in the development of a system to apply the eACDS for marine fishery products. To follow up this proposed, the introduction on eACDS system was conducted for all relevant stakeholder and Directorate of Fisheries (D-Fish) in Viet Nam in December 2017. Moreover, the visit and discussion on initial planning and cooperation with D-Fish for eACDS implementation through preparation of Key Data Element for eACDS database development and selection of pilot area was conducted from 12 to 13 September 2018.

Myanmar

According to the 50th SEAFDEC Council Meeting in March 2018, the Council Director for Myanmar looked forward to cooperating with SEAFDEC in strengthening regional cooperation to combat IUU fishing by supporting the implementation of the eACDS at the national level. To follow up this cooperation, the introduction on eACDS system was conducted for all relevant stakeholder and the Department of Fisheries, Myanmar in June 2018 and the visit and discussion on initial planning and cooperation with DOF, Myanmar for eACDS implementation through preparation of Key Data Element for eACDS database development and selection of pilot area was conducted from 25 to 28 September 2018.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

- The 21st FCG/ASSP is requested to take note the progress on development of the electronic system of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) for pilot testing in Brunei Darussalam and also expansion site to Viet Nam and Myanmar
- The Meeting may wish to also provide advice to promote the application of ACDS to combat IUU fishing and enhance intra-regional and international trade in fish and fishery product.

PROGRESS ON THE REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PORT STATE MEASURES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Referring to the adopted International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) in 2001, in which the requirement for Port State Measures (PSM) is included. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has worked on the PSM to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing including identifying the needs for human resources development to promote the implementation of PSM as minimum standards, and published a “FAO Voluntary Model Scheme on Port State Measures” in 2004 to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Subsequently, the FAO Conference adopted resolution 12/2009, approving the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, as a legally binding instrument in 2009. The main objective of the PSM Agreement is to “prevent illegally caught fish from entering international markets through ports.” In this connection, Port State needs to take the action on restriction of entry into port, use of port, access to port services, in addition, the inspection and other enforcement activities are also mentioned in the agreement.

Taking into account the importance of seafood products from Southeast Asian to around the world market, trade in and out are one of the important activities. To avoid any impact on trade as well as preventing the entry of IUU fish and fishery products either from international or intra-regional trade, the implementation of PSM is therefore needed taking into accounts other existing regional management tools developed under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Collaborative Framework such as ASEAN Catch Documentations, database of Regional Fishing Vessel Records for the vessels 24 meters and over (RFVR-24m) in length, ASEAN Guidelines to prevent the entry of IUU products into the supply chain, etc.

Refer to the Forty-eight Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2016, the Concept Proposal on Regional Cooperation for Supporting the Implementation of Port State Measures in ASEAN Region was raised up at the Meeting. According to this, SEAFDEC in collaboration with partners organized the Workshop on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures to Improve Fisheries Management and Reduce IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia in 2016. The Workshop came up with “Actions needed and priority activities for regional cooperation to support the implementation of the Port State Measures” which emphasized on capacity building to support implementation of PSM and gap analysis on law and regulation to support implementation of the Agreement on Port States Measures (PSMA).

Moreover, the Fiftieth SEAFDEC Council Meeting in April 2018 suggested, recommended, and requested for regional cooperation to support the implementation and capacity building of the PSM in ASEAN region in collaboration with other partners, establishment of networks for cooperation and exchange of information on PSM implementation, gap analysis of the legal frameworks of the countries and a needs assessment.

Follow-up the progress activities to support implementation on PSM in the region, FAO has designed and developed the networks database for cooperation and exchange of information on PSM “Port-Lex.” The Database on Port State Measures (Port-Lex) provides access to PSM adopted by States to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. Information can be accessed through a simple word search or advanced search using country names or measure components. Moreover, FAO undertook a PSMA and related international instruments gap analysis on legal frameworks under FAO global program in Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Cambodia. To avoid duplication of implementation activities, SEAFDEC will monitor the progress of such activities in close collaboration with the FAO, as well as to provide technical inputs if necessary to support the concerned AMSs. Moreover, SEAFDEC will continue to strengthen capacity building activities to support implementation of PSM in coordination with other international agencies and partnre



I. INTRODUCTION

Refers to the adopted International Plan of Action to prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU) in 2001, in which the requirement for Port State Measures (PSM) is included. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has worked on the PSM to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing including identifying the needs for human resources development to implement PSM while developed as minimum standards - a “FAO Voluntary Model Scheme on Port State Measures” to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in 2004. Later, the FAO Conference adopted resolution 12/2009 approving the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, as a legally binding instrument in 2009. The Objective of the PSM Agreement is to “prevent illegally caught fish from entering international markets through ports.” Port State needs to take the action on restriction of entry into port, use of port, access to port services, in addition the inspection and other enforcement activities are also mentioned in the agreement. Taking into account the importance of seafood products from Southeast Asian to around the world market, trade in and out are ones of the important activities. To avoid any impact on trade as well as preventing the entry of IUU fish and fishery products either from international or intra-regional trade, the implementation of PSM is therefore needed taking into accounts other existing regional management tools developed under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Collaborative Framework such as ASEAN Catch Documentations, RFVR-24m in length, ASEAN Guidelines to prevent the entry of IUU products into the supply chain, *etc.* Implementation of Port State Measures required inter-agency as well as regional and international cooperation. There are several action needed as mentioned in the provisions in which port State need to consider their legal instruments to compile with PSM. Based on the technical consultations on implementation of PSM by ASEAN Member States (AMSs), the results showed that many AMSs are still inadequate of the human capacity to implement the PSM, while many foreign vessels not only from outside the ASEAN region such as high-sea or Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) areas but also vessels among the AMSs. In 2015, SEAFDEC, therefore proposed the regional approaches to support the implementation the PSM in and effective management through the harmonization and cooperation among AMS.

II. PROGRESS OF REGIONAL COOPERATION ON PSM

Refer to the Forty-eight Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in April 2016, the Concept Proposal on Regional Cooperation for Supporting the Implementation of Port State Measures in ASEAN Region was raised up at the Meeting. According to this, SEAFDEC in collaboration with partners organized the Workshop on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures to Improve Fisheries Management and Reduce IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia in 2016. The Workshop came up with “Actions, need and priority activities for regional cooperation to support the implementation of the Port State Measures” which emphasized as follows: 1) Capacity building to support implementation of PSM, 2) gap analysis on law and regulation to support implementation of PSMA, and 3) Standard of operation for vessel inspection at port for PSM activities.

Moreover, the Fiftieth SEAFDEC Council Meeting in April 2018 suggested, recommended, and requested on regional cooperation to support the implementation of the PSM in ASEAN region as follows;

- Capacity building, especially in the aspects of training on PSM implementation (in general) and on port inspection to support PSM implementation in collaboration with other partners;
- Establishment of networks for cooperation and exchange of information on PSM implementation;
- Analysis of gaps in the respective legal frameworks of the countries and a needs assessment; and
- SEAFDEC should coordinate closely with FAO in addressing the requirements of particular AMS since its support is meant not only to the countries that ratified, but also to those that are yet to ratify the PSMA.

According to above mentioned, the activities has been implemented by SEAFDEC and other agencies as follows;

1) Capacity building to support implementation of PSM in the region

SEAFDEC in collaboration with FAO, NOAA and USAID-RDMA organized “The regional training on PSAM implementation in Southeast Asia for fishery manager” in February 2018. The resource persons were supported by FAO, NOAA and the Department of Fisheries, Thailand. This training was focused on: 1) preparation of national legal aspects, policy and institutional of PSM implementation, 2) PSMA inspection of vessels, and 3) lessons learned on PSM implementation in Thailand. Moreover, SEAFDEC plan to organize “The training course on vessels inspection for PSM activities” next year. Presently, SEAFDEC is in process of discussion and negotiation with NOAA and USAID-RDMA in collaboration to organize this training course.

Moreover, in “The Part 6 Working Group Established by the Parties to the Agreement on PSMA” from 5-6 July 2018 in Rome, Italy and also during COFI meeting in 2018 in Rome, SEAFDEC discuss with FAO and other international agencies on PSM activities in the region with conducted by SEAFDEC through finding cooperation with other international agencies to support implementation of PSM in the region

2) Establishment of networks for cooperation and exchange of information on PSM implementation

FAO designed and developed the networks database for cooperation and exchange of information on PSM namely “Port-Lex .”The Database on Port State Measures (Port-Lex) provides access to PSM adopted by states to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing. Information can be accessed through a simple word search or advanced search using country names or measure components .For more information, please visit <http://www.fao.org/fishery/psm/search/en>

3) Analysis of gaps in the respective the legal frameworks of the countries and a needs assessment

FAO undertook a PSMA and related international instruments gap analysis on legal frameworks under FAO global program in Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia, and Cambodia.

In this response, to avoid duplication of activities under support on implementation of PSM, SEAFDEC will not conduct activities that conducted by FAO and other international agencies. However, SEAFDEC will facilitate AMS to coordinate with other international agencies in their responsible activities as AMS requested. Moreover, SEAFDEC will continue to strengthen capacity building activities to support implementation of PSM in coordination with other international agencies.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

- To take note on the progress of work undertaken by SEAFDEC
- To provide advice on required support from SEAFDEC (in collaboration with other organizations) to strengthen implementation of PSM in the ASEAN

PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY (RPOA-CAPACITY)

Under the SEAFDEC-Sweden collaborative project, the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) was developed and subsequently endorsed by ASEAN. SEAFDEC has encouraged and provided its supports to the Member Countries (MCs) in the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity through bilateral dialogues and sub-regional and regional technical consultations. In May 2018, SEAFDEC requested the MCs for providing information on the implementation progress of the RPOA-Capacity by using a questionnaire survey. This paper presents the summary results from feedbacks of the MCs.

The questionnaires contain two (2) major topics, namely (i) national activities in support of the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity and (ii) lessons learnt by the MCs in managing fishing capacity. Based on the feedback from the MCs, the common issues are summarized as follows:

I. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RPOA-CAPACITY

A number of relevant activities/programs under the framework of the RPOA-Capacity has been carried out by some MCs. The objectives of such activities are to:

1. Develop/review the National Plan of Action for the management of fishing capacity (NPOA-Capacity), fisheries subsidies and incentives with reference to the RPOA-Capacity
2. Reform/review the national legislation and legal framework, and the development of fisheries improvement program to strengthen the effective management of fishing capacity
3. Strengthen the interagency coordination for sharing information
4. Strengthen the interagency coordination for the effective implementation of MCS (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) program
5. Implement public awareness programs on sustainable fisheries through the management of fishing capacity using Information, Education and Communication Programs (IEC)
6. Support activities implementing under the framework of RPOA-Capacity, including
 - Establishment/development of:
 - Scientific Working Group/Committee (policy and technical)
 - National Plan of Control and Inspection (NPCI)
 - National database system for the management of fishing capacity (fishing vessels and fishing gears)
 - SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for data collection
 - National Monitoring Program (*e.g.* using fishermen's eyes and ears)
 - Mechanism for the continuous participation of stakeholders in monitoring and reporting encroachment into reserved and protected areas
 - Traceability system through the development of Catch Certification System
 - Continuation of data collection on fishing capacity (*e.g.* no. of fishing vessels, renewal of fishing license, fisheries resources survey, *etc.*) to update information
 - Continuation of communication with relevant organizations as required and relevant, as well as active cooperation with relevant regional organizations/efforts in assessing the status of shared migratory stocks with an aim to be able to balance fishing effort with availability of resources
 - Continuation to enhance/build capacity to increase technical expertise at national level:
 - To assess fishing capacity
 - To enforce laws and regulations (*e.g.* port State inspectors)
 - For fishery managers and researchers to enhance their skills, capabilities and competencies
 - For fishers to improve skills in support of the development of programs including Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)
 - Reduction of fishing capacity based on the results from the scientific findings to balance fishing effort with available resources
 - Regularly engage:



- Local fishers on their fishing operations regarding public awareness program
- Relevant stakeholders to participate in resources management activities
- Relevant traders/stakeholders:
 - In awareness building program on sustainable fisheries
 - To ensure compliance to the RFMOs (Regional Fisheries Management Organizations) as applicable to the ASEAN region and sub-regions
- Politicians to be provided with frequent briefing sessions, and to increase awareness

II. LESSONS LEARNT BY THE MCs IN MANAGING FISHING CAPACITY

With the reference to the activities implemented under the framework of the RPOA-Capacity, the lessons learnt from the MCs are as follow:

1. Fisheries stock assessment and fisheries management plan will increase a transparency of the policy implementation by the participation of relevant stakeholders
2. Better understanding on the current status of fishing capacity supports policy recommendations that can be developed
3. Precautionary approach can be used as a basis for policy decision
4. Capacity building is a major requirement to ensure a continuity of the assessment activities
5. Political will is needed to ensure available resources to conduct regular monitoring, information sharing and evaluation on the status of fisheries resources
6. Improvement of fishing gear technology will increase resource sustainability in ways that are efficient, more economical while at the same time be environment-friendly
7. Database or records of fishing activities together with the sharing of information can be used for improved management of fisheries resources
8. Communications and/or information materials are effective tools to educate or build awareness among stakeholders

Based on the experiences and lessons learnt from MCs on implementation of RPOA-Capacity, as well as to provide a platform for continued support and coordination from SEAFDEC (and others) in facilitating dialogue and information sharing through existing bilateral, sub-regional and regional arrangements aiming at strengthening cooperation for effectively management of fishing capacity in the region, SEAFDEC would like to request the Meeting to support the establishment of a permanent technical/policy coordination unit on management of fishing capacity (RPOA-Capacity Secretariat). The coordination unit/secretariat would facilitate reporting and information sharing on the implementation at sub-regional level, such as ongoing initiative on MCS network in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea as well as in other sub-regions such as the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea and Arafura-Timor Sea. Details and practical aspects for such an arrangement shall be further discussed at appropriate events in the near future.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

The 21st FCG/ASSP is requested to take note on the progress of implementation the RPOA-Capacity in AMSs. The Meeting is also invited to provide advice and comments for further effective implementation of the RPOA-Capacity through the establishment of a regional technical/policy coordination unit (RPOA-Capacity Secretariat) in support of reporting and information sharing on the implementation at sub-regional and bilateral levels on cooperation in managing fishing capacity.

REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF NERITIC TUNAS IN THE ASEAN REGION

I. BACKGROUND

The regional cooperation to promote the sustainable utilization of neritic tuna was initially made since 2013. The followings are the progress of works, major activities and their achievements on utilization of neritic tuna fisheries resources in Southeast Asia:

Events	Outputs/Achievements
45 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, 2013	Endorsement of the proposal of SEAFDEC Secretariat to conduct consultations for development of Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries (RPOA – Neritic Tuna)
Consultative Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Neritic, 2013	RPOA – Neritic Tuna (zero draft)
Expert Group Meeting on the Development of Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas, 2014	RPOA – Neritic Tuna (draft)
17 th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP, 2014	Endorsement of the RPOA – Neritic Tuna
1 st Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Stock Assessment of Neritic Tuna in the ASEAN Region, 2014	Establishment of the SWG on Stock Assessment of Neritic Tuna in the ASEAN Region, and draft of the TOR for SWG Neritic Tuna Agreement for the conduct of a regional studies for sustainable neritic tuna fisheries resources, covering seven species of the neritic tunas: 1. Longtail tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) 2. Eastern little tuna/Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) 3. Frigate tuna (<i>Auzis thazard</i>) 4. Bullet tuna (<i>Auxis rochei</i>) 5. Bonito (<i>Sarda orientalis</i>) 6. Indo-Pacific king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus guttatus</i>) 7. Narrow barred Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus commerson</i>)
47 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, 2015	Endorsement of: - RPOA – Neritic Tuna - TOR of SWG on Stock Assessment of Neritic Tuna in the ASEAN Region
2 nd Meeting of the SWG – Neritic Tuna, 2015	The SWG – Neritic Tuna concluded to use “Stock Production Model Incorporating Covariates (ASPIC) for the regional studies on stock assessment of the neritic tuna fisheries resources
3 rd Meeting of the SWG – Neritic Tuna, 2016	Results of the regional studies on stock assessment of longtail tuna and kawakawa. A set of policy recommendations and proposed management measures for consideration by the countries, and capacity building requirements for the ASEAN Member States.
4 th Meeting of the SWG – Neritic Tuna, 2017	The SWG – Neritic Tuna suggested to conduct a technical workshop to data quality controls for stock assessments.

II. HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2017 AND 2018

In the process for promoting sustainable utilization of the neritic tunas in the ASEAN region, the results of stock assessment for longtail tuna and kawakawa was reported to the 25th Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) in 2017. The 25ASWGF_i noted on the suggestion that current catch levels of the longtail tuna and Kawakawa in the Indian Ocean of Southeast Asia should be reduced by 13% and 7% respectively, while the catch level of both species in Pacific Ocean of Southeast Asia can be



increased by 123% and 9%. The 25ASWGF also supported to the conduct of stock assessment as provided by the work of the SWG – Neritic Tuna. However, it was suggested that such regional initiatives should cooperate with activities of the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in the region.

In 2018, SEAFDEC organized a “Practical Workshop on Stock Assessment of Indo-Pacific King Mackerel and Narrow-barred Spanish Mackerel in the Southeast Asian Waters” with the aim to transfer knowledge to the scientists of the AMSs based on the experiences from the conduct of the regional study on stock assessment for the longtail tuna and Kawakawa. The Workshop also aimed at standardizing stock assessment analysis for neritic tuna in Southeast Asia by using software on CPUE standardization, ASPIC, Kobe plot, and Risk assessments. It was recommended that advance version of CPUE standardization software to solve 0 (zero) catch problems.

III. FOLLOW-UP RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 50TH MEETING OF SEAFDEC COUNCIL (2018)

Referring to the report of the 50th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, para 59, SEAFDEC was suggested to expansion the scientific work under SWG – Neritic Tuna to conduct regional studies on other shared stocks of neritic tunas. In this connection, SEAFDEC in consultation with the SWG – Neritic Tunas Members recommended to conduct the stock assessment of Indo-Pacific king mackerel and narrow-barred Spanish mackerel. Then it was implemented, and preliminary results was obtained in the Practical Workshop held in July 2018 by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with SEAFDEC Marine Fisheries Research and Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) Training Department (TD). It is planned that final results of this study will be reported in the 5th SWG in January 9-11, 2019 to be held in SEAFDEC HQs in Bangkok.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

The 21st FCG/ASSP Meeting is requested to take note on the progress of work on implementation and promotion of RPOA – Neritic Tuna.

**PROGRESS ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL ANGUILLID
EEL RESOURCES AND PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tropical anguillid eels are drawing more attention to compensate the shortage of supply of eel seeds for aquaculture (eel farming) in recent years. However, there are no historical record on the status of tropical anguillid eel resources, catch statistics especially on juveniles for seeds, and eel farming production in Southeast Asia. SEAFDEC organized an international regional workshop on “Enhancement of sustainability of catadromous eel resources in Southeast Asia” on 27-29 April 2016, to clarify technical issues and confirmed the necessity for sustainable utilization of eel resources. The results of the workshop indicated that there were not enough statistical records among AMS related to the status of exploited tropical anguillid eel resources (fisheries) and eel aquaculture production, including effective measures to sustainably manage the eel resources. It is essential that tropical anguillid eel resources should be properly conserved and managed to prevent its overexploitation and listing in the CITES appendices.

I. ACHIEVEMENTS/PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES/PROGRAM BY SEAFDEC

SEAFDEC has conducted many meetings and consultations with the aims to enhance the Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia and to support foundational capacity building, portfolio learning, and targeted research needs for Resources Management Framework on sustainable utilization of anguillid eel resources in AMS.

There are many activities have been done as follows:

Activity	Targets/Achievements	Year/Period
the 36 th Meeting of the Program Committee	Requested SEAFDEC to spearhead the conduct of a study on eel resources - through the collaboration with Member Countries	November 2013
the 1 st Regional Technical Meeting on Information Gathering of Eel Resources and Aquaculture Production in Southeast Asia	To compile information related to eel resources from the wild and status of aquaculture in the Southeast Asian Countries and developed the way forward and future meeting of eel experts of the Southeast Asian Region	27 January 2014
the 2 nd Regional Consultation on Development of Regional Policy Recommendation on Sustainable Management of Eel Resources and Aquaculture Production in Southeast Asia	the Regional Policy Recommendations and Strategic Actions for the Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.) and Sustainable Development of Catadromous Eel Aquaculture in Southeast Asia	31 August to 1 September 2014
the 17 th Meeting of FCG/ASSP	Proposed to raise the policy recommendation for consideration and endorsement under the ASSP mechanism	December 2014
the 47 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	Adopted the policy recommendation for consideration and endorsement under the ASSP mechanism	April 2015
the 23 rd ASEAN Sectorial Working Group on Fisheries	Endorsement the policy recommendation for consideration under the ASSP mechanism	June 2015
the 1 st Workshop on Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in South East Asia	To clarify technical issues and confirmed the necessity for sustainable utilization of eel resources.	27-29 April 2016



The 49 th Meeting Of SEAFDEC Council	The Council Members are requested to consider and support the proposed JAIF project by SEAFDEC on “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia”.	3-7 April 2017
Preparatory meeting for new JAIF project on anguillid eels, “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia”	Request DoF (5 countries) to seek the information on eel fishery before starting the baseline survey	9 June 2017
Project Planning Meeting for the JAIF Project on Anguillid Eels entitled “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia”	Requested to AMS for considering and supporting the proposed JAIF project by SEAFDEC	4 August 2017
Meeting on Progressive Results of Implementation Activities on Anguillid Eels	Presented the progressive result of the JAIF project and confirmed by each countries	11 December 2017
The First Meeting of the Assessment Committee on the Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia	Presented the progressive result of the JAIF project and assessed by Assessment Committee	19 December 2017
the 20 th Meeting of FCG/ASSP	Proposed to support SEAFDEC activities on anguillid eel activities and endorsement under ASSP mechanism	November December 2017
”The First Regional Meeting for the JAIF project on “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia”	Updating and discussion on the progress of works including status and trend of anguillid eel fisheries and aquaculture based on the baseline and regular surveys in Southeast Asia for the preparation of information document to discuss in the eel Working Group on The Cites International Technical Workshop On <i>Anguilla</i> spp., which was held in London 18-20 April 2018	25 January 2018
The 50 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	The Council Members are requested to consider and support the proposed JAIF project by SEAFDEC on “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia”.	27-30 March 2018

JAIF project “The International Technical Workshop on Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia”	Updating and discussion on the progress of works for submitting the information document on the tropical Anguillid eels to the CITES Animal Committee which was held in Geneva on 16-21 July 2018.	7-8 June 2018
JAIF project the 2 nd Regional Meeting on “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia”	Draft “Policy Guidelines Conservation and Management of Eels in Southeast Asia” for eel resources management (Appendix 1)	18-19 October 2018

The achievements from SEAFDEC activities from past till present are able to conclude :

- Completed appointing the contact person and Person in Charge on specific issues on eel, gathering information on eel fishery and present status on resources management in 5 Countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Viet Nam).
- Through the baseline (JAIF) and regular surveys (JTF) gathered various kind of important and latest information on anguillid eel fisheries in this region.
- There are 4 countries that have juvenile anguillid eel fishery for seeds for aquaculture, Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam and Myanmar, not include Cambodia.
- Through the survey also, gathering the Information regarding the commodity chains and demand-supply relationships of eel seeds in certain countries.
- Establishment the data collecting system for developing the catch statistics (with indices of effort) in 4 countries (Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam and Myanmar) for monitoring the trend and fluctuation of eel seed catch in this region.
- The information document, Status and Resources Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia, which were prepared at the International Technical Workshop on June 7–8, 2018 was submitted to the Thirtieth meeting of the CITES Animals Committee held in Geneva, Switzerland on 16-21 July 2018.
- Policy guidelines for regional conservation and management of tropical anguillid eel resources in Southeast Asia was adopted at the 2nd Regional Meeting on Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia, 18-19 Oct. 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

II. RECOMENDATIONS FROM THE 50TH MEETING OF COUNCIL

Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture

- Para 62. The Council took note of the report made by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat on the Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture (Annex 15). The Council also noted the updated plan for implementation by SEAFDEC in 2018, particularly the conduct of the Second Regional Meeting in June 2018 to come up with a concept paper for the next Animal Committee Meeting of CITES to be organized in July 2018. In addition, the Council was informed that SEAFDEC will conduct a genetic study to assess population connectivity of *Anguilla bicolor* in the AMSs.
- Para 62. In addition, the Council Director for Myanmar also cited that Myanmar supports the revised work plan of SEAFDEC for 2017-2019 on the management schemes for anguillid eels. For resources management and conservation, as well as for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture of the tropical anguillid eel resources, he requested SEAFDEC to consider extending technical assistance to Myanmar in improving the survival rate of eel juveniles in aquaculture, and expressed the willingness of Myanmar to cooperate with SEAFDEC in the planned genetic study of eels.
- Para 68. The Council Director for the Philippines reiterated tshe original objectives of the projects of SEAFDEC on anguillid eels to come up with scientific results that could be reflected during the next CITES CoP. In this regard, the projects of SEAFDEC should respond to such objectives by using the scientific data gathered by SEAFDEC for the implementation of SEAFDEC projects on conservation and management of anguillid eels. Therefore such data should be made available prior to the next CITES CoP in 2019, and the project output would form the basis for defending the inclusion of this



species from being listed in the Appendices of CITES. For the information of the AMSs, the Council reiterated that the deadline for submission of proposals for listing of species to the CITES Appendices is 24 December 2018.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

- 1) The Meeting is requested to support SEAFDEC activities on anguillid eel surveys and also assist not only the establishment of the catch statistics on anguillid eels including eel seeds for aquaculture, but also tropical eel DNA analysis on genetic diversity and population structure at each SEAFDEC Member Countries.
- 2) The Meeting is also invited to provide future direction and support SEAFDEC in conducting the status of eel resources within the Southeast Asian Region.
- 3) The Meeting is also requested to endorse the draft “Policy Guidelines Conservation and Management of Eels in Southeast Asia.”

POLICY GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL ANGUILLID EEL RESOURCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

(Adopted at the 2nd Regional Meeting on Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia, 18-19 Oct. 2018, Bangkok, Thailand)

I. BACKGROUND

Eel resources are mainly utilized for direct human consumption not only in Europe but also in East and Southeast Asia. European eels have become regulated species by CITES for international trade since 2009 due to resource decline and potential extinction. Recently, large consumption of the Japonica eel species in East Asia has led to the rapidly decreasing amount of glass eels. On the other hand, the demand for tropical anguillid eels in Southeast Asia which has been increasing significantly over the years, not only for domestic consumption but also for export to China, Korea, Taiwan, and Japan among others, could lead to the decline of the resource.

The development of this document took into consideration the Policy Recommendations on Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in December 2014, and the Twenty-third Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) in June 2015. Moreover, attention was also paid on the recommendation of the CITES Animal Committee Meeting in 2018 on the need to strengthen the management of tropical anguillid eels to ensure their sustainable utilization.

In this connection, the need to strengthen the management for eel species worldwide has been recognized making it also necessary for the Southeast Asian region to take appropriate management measures for eel resources and their sustainable utilization. Considering that resources management measures for tropical anguillid eels have not yet been in place in the ASEAN Member States where the fisheries of tropical anguillid eel exist, and in order to develop and implement regional management measures for tropical anguillid eels, the necessary information on the tropical anguillid eel species, such as catch data, distribution areas, aquaculture production, and export data among others, should be compiled.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY GUIDELINES

This Policy Guidelines is intended to propose a way of formulating and implementing effective regional management measures, as well as recommend the actions that should be taken for the sustainable utilization of tropical anguillid eels in the Southeast Asian region.

III. PROBLEM ANALYSIS FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL ANGUILLID EELS

In order to establish effective and sound conservation and management of tropical anguillid eel resources in the ASEAN region, the ASEAN Member States and SEAFDEC should address several issues that were identified during the Regional Meeting on Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia organized in October 2018, as shown below.

1) Inadequate statistical data on eel resource utilization such as catch data, as well as a systematic data collection scheme

Harmonized data on catch, species, life stages, fishing gear, and fishing effort (*e.g.* duration of fishing operation, number of fishing gears, number of fishers) are necessary for understanding the current status of glass and elver/yellow eel fisheries, and for carrying out stock assessment. Moreover, biological data such as length, weight, age of elver/yellow eels, are also important for stock assessment. However, more often than not, such biological and fisheries data on tropical anguillid eels are inadequate. Consolidators and/or fishers play an important role in compiling the relevant eel fishery data. The eels caught by local fishers are often collected by eel consolidators who in turn sell the eel catch to consumers or traders, as the case may

be. Therefore, an effective registration and licensing system for eel consolidators is necessary in order that the consolidators will be obliged to compile the abovementioned data.

