



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

Online Meeting
24–25 November 2021



Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

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THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP)**

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**THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or the 24FCG/ASSP was organized through a virtual platform from 24 to 25 November 2021, and was co-chaired by the representative from Cambodia as the Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC to discuss the programs implemented in 2021 and endorse the programs proposed for 2022 under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism that had been scrutinized by the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (44PCM). The 24FCG/ASSP also noted the implementation and provided guidance on the policy documents under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism as well as other issues that are important to the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. The 24FCG/ASSP was attended by the representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments.
2. The 24FCG/ASSP discussed the "Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-third Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership". On the Regional Vessels Record (RFVR) Database, SEAFDEC was encouraged to continue providing capacity building to AMSs on uploading the key data elements in the Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over. While expressing appreciation to SEAFDEC in providing the regional platforms to discuss cross-cutting issues, even though the discussion on fisheries subsidies may not come up with common positions, it would still be useful for the Member Countries to share and learn the experiences of other countries. The 24FCG/ASSP noted that the Philippines requested for the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to conduct the biomass survey of sardine resources in selected areas in the Philippines, which would be undertaken in 2022.
3. On the "Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given by the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries during 2021," the 24FCG/ASSP was informed on the results of the discussions of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries, namely: 1) the 29th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (29ASWGF_i); 2) the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 42nd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM-42AMAF); and 3) the 43rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (43AMAF) on the issues and the actions that should be undertaken. Regarding the Feasibility Study of the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP), the 24FCG/ASSP suggested that the results of the Study should not suggest development of any new AGFP document but encourage the AMSs to implement the existing ASEAN policies in the fisheries sector. The 24FCG/ASSP requested the ASEAN and SEAFDEC to support the development of regional strategies to facilitate the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), and the establishment of ASEAN common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture.
4. For the "FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2021–2022," the 24FCG/ASSP noted the progress and achievements of the projects implemented by SEAFDEC in 2021, and endorsed the proposed projects and activities for 2022. These include sixteen (16) ongoing projects; and four (4) new projects which would be commenced in 2022, namely: 1) ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia; 2) ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project; 3) Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia; and 4) Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of the Coastal States and Communities. Furthermore, for the pipeline projects, namely: 1) Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture; 2) Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia; and 3) USAID Public International Organization (PIO) Grant Contribution to Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), the 24FCG/ASSP noted that these projects may commence in 2022, and would be placed under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism once the funding could be confirmed.
5. The 24FCG/ASSP noted the "Progress of SEAFDEC-related Activities/Proposals under the ASEAN Fisheries Related Bodies," as follows:

- Results of the Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security (AHSCCC-FS), which was held virtually on 29 July 2021.
- Results of the 13th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) which was held virtually on 22 June 2021.
- Progress of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025:
 - On the Project Proposal on Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Secretariat received a request from SEAFDEC/AQD to postpone the project appraisal and approval process due to the pandemic; and welcomed the inclusion of antimicrobials in the project proposal.
 - On the Project Proposal on ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project, the ASEAN had already endorsed the project proposal to the Japanese Mission for approval.
 - On the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, the project proposal was already approved by the ASEAN and Japan. JICA and the ASEAN are working on the detailed arrangement for the implementation of the project in February 2022 in collaboration with SEAFDEC.
 - On the Project Proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia, the project proposal is currently under the ASEAN project and approval process.
- Progress of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.
- Results of the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU), which was held virtually from 21 to 22 December 2020.
- Results of the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) which was held online on 21 June 2021.

6. With regards to the “Policy Consideration on Important Issues,” the 24FCG/ASSP took note of the implementation of relevant initiatives and provided the following recommendations:

- Combating IUU Fishing
 - For the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR), the AMSs should update their respective data in the RFVR Database, while SEAFDEC should consider providing assistance to such countries to enhance their capacity in uploading their respective data in the Database.
 - For the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), SEAFDEC could extend assistance on the use of ACDS to the other AMSs that have not yet implemented this traceability schemes.
 - With regard to the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM), SEAFDEC should continue supporting the AMSs toward enhancing their capacities to be able to ratify and implement the PSMA and provide the assistance for the conduct of capacity building for the AMSs on AIS inspection to combat IUU fishing.
 - On the project proposal on the Implementation and Assessment of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity), as the ASEAN Secretariat and the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) have already completed the preliminary assessment of the proposal, the ASEAN Secretariat should circulate the project proposal to the FCG/ASSP

focal points for their comments and suggestions and by *ad referendum* endorsement; and the final proposal would be subsequently submitted to the ASWGFi for consideration.

- Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region
 - For the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region, the discussion on management measures utilized from the results of the stock and risk assessments of longtail tuna and kawakawa published in 2021 could be discussed during the 7th Meeting of SWG-Neritic Tunas to be organized by MFRDMD in 2022.
 - As the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region was endorsed by the 43rd AMAF Meeting in October 2021, the AMSs were encouraged to adopt the RAP-Mackerel for management of the Indo-Pacific mackerel resources by the respective countries.
- Fish Trade-related issues
 - On the CITES-related Issues, SEAFDEC should retain the support to provide the information exchange platform, updated information, and technical recommendations to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the CITES-related issues as preparation for the 19th Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to CITES to be held on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama. SEAFDEC should also consider revising the timeline for submission of the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Listing of Species Listed under CITES for the COP19” in order to have sufficient time for the endorsement by the FCG/ASSP, ASWGFi, and SOM-AMAF, respectively.
 - On the Fisheries Subsidies, SEAFDEC should continue to follow up on the adopted Text of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in order to identify the appropriate capacity building activities for the AMSs. Moreover, SEAFDEC should also consider supporting the conduct of capacity building and sharing of information among AMSs in the the development and implementation of reference points, such as maximum sustainable yield (MSY) or other reference points, as appropriate.
 - For the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), SEAFDEC should consider facilitating the sharing of experiences among the countries on regulations and management measures applied for the specific fisheries *e.g.* trawl, gillnet, purse seine, handline, longline, in accordance with the U.S. legal framework and regulations.
- Others/Emerging Issues
 - The 24FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

7. Under Other Matters, the 24FCG/ASSP took note of the information and the progress of related activities:

- On the proposed Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030, SEAFDEC is planning to organize the “Regional Workshop on the Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA2030” in January 2022.

- In occasion of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022, SEAFDEC and FAO are planning to celebrate the IYAFA in 2022 while there are other events where IYAFA would be highlighted, *e.g.* the the “4th World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (4WSFC) Asia-Pacific” to be organized in Japan and the “APEC’s Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) Meeting” to be hosted by Thailand.
8. The Report of the 24FCG/ASSP was adopted on 25 November 2021.

CONTENTS

	Paragraph No.
INTRODUCTION	1
I. OPENING OF THE MEETING	2–4
II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	5
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 Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-third Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership	6–8
3.2 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries during 2021	9–11
IV. ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2021–2022	
4.1 Summary Report on the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2021–2022	12–17
V. PROGRESS OF SEAFDEC-RELATED ACTIVITIES/PROPOSALS UNDER THE ASEAN RELATED BODIES	
5.1 ASEAN Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security	18–19
5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum	20–22
5.3 Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021–2025	23–25
5.4 ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing	26–29
5.5 ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU)	30–33
5.6 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)	34–36
VI. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES	
6.1 Combating IUU Fishing	
6.1.1 Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing	37–42
6.1.2 Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)	43–47
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	48–51
6.2.2 Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region	52
6.3 Fish Trade-related Issues	
6.3.1 CITES-related Issues	53–56
6.3.2 Fisheries Subsidies	57–61
6.3.3 U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act	62–64

6.4	Others/Emerging Issues	65
6.4.1	Study on Impacts from COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	
VII. OTHER MATTERS		
7.1	Roadmap on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030	66
7.2	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022	67–70
VIII. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT OF THE MEETING		
71–72		
IX. CLOSING OF THE MEETING		
73		

ANNEXES

	Page
1. List of Participants	13
2. Welcome Remarks by <i>Ms. Malinee Smithrithee</i> , SEAFDEC Secretary-General	23
3. Opening Remarks by <i>Mr. Buoy Roitana</i> , Chair of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries	25
4. Agenda	27
5. Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the 53 rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	29
6. Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the 23 rd Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)	35
7. Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries During 2021	41
8. Summary Report of the Collaborative Programs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG/ASSP) for the Year 2021–2022	45
9. ASEAN Ad-Hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (AHSCCC-FS)	51
10. ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)	53
11. Progress of the Implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (2021–2025)	55
12. Progress of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing	71
13. ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU)	79
14. Progress of the Implementation of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA): Executive Summary of the 11 th Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance	81
15. Progress of the Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing	83
16. Progress of the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	87
17. Progress of the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region	101
18. Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in The Gulf of Thailand Sub-region	103
19. CITES-Related Issues	105
20. Fisheries Subsidies	123

21.	U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act	129
22.	Study on Impacts of COVID–19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries	133
23.	Roadmap for the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030	135
24.	International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022	137
25.	Closing Remarks by <i>Ms. Malinee Smithrithee</i> , SEAFDEC Secretary-General	141

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

24–25 November 2021, Online Meeting

INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or the 24FCG/ASSP was organized through virtual platform from 24 to 25 November 2021 to discuss the programs implemented in 2021 and endorse the programs proposed for 2022 under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism that had been scrutinized by the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (44PCM). The 24FCG/ASSP noted the implementation and provided guidance on the policy documents under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism as well as other issues that are of importance to the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. The 24FCG/ASSP was attended by the representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and 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 24FCG/ASSP was co-chaired by the representative from Cambodia, *Mr. Buoy Roitana* on behalf of the current Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*.

