

**REVIEW AND THE PRESENT STATUS OF
THE CATCH-EFFORT STATISTIC FOR
THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AREA**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The responsibility to publish the Catch-Effort Statistics was transferred to Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) of SEAFDEC during the Sixteenth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee in 1993. That time, the Committee felt that it was very appropriate for MFRDMD to collect the catch and effort data on the grounds of scientific work and research. Prior to the transfer of responsibility, the publication of catch-effort statistics had been undertaken by the Training Department (TD) of SEAFDEC since 1981. In order to carry out the new task, MFRDMD revised the previous format used by TD for the collection and compilation of the Catch-Effort Statistics for the South China Sea Area. After discussion with the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department of SEAFDEC, MFRDMD presented the revised format for consideration during the 1994 Regional Workshop on Fishery Information and Statistics in Asia in.

2. DATA COLLECTION, COMPILATION AND PUBLICATION

The main objective of the compilation and publication of Catch-Effort Statistics for the South China Sea Area is to provide available statistical information to scientists in the region.

A set of "Questionnaire and Notes on Completion of the Questionnaire" is sent each year to the participating countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam for them to complete. The instruction is for the participating countries to return to MFRDMD the accomplished questionnaires for compilation and processing. The publication of Catch-Effort Statistics Bulletin for the year being considered is totally based on the returned questionnaires.

3. PRESENT STATUS

To date, the questionnaires for the year of 1992 and 1993 have already been sent to the countries concerned and some completed questionnaires have been sent back to MFRDMD. Initial results of the responses have been compiled as follows:

(1) **Catch-effort Statistics Data for 1992**

i. **Annual Catch-effort**

a) Catch and Fishing Effort by Type of Fishing Gear

Anchovy Purse Seine: *Thailand*
Thai Purse Seine: *Thailand*
Fish Purse Seine: *Malaysia*
Otter Trawl: *Malaysia and Thailand*
Pair Trawl: *Thailand*
Beam Trawl: *Thailand*
Spanish Mackerel Drift Gill Net: *Thailand*
Mackerel encircling Gill Net: *Thailand*
Bamboo Stake Trap: *Thailand*
Engine Boat Push Net: *Thailand*

b) Catch and Fishing Effort by Type of Fishing Gear and Size of Management

Fish Purse Seine: *Malaysia*
Otter Trawl: *Malaysia and Thailand*
Pair Trawl: *Thailand*

ii. **Monthly Catch-effort Data**

a) Catch and Fishing Effort by Type of Fishing Gear and by Month

Anchovy Purse Seine: *Thailand*
Thai Purse Seine: *Thailand*
Otter Trawl: *Thailand*
Pair Trawl: *Thailand*
Beam Trawl: *Thailand*
Spanish Mackerel Drift Gill Net: *Thailand*
Mackerel Encircling Gill Net: *Thailand*
Bamboo Stake Trap: *Thailand*
Engine Boat Push Net: *Thailand*

b) Catch and Fishing Effort by Type of Fishing Gear, by Month and by Size of Management

Otter Trawl: *Thailand*
Pair Trawl: *Thailand*

iii. **Specific Data on Catch-Effort**

Hong Kong

a) Annual Catch and Effort by Type of Fishing Gear

Purse seine, Stern Trawler, Pair Trawl, Shrimp Trawl, Gill Net and Line

iv. **Response from countries**

Brunei Darussalam - Catch-Effort data not available

Taiwan - no reply

Indonesia - no reply

Kampuchea - no reply

Philippines - Catch-Effort data not available

Singapore - Catch-Effort data not available

Viet Nam - no reply

Considering the aforementioned 1992 responses, four out of 10 participating countries did not give any response while three countries mentioned that the catch-effort data were not available. Thailand gave the catch-effort data written in Thai characters, which brought some difficulties in translating, although MFRDMD sought the assistance from TD for translating the information before the original data were compiled. Hong Kong gave the overall landing only for 1992 following a specific format.