2) Limited information on eel aquaculture such as number of eel aquaculture farmers, eel culture production, and quantity of glass eels purchased by farmers

Data on aquaculture, such as the number of eel aquaculture farmers, eel culture production, and quantity of glass eels or elver purchased and used as inputs by farmers, are necessary to understand the current status of aquaculture and validate catch and international trade data. However, such information is insufficient for the tropical anguillid eels. It is therefore necessary that a data collection system for eel aquaculture activities should be established.

3) Geographic range of information on tropical anguillid eel species is insufficient

Information on natural habitat, spawning ground, and migration routes are fundamental for conservation and management of the eel stocks. However, spatial and temporal patterns of distribution of each tropical anguillid eel species are not well understood. Therefore, the geographic range of the tropical anguillid eel species in the region should be examined based on the description of fishing areas, reproductive biology, and migration patterns.

4) Limited stock assessment studies on tropical anguillid eels

The status and trends of eel stocks are essential for stock management. However, such information is very limited for the tropical anguillid eels. Therefore, stock assessment, *e.g.* using CPUE analysis as an abundance index, should be conducted for tropical anguillid eels.

5) Limited effective conservation and management measures for tropical anguillid eels

Development of conservation and management measures for tropical anguillid eels should also be established for each country in the future, taking into consideration the results of the abovementioned stock assessment studies.

6) Mixed statistics on international trade of tropical anguillid eels

Considering that the existing trade data on anguillid eel species under the UN Comtrade Database include other eel species like swamp eel and snake eel, among others, there is a need to disaggregate such data in order to improve and confirm the appropriate trade data reporting system for the individual eel species.

IV. RECOMMENDED POLICY GUIDELINES FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ANGUILLID EELS

The recommended actions to be taken by the ASEAN Member States for sustainable regional conservation and management of tropical anguillid eels include the following:

Issues	Recommended Actions
<p>1) Inadequate statistical data on eel resource utilization such as catch data, as well as a systematic data collection scheme</p>	<p>Establish catch data collection system for tropical anguillid eels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of appropriate registration and reporting system for eel consolidators and fishers • Requiring eel consolidators and fishers to report their catch data and related information (<i>e.g.</i> fishing effort data, fishing area) to respective countries' competent authorities • Development of standard fisheries data collection system for tropical anguillid eels
<p>2) Limited information on eel aquaculture such as number of eel aquaculture farmers, eel culture production and quantity of glass eel/elver/yellow eels purchased by farmers</p>	<p>Establish data collection system for eel aquaculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of appropriate registration scheme including licensing and reporting system for eel farmers • Requiring eel farmers to report their production, buyers, target destination of the products, amount of glass/elver/yellow eels purchased, and other relevant information to

Issues	Recommended Actions
	respective countries' competent authorities
3) Geographic range information on tropical anguillid eel species is limited	Determine the geographic range of tropical anguillid eel species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation of information on geographic range for each tropical anguillid eel species • Conduct of studies to correctly identify the eel species, describe the stock structure, and examine the migratory routes and spawning areas
4) Limited stock assessment studies on tropical anguillid eels	Conduct stock assessment study on tropical anguillid eel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of appropriate level of exploitation and indicators for managing eel stocks
5) Limited effective conservation and management measures for tropical anguillid eels	Introduce and implement conservation and management measures for tropical anguillid eels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and promotion of conservation and management measures (<i>e.g.</i> regulations for eel collection, management of nursery areas, closed fishing season and/or areas for eel fisheries, setting of upper limit on glass eel inputs for farms, trade regulations, etc.) taking into account results of stock assessment studies
6) Mixed statistics on international trade of tropical anguillid eels	Improve the international trade statistical data reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of trade data collection, coding and reporting to segregate statistics on tropical anguillid eels from those of the other eel species

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AQUATIC EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY DISEASE OUTBREAKS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The most serious problems faced by the aquaculture sector are diseases spread and introduced through movements of hatchery produced stocks, new species for aquaculture, and development and enhancement of the ornamental fish trade. During the 2012 and 2013 meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee, member country representatives conveyed concern regarding the outbreaks of EMS/AHPND and other transboundary diseases in the region and recognized the need for concerted regional effort to address this. In response, the SEAFDEC Council, during its meeting in April 2014, suggested that aquatic animal health management, particularly the control and prevention of transboundary aquatic animal diseases, be included in the formulation of future programs of SEAFDEC and its partners in the region. Acknowledging the pressing need for sustained regional efforts to address disease problems in farmed aquatic animals, particularly on shrimps, SEAFDEC/ AQD and the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Philippines, with financial support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, convened the Regional Technical Consultation on EMS/APHND and other Transboundary Diseases for Improved Aquatic Animal Health in Southeast Asia from 22 to 24 February 2016 in Makati City, Philippines. The Consultation assessed the status of EMS/AHPND and other emerging diseases in farmed shrimps in ASEAN Member States; identified gaps, priority areas for research and development and potential collaborative arrangements; and formulated regional policy recommendations that centered on emergency preparedness and response systems (early warning, detection and response) for an effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks in the region.

An **ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia** was proposed by SEAFDEC/AQD and the Government of Thailand (AAHRDD, Department of Fisheries) to address the recommendations of the RTC on AHPND and other transboundary diseases. The Consultation will tackle the pressing concern of the ASEAN Member States on how to systematically approach devastating outbreaks of transboundary diseases of aquatic animals in the region following a well-defined Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems (EPRS). For the meeting arrangements, SEAFDEC/AQD and AAHRDD, DOF will coordinate with the ASEAN Network of Aquatic Animal Health Centres (ANAAHC), the existing ASEAN body on aquatic animal health which is mainly responsible for coordination of aquatic animal health projects and activities in the region.

Progress to date:

Considering the Government of Japan's strong commitment in supporting the initiatives related to enhancing food security and safety within ASEAN Member States, this consultation on aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems for effective management of transboundary disease outbreaks in Southeast Asia is approved for support by the Government of Japan through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

The ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia (ASEAN RTC on AEPRS) was held last 20-22 August 2018 in Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao in Bangkok, Thailand.

A total of 71 participants including country representatives from AMCs, resource persons, JAIF representatives, private sectors of selected countries, Thailand aquaculture farmers, and representatives from DOF-Thailand, SEAFDEC Secretariat and Aquaculture Department attended.

The ASEAN RTC on AEPRS comprised of three technical sessions: (1) Country representatives presented current status of aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems concomitant to national laws, legislations, SOP's and aquatic animal health strategies, among others; (2) Resource persons presented the

importance of aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems for effective management of transboundary disease outbreaks based on primary accounts documented at the global or regional level; and (3) Workshop to identify gaps, policy recommendations, and priority areas for R&D collaboration. Through the collaboration of all sectors and institutions present during the consultation, the expected outputs had been met.

The publication of the proceedings for this Consultation is currently on-going. SEAFDEC/AQD, together with the partner organization, are also planning for a follow-up seminar-workshop. Planning is still ongoing.

I. BACKGROUND/RATIONALE

Aquaculture production in Southeast Asia has grown rapidly over the last two decades contributing approximately 10% of the annual world aquaculture production. However, unsustainable aquaculture practices including the irresponsible transfer of aquatic species, particularly farmed stocks that could potentially be carrying pathogens, has contributed to the emergence of a number of infectious diseases thereby posing serious threats to the sustainability of aquaculture in the region. One of the infectious diseases that recently impacted the shrimp industry in the region is the acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) or popularly known as early mortality syndrome (EMS). AHPND outbreaks in cultured penaeids in Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Philippines significantly led to low production and concomitant economic losses. The pressing situation on AHPND in cultured shrimp in the region at that time spurred the organization of a consultative meeting, *i.e. ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on EMS/AHPND and Other Transboundary Diseases for Improved Aquatic Animal Health Management in Southeast Asia*, funded by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The RTC assessed the current status of EMS/AHPND and other emerging diseases in farmed shrimps in ASEAN Member States and identified gaps and priority areas for R&D collaboration. Another important output of the consultation is the formulation of *Regional Policy Recommendations*, which among others, focused on *Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems (EPRS)* for managing aquatic animal disease outbreaks in the region. EPRS are comprised of contingency planning arrangements that can minimize the impacts of serious aquatic animal disease outbreaks through containment (prevention of further spread) or eradication of disease outbreak whether at the regional, national, or farm level. Thus, establishing a harmonized aquatic EPRS among ASEAN Member States should be a top priority and would certainly warrant a solid platform for an effective and prompt decision-making with clearly defined responsibilities and authority.

The approved **ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia** discussed the status of and/or need for aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems for effective management of transboundary disease outbreaks in Southeast Asia. Issues were addressed through country reports, technical presentations and a workshop. Assessment of the current status of aquatic EPRS is currently being practiced by the different countries in the Southeast Asian region from the country reports. The workshop reviewed the existing laws, legislations and standard operating procedures (SOPs), among others, pertinent to aquatic EPRS of each member country, identified gaps, policy recommendations and priority areas for R&D collaboration and, enhance the cooperation among Member Countries, regional/international organizations and other relevant stakeholders on initiatives that support aquatic EPRS for effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks.

The proceedings of the Consultation will be published. For a more efficient information dissemination of the outputs of the Consultation, e-copies of the proceedings as well as reports/updates on developments/advances in aquatic emergency preparedness and response system elements, *i.e.* early warning, early detection, and early response, will also be uploaded at the SEAFDEC/AQD website. Presentation of the participants and workshop outputs were already uploaded at the AQD website.

II. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the approved **ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia** is to bring together representatives of ASEAN Member States as well as technical experts to assess the status of emergency preparedness and response systems (EPRS) related to

outbreaks of transboundary diseases currently being practiced in the region in order to identify gaps and other initiatives for regional cooperation. Specifically, the objectives are to:

- (i) Assess the existing laws, legislations, standard operating procedures (SOPs), national aquatic animal health management strategies and other initiatives pertinent to aquatic EPRS being practiced by each ASEAN Member State;
- (ii) Assess the need for a regional aquatic EPRS in the ASEAN;
- (iii) Identify gaps, priority areas for R&D collaboration to address these gaps and formulate policy recommendations; and
- (iv) Enhance cooperation among Member States, regional/international organizations and other relevant stakeholders on initiatives that support aquatic EPRS for effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The Consultation comprised of 3 sessions: country reports, technical presentations and a workshop. Session 1 will comprise country presentations on the current status of aquatic EPRS including existing laws, legislations, SOPs, national aquatic animal health management strategies in the ASEAN Member States. This session addressed Objective 1 of the Consultation.

Session 2 comprised presentations by invited experts on the status of aquatic EPRS for effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks in the ASEAN including emerging diseases, as well as other regional initiatives on EPRS. This session addressed Objective 2 of the Consultation.

Session 3 addressed Objectives 3 and 4 of the Consultation. Session 3 comprised a workshop that identified the gaps and priority areas for R&D collaboration as well as formulated recommendations with policy implications. Through identification of joint R&D undertakings, participants have closer cooperation arrangements.

IV. OUTPUTS

Through the Consultation, there was an improved knowledge, awareness and understanding on the current status of aquatic EPRS in Southeast Asia, including developments/advances in early warning, early detection and early response system for effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks in the region.

Important outputs from the technical session and the workshop included a list of research gaps and priority areas for R&D collaboration as well as policy recommendations that promoted EPRS for effective prevention and management of transboundary disease outbreaks in the region.

Printed and e-copies of the proceedings of the RTC, as well as reports and updates on the current status of aquatic emergency preparedness and response systems being practiced by ASEAN Member States, including the developments/advances in early warning, early detection and early response system will be uploaded / disseminated through the SEAFDEC website.

It is envisioned that policy recommendations and priority areas for R&D collaboration are disseminated and translated into action plans by the Member States; cooperation arrangements/agreements between and among institutions on identified initiatives (particularly in addressing emergency preparedness and response systems for effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks) will be established; there will be stronger cooperation among Member Countries, regional/international organizations and other relevant stakeholders on initiatives that support emergency preparedness and response systems for effective management of aquatic animal disease outbreaks.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

The Meeting is requested to note the progress of the ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia.

**REGIONAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF
ALTERNATIVE DIETARY INGREDIENTS IN AQUACULTURE FEED FORMULATIONS:
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL DATABASE OF ALTERNATIVE FEED
INGREDIENTS IN AQUACULTURE**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aquaculture has significantly contributed to food security and reduction of poverty in the region. However, this industry is challenged with the unsustainable dependence on fish meal and fish oil for nutrient protein and lipid, respectively. Thus, there is a need to expand research on fish meal substitutes or alternative ingredients.

During the 2001 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the Third Millennium: “Fish for the People” and the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 in 2011, the Plan of Action towards ‘improvement of the efficient use of aquatic feeds by strictly regulating the quality of manufactured feeds and feed ingredients, providing guidelines on farm level feed conversion ratios and levels of aquaculture effluents, and supporting research into developing suitable alternative protein sources to reduce dependence on fish meal and other fish-based products’ was adopted. The need to fast-track the search for alternative protein sources in dietary formulations as well as facilitate the sharing of information in this area of research was also highlighted. The ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) likewise identified “the development of better feeds for sustainable aquaculture as one of the priority areas to be promoted in the ASEAN region and thus included this aspect in the AFCF Workplan (2011-2015) with Myanmar as the Lead Country.

Extensive research and development have been done and continue to be undertaken on nutritional requirements, alternative feed ingredients and their digestibility, fish meal and fish protein substitution in aquafeed and development of suitable feed formulations for a wide range of farmed species at various growth stages. However, information and valuable findings have not been widely disseminated. To facilitate exchange and sharing of information the Regional Technical Consultation on the Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredients or Fish Meal Substitutes in Aquaculture Feed Formulation was organized by SEAFDEC/AQD in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar in 2014. Among the recommendations from the Consultation is the compilation of available information on alternative ingredients.

The database on alternative feed ingredients in aquaculture is envisioned to make available information on ingredients that are currently used or have been tested and shown to have the potential for use in aquaculture in the region readily accessible from a central site for easy reference of the different stakeholders.

The database is a collaborative effort between SEAFDEC/AQD and SEAFDEC Member Countries through their respective focal persons (representatives) with funding support from the Government of Japan Trust Fund (GOJ-TF).

Progress to date:

As the lead Department for the creation of an Alternative Feed Ingredient Database in Southeast Asian Region, a technical working group composed of senior staff from the Nutrition and Feed Development Section, Research Division of AQD has been created. It has identified several information and parameters relevant in the content design of the database. The list includes; name of the ingredient (local and scientific), proximate composition, species and stage of fish evaluated, per cent inclusion level in the feed formulation, processing methods of ingredient, effect of the ingredient in fish performance parameters and the characteristic of the ingredient detrimental to fish health.