3. The Co-chairperson for SEAFDEC welcomed the participants to the 24FCG/ASSP and reiterated the long cooperation between the ASEAN and SEAFDEC that has been sustained for over twenty-years, providing an important forum not only to monitor the progress of works implemented under the FCG Mechanism, but also to jointly discuss and share views on emerging fisheries-related issues and challenges. She added that since several fisheries-related issues and international issues/challenges that require consideration and directives would be discussed at this 24FCG/ASSP, she therefore urged the participants to actively take part in the deliberations as such actions would contribute to the sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the Southeast Asian region. Her Welcome Remarks appears as **Annex 2**.

4. While expressing concern on the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic to the fisheries sector, the Co-chairperson for the ASEAN encouraged the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to sustain the strengthened cooperation and partnership in order that the implementation of important activities in the region could be continued. He emphasized the importance of this 24FCG/ASSP in reviewing the issues and challenges at hand and in coming up with policy recommendations toward achieving the long-term goals of development and management for the sustainability of fisheries in the region. He then declared the 24FCG/ASSP open. His Opening Remarks appears as **Annex 3**.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

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 Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-third Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership

6. The 24FCG/ASSP took note of the follow-up actions taken by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council during its Fifty-third Meeting (53CM) convened on 27–28 April and 11 May 2021, and the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership during



its 23rd Meeting (23FCG/ASSP) on 17–18 November 2020, as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. The follow-up actions to the 53CM and 23FCG/ASSP appear as **Annex 5** and **Annex 6**, respectively.

7. With regard to the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database, the representative from Indonesia encouraged SEAFDEC to continue providing capacity building to the AMSs, especially in uploading the key data elements in the Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over. He expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for conducting regional workshops on cross-cutting issues, in response to their previous request for SEAFDEC to facilitate discussions on such aspects at least twice a year. Although some of the activities, such as those on Fisheries Subsidies, were not able to come up with Common Position, such events would still be useful for the Member Countries to share and learn the experiences of other countries.

8. While extending the gratitude to SEAFDEC for considering their request for SEAFDEC to support the conduct of biomass survey of sardine resources in selected areas in the Philippines using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, the representative from the Philippines informed the 24FCG/ASSP that the country has prepared and endorsed the proposal for this survey through its national mechanism, and that the planned survey would be undertaken in 2022.

3.2 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries during 2021

9. The 24FCG/ASSP noted the results of the discussions of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries, namely: 1) the 29th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (29thASWGF_i) held virtually on 23–24 June 2021; 2) the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 42nd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-42nd AMAF) held virtually on 23 August 2021; and 3) the 43rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (43rd AMAF), held virtually on 27 October 2021, as presented by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat. The summary of the results of the discussions appears as **Annex 7**.

10. On the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP), and while welcoming the initiatives to analyze existing regional policies and identify gaps of the policy implementation, the representative from Indonesia reiterated that the results of AGFP Feasibility Study Recommendation does not develop any new AGFP document but encouraged the AMSs to implement the existing ASEAN policies in the fisheries sector.

11. The representative from Indonesia stated that Indonesia is committed to implement the ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (FAF) Sector 2016–2025, and for the Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) 2022, and requested the ASEAN and SEAFDEC to support the development of regional strategies to facilitate the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), and the establishment of ASEAN common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture.

IV. ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2021–2022

4.1 Summary Report on the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2021–2022

12. The 24FCG/ASSP noted the presentation made by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General on the collaborative programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism for 2021–2022 which were reviewed by the 44PCM on 15–17 November 2021. The summary of the program scrutiny and the recommendations of the 44PCM appears as **Annex 8**.

13. The 24FCG/ASSP noted the progress and achievements of the projects implemented by SEAFDEC in 2021, and endorsed the proposed projects and activities for 2022. These include sixteen (16) ongoing projects; and four (4) new projects which would be commenced in 2022, namely: 1) ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia; 2) ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain

Development Project; 3) Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia; and 4) Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities.

14. The 24FCG/ASSP also took note of the five (5) pipeline projects which are subject to confirmation for funding support from the prospective donors. Three of such projects, namely: 1) Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture; 2) Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia; and 3) USAID Public International Organization (PIO) Grant Contribution to Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), may commence in 2022. The 24FCG/ASSP therefore endorsed these projects to be placed under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism once the funding could be confirmed.

15. The representative from Japan expressed support for the proposed activities in 2022 for submission to higher authorities of the ASEAN. He also supported the initiatives on combating IUU fishing and enhancing sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in line with the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA2030).

16. The representative from Indonesia took note of and endorsed the programs and projects proposed for implementation in 2022.

17. The representative from Thailand expressed the appreciation for the achievements of the projects implemented in 2021 and endorsed the proposed activities for 2022. She informed the 24FCG/ASSP that Thailand proposed to utilize the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for fisheries resources survey in the EEZ of Thailand in the Andaman Sea in 2022–2023. Currently, the proposal is under the process of internal consultation for planning and securing the necessary budget.

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

5.1 ASEAN Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security

18. The 24FCG/ASSP took note of the summary results of the Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security (AHSCCC-FS), which was held virtually on 29 July 2021 (**Annex 9**), as reported by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat.

19. While taking note of the results of the Tenth Meeting of the AHSCCC-FS, the representative from Indonesia expressed the willingness of the country to be involved in cross-cutting working groups on fisheries-related issues, such as those dealing with the impacts of climate change.

5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum

20. The 24FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the activities under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), particularly the results of its 13th Meeting held virtually on 22 June 2021 (**Annex 10**), as reported by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat.

21. The representative from Indonesia expressed the commitment of Indonesia to implement activities under the AFCF mechanism in 2022, especially on the development of regional strategies to encourage the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and initiatives related to sustainable small-scale aquaculture. In this regard, he requested the ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC to support Indonesia in the conduct of a workshop related to the development of the regional strategies in 2022.

22. In response to the aforementioned request of Indonesia, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC expressed the willingness to support the conduct of the proposed workshop, and requested Indonesia to provide the detailed information to the ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC for appropriate coordination and arrangements.



5.3 Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021–2025

23. The 24FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025 (**Annex 11**), as presented by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat. Specifically, the 24FCG/ASSP was also informed of the progress made by the ASEAN Secretariat in securing funding support to a number of projects that are still under consideration, which include among others:

- On the Project Proposal on Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Secretariat received a request from SEAFDEC/AQD to postpone the project appraisal and approval process due to the pandemic; and welcomed the inclusion of antimicrobials in the project proposal
- On the Project Proposal on ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project, the ASEAN had already endorsed the project proposal to the Japanese Mission for approval
- On the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, the project proposal was already approved by the ASEAN and Japan. JICA and the ASEAN are working on the detailed arrangement for the implementation of the project in February 2022 in collaboration with SEAFDEC
- On the Project Proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia, the project proposal is currently under the ASEAN project and approval process

24. While noting the progress report on the SPA-Fisheries 2021–2025, the representative from Indonesia informed the 24FCG/ASSP that some activities under SPA-Fisheries have already been conducted in Indonesia, especially, the Virtual Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of AMS in Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication to Support Access to Markets on 16–17 September 2020, and the Marine and Fisheries Business and Investment Forum: A Regional Forum on ASEAN Public Private Partnership: Opportunity and Challenge on 28 January 2021. He also reiterated the country’s commitments to implement some activities appended on the SPA-Fisheries 2021–2025 at the national and regional levels.

25. While also taking note of the progress of the SPA-Fisheries 2021–2025, the representative from Thailand expressed the appreciation to JICA for the inclusion of an activity on “development of the ASEAN guidelines on inspection mechanisms for aquaculture fish and fisheries products” under the ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project. She also encouraged the ASEAN Secretariat to collaborate with the AMSs for the implementation of projects and activities under the SPA-Fisheries, as well as to exert efforts in sourcing funds to support activities in the future.

