# REPORT OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC COMMON POSITION ON THE PROPOSED LISTING OF COMMERCIALLY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES INTO THE CITES APPENDICES

19-20 May 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



## I. OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION

- 1. The Regional Consultation for Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices was organized by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department from 19 to 20 May 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 2. The Consultation was attended by national delegates from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Consultation was also attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments. The list of participants appears as Annex 1.
- 3. The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* welcomed the participants to the Consultation, and summarized the objectives and expected outputs of the Consultation which include the development of the common position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices. He cited that the result of this Consultation would be raised at the CITES-CoP17 in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 5 October 2016. Therefore, this Consultation is crucial as it would pave the way for concretizing our coordinated position with respect to the aforementioned proposed listing taking into consideration our efforts to sustainably manage and conserve our fishery resources. He then the declared the Consultation open. His Opening Speech appears as **Annex 2**.

#### II. SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

4. The Consultation unanimously selected the representative from Philippines, *Mr. Edwyn B. Alesna* chairperson of the Consultation.

# III. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTATION

5. A brief background and introduction of the agenda and arrangements of the Consultation was presented by *Ms. Sawitree Chamsai* from the SEAFDEC Secretariat (SEAFDEC/SEC). The Consultation noted that SEAFDEC has initiated a program on "Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fish Trade-related Issues" supported by the Japanese Trust Fund to discuss international fisheries related issues as well as CITES issues including the Common/Coordinated Position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. In order to prepare for the forthcoming CITES-CoP17, this Consultation aimed to develop the common position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices and to discuss the way forward for seeking cooperation through the ASEAN mechanism and ASEAN Experts Group on CITES (AEG-CITES) as well as promotion of the ASEAN/SEAFDEC Common Position at the CITES-CoP17. The Consultation adopted the Agenda which appears as **Annex 3**.

# IV. OVERVIEW ON THE PROPOSED LISTING OF COMMERCIALLY-EXPLOITED AQUATIC SPECIES INTO THE CITES APPENDICES

6. The Consultation took note of the overview on the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices during upcoming COP17 of CITES which was presented by *Dr. Worawit Wanchana* from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. Many issues were pointed in the proposals such as unsustainable mortality in target/bycatch fisheries, unknown stock status, international trade demand, high level of unreporting or illegal trade, habitat degradation. His presentation appears as **Annex 4**.

#### V. TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SEAFDEC EXPERT MEETING

- 7. The representative from SEAFDEC/SEC, *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* presented the outputs of the Experts Meeting on Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (Annex 5) which was conducted from 16 to 17 May 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand. There were 8 proposals concerned to CEAS;
  - o 2 shark species (Alopias spp., Carcharhinus falciformis),
  - o 2 ray species (Mobula spp., Potamotrygon motoro),
  - o 2 aquarium fish issues (Holacanthis clarionensis, Pterapogon kauderni),
  - o All species of Nautilidae, and
  - o Salt water crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*)
- 8. The Consultation noted that all proposal was aimed to inclusion of these species into CITES Appendix II due to the declining of their populations, except the *P. porosus* which aimed to down listed from Appendix I to II. Such Meeting agreed to consider the experiences of RFMOs and other countries as basis for justifications. Information of Sri Lanka was not recommended by IOTC, the data needed to be reviewed. The result of previous meeting showed that there were many issues for proposed listing of CEAS in Appendix II such as the management of look-a-like species, the rapidly declining of catch, the unknown or unclear stock status, the rarely appearance, the endemic species character and the aquarium trade over exploitation. All of these issues were made all these species needed to be protected and controlling trade by Appendix II.
- 9. For the Anguillid eels or fresh water species which may have the problem from look-a-like species, it was pointed that glass eel aquaculture should be developed to handle the EU law of trade, if necessary. As well as the precious coral which the NDF hard coral was already conducted by Malaysia and together with the experiences from Indonesia for the management methods.
- 10. The Meeting suggested that all AMSs should aware of the CITES listing as well as adoption of protection can cause of even more over exploitation of that species, due to the higher price in the black market. In addition, the Meeting suggested that sources of papers or data should be attached as the footnote.

## VI. DRAFTING THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC COMMON/COORDINATED POSITION ON CEAS

- 11. The Consultation took note of the template of data collection sheet as an SOP to getting the same view for all member countries namely 'common position' as presented by *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon*. Each country was then requested to provide views and decision on the proposals which are;
  - 1) Inclusion of the genus Alopias spp. (thresher sharks)in Appendix II,
  - 2) Inclusion of genus *Mobula* spp. (mobula or devil rays) in Appendix II,
  - 3) Inclusion of silky shark, Carcharhinus falciformis, in Appendix II,
  - 4) Inclusion of Clarion Angelfish, *Holacanthus clarionensis*, in Appendix II,
  - 5) Inclusion of Ocellate River Stingray, *Potamotrygon motoro*, in Appendix II,
  - 6) Inclusion of Banggai Cardinalfish, Pterapogon kauderni, in Appendix II,
  - 7) Inclusion of all species of nautilus under the Family Nautilidae in Appendix II,
  - 8) Issues on Anguilla species,

- 9) Issues on Precious coral,
- 10) Down listing of *Crocodylus porosus* from Appendix I to Appendix II, and
- 11) Matters on CITES Regulations and Future consideration/actions by AMSs and SEAFDEC.

# VII. CONCLUSION AND ADOPTION OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DRAFT OF ASEAN-SEAFDEC COMMON/COORDINATED POSITIONS

12. After thorough discussion, the Consultation adopted the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions which appears as **Annex 6**.

## VIII. WAY FORWARD

13. The Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* briefed the Way Forward on Adoption of ASEAN/SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Position at the CoP-17 (**Annex 7**). He informed the Meeting that the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions will be submitted for endorsement by the SEAFDEC Council, 24<sup>th</sup> ASWGFi, the ASEAN Expert Group on CITES, and SOM/AMAF, respectively.

#### IX. CLOSING OF THE CONSULTATION

14. The Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Mr. Kaoru Ishii*, expressed his appreciation to the participants for their active participation and inputs during the deliberations which enabled the Consultation to come up with significant results. He thanked SEAFDEC staff and colleagues for meeting arrangement. Before closing, he raised the concern on Brunei Darussalam and Singapore's positions based on the 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common/Coordinated Positions. He then declared the Consultation closed. His Statement appears as **Annex 8**.