During the first quarter of the year, preliminary information in the database were derived from intensive scientific literature search. At that time, the database contains nearly 100 types of ingredients and tested to

several fish species. To host the database, a preliminary website (<http://feed.seafdec.org.ph>) has been created.

Ten focal persons have been identified by National Coordinators / Council Directors / Alternate Council Directors to acquire information on the use of alternative ingredients in Member Countries that have not been published or were published in the local language.

Due to the usefulness of the database to the aquaculture stakeholders in the region, The SEAFDEC Council Members showed their support for the initiative during the Fiftieth SEAFDEC Council Meeting last 26-30 April 2018 at Siem Reap, Cambodia.

A regional seminar-workshop on Alternative Feed Ingredient Database was held last 17 May 2018 in Bangkok Hotel Lotus in Bangkok, Thailand attended by five (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam) out of the 10 focal persons. Observers from Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), SEAFDEC/TD, and SEAFDEC/SEC were also present.

The one-day seminar-workshop has two agendas including: (1) country reports wherein focal persons presents the status, issues, and gaps on the use of alternative feed ingredients for aquaculture; and (2) presentation and demonstration of the preliminary Regional Database on Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture.

Focal persons had hands-on experience of the database by giving them access. SEAFDEC/AQD gave a run-through of functions including introduction of the parts (*e.g.* dashboard, log-in page), content (*e.g.* ingredient types, species group), and user accounts or page roles (*e.g.* administrator, encoder). The navigation of the database as administrator starting from logging into the user account, to familiarization of the dashboard, adding feed ingredient entry and categorizing the feed ingredient into types were also explained.

Concerns on privacy, database maintenance, accessibilities and limitations of the database were also tackled and solved during discussions. Suggestions and information that were received during the meeting from focal persons were noted and applied on the database.

In 13 July 2018, the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture was officially launched by its proponents under the web address <http://afid.seafdec.org.ph/>.

I. BACKGROUND/RATIONALE

Aquaculture production in Southeast Asia has markedly increased in recent years. Globally, roughly half of the fish supply comes from aquaculture. However, the aquaculture industry is challenged by issues related to feeds, being the largest single cost item in production accounting for about 50–60% of the total cost, including high feed conversion ratio (FCR), continued reliance on fish meal and fishery products and the pressing need for fish meal substitutes.

During the 2001 ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the Third Millennium: “Fish for the People”, the Plan of Action towards ‘improvement of the efficient use of aquatic feeds by strictly regulating the quality of manufactured feeds and feed ingredients, providing guidelines on farm level feed conversion ratios and levels of aquaculture effluents, and supporting research into developing suitable alternative protein sources to reduce dependence on fish meal and other fish-based products’ was adopted. As a follow-up, the Resolution and Plan of Action enjoining ASEAN Member States ‘to improve the efficient use of aquatic feeds by strictly regulating the quality of manufactured feeds and feed ingredients and support continued research for developing suitable alternative protein sources that will reduce the dependency on fish meal and other fish-based products’ was adopted by ASEAN Ministers and Senior Officials during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020 in 2011. The need to fast-track the search for alternative protein sources in dietary formulations as well as facilitate the sharing of information in this area of research was also highlighted. On the other hand, the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) identified “the development of better feeds for sustainable aquaculture as one of the priority areas to be promoted in the ASEAN region and thus included this aspect in the AFCF Workplan (2011-2015) with Myanmar as the Lead Country.

Extensive research and development have been done and continue to be undertaken on nutritional requirements, alternative feed ingredients and their digestibility, fish meal and fish protein substitution in aquafeed and development of suitable feed formulations for a wide range of farmed species at various growth stages. However, information and valuable findings have not been widely disseminated. To address this issue and to facilitate exchange and sharing of information the Regional Technical Consultation on the Development and Use of Alternative Dietary Ingredients or Fish Meal Substitutes in Aquaculture Feed Formulation was organized by SEAFDEC/AQD in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar in 2014.

The recommendations from the Consultation include: compilation of available information on alternative plant products, develop locally-available alternative ingredients, each country to conduct national assessment of ingredients in terms of availability, sourcing sustainability and cost effectiveness which will lead to selection of specific ingredients in the country, promote mass production of protein sources/ingredients that are found appropriate after each country's assessment, implement a policy facilitating the outsourcing of alternative ingredients, increase investments in R&D including processing to improve nutritional value of alternative ingredients, improve digestibility of plant protein ingredients, improve efficiency of feeds, determine optimum inclusion levels of the alternative ingredients and response of the species (*e.g.* effect on growth, meat quality), and conduct demonstration or field trials (comparing the use of traditional feeds and those using new alternative ingredients).

The creation of the database on alternative feed ingredients in aquaculture addresses some of the recommendations from the Consultation especially those centered on compilation of available information and making these easily accessible to the different stakeholders. Information from the database will serve as a guide for aquaculture feed manufacturers, fish farmers who are into the use of feeds prepared on-farm and those seeking knowledge on the ingredient materials that are currently used or have been tested and shown to have the potential for use in aquaculture in the region. The database would allow end users to understand the different properties of a specific feed ingredient in aquaculture. The directory is composed of the locally available ingredients in the region, test animal (fish species), optimal inclusion level in the feed, nutrient composition, functional properties and the effects on fish performance parameters.

II. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this undertaking is to put together all available important information regarding alternative ingredients for aquaculture in the region in one, easy to access site. The database is envisioned to be dynamic and will be updated as new information becomes available.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

A database of alternative feed ingredients is being put together. This initiative is undertaken by the Nutrition and Feed Development Section of SEAFDEC/AQD. The database consists of a list of ingredients tested in feeds for aquatic organisms and includes information on the type of ingredient (*e.g.* plant; leaf meal), species where the feed ingredient was tested (*e.g.* carp; scientific name and local name included), life stage of animals used for testing (*e.g.* fingerlings), nutrient profile (protein, fat, NFE, fiber, ash content), inclusion level of the ingredient in the feed, % of fishmeal (or soybean meal) replaced by the alternative ingredient, apparent digestibility (dry matter, protein or fat), presence of anti-nutritional factors (*e.g.* tannins), processing methods used and effect on quality of ingredient (*e.g.* dehulling; removal of anti-nutritional factors), limiting factor(s) *e.g.* high fiber content, other relevant information and references.

Initially, information gathered from work of SEAFDEC/AQD on alternative feed ingredients will be inputted into the database. Information from published studies on alternative ingredients used in aquafeeds will likewise be included. Efforts will be exerted to gather information on R&D on the use of alternative ingredients in Member Countries that have not been published or published in the local language. In order to realize this, the team will collaborate with focal persons in the Member Countries who will later be identified in coordination of the respective National Coordinators/Council Directors/Alternate Council Directors.



IV. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The database is expected to serve as a central, easy to access reference and source of important information on alternative ingredients for aquaculture in the region.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

The 21st FCG/ASSP Meeting is requested to note the progress of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture. Focal persons per Member Countries are also requested to stay active in adding more information on the database.

REGIONAL GUIDELINES ON COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT OF FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS IN THE ASEAN REGION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management of Fish and Fishery Products in the ASEAN Region is the main output of the MFRD project on Cold Chain Management of Seafood. The guidelines have been developed following a series of participatory and consultative process and workshops involving fishery officials from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and cold chain trials that were implemented in each of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries organised under the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) Programmes. Consultations were done with various experts on cold chain management of fish and seafood quality assurance from Curtin University (Australia) and Sydney Fish Market. The guidelines were finalised and adopted by senior fishery officials from all Member Countries at the End-of-Project Meeting, held in April 2018, in Singapore.

The guidelines, which were drafted with the consensus of and in accordance to the collective inputs from all the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, will serve as a common platform and reference for Member Countries when implementing cold chain management for fish and fishery products. The guidelines comprise 5 chapters and an annex. The first three chapters serve as an introduction, comprising scope and overview, definitions of terms used in the guidelines, and a generic flow chart on the cold chain for fish and fishery products. The introductory chapters help to provide a basic understanding of the elements and focus of the guidelines. The remaining chapters provide the actual guidelines, highlighting the points at which cold chain management should be implemented, and how it can be implemented by the Member Countries. Critical points, as well as common challenges faced are also listed in these chapters, along with potential solutions. The Annexes contain information of controlling and monitoring techniques and technologies and microbial limits on materials used in the implementation of cold chain management. The final chapter is the references used in drafting these guidelines.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

The 21st Meeting of FCG/ASSP is requested to take note of the Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Fish and Fishery Products in the ASEAN Region (*Appendix 1*). The 21st FCG/ASSP Meeting is also requested to support the Guidelines for submission to the 51st Meeting of SEAFDEC-Council in 2019 for endorsement. In addition, the Meeting may address any country problems and issues that require supporting programs from SEAFDEC for its effective implementation in the future.



Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management of Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Region

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Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (2008) defines Cold Chain as “A term embracing the continuity of successively employed means to maintain the temperatures of foods, and appropriate, from receiving through processing, transport, storage, and retailing”. As affluence in the region continues to grow, demands for high quality food, and particularly seafood, also grows. Furthermore, as countries seek to facilitate and encourage more bilateral trade, it is not uncommon for goods to travel thousands of miles before reaching a market. However, fish and seafood are temperature sensitive and highly perishable commodities, with deterioration occurring almost immediately following catch or harvest. Fish and seafood deterioration can occur through microbiological metabolism, oxidative reactions, and enzymatic activity, which are processes that can be accelerated through poor temperature control. Cold chain management is an essential tool in maintaining and ensuring the quality and safety of fish and seafood, as well as its economic value.

Throughout the supply chain, the fisheries industry heavily relies on proper cold chain management practices to ensure the quality, safety and commercial viability of its products. From aquaculture production or wild catch, post-harvest handling, receiving, processing, packing, transport, to retail, it is essential to ensure there is no breakage in the cold chain to main high quality and safety of the seafood. Practices such as the application of ice, use of refrigerated seawater, storage in refrigerated facilities, and chilling or freezing, are used to ensure that the fish and seafood is kept under cold chain throughout the supply chain. However, these low temperature conditions must also be supported by good and hygienic handling practices, to effectively delay spoilage of the fish and seafood.

In the ASEAN region, fisheries industry players face many challenges in the implementation of a cold chain system. Firstly, many players in the fisheries industry are small-medium enterprises, with limited access to technologies and appropriate facilities, and lack knowledge of cold chain management practices. Furthermore, many fisheries supply chain systems in this region involve individual players who operate as single entities. Thus, even if businesses are able to procure facilities and technologies to apply cold chain management in the handling of fish and seafood, problems arise in maintaining the system throughout the supply chain. Finally, cold chain management practices are still largely voluntary in many ASEAN Member Countries, and are not enforced as a requirement.

In view of this, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), under its Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) Programmes, has initiated and implemented a project on the Cold Chain Management of Seafood from 2015-2017/18, of which this set of guidelines were developed in close consultation with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. The project is in line with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution (20) and Plan of Action (D58 and D63), as endorsed at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference 2011. The goals of the project were to create a platform for the ASEAN region to share knowledge, experiences, and cost-effective technologies on the cold chain management of seafood, and to develop a set of guidelines for cold chain management of fish and fishery products to serve as a benchmark for ASEAN Member Countries when developing their own national guidelines.

1. Scope and Objective

Scope

The Guidelines cover the application and observation of time and temperature controls for the cold chain management of raw and minimally processed chilled and frozen fish and fishery products, along the stages of post-harvest handling, chilling, receiving, processing, freezing, glazing, packing, cold storage, transport and distribution, retail and wholesale.

Objective

The Guidelines aim to serve as a reference for best practices in cold chain management for raw and minimally processed chilled and frozen fish and fishery products to ensure safety, quality, and wholesomeness of such products.

2. Definitions

As used in the Guidelines, the following terms are defined as follows:

Chilling

The process of cooling fish and fishery products such that the core temperature is below 5°C.

Clean Water

Water from any source where harmful microbiological contamination, substances and/or toxic plankton are not present at such levels that may adversely affect the safety of fish and fishery products intended for human consumption.

Cold Chain

Consists of a series of operations involved in time and temperature controls in post-harvest handling, receiving, processing, freezing, glazing, packing, storing, transporting, and retail and wholesale of fresh, chilled and frozen fish and fishery products to ensure that food safety and quality is maintained.

Fish

Any of the cold blooded aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates intended for human consumption.

Fishery products

Any edible human food product in which fish is the characterising ingredient.

Fish and fishery products business

A business, enterprise or activity that involves the production and processing of fish and fishery products, intended for human consumption.

Fish and fishery products handler

A person who engages in the production and processing of fish and fishery products, intended for human consumption.

Glazing

Application of a protective layer of ice formed at the surface of a frozen product by spraying or dipping it into potable water, or potable water with approved additives, as appropriate.

Harvesting

The process which involves taking the fish out from water for human consumption.

Minimally Processed Products

Products derived from primary processing (*e.g.* washing, gutting, deboning, filleting, freezing, glazing, chilling and packaging), that does not fundamentally alter the raw fish or that only separate the whole, intact fish into components.

Post-Harvest Handling

Handling of fish that begins after fish is taken out from water for human consumption, prior to processing.