5.4 ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

26. The 24FCG/ASSP was informed on the progress of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2021–2025) (**Annex 12**) which was adopted *ad referendum* by AMAF on 30 November 2020 as reported by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat.

27. The representative from Indonesia took note of the progress of the implementation of the ongoing activities under the Roadmap and looked forward to the implementation of the future activities.

28. During the discussion, the representative from Thailand informed the 24FCG/ASSP that, under Activity 6.1 on “Support AMS to develop, implement and revise their National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) in line with the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU), including sharing of best practices,” Thailand has revised and updated its NPOA-IUU, and the NPOA-IUU version 2 is currently being translated into the English language.

29. The representative from Cambodia informed the 24FCG/ASSP that Cambodia is also under the progress of the second year of the implementation of its NPOA-IUU and the National Plan of Control and Inspection (NPCI).

5.5 ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU)

30. The 24FCG/ASSP took note of the summary results of the First Meeting of the AN-IUU, which was held virtually from 21 to 22 December 2020 and chaired by Thailand (**Annex 13**), as reported by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat.

31. The representative from Thailand expressed the appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat and the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) for the support extended to the development of the “Guidelines on sharing, access to and use of IUU fishing related information,” and encouraged the AMSs to continue to provide inputs to the draft Guidelines. She informed the 24FCG/ASSP that Thailand as the host of the AN-IUU Network Center is pleased to organize a training course on the operationalization of AN-IUU Interactive Platform upon request, and the concerned AMSs can communicate with the AN-IUU focal point of Thailand. Moreover, she also informed the 24FCG/ASSP that the Second Meeting of the AN-IUU is scheduled to be organized and hosted by Viet Nam on 26–27 January 2022.

32. While taking note of the progress of works undertaken by the AN-IUU, the representative from Indonesia informed the 24FCG/ASSP on the commitment of Indonesia through its focal point, to actively engage in the future activities, especially on the development of the Guidelines on sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing related information. She also emphasized that the AN-IUU should be complementarily with and not duplicating with the existing regional mechanisms, especially the SEAFDEC initiatives and RPOA-IUU.

33. In response to the request of the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat for additional information on the AN-IUU Network Center, the representative from Thailand stated that the AN-IUU Network Center which is hosted by Thailand has the responsibility of hosting the AN-IUU Interactive Platform and coordinating with the AN-IUU focal point nominated by the respective AMSs. Furthermore, the AN-IUU also has the responsibility of promoting capacity building activities as well as sharing experiences and lessons learned among the AMSs to strengthen the implementation of MCS at the national level.

5.6 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)

34. The 24FCG/ASSP noted the progress of activities carried out by the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), particularly the results of the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance which was held online on 21 June 2021, including the Revised Plan of Action of ASA 2021–2025 (**Annex 14**), as reported by the representative from the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand.

35. While acknowledging the progress of the activities of the ASA, the representative from Indonesia informed the 24FCG/ASSP on its readiness to host the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance in 2022. In this connection, Indonesia will closely communicate with the ASEAN Secretariat and Thailand on the necessary arrangements.

36. The representative from Myanmar expressed the appreciation to Thailand for taking lead on the ASA and that Myanmar would cooperate and support the proposed activities of the ASA.

VI. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

6.1 Combating IUU Fishing

6.1.1 Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing

37. The 24FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the implementation of the three initiatives toward combating IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region undertaken by SEAFDEC, *i.e.* the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR), the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), and the Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures (PSM) (**Annex 15**), as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC/TD.



38. While taking note of the progress of implementation of the SEAFDEC initiatives toward combating IUU fishing, the representative from Indonesia informed the 24FCG/ASSP on its commitment to continue updating the data in the RFVR Database regularly with some adjustments on several criteria that had been regulated at the national level, *i.e.* fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over; registered fishing vessels with active permit; fishing vessels with IMO number; and registered and active fishing vessels in the EEZ of Indonesia, areas adjacent to the EEZ of other AMSs, and high seas. She therefore encouraged the other AMSs to also update their respective data in the RFVR Database and requested SEAFDEC to consider providing assistance to such countries to enhance their capacity in uploading their respective data in the Database.

39. On the ACDS, the representative from Indonesia informed the Meeting that Indonesia has already developed its own national certification system where the elements are aligned with the ACDS, and applied an electronic catch certification specific for the southern bluefin tuna. She then expressed the hope that the other AMSs would benefit from the ACDS and that SEAFDEC could extend assistance on the use of ACDS to the other AMSs that have not yet implemented this traceability schemes. On the PSM, the representative from Indonesia expressed the support of Indonesia for the activities of SEAFDEC in 2022 that could help the AMSs in implementing the PSM. She added that after Indonesia ratified the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) in 2016, Indonesia has assigned four (4) fishing ports to implement the PSMA, namely: Bungus Fishing Port, Jakarta Fishing Port (Nizam Zahman), Benoa Port, and Bitung Fishing Port through Ministerial Decree No. 52 of 2020.

40. The representative from Viet Nam informed the Meeting that Viet Nam maintains the uploading of data on vessels 24 meters in length and over in the RFVR Database, and expressed the concern that Viet Nam still cannot upload real time data due to the lack of resources and Viet Nam applies the annual database uploading basic mechanisms. In order to implement the real time data uploading, Viet Nam needs to have a roadmap to fulfill such requirements. In response, the representative from TD suggested that the AMSs could directly communicate with TD for assistance if some difficulties are encountered in uploading their data into the Database.

41. The representative from Thailand expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for its initiatives toward combating IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region. She also informed the 24FCG/ASSP that Thailand has been regularly updating its data in the RFVR Database. With regards to the PSM, she expressed the gratitude to SEAFDEC and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for organizing the training on PSM for port inspectors, and requested SEAFDEC to continue supporting the AMSs toward enhancing their capacities to be able to ratify and implement the PSMA. Moreover, she also shared the experience of Thailand on the use of the automatic identification system (AIS) data to track the fishing operations and activities of foreign fishing vessels that request to entry into the country's ports. Thailand therefore sought the assistance of SEAFDEC for the conduct of capacity building for the AMSs on AIS inspection to combat IUU fishing. Furthermore, while reiterating that there are large numbers of small-scale fishing vessels operating in the region, she requested SEAFDEC to help enhance the capacity of the AMSs on MCS implementation to combat IUU for this group of fishing vessels. In response, the representative from TD informed the 24FCG/ASSP that TD would seek the cooperation of Thailand with regards to the training on vessel inspection using the AIS.

42. The representative from Malaysia took note of the progress of the ongoing regional initiatives on RFVR, ACDS, and PSM. She also shared the view that the AMSs should update their data in the RFVR Database in real-time, and informed the Meeting that Malaysia is committed to ensuring that the data from Malaysia is up to date. On ACDS, she informed the Meeting that Malaysia will conduct a training for stakeholders in the first quarter of 2022, and requested technical assistance from TD during the training, which would be organized preferably with the physical attendance of participants. In response, the representative from TD informed the 24FCG/ASSP that TD would consider providing technical support accordingly.

6.1.2 Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)

43. The 24FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the project proposal on the Implementation and Assessment of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) (**Annex 16**), as reported by the representative from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD.

44. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the 24FCG/ASSP that the ASEAN Secretariat and the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) have already completed the preliminary assessment of the proposal. Although this proposal would be supported in principle by JAIF, its funding would come from a different component, *i.e.* the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP). He then suggested that SEAFDEC and the FCG/ASSP should consider endorsing this proposal to the ASWGFi so that the ASEAN Secretariat could proceed with the project appraisal process.

45. The representative from Malaysia noted the progress of the proposal and expressed the appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat and Japan for facilitating the funding support to this project. While acknowledging that the proposal still requires endorsement of AMAF and ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM), she expressed the hope that the project would be supported and that funds would be secured to support the activities which are in line with the SPA-Fisheries 2021–2025.

46. In response to the query made by the representative from Thailand on the project Activity 2 “Enhancing the existing fisheries statistics and information or relevant system in AMSs” whether this activity should include improvement of the quality of statistics data to be reported at species level, especially for pelagic species, the representative from MFRDMD explained that this activity would focus on pelagic species.

47. Considering that the aforementioned project has already been reported to the SEAFDEC Council as a pipeline project, the 24FCG/ASSP requested the ASEAN Secretariat to proceed to seeking endorsement of the project proposal by the FCG/ASSP and subsequent submission to the ASWGFi for their approval. In this connection, it was suggested that the ASEAN Secretariat should circulate the project proposal to the FCG/ASSP focal points for their comments and suggestions by two or three weeks, and for *ad referendum* endorsement. The final proposal would be subsequently submitted to the ASWGFi for consideration.

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

48. The 24FCG/ASSP was informed on the progress of implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region (**Annex 17**), as reported by the representative from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD.