(2) **Catch-effort Statistics Data for 1993**

i. **Annual Catch-Effort**

a) Catch and Fishing Effort by Type of Fishing Gear

Fish Purse Seine (One Boat): *Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia (Peninsular)*

Otter Trawl: *Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia (Peninsular)*

Pair Trawl: *Taiwan*

Drift Gill Net: *Malaysia (Peninsular)*

Hook-and-Line: *Taiwan and Malaysia (Peninsular)*

b) Catch and Fishing Effort by Type of Fishing Gear and Size of Management

Fish Purse Seine (One Boat): *Taiwan (Unit) and Malaysia (Peninsular)*

Otter Trawl: *Taiwan (Unit) and Malaysia (Peninsular)*

Hook-and-Line: *Taiwan (Unit)*

ii. **Monthly Catch-Effort Data**

a) **Catch and Fishing Effort by Type of Fishing Gear and by Month**

Fish Purse Seine (One Boat): *Brunei and Taiwan* (Catch)

Otter Trawl: *Brunei and Taiwan* (Catch)

Pair Trawl: *Taiwan* (Catch)

Hook-and-Line: *Taiwan* (Catch)

iii. **Specific Data on Catch-Effort**

Indonesia

a) **Annual Catch and Effort (Unit) by Type of Fishing Gear and by Area:**

BED Equipped Shrimp Net, Seine Net (Payang includes Lampara), Seine Net (Danish Seine), Seine Net (Beach Seine), Purse Seine, Gill Net (Drift Gill Net), Gill Net (Encircling Gill Net), Gill Net (Shrimp Gill Net), Gill Net (Set Gill Net), Gill Net (Trammel Net), Lift Net (Boat/Raft Net), Lift Net (Bagan includes Kelong), Lift Net (Scoop Net), Lift Net (Other Lift Net), Hook-and-Line (Tuna Longline), Hook-and-Line (Drift Longline other than Tuna Longline), Hook-and-Line (Set Longline), Hook-and-Line (Skipjack Pole and Line), Hook-and-Line (Other Pole and Line), Hook-and-Line (Troll Line), Trap (Guiding Barrier), Trap (Stow Net), Trap (Portable Trap), Trap (Other Traps), Shellfish Collection. Seaweed Collection, Muro Ami included Mallugis and Others (Harpon, Cast Net, etc.)

iv. **Response from other countries**

Hong Kong - no reply

Kampuchea - no reply

Philippines - Catch-Effort data not available

Singapore - Catch-Effort data not available

Thailand - no reply

Viet Nam - no reply

For the 1993 responses, four out of 10 countries still did not give any response while two countries mentioned that the catch-effort data in their countries, were not available. Malaysia gave data of the catch-effort for Peninsular area only while Indonesia started to give the annual landing of 1993 in a specific format.

4. PUBLICATION

The Catch-Effort Statistics Bulletin for 1992 has already been published and will be distributed to respective countries as soon as possible. The next publication is for the year 1993 and SEAFDEC/MFRDMD is still waiting for the response from Thailand before the Bulletin could be printed.

The response in the questionnaires, showed that statistics and data collecting system of the participating countries is still in developing stages. The implementation of computer systems in some countries for retrieving and processing the statistical data could hopefully overcome this weakness.

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD believes that all countries will give their cooperation and provide complete information as required in the future. Based on the present format of the Catch-Effort Statistics Bulletin, which is suitable for both artisanal and industrial fisheries, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD asked participating countries to give their full cooperation for the publication of the Bulletin.

5. FUTURE TASKS

In order to improve the collection and compilation of catch and effort statistics, the following activities will be undertaken as soon as possible:

- a) SEAFDEC/MFRDMD will organize a technical group meeting among the officers who handle the collection of fishery statistics in the participating countries;
- b) SEAFDEC/MFRDMD will exert efforts to ensure the systematic compilation of Catch-Effort Statistics for the South China Sea Area which is an essential element for effective fishery policy development and management in the region, and in line with the Code of Conduct For Responsible Fisheries; and
- c) The questionnaire for the 1994 data will be sent to the participating countries immediately after this 1997 Workshop.