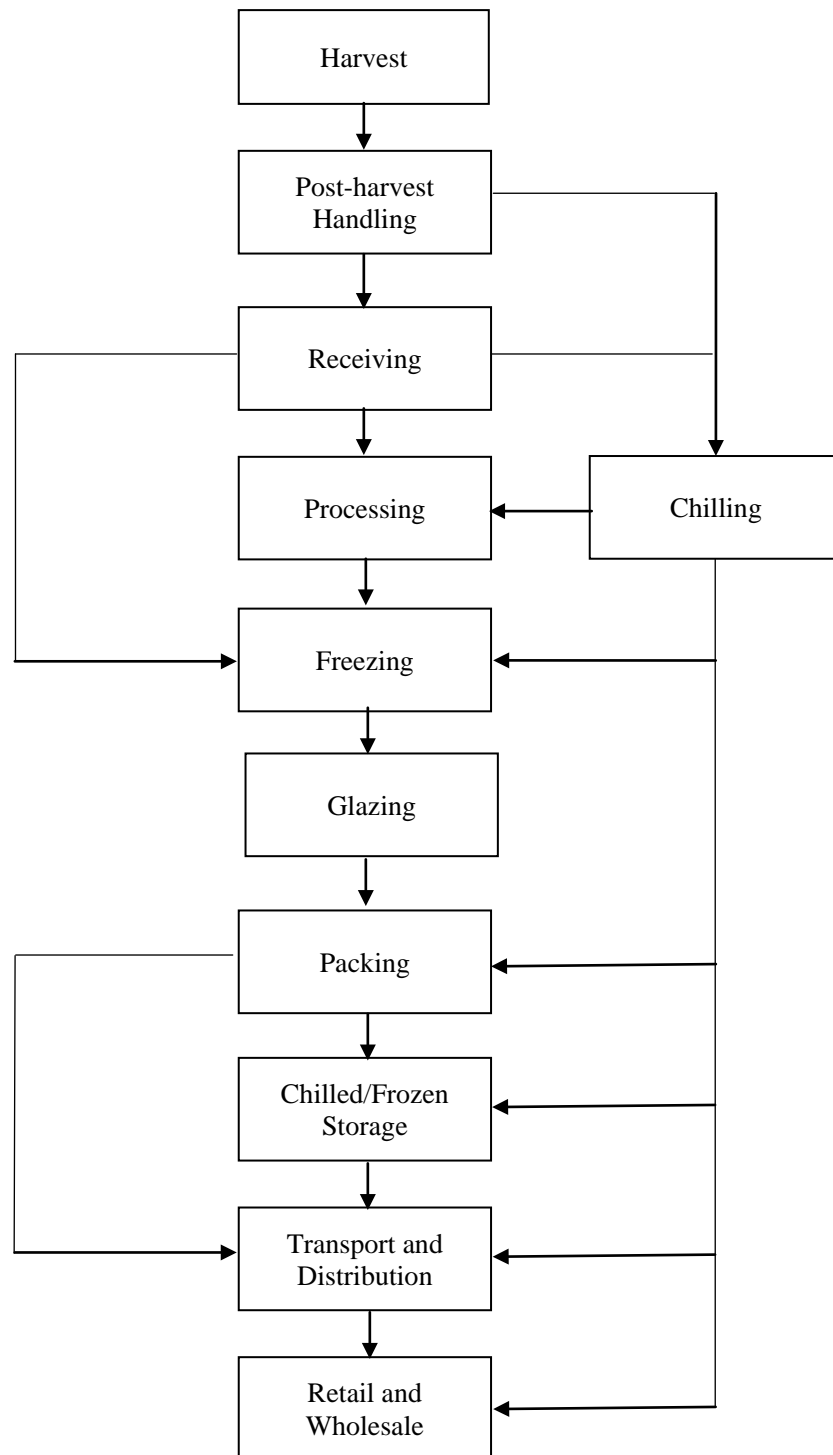
Potable Water

Fresh water fit for human consumption. Standard of potable water should not be lower than those contained in the latest edition of The International Standards for Drinking-Water issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Time and Temperature controls

The monitoring and maintaining of time and temperature of fish and the fishery products through the supply chain, to ensure safety and quality of products is maintained.

3. Generic Flow Chart on Cold Chain for Fish and Fishery Products





4. Production

Chilled fish and fishery products should be maintained below 5°C. During processing for short periods, temperature of fish and fishery products should not exceed 10°C, subject to national regulations.

The core temperature of frozen fish and fishery products should be maintained at a temperature of -18°C or below.

Monitoring, controlling and recording of time and temperature should be done regularly. All temperature monitoring devices should be calibrated as appropriate.

a) Post-harvest

(include on-board handling and harvest from aquaculture facilities)

The post-harvest operations should ensure that all measures are taken to maintain adequate time and temperature control for the fish and fishery products.

b) Receiving

Collecting

Fish and fishery product businesses should take all monitoring and recording measures to ensure it only accepts fish and fishery products that is under adequate time and temperature control at the point of receiving.

Fish and fishery product handlers should be competent in product safety and quality evaluation techniques, including time and temperature monitoring, to ensure raw fish and fishery products meet essential safety and quality provisions of the appropriate standard.

Sorting and grading

The facility for sorting and grading should be capable of maintaining time and temperature control of the fish. To minimise handling damage, fish and fishery products should be handled with care, particularly during sorting and grading in order to avoid physical damage such as puncture and mutilation. Where containers are used for sorting and grading of fish and fishery products, they should be cleaned and not overfilled. Sorting and grading should be carried out with minimal delay.

Holding

Fish and fishery products before and after processing need to be maintained under adequate time and temperature control.

c) Chilling

Fish and fishery products should be chilled and maintained below 5°C. Ice used in the process should be made from clean water.

d) Processing

Adequate time and temperature control should be maintained and recorded during processing.

Washing and gutting

An adequate supply of chilled clean water should be available for washing. Gutted fish should be drained and well iced, or appropriately chilled and stored in clean containers, in specially designated and appropriate areas which maintain the fish and fishery products under time and temperature control.

Filleting/deboning

Fish and fishery products should be appropriately iced or chilled in clean containers, protected from dehydration, and stored in appropriate areas. The temperature of the fish and fishery products should be maintained at not more than 10°C during filleting and deboning, and below 5°C during storing.

Thawing

Thawing can be done under clean air or potable water. Temperature used during thawing should be controlled such that core temperature of product is maintained below 5°C.

e) Freezing

The fish and fishery products should be subjected to freezing process as quickly as possible. A time and temperature regime should be established and should take into consideration the freezing equipment and capacity as well as the nature of the fish and fishery products. The size, shape and temperature of fish and fishery products entering the freezing process should be as uniform as possible. Frozen products should be moved to the cold storage facility as quickly as possible. The core temperature of the frozen fish and fishery products should be monitored regularly for completeness of the freezing process, at a minimum of -18°C.

f) Glazing

Glazing is considered complete when the entire surface of the frozen fish product is covered with suitable protective coating of ice and should be free of exposed areas where dehydration can occur. Chilled potable water should be used for glazing.

g) Packing

Packing should be conducted in the shortest time possible, to ensure product is maintained within required temperatures. Packaging material should be clean, good, durable, and sufficient for its intended use and of food grade material.

h) Storing

Fish and fishery products should be stored under time and temperature control, where there is an adequate means of monitoring and recording its time and temperature. Chilled fish and fishery products should be maintained below 5°C. The core temperature of frozen fish and fishery products should be maintained at -18°C or below.

i) Transport and Distribution

A fish and fishery product business operator should ensure fish and fishery products are kept chilled or frozen, and exercise means of monitoring time and temperature of the products during transport and distribution.

Before and after loading, the cleanliness, suitability and sanitation of the transport vehicle should be verified.

The transport vehicle should be capable of maintaining adequate time and temperature control of fish and fishery products. The products should be packed with protection against contamination, exposure to extreme temperatures and the drying effects of the sun or wind. Arrangement of the packages within the transport vehicle should optimise time and temperature control.

j) Retailer and Wholesaler

During receiving, fish and fishery products should not be accepted if required temperatures are not met, and non-conformances are present in packaging or product. Delivery should be scheduled in a manner to ensure that fish and fishery products can be transferred properly and stored in the shortest possible time.

Adequate time and temperature control should be maintained in display shelves. It is recommended to retain records of temperature monitoring. Chilled fish and fishery products should be maintained at 5°C or below. Frozen products should be maintained at -18°C or below.

The display should be situated away from sources of heat and direct sunlight, and not overloaded. Wet market operators should ensure quick and proper unloading of fish and fishery products upon receipt. Equipment used in wet markets should be clean, and display cabinets should protect fish and fishery products from external factors such as sunlight and pests. Products should be maintained under ice to ensure temperature control, and stored in clean containers.

Handlers should implement “first in first out” practice.

5. Skills and Knowledge

A fish and fishery product business operator should ensure that fish and fishery product handlers have skills and knowledge in food safety, quality and personal hygiene.

6. Annexes

a) Chilling Methods

Icing techniques

Some examples of icing methods are as listed below.

- Ice slurry: One-part water to one-part ice
- Ice layering: Alternating layers of fish and crushed ice
- Chilled seawater: Seawater is chilled at 0°C, with the addition of ice. Ideal for vessels fitted with holding water
- Refrigerated seawater: Seawater chilled using mechanical cooling system. Used in vessels with holding water

It is essential to ensure that clean water is used to make ice used in icing. Fish should also be stored in shallow layers, and surrounded with finely divided ice, or ice slurry before processing. Avoid over stacking and over filling storage boxes or containers, to minimise risk of damaging and contaminating fish and fishery products.

In ice layering, storage boxes and containers should have drainage outlets to remove water from melted ice. Bottom and top of storage boxes or containers should be covered with sufficient layers of ice. Ice should be added when necessary.

Different forms of ice to use

- Flake ice: Allows for an easier, more uniform and gentle distribution of ice around fish and in storage container. It will cause very little or no mechanical damage to fish, and will chill fish more quickly than the other types of ice.
- Crushed ice: Large and sharp pieces of ice in this ice form may damage fish physically. However, finely crushed ice melt quickly on the fish surface and large pieces of ice that tend to last longer and compensate for thermal losses.
- Block ice: Requires less stowage volume for transport, and melts slowly. It also contains less water at the time it is crushed than flake ice
- Tube ice: Very durable, and has large surface area. More suitable for use in chilled Seawater systems if ice is wet, as it normally is under tropical conditions, as less water exists on its surface
- Slush ice: Fine ice crystal that allows flow-ability through pumping systems, allowing it to fill small spaces without the use of water.

Microbiological quality of ice

The microbiological quality of ice made from potable water is as shown below.

Parameters	Limits
<i>E. coli</i>	N.D. in 100ml
Coliform bacteria	N.D. in 100ml

(Where N.D. denotes Not Detected)

Adapted from the World Health Organisation (2002)

b) Temperature Monitoring Methods

- Data Loggers: A range of temperature data-logger devices are available. Such devices are flexible in their operation, recording and some providing information direct to an alarm management system.
- Digital Thermometers: A flat blade or needle probe is sometimes the selected temperature measuring device
- Bi-metal Thermometers: A bi-metal dial thermometer may be suitable.
- Glass Thermometers: Mercury-in-glass or alcohol-in-glass thermometers pose a potential hazard due to possibility of cross- contamination.
- Infra-red (non-contact) Surface Temperature Thermometers: This can be a fast way to take product surface temperatures without having to open the case or damage product. Be aware that measuring the temperature of outer packaging is indicative only of the temperature of the product inside, and may be inaccurate due to abuse and calibration issues.
- Data devices from new technologies: Emerging technologies include active or passive RFID tags to monitor product temperature fluctuation history. Higher end, robust and reliable, wireless sensor network based, online monitoring solutions embracing product traceability, are available.
- Time Temperature Indicators (TTIs): TTIs provide 'indication' rather than quantitative measurement, which can be helpful, particularly at package monitoring level. Typically, these are based on heat sensitive film on packaging that highlight cumulative temperature abuse.

c) Checklist on Temperature Monitoring

Checklists should include details in accordance to national and international regulatory requirements, such as:

- Name and address of supplier
- Date and time of recording
- Name of product/equipment to be monitored
- Recorded temperature
- Name of monitoring personnel
- Signature/initials of verifying personnel

d) Different types of Freezing Techniques

- Continuous stream of cold air: Continuous streams of cold air is blown onto the fish and fishery products, freezing the products to the desired temperature. Such equipment includes Air Blast Freezers.
- Direct contact: Direct contact between the fish and fishery products, and a refrigerated surface, to allowing freezing through conduction. Such equipment includes Contact Freezers.
- Immersion or spraying: Fish and fishery products are sprayed with refrigeration liquids within freezing units to bring products to desired temperature.

e) Thawing Methods

- Air Thawing: Fish and fishery products are left at ambient or chilled temperatures until thawing has completed. This method is recommended for small and individually frozen products, as waterlogging can occur. Good drainage should also be ensured.



- Water Thawing: Products are placed in running water to aid controlled thawing. This means that the product can be thawed quickly, producing a better quality product. Factors that can be controlled include water temperature, flow rate and product separation.

7. References

Centre for Food Safety. (2014). *Microbiological Guidelines for Food: For ready-to-eat food in general and specific food item* (1st ed., p. 19). Hong Kong: Centre for Food Safety, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

Codex Alimentarius. (2012). *Code of practice for fish and fishery products* (2nd ed.). Rome: World Health Organization.

World Health Organisation. (2002). *Guidelines for drinking-water quality* (2nd ed.). Singapore: Geneva.

CITES RELATED ISSUES

With 183 Parties, Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) remains one of the world's most powerful tools for biodiversity conservation through the regulation of trade in wild fauna and flora. Thousands of species are internationally traded and used by people in their daily lives for food, housing, health care, ecotourism, cosmetics or fashion. CITES regulates international trade in over 35,000 species of plants and animals, including their products and derivatives, ensuring their survival in the wild with benefits for the livelihoods of local people and the global environment. The CITES permit system seeks to ensure that international trade in listed species is sustainable, legal and traceable. The 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016) adopted a large number of decisions relating to the management of and trade in sharks and rays (Decisions 17.209 -17.216.) Also at CoP17, Parties decided to include four additional species of sharks (*Alopias* spp. and *Carcharhinus falciformis*) and nine species of rays (*Mobula* spp.) in Appendix II, with entry into force delayed until 4 October 2017 and 4 April 2017 respectively.

Generally, CITES aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. However, the proposed listing of commercially exploited aquatic species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices is one of the crucial issues that could impact not only on the management of fisheries but also on the economies of the countries in the Southeast Asian region. SEAFDEC in response to the request made at the 32 Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting in 2000, a regional program has been implemented with the support from the Japanese Trust Fund entitled “Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fish Trade Related Issues” implementing under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership Mechanism. The major output from this program is to formulate a regional common/coordinated position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries (MCs) to reflect situation of the Southeast Asian fisheries. The common/coordinated position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC MCs has been addressed by SEAFDEC and its MCs at the international fora to safeguard the regional interest.

UPDATING INFORMATION ON CITES-RELATED ISSUES

- **FAO, RFMOs and SEAFDEC Participation to the Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on 13 to 15 March 2017**

Experts from RFMOs, Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs), FAO, SEAFDEC and CITES met in Geneva from 13 to 15 March 2017 to discuss past and future cooperation on implementing CITES for marine species. As CCSBT, ICCAT, IOTC, IAATC, WCPFC, WECAFC, and SEAFDEC play an important role in the sustainable management of shark and ray species in their geographical areas of competence, the meeting provided opportunity for the CITES Secretariat, FAO and RFMOs/RFBs and SEAFDEC to share experience and lessons learnt during the implementation of activities in the 2013-2016. Furthermore, participants exchanged information and range of issues, including: work programs and priorities for the next few years, scientific management of sharks and rays collection, analysis and exchange of data, and ways to further improve communication. The meeting helped to identify common goals and synergies, as well as possible opportunities for future collaboration, including activities for a second phase of the EU-funded CITES project for 2017-2019. With the funded CITES project phase II, SEAFDEC Secretariat has implemented a one-year project on capacity building program for AMSs to be able to record shark/ray landing at species level, exercising on formulation of a shark NDFs, and conducting one-year shark data collection in shark poor-information countries of SEAFDEC.