49. While commending SEAFDEC for promoting the implementation of the RPOA-Neritic Tunas in the region, the representative from Thailand looked forward to participating in the 7th Meeting of SWG-Neritic Tunas scheduled in 2022. While acknowledging the results of the stock and risk assessments of longtail tuna and kawakawa published in 2021, she queried on how the results of such assessments could be used for the management of the two species in the region by the AMSs.

50. In response, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat reiterated that the discussion on management measures should be up to the respective AMSs considering that the ASEAN and SEAFDEC are not regional fisheries management organizations. The representative from Indonesia also encouraged the AMSs to sustainably utilize and manage the pelagic fishery resources in their respective waters taking into consideration the results of the stock assessment.

51. In addition, the representative from Cambodia suggested that the abovementioned concerns could be discussed during the 7th Meeting of SWG-Neritic Tunas to be organized by MFRDMD in 2022.



6.2.2 Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region

52. The 24FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region (**Annex 18**), as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. The 24FCG/ASSP was also informed that the RAP-Mackerel had already been approved by the 43rd AMAF Meeting in October 2021, and the AMSs were encouraged to adopt the RAP-Mackerel for management of the Indo-Pacific mackerel resources by the respective countries.

6.3 Fish Trade-related Issues

6.3.1 CITES-related Issues

53. The 24FCG/ASSP took note of the updates on commercially exploited aquatic species which are being discussed under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (**Annex 19**) as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat. Specifically, the 24FCG/ASSP noted that SEAFDEC retains its support to provide the information exchange platform, updated information, and technical recommendations to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the CITES-related issues as preparation for the 19th Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to CITES to be held on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama.

54. The representative from Japan expressed some concerns on important fisheries species listed in CITES Appendices at CITES CoP18 without enough and appropriate scientific evidence, *e.g.* shortfin mako shark and tropical sea cucumbers. He then mentioned that it is necessary for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to establish common positions toward the proposed listing of commercially exploited aquatic species, based on scientific evidence. Furthermore, he informed the 24FCG/ASSP that considering the difficulties in making non-detriment findings (NDFs) and in amending such listings flexibly in response to changes of stocks status and also taking into account the differences in regional characteristics of fishing operations and the management thereof, management measures adopted by regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and/or the coastal States are more effective than CITES regulations from the viewpoint of the sustainable use of fishery resources.

55. With regard to the timeline for submission of the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Listing of Species Listed under CITES for the COP19” to be endorsed through the ASEAN mechanism, the 24FCG/ASSP suggested that SEAFDEC should consider revising the timeline in order to have sufficient time for the endorsement by the FCG/ASSP, ASWGFi, and SOM-AMAF, respectively.

56. The representative from Indonesia informed the 24FCG/ASSP that the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia has issued the Ministerial Decree No. 16 of 2021 concerning the National Conservation Action Plan for Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) 2021–2025, and the Ministerial Decree No. 4 of 2014 for protection of two species of manta rays (*Mobula birostris* and *M. alfredi*). Furthermore, she added that Indonesia has also actively enforced the regulation to protect some species of eels, marine ornamental fishes, and Banggai cardinalfish. Moreover, the National Action Plan for seahorse conservation 2016–2020 is currently being reissued. She also expressed support to the revision of the timeline for development and submission of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position. Indonesia also welcomed the initiatives of SEAFDEC on exploring common position for the CITES CoP19 in 2022, however, there is a need to specify first which species should be focused on during the discussion.

6.3.2 Fisheries Subsidies

57. The 24FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies and the related regional initiatives undertaken by SEAFDEC (**Annex 20**), as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat. The 24FCG/ASSP also noted the “Consolidated Views of SEAFDEC Member Countries” as agreed during the SEAFDEC Webinar Series: WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text (Negotiation Group on Rules) organized on 10 and 17 June 2021. Moreover, the 24FCG/ASSP was also informed that SEAFDEC is planning to organize the

“Consultative Planning and Training Workshop on Stock Assessment in Support the Implementation of the International Commitments for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia” on 9 and 13–17 December 2021.

58. The representative from Indonesia expressed the appreciation to SEAFDEC for conducting a series of regional consultations and workshops that addressed cross-cutting issues such as gender, labor, and climate change related to international fisheries. On fisheries subsidies, although it was not possible to come up with a common position given the limited time for discussion, such forum was useful to facilitate sharing of views among the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. She also informed the 24FCG/ASSP on the revised Text on Fisheries Subsidies which came out on 8 November 2021, and that the country had shared views through its representative in Geneva. She then looked forward to the progress of the discussion of the articles and issues during the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference from 30 November to 3 December 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland.

59. The representative from Viet Nam thanked SEAFDEC for its effort in providing the regional platform to discuss issues on fisheries subsidies, and informed the 24FCG/ASSP on the latest and upcoming activities on the WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies. She raised the concern that there are several changes in the latest Text including those on fisheries management, fisheries-related issues (*e.g.* IUU fishing, forced labor), notification scheme, among others. She therefore requested SEAFDEC to follow up on the progress of the negotiation and develop a guidance for the AMSs to adopt in the future, and for SEAFDEC to develop the appropriate approach in conducting stock assessment according to the needs of the countries so that there would be common understanding to comply with the international requirements.

60. The representative from Thailand expressed the gratitude to SEAFDEC for its continued support the AMSs. Considering that the latest Text contains issues on fishery resource utilization and management and reference points, she requested SEAFDEC to consider supporting the conduct of activities on capacity building and sharing of information among the AMSs in the development and implementation of reference points, such as maximum sustainable yield (MSY) or other reference points, as appropriate.

61. In response, the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the 24FCG/ASSP that SEAFDEC would follow up on the adopted Text of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in order to identify the appropriate capacity building activities for the AMSs. Moreover, she also encouraged the AMSs to discuss the gaps and appropriate approach for stock assessment during the Consultative Planning Meeting to be organized on 9 December 2021.

6.3.3 U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act

62. The 24FCG/ASSP was informed on the progress of the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (**Annex 21**) as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat. The 24FCG/ASSP also supported the submission of the results of the “Webinar on Regional Responses to U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act” organized by SEAFDEC on 2–3 November 2021 to the 54th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2022, and subsequently to the ASEAN mechanism.

63. The representative from Viet Nam expressed her gratitude to SEAFDEC for organizing the MMPA Webinar as this has facilitated the understanding of the AMSs on the requirements of the U.S. MMPA. She then raised two issues for further consideration by the SEAFDEC Council at its upcoming meeting. First, based on the outputs of the MMPA Webinar especially on the requirement for management of specific fisheries, *e.g.* trawl, gillnet, purse seine, handline, longline, in accordance with the U.S. legal framework and regulations, SEAFDEC should consider facilitating the sharing of experiences among the countries on regulations and management measures applied for the specific fisheries. Secondly, as the U.S. MMPA is not only applied to domestically-harvested products to be exported to the U.S. but also to the imported products to be re-exported to the U.S. which should be equivalent and comparable with the U.S. MMPA. She then urged that a consultation to facilitate the sharing of information on comparability findings among the countries should be established.



64. In response, the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the 24FCG/ASSP that the concern on management of specific fisheries could be discussed among the SEAFDEC Departments to find the baseline information and establish the criteria for specific fishing gears and operations. With regard to the request for sharing of information on comparability findings, SEAFDEC would consider convening a forum under the existing programs of SEAFDEC in 2022.

6.4 Others/Emerging Issues

6.4.1 Study on Impacts from COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries

65. The 24FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries which appears as **Annex 22** and reported by the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

7.1 Roadmap on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030

66. The 24FCG/ASSP took note of the proposed Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (**Annex 23**), as reported by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. The 24FCG/ASSP also noted that SEAFDEC is planning to organize the “Regional Workshop on the Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA2030” in January 2022 to discuss the proposed Roadmap, and that the final Roadmap would be subsequently submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration.

7.2 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022

67. The 24FCG/ASSP took note of the updated information on the plans of SEAFDEC and FAO to celebrate the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022, as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat (**Annex 24**).

68. The representative from Japan informed the 24FCG/ASSP that the “4th World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (4WSFC) Asia-Pacific,” which would be co-hosted by Tokai University, Too Big to Ignore (TBTI) Global, and other relevant organizations in partnership with Shizuoka City of Japan, will be held in Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan in May 2022.

69. The representative from Thailand informed the 24FCG/ASSP that Thailand, as the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation (APEC) in 2022, would host the APEC’s Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) Meeting where the IYAFA 2022 will be highlighted. Moreover, a series of national events will be organized, *e.g.* 2-day academic and consultative forum of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture stakeholders together with the exhibition of local fishery products.

70. While taking note of the activities related to the celebration of the IYAFA 2022, the representative from Indonesia informed the 24FCG/ASSP that Indonesia would prepare the short message for inclusion in the SEAFDEC publication to celebrate IYAFA 2022 as requested by the SEAFDEC Secretariat as soon as possible.