- **Thirtieth meeting of the Animal Committee (AC30), Geneva, Switzerland on 16-21 July 2018**

The AC30 was held with the total record of 326 participants. Issues on the commercially exploited aquatic species concerned to the Southeast Asian region include:

- a) Conservation and management of sharks and rays
- b) Conservation and trade of Anguilla eel
- c) Precious corals (Order Scleractinia and Family Scleractiidae)
- d) Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*)
- e) Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

The AC30 established a working group for each issues mentioned above where SEAFDEC is the member of the working group on sharks, and intersessional working group on eels. Report of the AC30 was summarized by the Secretariat who participated to the AC30 as appears in **Appendix 1** of this paper.

With regard to the issue related to sharks, it should be highlighted that the AC30 urged:

- 1) Parties, regional fisheries bodies, and organizations to support the development of long-term fisheries (including bycatch and release) and trade species-specific data collection programs for CITES-listed shark and ray species to assist CITES Parties in the development of NDFs;
- 2) Parties to continue to cooperate regionally, including through Regional Fisheries Bodies, on research, stock assessments, data sharing and analysis to help Parties making legal acquisition findings and NDFs for shared stocks; and
- 3) Parties and regions continue sharing their experiences of developing NDFs for sharks and rays including the issues in dealing with data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (bycatch) situations.

Concerning the issues on eels, the representative from SEAFDEC presented “Status and Resources Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia” to the AC30. Such information is now available at the CITES website¹ and this will be used as a basis for the Animal Committee to report to the meeting of the CITES CoP18.

- **Technical Workshop on Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia, Bangkok, Thailand on 18 to 19 October 2018**

Under the regional project entitled “Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia”, the Workshop was organized to update the progress of works and current achievements from baseline survey, regular survey, and assessment of status and trends of utilization of the anguillid eels in Southeast Asia. Moreover, the Workshop also formulated and drafted “Policy Guidelines for Regional Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia” for further adoption by ASEAN.

- **Workshop on Regional Awareness Raising in Asia on Prospective Species Proposals to CITES CoP18 and Preparation of Fisheries Related Information to Support Review of Species Proposals Against CITES Listing Criteria, in Palembang, Indonesia on 24 to 25 October 2018**

The Workshop will be organized by SEAFDEC/IFRDMD in collaboration with the FAO with the aim to discuss on the proposals that will be submitted to the CITES CoP18. The workshop is scheduled in October 2018 at SEAFDEC/IFRDMD. The objectives of the Workshop are to discuss and provide regional database for the Catadromous eel and way forward to collect eel fisheries statistic, and obtain information on harvest, management, eel fisheries (population/stock, distribution, species composition of catch, trend, eel farming, survival rate, trade, etc.). It is envisaged that the Workshop could come up with

¹ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/30/Inf/E-AC30-Inf-11.pdf>

a set of recommendations for regional actions that need to be taken to support assessment of aquatic species against the CITES criteria for listing and its implication on trade.

- **ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Proposals to CITES CoP 18**

Under the JTF funding support, SEAFDEC Secretariat plans to organize the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation tentatively in May 2019 (prior to the CoP18) in order to formulate and develop ASEAN common/coordinated position on the proposals submitted to CITES CoP 18.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE MEETING

The Meeting is requested to take note the progress of international and regional initiatives on CITES issues, as well as to provide policy directives to SEAFDEC and Member Countries on the implementation of regional/national initiatives related to CITES listed commercially aquatic species.

**Updated Information on the Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species discussed at
the Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 16-21 July 2018**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirtieth meeting of the Animals Committee was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 16-11 July 2018. The meeting participated by Committee Members from 6 regions, namely Africa, Asia, Central and South America & Caribbean, Europe, North America, and Oceania. The meeting also attended by Observers from 51 Countries, United Nations and its special agencies, IGO, International NGO, national NGOs and private sector. A total of 326 participants are recorded.
2. The agenda of the meeting is appeared in the *Appendix 2*.

II. ISSUES ON THE COMMERCIALY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES CONCERNED TO THE REGION

A. Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays

Sharks and rays (*Elasmobranchii* spp.) was discussed at the 30th Meeting of the Animal Committee as follows:

- 1) The Committee established a working group on sharks (agenda item 20) with the following mandate:

In support of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17), the in-session working group shall:

- a. consider document AC30 Doc. 20 and examine the information provided by range States in Annex 1, the trade data contained in Annex 2, and any other relevant information;
 - b. identify information pertinent to addressing the scientific and technical challenges for the implementation of the Convention for sharks, identified in Decisions 17.209 to 17.216 on Sharks and rays (*Elasmobranchii* spp.);
 - c. identify any new challenges faced by Parties in the implementation of the Convention for sharks with a particular focus on the species included by the Conference of the Parties at its 17th meeting and;
 - d. identify sections of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) that may require updating to reflect the recent focus on implementation of shark listings and capture any pertinent and recurring findings;
 - e. based on paragraphs a) to d) above, consider how the Animals Committee can fulfil its mandate given in Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) to make recommendations on improving the conservation status of sharks at meetings of the Conference of the Parties, if necessary.
- 2) The membership was decided as follows:
 - a. Co-Chairs: the representatives of Central and South America and the Caribbean (Mr. Calvar Agrelo) and of Oceania (Mr. Robertson);
 - b. Parties: Argentina, Australia, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, European Union, Germany, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America; and
 - c. IGOs and NGOs: CMS, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, IUCN, SEAFDEC, Bloom Association, Born Free USA, Defenders of Wildlife, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, IFAW, Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, NRDC, Oceana Inc., Save our

Seas Foundation, Species360, The Blue Resources Trust, The Pew Charitable Trusts, TRAFFIC, Vulcan/Paul G. Allen Philanthropies, Wildlife Conservation Society and Zoological Society of London.

3) The recommendations of discussion are as follow (document AC30 Com. 8) (Box 1):

B. Conservation of and trade of *Anguilla* eel spp.

Eels (*Anguilla* eel) was discussed at the 30th Meeting of the Animal Committee as follows:

- 1) The Committee established an intersessional working group on eels with the following mandate: Taking into account the discussions in plenary, any additional information coming from range States and any updates provided by the intersessional working group of the Animals Committee on eels, the in-session working group shall:
 - a. review the studies presented in Annexes 1 and 2 of document AC30 Doc. 18.1;
 - b. consider the outcome of the regional workshops presented in Annex 3 of documents AC30 Doc. 18.1, AC30 Doc. 18.2 and AC30 Doc. 18.3, as well as information contained in relevant information documents;
 - c. review the information in document AC30 Doc. 12.2, Annexes 1 and 2, concerning the Review of Significant Trade in *Anguilla anguilla* from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, and provide advice on the recommendations that should be drafted under the Review of Significant Trade for these range States should they be categorized as “action is needed”;
 - d. consider the available information on trade in *Anguilla anguilla* from Turkey to determine if it should be included in Stage 2 of the Review of Significant Trade as an exceptional case;
 - e. draft recommendations on the implementation of the CITES listing of European eel (*A. anguilla*) for reporting to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - f. draft recommendations to ensure the sustainable trade in other *Anguilla* species for reporting to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- 2) The membership was decided as follows:
 - a. Co-Chairs: the representative of Europe (Mr. Fleming) and the alternate representative of Asia (*Mr. Ishii*);
 - b. Parties: Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, European Union, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America and Viet Nam; and
 - c. IGOs and NGOs: Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), UNEP-WCMC, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IUCN, SEAFDEC, Association of Northeast Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Global Guardian Trust, Humane Society International, Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, SSN, Sustainable Eel Group, TRAFFIC, Vulcan/Paul G. Allen Philanthropies, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wildlife Fund and Zoological Society of London.

3) The recommendations of discussion are as follow (document AC30 Com. 5) (Box 2):

C. Precious corals (Order *Antipatharia* and family *Coralliidae*)

Precious corals was discussed at the 30th Meeting of the Animal Committee as follows:

- 1) The Committee established a working group on corals (agenda item 19) with the following mandate: Taking into account the information provided in document AC Doc. 19, the expert study and the analysis of the intersessional working group thereof, as well as discussions in plenary, the in-session working group shall endeavour to prepare draft recommendations, as appropriate, on actions needed to enhance the conservation and sustainable harvest and use of all precious corals in international trade and on any other relevant issues it identified for



reporting to the Standing Committee at its 70th meeting. Where this is not possible, the in-session working group shall advise on a way forward, including draft decisions.

- 2) The membership was decided as follows:
 - a. Co-Chairs: the acting representatives of Europe (*Mr. Nemtsov*) and Asia (*Mr. Diesmos*);
 - b. Parties: China, European Union, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan and United States of America; and
 - c. IGOs and NGOs: FAO, Association of Western Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Conservation Force, Environmental Investigation Agency US, Global Guardian Trust, Natural Resources Defence Council, TRAFFIC, World Wildlife Fund, and University of Cagliari.
- 3) The recommendations of discussion are as follow (document AC30 Com. 4) (Box 3):

D. Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) Indonesia's initial progress report

Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) was discussed at the 30th Meeting of the Animal Committee as follows:

- 1) The Committee established a working group on the banggai cardinalfish (agenda item 21) with the following mandate:

Taking into account documents AC30 Doc. 21.1 and Doc. 21.2, the study contained in information document AC30 Inf. 16, as well as the discussion in plenary and any other pertinent information, the in-session working group shall:

 - a. review the progress report submitted by Indonesia (AC30 Doc. 21.2);
 - b. review the results of the study (AC30 Inf. 16), in particular any advice on suitable conservation and management measures it contains; and
 - c. develop draft recommendations to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- 2) The membership was decided as follows:
 - a. Co-Chairs: the representative of Asia (*Mr. Mobaraki*) and the alternate representative of Europe (*Ms. Zikova*);
 - b. Parties: Austria, China, Hungary, Indonesia and United States of America; and
 - c. IGOs and NGOs: FAO, IUCN, Animal Welfare Institute, Foundation Franz Weber, Ornamental Fish International, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, TRAFFIC and Zoological Society of London.
- 3) The recommendations of discussion are as follow (document AC29 Com. 6) (Box 4):

E. Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) was discussed at the 30th Meeting of the Animal Committee, and the results discussion were summarized as follows.

The Committee noted document AC30 Doc. 22 and noted the progress that Honduras made in implementing its commitments regarding the management of and trade in Queen conch and considered that Honduras has fulfilled the commitments made at the 22nd meeting of the Animals Committee.

The Committee noted that there are no such things as “scientific” quotas, and that all export quotas for wild specimens of Appendix II species (as is the case of *Strombus gigas*) are to be supported by a non-detriment finding formulated by the Scientific Authority of the exporting range State, and based on the best technical and scientific information available, regardless of

the purpose of the transaction (whether scientific “S”, commercial “T”, medical “M”, educational “E”, or any other code recognized by CITES).

Box 1: Sharks and Rays

Recommendations

The Animals Committee notes concerns raised that the actual trade in CITES-listed shark products recorded in the CITES database appear to be lower than what would be expected against the knowledge available on catches of listed species. This could be occurring for many reasons including the delayed reporting of Parties, the use of different units (weight/number of items) on CITES permits, the stockpiling of CITES-listed shark products due to a country not having made a positive non-detriment finding (NDF) at this time, problems issuing permits for products with mixed species (e.g. liver oil) and illegal trade including the laundering of listed species products with non-listed species.

Directed to the Secretariat

1. The Animals Committee recommends that Resolution Conf 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) on *Conservation and management of sharks* be updated and reviewed, and invites the Secretariat to propose amendments to this Resolution for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting (CoP18), also taking into account any discussions or recommendations in the Standing Committee. The Animals Committee recommends that the amendments should in particular include provisions designed to guide Parties in their implementation of the Convention for CITES-listed shark species especially on: The making of NDFs and the sharing of information on NDFs; Improving reporting on trade in shark products; and Ways to ensure better traceability of shark products in trade.
2. The Animals Committee recommends that the Secretariat take note of recommendations from both AC29 and AC30 when preparing draft Decisions and revisions of Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) for the consideration of the 18th meeting of the Conference of Parties.
3. The Animals Committee invites the Secretariat for its 31st meeting (AC31) to: issue a notification to Parties, requesting that they provide concise summaries of new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities; highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties they are having in writing or submitting export or import trade documentation for the CITES trade database maintained by the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), with a view to the Animals Committee developing recommendations; provide information from the CITES trade database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2000, sorted by species and if possible by product,

And the Secretariat collate these for consideration of the 31st meeting of the Animals Committee.

Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs)

4. The Animals Committee urges Parties to help increase the capacity of other Parties, particularly in assessing the status of CITES-listed species and other relevant information that will assist in the development of NDFs.
5. The Animals Committee urges Parties, regional fisheries bodies, and organizations to support the development of long-term fisheries (including bycatch and release) and trade species-specific data collection programs for CITES-listed shark and ray species to assist CITES Parties in the development of NDFs.
6. The Animals Committee encourages Parties to continue to cooperate regionally, including through Regional Fisheries Bodies, on research, stock assessments, data sharing and analysis to help Parties making legal acquisition findings and NDFs for shared stocks.
7. The Animals Committee recommends that Parties and regions continue sharing their experiences of developing non-detriment findings (NDFs) for sharks and rays, share these NDFs *via* the CITES sharks and rays portal, for the benefit of other CITES Parties, identify gaps in capacity, and develop advice and recommendations on formulating NDFs for sharks and rays, taking into consideration:
 - a) strategies for the establishment and maintenance of data collection systems and data analysis and presentation;
 - b) dealing with data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (bycatch) situations;



- c) addressing look-alike issues and NDFs for trade in non-fin commodities;
- d) cooperating with regional fisheries bodies;
- e) introduction from the Sea issues;
- f) processes for adopting, evaluating and revising precautionary interim NDFs with conditions; and
- g) opportunities for providing training for trainers.

Trade

8. The Animals Committee encourages Parties to report to the Secretariat their trade records of CITES-listed elasmobranch products by weight and product form (e.g. dried fin or frozen fin, live specimens) rather than number of items, and requests the Secretariat to liaise with UNEP-WCMC regarding amending the description of trade terms in the database to differentiate between these fin products.
9. The Animals Committee requests Parties to alert the CITES Secretariat of institutional arrangements that disallow commercial exports from their country of CITES Appendix II elasmobranch products (e.g. fins, meat, live specimens) and reminds Parties that they have the option of announcing zero quotas or negative NDFs if they wish to inform other Parties that they have decided not to allow exports, and can ask the Secretariat to publish this information on the sharks and rays portal, and if possible through the Database of Measures of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
10. The Animals Committee requests Parties to alert the Secretariat of changes in trade of non-fin products, such as meat, from CITES-listed species, in recognition of the fluctuating levels of trade reports for different products.
11. The Animals Committee supports and encourages FAO to continue its analysis of the non-fin shark and ray trade to assist CITES Parties in gaining a better understanding of the trade and trends in shark and ray products, including to inform the development of NDFs.