VIII. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT OF THE MEETING

71. The Meeting adopted the Report of the 24th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) on 25 November 2021.

72. 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

73. The Co-chair for the ASEAN expressed his gratitude to the participants for their contributions during the two-day deliberation. He encouraged the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to continue maintaining the collaborative environment and foster the regional cooperation even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, the Co-chair for SEAFDEC expressed her appreciation to the ASEAN Co-chair for chairing this 24FCG/ASSP effectively. She also expressed the special gratitude to the Government of Japan for the financial and technical support provided to SEAFDEC for over five decades. She informed the 24FCG/ASSP that the results of this Meeting would be submitted to the forthcoming meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, and also to the higher authorities of the ASEAN under the ASEAN mechanism through the ASWGFi Meeting for notification and endorsement. She expressed the hope that with the strong cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC and the support from all the Member Countries, the region's fisheries sector would be uphold to achieve sustainable production and meet with the global requirements. She then declared the Meeting closed. Her Closing Remarks appears as **Annex 25**.

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WELCOME REMARKS

By *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*,
Secretary-General of SEAFDEC

My Co-Chair of the FCG/ASSP Meeting, *Mr. Buoy Roitana*, on behalf of the current chairperson of the ASWGF, *Mr. Ing Try*,
Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, SEAFDEC Senior Officials,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!

In my position as the Co-Chair for SEAFDEC, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership.

It has been over twenty years since ASEAN and SEAFDEC jointly strengthened cooperation toward sustainable fisheries through the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group or FCG mechanism. Throughout the years, the FCG mechanism has been an important forum for ASEAN and SEAFDEC not only to monitor the progress of works, but also to jointly discuss and share views on the future fisheries-related issues and challenges.

Similarly, in this FCG/ASSP Meeting, we will take note of the progress in the implementation of several works under the ASEAN and SEAFDEC frameworks in 2021 despite the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to consider the proposed activities for 2022 as previously scrutinized by the SEAFDEC Program Committee. There are also several fisheries-related issues and international issues/challenges that require consideration and directives from this Meeting. I therefore look forward to fruitful discussion that would lead to sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the ASEAN region.

Once again, welcome all of you to the Meeting, and have a good day!

OPENING REMARKS

By *Mr. Buoy Roitana*

Chair of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries

Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat; SEAFDEC Senior Officials; Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning to all of you, especially to my Co-chair for SEAFDEC and to our distinguished representative from the ASEAN Secretariat.

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the current Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries, *Mr. Ing Try* to also welcome you all to this virtual Twenty-fourth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are gathered in this FCG/ASSP Meeting to discuss many important issues, particularly mindful of the challenges that the COVID-19 situation had brought about to the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. Presently, we continue to face a number of issues, and experience certain inconveniences since last year. In addressing such issues, the continued cooperation and partnership among the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries through the ASEAN and SEAFDEC is crucial to make sure that important activities could be continued as much as possible.

As is the usual practice during our FCG/ASSP meetings, we will discuss the programs and activities implemented under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism in 2021 and those planned for 2022 and beyond. We would also need to provide policy recommendations on the future directions and actions that should be undertaken to address many vital issues that have emerged in our region which could impact on the sustainability of the fisheries in our region.

Nevertheless, Cambodia is indeed happy to learn about the results of the regional programs that SEAFDEC has been undertaking in our region, as the technical arm of the ASEAN on fisheries development. The implementation of such programs which has been made possible through the FCG/ASSP Mechanism constitutes the ways and means of addressing the priority fisheries issues that many countries in our region have encountered while aiming towards sustainability.

The FCG/ASSP Meeting is therefore very crucial to give us the opportunity to review the issues and come up with policy recommendations supporting the fisheries activities in our region as well as in achieving the long-term common goals towards the development and management of sustainable fisheries as guided by the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030. I therefore hope that we are all prepared to deliberate on this aspect during our Meeting sessions.

At this juncture, please allow me on behalf of the Chair of the ASWGFi and on behalf of my country, to thank the SEAFDEC Secretariat for arranging this FCG/ASSP Meeting, even if it had to be convened through online platform.

Thank you very much, and with that note Ladies and Gentlemen, let me declare this Meeting open.

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 53rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and 23rd 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 2021

Agenda 4: ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2021–2022

- 4.1 Summary Report on the FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2021–2022

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
- 5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)
- 5.3 Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021–2025
- 5.4 ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
- 5.5 ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU)
- 5.6 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)

Agenda 6: Policy Considerations on International Fisheries-related Issues

- 6.1 Combating IUU Fishing
 - 6.1.1 Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing
 - 6.1.2 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 Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region
 - 6.2.2 Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-Region
- 6.3 Fish Trade-related Issues
 - 6.3.1 CITES-related Issues
 - 6.3.2 Fisheries Subsidies
 - 6.3.3 U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act
- 6.4 Others/Emerging Issues
 - 6.4.1 Study on Impacts from COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN SEAFDEC Member Countries

Agenda 7: Other Matters

- 7.1 Roadmap on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030
- 7.2 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022



Agenda 8: Adoption of Recommendations and the Report of the Meeting

Agenda 9: Closing of the Meeting

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE 53rd MEETING OF SEAFDEC COUNCIL

Paragraph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 2021)	Status
II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL				
9	SEAFDEC to conduct more country-based online training activities in the future rather than regional-based activities.	All Departments	Noted	Noted
III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE FORTY-THIRD MEETING				
17	<u>Thailand</u> : SEAFDEC to explore the possibility of reactivating the sub-regional initiatives related to fisheries and habitat management for the Gulf of Thailand sub-region and provide the platform for discussion on the sub-regional fisheries-related issues among the concerned countries.	SEC and TD	SEAFDEC has been implementing; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>two on-going UNEP/GEF projects</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” (2018–2023) and 2. “Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” (2016–2020 and extended until 2022) ment. • <i>One pipeline project</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. “Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)” (2023–2027) is underway the project development phase. <p>These serve as sub-regional platform to discuss issues relevant to fisheries and habitat management.</p>	Done
IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING				
21	Myanmar: SEAFDEC to extend technical support to relevant initiatives such as the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU) and the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.	TD	Noted	Noted

Paragraph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 2021)	Status
V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES				
5.1 Implementation of Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing				
<i>Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)</i>				
26–30	SEAFDEC to focus on enhancing the utilization of RFVR Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over TD to facilitate the discussion on transferring of responsibility to AMSs on data keying in for vessels 24 meters in length and over. TD to communicate with FAO on developing the clear protocol for linking of the RFVR Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over and the Global Record in consultation with AMSs.	TD	TD encouraged the utilization of the existing database and introduced on how to use a template for self-keying data by the respective country. TD also organized the “Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia”, 28–30 September 2021 to facilitate the discussion on transferring of self-keying data and among others. TD discussed with FAO on possible ways to coordinate between RFVR and FAO-GR. The possible options for transferring data upload from RFVR to GR include: (i) bulk upload or (ii) automatic system (long-term).	Done
28	<u>Cambodia</u> : TD to communicate with the RFVR focal person of Cambodia to address the country’s technical difficulties of accessing/utilizing the existing database for vessels 24 meters in length and over.	TD	The RFVR focal person of Cambodia is well aware of how to access and utilize the existing database for vessels 24 meters in length and over. He also submitted updated information of Cambodia for the RFVR database.	Done
<i>Regional Cooperation to support the implementation of PSM</i>				
32	TD to support Thailand with regards to the NOAA-supported capacity building program on observers’ onboard fishing vessels in Thailand.	TD	TD supported Thailand on this program and provided inputs on the information of RFVR database during the online training workshop on PSM organized by NOAA in Thailand in June and August 2021.	Done
<i>Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme</i>				
No specific action was requested				
<i>Others</i>				
35	TD to take note that the RPOA-IUU has already developed the IUU Fishing Vessels Watchlist, and AMSs should make use of the existing watchlist compiled by the RPOA-IUU.	TD	Noted by TD	Noted

Paragraph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 2021)	Status
5.2 The Second Stock and Risk Assessments of Kawakawa (<i>Euthynnus affinis</i>) and Longtail Tuna (<i>Thunnus tonggol</i>) Resources in the Southeast Asian Waters using ASPIC				
39	<u>Malaysia</u> : SEAFDEC to conduct further studies on stock assessment involving relevant Member Countries considering the suggestion from previous study for countries to consider reducing catch level such as by introducing closed season.	MFRDMD	The stock assessment study involving the relevant Member Countries (MCs) should be conducted every two or three years as suggested by the Resource Person. However, each MC should plan and implement the suitable management strategies for reducing catch levels in their country.	Noted
40	SEAFDEC to consider conducting stock and risk assessments either in the Andaman Sea or Gulf of Thailand every two or three years.	MFRDMD	Noted, MFRDMD is willing to support the stock and risk assessment study in the Andaman Sea and Gulf of Thailand every two or three years as suggested by the Resource Person.	Noted
42	SEAFDEC to submit the Report on Stock and Risk Assessments of Kawakawa and Longtail Tuna in the Southeast Asian Waters to the FCG/ASSP focal persons for endorsement prior to its submission to the 29 th Meeting of ASWGF _i in 2021.	SEC	The Report was submitted and approved by the 29 th Meeting of ASWGF _i .	Done
5.3 Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia				
44	<u>Indonesia</u> : SEAFDEC to provide clarification and updated information about the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) issue in the future.	AQD	Antimicrobial resistance will be included in the topics for discussion during the upcoming RTC on Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia.	Done
45	AQD to proceed with the conduct of the Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia once the support from JAIF is secured.	AQD	The project proposal was submitted to Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) Management Team. AQD received a positive feedback from the funding agency. Due to the travel restriction and the ongoing pandemic, AQD decided to postpone the project until it is safe to gather and travel again.	On-going
5.4 Fisheries Subsidies				
48	SEAFDEC to provide technical support to the Member Countries in determining the reference point that would define overcapacity and overfishing.	SEC, TD, and MFRDMD	SEAFDEC with funding support from JTF and technical support from FAO will organize the 'Consultative Planning and Training Workshop on Stock Assessment in Support the Implementation of the International Commitments for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia' on 9, 13–15 December 2021 which aims to gather the ideas and knowledge on stock assessment methods based on the current status and level of understanding and knowledge on stock assessment and the	On-going

Paragraph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 2021)	Status
			available datasets of SEAFDEC Member Countries and would further develop comprehensive training courses in the future.	
48	SEAFDEC to consider establishing a platform for the development of the common voice/opinion among the Member Countries to be reflected during the forthcoming WTO negotiations <i>e.g.</i> Ministerial Meetings in July and November 2021.	SEC	SEC organized the two-day SEAFDEC Webinar on Fisheries Subsidies to exchange the views on Draft Consolidated Text and develop the common position on the Draft consolidated text on 10 and 17 June 2021 (online). During the session, key issues regarding the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated texts were presented by invited resource persons and discussed among participants.	Done
50	SEAFDEC to provide the Member Countries with the updated information related to its future capacity building activities to address fisheries subsidies issues.	SEC	SEC included the discussion of the prospect capacity building programs during the abovementioned Workshop (#48).	On-going
VI. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS				
	No specific action was requested			
VII. OTHER MATTERS				
7.1 Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030				
60-67	SEAFDEC to proceed with the conduct of the Regional Workshop on the Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030. SEAFDEC to develop and disseminate the key indicators and scale for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030.	SEC	SEC plans to organize the Regional Workshop in January 2022 through an online platform.	On-going
66	<u>Thailand</u> : SEAFDEC to consider the possibility of developing the roles of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network to support the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030.	SEC	At the current status of RFPN, the program would be adjusted to the capacity building program or RECAB. Once the fund is available for the RFPN, the role of M&E would be considered as one of the functions of RFPN.	Noted
7.2 Preparation of Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022				
	No specific action was requested			
7.3 Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries				

Paragraph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 2021)	Status
71	<u>Philippines</u> : SEAFDEC to take note on the additional information to be provided by the Member Countries in relation to the impacts of the pandemic on the mobility restrictions of people to control the spread of the outbreak.	SEC	SEC took note of this suggestion and to be incorporated in the Report as appropriate.	Noted
7.4 The 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora				
74	SEAFDEC to continue facilitating the platform for discussion among the Member Countries in preparation for the CITES–CoP19.	SEC	The CITES-COP19 will be held in November 2022 in Panama City. SEC and relevant Technical Departments joined the 31 st Meeting of the Animal Committee (AC31) which was held on 31 May–22 June 2021. SEC will plan for the RTC to facilitate discussion among the Member Countries in preparation for the CITES–CoP19 in 2022. SEC will organize the consultation to discuss the proposed listings of commercially aquatic species prior to the CITES-CoP19.	On-going
VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC				
	No specific action was requested			
IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER				
9.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels				
78	TD to take note and support the request of the Philippines to utilize the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the conduct of an acoustic survey of the biomass distribution of sardines and small pelagics in 2021 or 2022 in Philippine waters.	TD	TD organized the online meeting on the “Utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for Fisheries Resources Research Survey in Northern Palawan and Zamboanga-Sulu Peninsula and Sibugay, Philippines in July 2021. The proposal including tentative cruise plan was developed and considered for approval by the Philippines’ government.	On-going
79	TD to consider seeking the ways to increase the operational days of the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2.	TD	TD discussed with SEAFDEC Member Countries to increase the utilization of the vessels <i>e.g.</i> the Department of Fisheries, Thailand to utilize the vessel to evaluate the impacts of microplastics in the Gulf of Thailand. TD also discussed with Philippines, Malaysia and Myanmar on the possibility to utilize the vessel.	Done
80	TD to take note of the plan of Malaysia to utilize the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to conduct a series of acoustic surveys for the year 2022–2025.	TD	Malaysia is pending the development of a national fisheries resources cruise survey in 2021 until Malaysia has successfully proposed and secured the national budget for the survey.	On-going
81	TD to take note of the plan of Myanmar to use the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for its marine ecosystem survey in 2022.	TD	The Concept of the Fisheries Resources survey in the Myanmar Waters by M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was discussed between SEAFDEC and Myanmar on 28 June 2021. The draft proposal for cruise survey was developed. In this regard, the national focal point was nominated to coordinate for further development of the proposal.	On-going

Paragraph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 2021)	Status
9.2 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations				
	No specific action was requested			
9.3 Regional Capacity Building Network (RECAB)				
86	SEAFDEC to consider developing an appropriate platform for conducting a series of regional online training courses including training modules to be uploaded to support start-up business ventures during the pandemic situation.	TD, AQD, MFRD, MFRDMD, IFRDMD, SEC	AQD's annual regular training courses will be conducted through an interactive online learning platform. Invitations were sent to Member Countries through Council Directors and National Coordinators. AQD is actively updating its Training Course Schedule through this link, https://www.seafdec.org.ph/training/ . MFRDMD and TD noted.	Done
87	SEAFDEC to consider exploring the possibility of implementing both the RFPN and RECAB programs in the future.	SEC	Noted, both programs could be convened concurrently if the budget is secured. However, the current available budget (JTF) would be focus on the RECAB program in 2022–2024	Noted
9.4 Hosting Arrangement for SEAFDEC Institutional Repository				
	No specific action was requested			
9.5 Institutional Capacity Development Program				
	No specific action was requested			
9.6 Updates on JTF budget request process in Japan and needs of SEAFDEC Member Countries Cooperation				
91	SEAFDEC and AMSs to continue raising the importance of securing budget from Japan in various occasions, not only those organized by SEAFDEC but also during other fora, such as those of the ASEAN and the AMAF meetings.	SEAFDEC and the other Member Countries	Noted	Noted
X. FINANCIAL MATTERS				
	No specific action was requested			
XI. CONCLUDING MATTERS				
11.2 Date and Venue of the 54th Meeting of the Council				
97	SEAFDEC Secretariat to coordinate with Malaysia on the arrangement for the next Council Meeting in Malaysia in 2022.	SEC	SEC will contact with the host country in January 2022.	On-going

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE 23RD MEETING OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP)

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 21)	Status
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 Fifty-second Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-second Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)			No follow-up actions required.	
3.2 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries during 2020			No follow-up actions required.	
IV. ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021				
4.1 Summary report on the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2020-2021				
SEAFDEC to make sure that once the funding arrangement is finalized, the pipeline project “Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities: Support to SEAFDEC Member Countries” should be placed under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism	12	SEC	Noted	Noted
SEAFDEC to share published information on its contribution to the fisheries development in the region with the ASEAN Secretariat to share with their network	14	SEC	The Secretariat has communicated with ASEAN Secretariat. As a result, ASEC can only share documents that were adopted by AMAF. The Secretariat then sent the said publications to ASEC to share in their network: https://asean.org/asean-economic-community/asean-ministerial-meeting-on-agriculture-and-forestry-amaf/other-documents/	Done