Identification

12. The Animals Committee urges Parties and organizations to continue: the provision of training in the identification of shark fin and other products to improve their detection in trade; and collaboration, advancement, and dissemination of the development of rapid and cost-effective genetic tools to assist Parties with the identification of shark and ray products in trade.
13. The Animals Committee urges Parties and relevant stakeholders to provide imagery of fresh shark fins to FAO to assist in further development of the iSharkFin software tool.

Enforcement

14. The Animals Committee request Parties to alert the CITES Secretariat of issues related to suspected increasing illegal trade in products of CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species, for example discrepancies between reported or observed landings and international trade.
15. The Animals Committee congratulates Parties that have undertaken assessments of stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark fins for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species, and encourages the Parties that have not done so to do so and to share their experiences of recording these stockpiles and controlling and monitoring the entry of these stocks into trade.

Look-alike issues

- A. The Animals Committee requests the Standing Committee to consider implementation issues of CITES-listed hammerhead species and make recommendations, as appropriate, to CoP18.

Box 2: *Anguilla* eels

Recommendations

Noting that a more complete working group report is available, and can be used to form the basis of the Animals Committee report to the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18) under Decision 17.188, the working group makes the following recommendations.

On reporting trade in European eels

The group recommends the descriptions for specimen codes in the Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of CITES Annual Reports (January 2017) and in the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports be amended as follows:

5. The description for FIG and the definition for LIV should be amended as follows (new text in bold, deleted text in strikethrough).
 - a) Amend description for FIG (fingerlings) to read: 'live juvenile fish for the aquarium trade, aquaculture, hatcheries, consumption or for release ~~operations~~, including live European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) up to 12cm length'.
 - b) Amend definition for LIV (live specimens) to read: 'live animals and plants, excluding live fingerling fish – see FIG'.
 - c) For eels, both specimen types should be reported in kilos (kg) rather than in numbers. The explanatory text should be amended accordingly as shown in (4) below.
6. The code for meat (MEA) should be used in preference for trade in eels for human consumption and that such trade should be reported in kilos (indeed reporting in kilos is more important than the code used).
7. The explanatory text should be amended to indicate that fillets of fish should be reported under the code for meat MEA and the code for bodies BOD should be amended to remove reference to processed fish, as follows (new text in bold, deleted text in strikethrough):

BOD – substantially whole dead animals, including entire fish, stuffed turtles, preserved butterflies, reptiles in alcohol, whole stuffed hunting trophies, etc.

8. Under section 3 of Guidelines for the Preparation and Submission of CITES Annual Reports (January 2017) and in the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports, 'Specific instructions', insert the following text:

'For European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), it is essential that live eels of <12cm length (and which may be referred to as glass eels or elvers) in trade are distinguished from other live specimens by reporting them as fingerlings (FIG); other live specimens should be reported as LIV. It is also desirable that the code for meat (MEA) should be used for trade in eels destined for human consumption. In all cases, Parties should report trade in live specimens (LIV), live fingerlings (FIG) and meat (MEA) of European eel by weight and not as number of specimens. The net weight of live specimens should be recorded and not the combined weight of eels and the water in which they are transported.'

On source codes

It was considered desirable to be able to distinguish specimens raised in aquaculture from direct wild harvest of European eels potentially through the use of source code R (ranching). However, the making of non-detriment findings and consideration of ranching as a source code for European eel may require further consideration post-CoP18. In the meantime, this issue should be referred to the Standing Committee's intersessional working group on captive-bred and ranched specimens for their consideration and guidance. This issue may make a useful case study for the workshop referred to under Agenda item 10.1 (AC30 Doc. 10.1 / PC24 Doc. 10.1) on *Non detriment findings*.



On customs codes

The group agreed that having better harmonisation of customs codes for trade in all *Anguilla* species would be desirable to enable patterns of trade to be understood and, for European eel, to enable comparison of customs and CITES trade data. However, the group noted that discussions on customs codes needed engagement with the World Customs Organisation and that the issue of customs codes is, perhaps, more appropriate for the Standing Committee. This issue should, therefore, be referred to the Standing Committee for their consideration.

On trade in, and non-detriment findings for, European eel

Decision 18.AA

Directed to range States for European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)

Parties are encouraged to:

- f) share and publish any non-detriment finding studies on European eel they have undertaken, explore the different approaches that would be needed for making non-detriment findings for European eels traded as fingerlings (FIG) and those traded as other live eels (LIV), seek peer review where appropriate, collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding such studies and their outcome, especially where they share catchments or water bodies;
- g) develop and/or implement adaptive eel management plans, or regularly review and revise these, at national or sub-national (or catchment) level, with defined and time-bound goals, and enhance collaboration within countries between authorities and other stakeholders with responsibilities for eel management, and between countries where water bodies or catchments are shared;
- h) share information on stock assessments, harvests, the results of monitoring and other relevant data with the Joint EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM Working Group on Eels (WGEEL) so that a full and complete picture of the state of the stock can be established;
- i) develop measures or implement more effectively existing measures to improve the traceability of eels in trade;
- j) provide the Secretariat with information on any measures they have in place to restrict the trade in live 'glass' or fingerling eels; and
- k) report on progress or provide information to the Secretariat in time for consideration at the 31st or 32nd meeting of the Animals Committee.

Decision 18.BB

Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall consider, at its 31st and 32nd meetings, any reports by Parties with respect to the making of non-detriment findings for trade in European eel with respect to Decisions 18.AA and provide advice and guidance.

The Animals Committee requests the Secretariat to:

- a) clarify, through a Notification, information from Parties which are range states of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) on any restrictions they have in place to limit or prohibit the export of live 'glass' or fingerling eels; and
- b) inform all Parties, through a Notification, of any restrictions by range States of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) on the export of live 'glass' or fingerling eels.

On trade in non-CITES *Anguilla* spp.

Decision 18.CC

Directed to range States of non-CITES *Anguilla* spp. in international trade (particularly *A. rostrata*, *A. japonica*, *A. marmorata* and *A. bicolor*)

Parties are encouraged to:

- a) implement conservation and management measures and related legislation to ensure the sustainability of harvests and international trade in *Anguilla* spp. and make these widely available;
- b) collaborate and cooperate with other range States on shared stocks of *Anguilla* spp. to develop shared objectives for these stocks and their management, improve the understanding of the biology of the species, conduct joint programs of work and share knowledge and experience;
- c) establish monitoring programs and develop abundance indices in range States where none exist. For ongoing programs, identifying opportunities for expanding to new locations and/or live stages would be favorable;
- d) improve the reporting and traceability of *Anguilla* spp. in trade;
- e) develop and/or implement adaptive eel management plans at national or sub-national (or catchment) level and enhance collaboration within countries between authorities and other stakeholders with responsibilities for eel management; and
- f) report progress on these measures to the Animals Committee at its 31st and 32nd meetings.

Decision 18.DD

Directed to Secretariat

The Secretariat shall invite Parties, through a Notification, to report on their progress in implementing Decision 18.CC and prepare a summary report with draft recommendations in time for submission to the 31st and 32nd meetings of the Animals Committee.

The Secretariat shall invite Parties, through a Notification, to submit information regarding current levels of, or emerging trends in, their demand for specimens of *Anguilla* spp. in trade and, subject to the availability of resources, commission a study to consider levels of demand from consumer States, especially for live eels for aquaculture, and sources of supply, identify any disparities between these and make recommendations for the more effective future management of harvests and trade.

Decision 18.EE

Directed to the Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall, at its 31st and 32nd meetings, consider the progress reports provided by Parties and the report by the Secretariat with respect to Decisions 18.CC and 18.DD and make any recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Decision 18.FF

Directed to donor Parties and other relevant organizations

Donor Parties and other relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and others, are invited and encouraged to provide support to, and build capacity for, *Anguilla* range states for the purpose of implementing Decisions 18.AA to 18.EE.



Box 3: Precious corals

Recommendations

A. On future drafts of the FAO report

The in-session working group recognizes that the draft FAO report is very wide-ranging, that it was received by the working group in its present form not long before the Animals Committee meeting, that before it can be finalized it still requires input from Parties and other stakeholders and that it will be peer-reviewed. The working group acknowledges that the FAO will welcome suggestions from the Animals Committee for peer-reviewers of the report.

The working group recommends that:

1. The Animals Committee invites the Secretariat:
 - a) to work with FAO to finalize the report by CoP18;
 - b) in doing so, and in order to make the report as useful as possible and to ensure input from the Parties and from a peer-review process from a broad range of experts, to liaise with the members of the intersessional working group on corals including on the review of future drafts;
2. The Animals Committee encourages TRAFFIC to make its relevant information on Pacific precious corals available as soon as possible for inclusion in the FAO report.
3. The Animals Committee recommends to the Standing Committee to propose to CoP18 the extension of Decisions 17.192 and 17.193.

B. On conservation and sustainable use:

The working group recognizes the importance of science-based management for conservation and sustainable use.

For the CITES-listed black corals, the working group recognizes the need for better information on their conservation and sustainable use, and the need for strengthening data-collection and reporting from most areas.

For *Corallium* species, the working group acknowledges that there have been advances and developments in fishery management and conservation arrangements in some regions, such as Japan's new regulation in the Pacific, the new adaptive management plan by the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) for red corals (*Corallium rubrum*) in the Mediterranean Sea, and others.

The working group recommends that:

4. The Animals Committee:
 - a) to continue to look at issues of conservation and sustainable use of precious corals, and to continue to keep track of new institutional changes in order to understand their effectiveness;
 - b) encourage Parties to continue to strengthen their domestic management and conservation measures concerning all precious corals; and
 - c) remind Parties which export CITES Appendix-II listed black coral species, to make non-detriment findings (NDFs) and encourage these Parties to provide copies of the NDFs to the Secretariat.

C. On international trade

The working group recognizes the challenges in acquiring data on international trade in precious corals from many countries.

The working group recommends that:

5. The Animals Committee:

- d) notes the challenges of analysing trade in coral products since the current Harmonized System (HS) classification amalgamates them with other species due to the lack of specific custom codes;
- e) further notes the cumbersome process of adopting specific custom codes on an international level;
- f) in this light, recommend to the Standing Committee to take into account the challenges posed by the lack of specific customs codes for international trade in precious corals and their parts and derivatives, when considering the finalized FAO report and making its recommendations, as appropriate.
- g) recommend to the Secretariat to follow-up on cases of illegal trade for CITES-listed species black corals referred to in the FAO report.

D. On a way forward

- 6. The working group recommends that the Animals Committee notes Decision 17.181 on the new treaty on marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) which may have relevance to CITES listed corals and CITES Introduction from the Sea certificates.
- 7. The working group recommends that the Animals Committee notes that there are many potential impacts on many coral populations in the wild (including climate change, ocean acidification, and others) which may affect precious coral too, which should be taken into account to understand the coral diversity of marine waters.
- 8. Notwithstanding the possible future implementation of Decision 17.192, the working group encourages the Animals Committee to keep the issue of precious corals under review, in order to determine what new data are available with a view to updating the study before the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19, 2022).

Box 4: Banggai Cardinal fishRecommendations

1. The Working Group invites the Animals Committee to appreciate the detailed and informative document provided by Indonesia (document AC30 Doc 21.2).
2. Taking note of the information provided by Indonesia that the anticipated outcomes or impact of proposed activities on Banggai Cardinalfish populations is to prevent further decline and ideally to rebuild the populations, the in-session working group on Banggai Cardinalfish recommends the following to be agreed by the Animals Committee for transmission to Indonesia and to the Secretariat:
 - a) Indonesia is encouraged to consider the recommendations from the study by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in information document AC30 Inf. 16 in further development and implementation of National Plan of Action for the Banggai Cardinalfish, and report on progress to the Animals Committee at its 31st meeting (AC31).
 - b) It was noted that Indonesia intends to extend the area of marine protected areas to become up to 869,059 ha. Indonesia was encouraged to enhance designation of identified marine protected areas and to report on implementation, including enforcement, of the Banggai Marine Protected Areas to AC31. The report should *inter alia* provide information on the population trends and on the effectiveness of the management methods applied in different zones of the marine protected areas and outside these areas.
 - c) It was recommended that Indonesia build on the T0 survey making sure that data obtained in future surveys are comparable with T0. It was further recommended that recording the number of sea urchins during monitoring at transects, as well as having control sites outside protected areas may be beneficial.
 - d) Indonesia informed the in-session working group that it will carefully consider all releases of the species, including unintentional releases from captive-breeding facilities, in particular with the view of avoiding genetic mixing, transfer of pathogens or other negative impacts on the species and ecosystems. It was suggested that any releases of specimens of Banggai Cardinalfish are reported to AC31 (number of specimens, sites of release, and purpose of release).
 - e) Indonesia is encouraged to adopt site-specific harvest quota according to the National Plan of Action and report to AC31 on the methodology for setting the quota and on the quota adopted. In establishing the harvest quota, Indonesia is invited to consider the recommendations provided in information document AC30 Inf. 16.
 - f) Subject to available funding, and as described in the National Plan of Action, Indonesia is encouraged to carry out a genetic study, and a trade survey reflecting the geographic origin of the traded specimens and describing the trade routes.
 - g) Indonesia is encouraged to work with relevant technical partners on implementing the National Plan of Action.
3. The in-session working group on Banggai Cardinalfish encourages IUCN to update the Red List assessment of the species.

It is recommended that the Animals Committee submit the following draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its 18th meeting.

Directed to Indonesia

- 18.AA Indonesia should continue its conservation and management measures to ensure the sustainability of international trade in *Pterapogon kauderni*, and report progress on these measures, in particular on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the Animals Committee at its 30th meeting, to the Animals Committee at its 31st meeting.

Directed to Parties

18.BB The Conference of the Parties encourages the Parties to consider supporting Indonesia in implementing decision 18.AA.