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 21)	Status
V. PROGRESS OF SEAFDEC-RELATED ACTIVITIES/PROPOSALS UNDER TO THE ASEAN RELATED BODIES				
5.1 ASEAN-Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security			No follow-up actions required.	
5.2 Progress of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)				
SEAFDEC Secretariat to submit the revised proposal of the project “Implementation and Assessment of Fishing Capacity and Zoning System for Southeast Asia” to JAIF through the ASEAN Secretariat to seek possible funding support	18	MFRDMD and SEC	MFRDMD has sent the proposal to SEC prior it was submitted to the JAIF Management Team (JMT) at the end of 2020. It has been reviewed and sent back to MFRDMD on 29 June 2021. Later, MFRDMD and DOF, Malaysia edited the proposal and resubmitted to JMT in August 2021.	On-going
5.3 Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021-2025			No follow-up actions required.	
5.4 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)				
SEAFDEC to discuss the need to source funds to support the activities under Objective 3 of the Plan of Action with the ASA Secretariat (Thailand), and to inform the AMSs on the results of the discussion	21	SEC	After consultation with DOF-TH, SEAFDEC provided comments on the proposal and suggested DOF-TH to submit the revised proposal through ASEAN channel.	Done
VI. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES-RELATED ISSUES				
6.1 Combating IUU Fishing				
<i>6.1.1 Progress on the Implementation of the Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing</i>				
SEAFDEC to consider analyzing the information gathered through the initiatives on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR), ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), and Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures for better understanding of the IUU fishing patterns in the region	26	TD and MFRDMD	Noted, SEAFDEC will incorporate the analysis of information to improve the understanding of IUU fishing patterns in the Member Countries in the relevant project activities.	On-going
SEAFDEC to encourage the AMSs to consider enhancing the utilization of the current RFVR Database before expanding	28	TD	Noted and based on the comments of the 53 rd SEAFDEC Council Meeting for TD to focus the utilization of the existing RFVR database. Therefore, at this stage, TD encouraged AMSs to utilize the existing RFVR database instead of expanding the database to include vessels less than 24 meters in length.	Noted

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 21)	Status
the database to include vessels less than 24 meters in length				
<i>6.1.2 Progress of the Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain</i>			No follow-up actions required.	
<i>6.1.3 Progress on the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity</i>				
SEAFDEC to support the exchange of experiences and lessons learned among the AMSs in controlling fishing capacity and implementing the RPOA-Capacity	32	MFRDMD	MFRDMD has sent the proposal entitled “Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity” to the JAIF Management Team (JMT). The activities proposed include the exchange of experiences and lessons learned among the AMSs in managing fishing capacity.	On-going
SEAFDEC to seek clarification from JAIF whether the proposal on the “Implementation and Assessment of Fishing Capacity and Zoning System for Southeast Asia” previously submitted by Malaysia, should be revised for resubmission	33	SEC	MFRDMD sent the revised version of the Proposal to SEC for communicating with ASEAN-JAIF Focal Point. SEC then contacted JAIF and the proposal was revised and resubmitted.	On-going
6.2 Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region				
<i>6.2.1 Progress on the Implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region</i>				
SEAFDEC to finalize the preliminary report on the stock status in 2018 of kawakawa and longtail tuna in the Pacific Ocean side and Indian Ocean side at the 6 th Meeting of the SWG to be organized on 2 December 2020 for submission to the SEAFDEC Council at its 53 rd Meeting in 2021, and upon approval by the SEAFDEC Council, SEAFDEC to submit the final report to the ASEAN mechanism through the FCG/ASSP Focal Persons <i>ad referendum</i> and subsequently to the 29 th Meeting of ASWGFi in 2021	34	MFRDMD	MFRDMD had presented the report at 53 rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Council. Then the report was approved and endorsed during the ASWGFi meeting. The softcopy of the report was published on the IOTC website and a representative from DOF Thailand submitted the report at the previous meeting of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas. MFRDMD also published the printed version of the report. The softcopy for this report is available at the following link: http://repository.seafdec.org.my/handle/20.500.12561/1508 .	Done

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 21)	Status
SEAFDEC to continue supporting the AMSs in improving their respective systems of collecting data and statistics, especially for the collection of statistics data of neritic tunas at the species level as this is not fully provided by the AMSs	35	MFRDMD	MFRDMD will support AMSs in improving their data collection of neritic tunas through the JTF6 Phase II project and SWG on neritic tuna. AMSs should follow the SOP for data collection and analysis of neritic tunas (2016) in improving their data collection of neritic tunas. MFRDMD is willing to assist any inquiry on the SOP.	On-going
6.2.2 Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region				
SEAFDEC to submit the final RAP document to the ASEAN mechanism to promote its implementation	37	SEC	Since the RAP was endorsed by the 52 nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC in May 2020, and reported at 29 th ASWGF in 24 June 2021, subsequently noted at the Special SOM-42AMAF in August 2021.	Done
6.3 Ensuring the Food Safety and Quality of Fish Regional Cooperation to Promote Sustainable Fisheries in ASEAN Region				
<i>6.3.1 Progress of the Implementation of the Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Fish and Fishery Products in ASEAN Region</i>			No follow-up actions required.	
6.4 Fish Trade-related Issues				
<i>6.4.1 CITES-related Issues</i>				
SEAFDEC to encourage the AMSs to steadily implement the SEAFDEC projects on the conservation of eels, especially for eels that are distributed in the AMSs, such as the bicolor eels, and SEAFDEC to report the progress of the projects to the CITES Intersessional Working Group on Eels	40	IFRDMD and SEC	Due to the pandemic, the originally planned surveys and meetings in 2021 could not be carried out. However, IFRDMD is continuing the catch samples and DNA surveys in Indonesia in December 2021. SEAFDEC virtually participated in the 31 st Meeting of Animals Committee (AC31) from 31 May–24 June 2021. The AC31 established the Intersessional Working Group on Eels, however, SEAFDEC had not reported the progress in this closed session yet. SEAFDEC plans to report once substantive progress has been made during the next CITES Intersessional Working Group on Eels in 2022.	On-going
SEAFDEC to consider updating the information on international-related issues of the AMSs, through the conduct of regional consultations at least twice a year, and encourage the AMSs to provide inputs to SEAFDEC	42	SEC	SEAFDEC regularly organizes the activities/events related to international/regional emerging issues that of interest and relevant to update the information such as in 2021 SEAFDEC organized the webinar on fisheries subsidies, study on impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries sector, regional responses to U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act.	Noted
<i>6.4.2 Fisheries Subsidies</i>			No follow-up actions required.	
6.5 Other/Emerging Issues				
<i>6.5.1 Study on Impacts from Coronavirus-2019 Pandemic on</i>			No follow-up actions required.	

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress (as of Sep 21)	Status
<i>Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries</i>				
VII. OTHER MATTERS				
7.1 <i>Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030</i>			No follow-up actions required	
SEAFDEC to encourage the AMSs to consider the RES&POA-2030 as guide in the implementation of the actions for sustainable development of fisheries in the coming decade	47	SEC	The 53CM in 2021 approved the concept note and roadmap of the Regional Workshop for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030. SEAFDEC is developing the draft key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030 and will disseminate to AMSs for consideration prior to the Workshop tentatively in Jan 2022.	On-going

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVE GIVEN AT ASEAN BODIES RELATED TO FISHERIES DURING 2021

**THE TWENTY-NINTH MEETING OF
THE ASEAN SECTORAL WORKING GROUP ON FISHERIES
(29th ASWGFi Virtual Meeting)
23–24 June 2021, Cambodia**

AGENDA ITEM 7: ASEAN FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM (AFCF)

35. The Meeting noted the report of the *Thirteenth AFCF Meeting* held virtually on 22 June 2021.

36. The Meeting noted the revised *Concept Note on the Development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Inspection Mechanism for Aquaculture Fish and Fisheries Products* and requested the ASWGFi Focal Points to provide the ASEAN Secretariat their comments and endorsement on the revised Concept Note by **11 July 2021**. The Meeting also noted that the Concept Note is included as one of the activities under the ASEAN-JICA Development of Food Value Chain Project.

Action Line: ASEC and ASWGFi Focal Points

37. The Meeting also requested SEAFDEC's support in organising regional activities that will facilitate information exchange, recommendations on marine mammal protection, and discussions on US Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Action Line: SEAFDEC through FCG/ASSP

AGENDA ITEM 11: ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP)

11.1 Outcomes of the 23rd Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASSP

38. The Meeting adopted the report of the 23rd Meeting of the FCG/ASSP held virtually on 17–18 November 2020.

39. The Meeting endorsed the following documents to SOM-AMAF for consideration and endorsement:

- i. Report on the Stock and risk assessments of kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) and longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) resources in the Southeast Asian waters using ASPIC; and
- ii. Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region

Action Line: ASWGFi Chair (Cambodia)

40. On the stock and risk assessment of kawakawa and longtail tuna resources in Southeast Asian waters, the Meeting noted the following suggestions to enhance the quality of data and ensure the sustainability of neritic tunas, including: i) strengthening data collection by covering main fishing gears catching neritic tunas, covering 10% of the landing catch, and improving species identification; and ii) encouraging AMS to develop self-management measures such as input-output controls in their respective exclusive economic zone.