Directed to the Animals Committee

18.CC The Animals Committee shall, at its 31st meeting, review the progress report submitted by Indonesia as referred to under Decision 18.AA, and make recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Appendix 2 of Annex 22

OPENING OF THE MEETING		Documents	Posted/ updated on (dd/mm/yyyy)
Opening remarks of the Chair		No document	
Opening remarks of the Secretariat		No document	
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS			
1.	Agenda	AC30 Doc. 1 (Rev. 1)	19/07/2018
2.	Working programme (<i>changes to agenda item 10.2</i>)	AC30 Doc. 2 (Rev. 1)	04/07/2018 05/07/2018
3.	Rules of Procedure [Decisions 17.3, 17.4 and 17.5]	AC30 Doc. 3	24/05/2018
4.	Admission of observers	AC30 Doc. 4 (Rev. 2)	03/07/2018 12/07/2018
STRATEGIC MATTERS			
5.	Animals Committee strategic planning for 2017-2019 (CoP17-CoP18)		
5.1	Implementation of the work plan for 2017-2019	No document	
5.2	Preparation of the report of the Chair of the Animals Committee for the 18 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties	No document	
6.	Review of Terms of Reference of the Animals and Plants Committees contained in Resolution Conf 11.1 (Rev. CoP17)* [Decision 17.9]	AC30 Doc. 6 / PC24 Doc. 6	01/06/2018
7.	CITES Strategic Vision* [Decision 17.18]	No document	
8.	Appendix-I listed species* [Decision 17.24]	AC30 Doc. 8 / PC24 Doc. 8	07/06/2018
9.	Capacity building and identification materials		
9.1	Report of the Secretariat [Decisions 17.32 and 17.33]	AC30 Doc. 9.1 / PC24 Doc. 9.1	25/05/2018
9.2	Update of the identification guide for CITES-listed alligator lizards (<i>Abronia</i> spp.)	AC30 Doc. 9.2	25/05/2018
10.	Non-detriment findings		
10.1	Report of the Secretariat* [Resolution Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17)]	AC30 Doc. 10.1/ PC24 Doc. 10.1	28/05/2018
10.2	Results of the 'International expert workshop on non-detriment findings for hunting trophies of certain African species included in CITES Appendices I and II' (Seville, April 26-29, 2018) (<i>inclusion of the final report of the workshop</i>)	AC30 Doc. 10.2 (Rev. 1)	25/05/2018 03/07/2018
<u>Cooperation with organizations and Multilateral Environmental Agreements</u>			
11.	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)* [Decision 16.15 (Rev. CoP17)]	No document	
INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS			
<u>General compliance and enforcement</u>			
12.	Review of Significant Trade in specimens of Appendix-II species [Resolution Conf. 12.8 (Rev. CoP17)]		
12.1	Overview of the Review of Significant Trade	AC30 Doc. 12.1	28/05/2018
12.2	Species selected following CoP17	AC30 Doc. 12.2	22/05/2018
	Annex 1: Range States responses (in the original language)	AC30 Doc. 12.2 A1	22/05/2018
	Annex 2: Report on species/country combinations selected for review by the Animals Committee following CoP17 (Revision: missing text amended for <i>A. ararauna</i> threats, on page 28)	AC30 Doc. 12.2 A2 (Rev. 1)	22/05/2018 05/06/2018
12.3	Country-wide significant trade reviews* [Decision 17.111]	AC30 Doc. 12.3/ PC24 Doc. 13.3	28/05/2018
13.	Captive-bred and ranched specimens		
13.1	Review of trade in animal specimens reported as produced in captivity [Resolution Conf. 17.7 and	AC30 Doc. 13.1	22/05/2018

	Decision 17.105]		
	Annex 2: Responses received from Parties in relation to general or specific questions drafted by AC29 (in the original language) (missing page added and change to page 25)	AC30 Doc. 13.1 A2 (Rev. 3)	14/06/2018 12/07/2018
	Addendum to Annex 2B: <i>Macaca fascicularis</i> - Cambodia (in the original language)	AC30 Doc. 13.1 A2 (Rev. 3) Add.	12/07/2018
	Annex 3: Short reviews of known information relating to breeding biology and captive husbandry and any impacts, if relevant, of removal of founder stock from the wild for species selected by AC29	AC30 Doc. 13.1 A3	22/05/2018
13.2	Observations and recommendations on the first iteration of Resolution Conf. 17.7 [Decisions 17.103 and 17.105]	AC30 Doc. 13.2	23/05/2018
13.3	Non-detriment findings for specimens with source codes W, R and F [Decision 17.104]	AC30 Doc. 13.3	23/05/2018
13.4	Publication of a ranching protocol for Morelet's crocodile (<i>Crocodylus moreletii</i>) in Mexico	AC30 Doc. 13.4	28/06/2018
14.	Specimens produced from synthetic or cultured DNA* [Decision 17.90]	AC30 Doc. 14 / PC24 Doc. 14 (Rev. 1)	25/05/2018 05/06/2018
	Annex 5: Study on wildlife products produced from synthetic or cultured DNA (English only)	AC30 Doc. 14 / PC24 Doc. 14 (Rev. 1) A5	05/06/2018
15.	Quotas for leopard hunting trophies [Decision 17.115]	AC30 Doc. 15	22/05/2018
	Annex 1: Export quota review - Mozambique (English only)	AC30 Doc. 15 A1	22/05/2018
	Annex 2: Export quota review - Namibia (English only)	AC30 Doc. 15 A2	22/05/2018
	Annex 3: Export quota review - South Africa (English only)	AC30 Doc. 15 A3	22/05/2018
	Annex 4: Export quota review - United Republic of Tanzania (English only)	AC30 Doc. 15 A4	22/05/2018
	Annex 5: Export quota review - Zambia (English only)	AC30 Doc. 15 A5	22/05/2018
	Annex 6: Export quota review - Zimbabwe (English only)	AC30 Doc. 15 A6	22/05/2018
<u>Trade control and traceability</u>			
16.	Definition of the term 'appropriate and acceptable destinations' [Decision 17.179] [correction to the quoted text of Resolution Conf. 11.20 (Rev. CoP17) and inclusion of Global Eye's response]	AC30 Doc. 16 (Rev. 2)	13/06/2018 28/06/2018
	Annex: Responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2018/033 (in the original language) (Inclusion of Global Eye's response)	AC30 Doc. 16 (Rev. 2) A	14/06/2018 29/06/2018
SPECIES SPECIFIC MATTERS			
<u>Aquatic species</u>			
17.	Sturgeons and paddlefish (<i>Acipenseriformes</i> spp.)		
17.1	Conservation of and trade in sturgeons and paddlefish [Resolution Conf. 12.7 (Rev. CoP17)]	AC30 Doc. 17.1	22/05/2018
17.2	Identification of sturgeons and paddlefish specimens in trade [Decisions 16.137 (Rev. CoP17) and 17.183]	AC30 Doc. 17.2	22/05/2018
18.	Eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.)		
18.1	Report of the Secretariat [Decision 17.186]	AC30 Doc. 18.1	01/06/2018
	Annex 1: Implementation of the CITES Appendix II listing of European eel (<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>) (English only)	AC30 Doc. 18.1 A1	22/05/2018
	Annex 2: Status of non-CITES listed anguillid eels (English only)	AC30 Doc. 18.1 A2	22/05/2018
	Annex 3: International technical workshop on eels (<i>Anguilla</i> spp.) (English only)	AC30 Doc. 18.1 A3	22/05/2018
18.2	Report of the workshop of range States of the American eel	AC30 Doc. 18.2	28/05/2018
18.3	Report from the 2 nd meeting of the range States for the European eel (<i>Anguilla Anguilla</i>) under the Convention of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	AC30 Doc. 18.3	28/05/2018
19.	Precious corals (Order Antipatharia and family Coralliidae) [Decision 17.192]	AC30 Doc. 19	22/05/2018
20.	Sharks and rays (<i>Elasmobranchii</i> spp.) [Resolution Conf. 12.6 (Rev. CoP17) and Decision 17.211]	AC30 Doc. 20	01/06/2018
	Annex 1: Responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2018/041 (in the original language)	AC30 Doc. 20 A1	25/05/2018
	Annex 2: Data on trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2000	AC30 Doc. 20 A2	24/05/2018
21.	Banggai cardinalfish (<i>Pterapogon kauderni</i>)		

21.1	Report of the Secretariat [Decision 17.262]	AC30 Doc. 21.1	22/05/2018
21.2	Indonesia's progress report [Decision 17.259]	AC30 Doc. 21.2	01/06/2018
22.	Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>) [Decisions 17.287 and 17.288]	AC30 Doc. 22	01/06/2018
	Annex 1: Responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2018/035 (in the original language and in English)	AC30 Doc. 22 A1	24/05/2018 13/06/2018
	Annex 2: Comments of the Scientific Authority of Jamaica on document AC29 Doc. 26 (English only)	AC30 Doc. 22 A2	24/05/2018
23.	Black Sea bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus ponticus</i>) [Decision 17.300]	AC30 Doc. 23	24/05/2018
Terrestrial species			
24.	African wild dog (<i>Lycaon pictus</i>) [Decision 17.238]	AC30 Doc. 24	25/05/2018
25.	African lion (<i>Panthera leo</i>) [Decision 17.242]	AC30 Doc. 25	01/06/2018
26.	Great apes (<i>Hominidae</i> spp.) [Decision 17.232]	AC30 Doc. 26	01/06/2018
27.	Snakes (<i>Serpentes</i> spp.)		
27.1	Conservation, sustainable use of and trade in snakes [Resolution Conf. 17.12 and Decision 17.279]	AC30 Doc. 27.1	22/05/2018
27.2	Information from Benin, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia and Togo [Decision 17.279]	AC30 Doc. 27.2	25/05/2018
28.	Tortoises and freshwater turtles (<i>Testudines</i> spp.) [Decision 17.293]	AC30 Doc. 28	11/06/2018
Maintenance of the Appendices			
29.	Periodic Review of the Appendices [Resolution Conf. 14.8 (Rev. CoP17)]		
29.1	Overview of species under Periodic Review	AC30 Doc. 29.1	01/06/2018
29.2	Species review		
29.2.1	<i>Dasyornis broadbenti litoralis</i> – Report of Australia	AC30 Doc. 29.2.1	23/05/2018
29.2.2	<i>Dasyornis longirostris</i> – Report of Australia	AC30 Doc. 29.2.2	24/05/2018
29.2.3	<i>Leporillus conditor</i> – Report of Australia	AC30 Doc. 29.2.3	23/05/2018
29.2.4	<i>Pseudomys fieldi</i> – Report of Australia	AC30 Doc. 29.2.4	23/05/2018
29.2.5	<i>Xeromys moides</i> – Report of Australia	AC30 Doc. 29.2.5	23/05/2018
29.2.6	<i>Zyzomys pedunculatus</i> – Report of Australia	AC30 Doc. 29.2.6	23/05/2018
30.	Proposals for possible consideration at CoP18		
30.1	Draft proposal for the inclusion of the subgenus <i>Holothuria</i> (<i>Microthele</i>) in Appendix II	AC30 Doc. 30.1	01/06/2018
31.	Appendix-III listings* [Decision 17.305]	AC30 Doc. 31 / PC24 Doc. 26	01/06/2018
32.	Report of the specialist on zoological nomenclature [Resolution Conf. 12.11 (Rev. CoP17) and Decisions 17.308, 17.310, 17.312 and 17.313]	AC30 Doc. 32	28/05/2018
	Annex 1a: Responses to the Notification to the Parties No. 2018/037 (in the original language)	AC30 Doc. 32 A1a	24/05/2018
	Annex 1b: Inconsistencies between the WoRMS database and the SPRAT database	AC30 Doc. 32 A1b	24/05/2018
	Annex 2: Animal taxonomy and nomenclature (English only)	AC30 Doc. 32 A2	24/05/2018
33.	Annotations* [Decision 16.162 (Rev. CoP17)]	AC30 Doc. 33 / PC24 Doc. 29	26/06/2018
REGIONAL MATTERS			
34.	Regional reports		
34.1	Africa	AC30 Doc. 34.1	03/07/2018
34.2	Asia	AC30 Doc. 34.2 (Rev. 1)	13/07/2018 16/07/2018
34.3	Central and South America and the Caribbean	AC30 Doc. 34.3	11/06/2018
34.4	Europe	AC30 Doc. 34.4	01/06/2018
34.5	North America	AC30 Doc. 34.5	01/06/2018
34.6	Oceania	AC30 Doc. 34.6	01/06/2018

CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING			
35.	Any other business	<i>No document</i>	
36.	Time and venue of the 31 st meeting of the Animals Committee	<i>No document</i>	
37.	Closing remarks	<i>No document</i>	

* This agenda item is addressed to the Animals and Plants Committees

CLOSING REMARKS

By Mr. Bunchong Chumnongsittathum,
Chair of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries

SEAFDEC Secretary General: *Dr. Kom Silapajarn,*
Distinguished Delegates from the ASEAN – SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Representative from ASEAN Secretariat,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to say a few words at the end of this meeting. I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to be the co – chair of this event together with the SEAFDEC secretariat and ASEAN secretariat. Without them this meeting couldn't have been held successfully. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to both of you for dedicating yourself to these heavy responsibilities.

I'd also like to thank ASEAN Member State's representatives for participating in this meeting and providing valuable suggestions, recommendations and way forwards to project implementation under this mechanism. Finally, thanks to the Department of Fisheries of Malaysia, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD and Secretariat's staff for all of their hard work to make this happen.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you have had a long week and have participated actively and I am sure you are all looking forward to getting back to your respective homes, so I thank you once again for your participation and wish you all a safe journey home.

Goodbye.

CLOSING REMARKS

By Dr. Kom Silapajarn
SEAFDEC Secretary-General

Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Representative from the ASEAN Secretariat,
My colleagues from SEAFDEC,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Afternoon!

First of all, on behalf of the Co-chair for SEAFDEC of the 21st Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership, please allow me to thank the representative from Thailand *Mr. Bunchong Chumnongsittathum*, for chairing with me the Twenty-first Meeting of the FCG/ASSP. Please allow me to also thank the representatives from all ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the respective delegations for your active cooperation and participation during our deliberations. Your active involvement surely led us to the successful conclusion of the Meeting.

Specifically, I would also like to express our appreciation for the constructive comments and suggestions as well as policy recommendations on several matters, especially on projects under the FCG/ASSP mechanism, initiatives in combating IUU fishing; promotion of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in ASEAN region; ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products in ASEAN seafood; CITES-related issues; as well as the recommendations that would help pave the way forward on the Resolution and Plan of Action after the target year of 2020.

We hope that the recommendations made at this FCG/ASSP Meeting would be further submitted by our ASEAN counterpart, to the higher authorities of the ASEAN for consideration and endorsement; and this would also be submitted by SEAFDEC to our Council during the next annual meeting in 2019.

Lastly, on behalf of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership, I would also wish to thank staff of the SEAFDEC/ MFRDMD and Department of Fisheries of Malaysia for the excellent arrangements of our Meeting. Without further ado, I now declare the Twenty-first 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 Langkawi and back to their respective countries, we wish you a happy and successful trip.

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