41. The Meeting noted that Singapore and Thailand agreed to be the Lead Countries for the following projects: *Enhancing food safety and competitiveness of seafood products* and the *ASEAN-JICA Cooperation for Capacity Building on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia*, respectively.

42. The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to further coordinate with AMS to check on their willingness to be the Country Lead for the following projects: i) *ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project*; and ii) *Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia*.

Action Line: AMS and ASEC



**SPECIAL SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING OF THE 42nd MEETING OF
THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
(SPECIAL SOM-42nd AMAF)**

23 August 2021, Cambodia, Video Conference

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS OF SECTORAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

9. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all annual meetings of the sectoral bodies under the SOM AMAF in 2021 were conducted virtually. In this regard, a few documents were intersessionally discussed and agreed upon through email exchanges by the relevant sectoral bodies. The details are as below:

10. The Meeting agreed to submit the following documents to the 43rd AMAF Meeting for endorsement:

- i. Regional Guideline on Performing Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance Arising from the Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquaculture;
- ii. ASEAN Guidelines for the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Aquaculture;
- iii. Plan of Action (POA) for the ASEAN Cooperation in Combatting AMR in Aquaculture Sector (2021–2025);
- iv. Guideline on Techniques for Veterinary Drug Residue Detection in Aquaculture Product;
- v. Plan of Action for the ASEAN Cooperation on Good Aquaculture Practices (2021–2025);
- vi. Recommendations on the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility;
- vii. Study Report on the Stock and risk assessments of kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) and longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) resources in the Southeast Asian waters using ASPIC;
- viii. Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region; and
- ix. Assessment on the Implementation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals for ASEAN

11. The Meeting also noted the Concept Note Development of ASEAN Guidelines on Inspection and Quarantine for Imported Aquaculture Fish and Fisheries Products.

12. In accordance with the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP), Thailand requested the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries to consider developing an action plan to analyse existing regional policies and identify gaps resulting from policy implementation.

Action Line: Thailand, ASWGF and ASEAN Secretariat

**THE FORTY-THIRD MEETING OF
THE ASEAN MINISTERS ON AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
(The 43rd AMAF)**

27 October 2021, Indonesia, Video conference

The Meeting noted 6 documents and adopted 27 documents related to FAF as below:

For Notation (Documents relevant to Fisheries):

1. Study on the COVID-19 Pandemic Implications on Agriculture and Food Consumption, Production and Trade in the ASEAN Member States (*Appendix 4 of ANNEX 5*)
2. Concept Note Development of ASEAN Guidelines on Inspection and Quarantine for Imported Aquaculture Fish and Fisheries Products (*Appendix 29 of ANNEX 5*)

For Endorsement (Documents relevant to Fisheries)

1. ASEAN Framework Support Food, Agriculture and Forestry Small Producers, Cooperatives and Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to Improve Product Quality to Meet Regional/International Standards and Ensure Competitiveness (*Appendix 1 of ANNEX 5*),
2. Priority deliverables for the FAF Sector 2022:

- *Regional guidelines on indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries to facilitate the adaptation to the impacts of climate change; and Organise a virtual consultative workshop on Climate change, Fisheries and Aquaculture (Viet Nam and the Philippines).*
 - *Regional strategies to encourage the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSSF) in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (Indonesia).*
 - *Common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture (Indonesia);*
 - *Guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU interactive platform (Thailand).*
3. Regional Guideline on Performing Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance Arising from the Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquaculture (Appendix 20 of ANNEX 5)
 4. ASEAN Guidelines for the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Aquaculture (Appendix 21 of ANNEX 5)
 5. Plan of Action (POA) for the ASEAN Cooperation in Combatting AMR in Aquaculture Sector (2021–2025) (Appendix 22 of ANNEX 5)
 6. Guideline on Techniques for Veterinary Drug Residue Detection in Aquaculture Products (Appendix 23 of ANNEX 5)
 7. Plan of Action for the ASEAN Cooperation on Good Aquaculture Practices (2021-2025) (Appendix 24 of ANNEX 5)
 8. Recommendations on the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility Study (Appendix 25 of ANNEX 5)
 9. Study Report on the Stock and Risk Assessments of Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) and Longtail Tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) Resources in the Southeast Asian Waters using ASPIC (Appendix 26 of ANNEX 5)
 10. Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region (Appendix 27 of ANNEX 5)
 11. Assessment on the Implementation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals for ASEAN (Appendix 28 of ANNEX 5)
 12. ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting the Utilization of Digital Technologies for ASEAN Food and Agricultural Sector (Appendix 32 of ANNEX 5)
13. The Meeting noted the importance of ensuring sustainable development of the ASEAN region's food, agriculture, and forestry sector and supported the following initiatives: (i) development of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture, (ii) stocktaking paper on the use of agrochemicals in crop production, and (iii) conducting a study on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in the agriculture and forestry sectors. The Meeting encouraged relevant working groups under SOM-AMAF to work with the ASEAN Secretariat to develop and implement these regional initiatives.

16. The Meeting noted that Abandoned, Lost, or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gears (ALDFG) are a significant component of marine debris that causes substantial ecosystem and economic problems in the region's marine environment. In this regard, the Meeting noted that the ASEAN Secretariat is working with Dialogue Partners to develop a project on improving the circularity and recyclability of fishing gears to address marine debris in the region.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

The 24FCG/ASSP Meeting may wish to:

- consider ASWGFi's request for SEAFDEC to support regional activities that will facilitate information exchange, recommendations on marine mammal protection, and discussions on US Marine Mammal Protection Act
- note the priority deliverables of ASWGFi for 2022.
- note AMAF's adoption of the documents relevant to the fisheries sector, particularly the Study Report on the Stock and Risk Assessments of Kawakawa and Longtail Tuna Resources in the Southeast Asian Waters using ASPIC and the Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region; and



encourage ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries to support the implementation of the two documents.

- note the regional initiatives of the ASEAN FAF sector, particularly on the promotion of Nature-Based Solutions and improving the circularity and recyclability of fishing gears to address marine debris in the region.

**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS UNDER THE
ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP
(FCG/ASSP) FOR THE YEAR 2021–2022**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The programs of activities under the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Mechanism for the year 2021–2022 were reviewed by the Forty-fourth Meeting of the Program Committee (44PCM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) organized through a virtual platform on 15–17 November 2021. Results of the program scrutiny and the adopted recommendations are summarized and submitted to the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (24FCG/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 2021–2022 AND RECOMMENDATIONS RAISED DURING THE FORTY-FOURTH 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 in 2021, the proposed activities for 2022, new projects, and Pipeline Projects appear in *Appendix I*. Sixteen (16) ongoing projects and four (4) new projects that are under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Mechanism. In addition, the 44PCM noted five (5) Pipeline Projects, of which SEAFDEC is under discussion with potential donors for funding support and implementation. Results of the review process as well as the recommendations of the 44PCM will be submitted to the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) through the 24FCG/ASSP for endorsement and also to the forthcoming meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and approval. The 44PCM approved the implementation of the proposed new projects in 2022, and provide recommendations on the Pipelines Projects, which are 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) Strengthening a Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

- SEAFDEC to consider assisting the pilot implementation of eACDS in Cambodia in 2022
- SEAFDEC to assist the countries to enhance their capacity in uploading their respective data in the RFVR Database
- SEAFDEC to consider providing training on inspection of fish importation using other modes of transportation *e.g.* sea in container vessels, land and air transportation
- SEAFDEC to consider harmonizing the eACDS with existing electronic certification schemes of importing countries such as those of the EU

(2) Harmonization and Enhancing Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information

- SEAFDEC to circulate the draft of SEASOFIA 2022 to all Member Countries for confirmation prior to its publication and dissemination at the forthcoming Council Meeting
- SEAFDEC to consider building the capacity of the AMSs on species identification and schemes to collect data, not only on statistics but also on CPUE of respective species, a concern which could be addressed through the other relevant projects of SEAFDEC as appropriate
- SEAFDEC to consider including some information in SEASOFIA 2022 that could be useful to support the development of action plan of the Member Countries, *e.g.* fishery production trend, impacts of COVID-19, future directions, and way forward

- (3) **Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice**
- TD to indicate timelines for delivering the expected outputs, *e.g.* application of technologies by the Member Countries that contribute to improved fishery resources, livelihoods, and incomes of fishers
 - TD to extend support to the Member Countries on fishing gear technologies to mitigate the negative impacts of fishing on marine mammals
 - TD to collaborate with Thailand in the conduct of studies and experiments to modify fishing gears and methods commonly used in the region to reduce their impacts on marine mammals
 - TD to obtain information from Thailand on the lessons learned from its project carried out in Thailand on gear marking, *e.g.* testing of different types of gillnet markers, as these are useful in enhancing the capacity of the other Member Countries
 - SEAFDEC to consider conducting activities that facilitate exchange of knowledge among the Member Countries on MMPA requirements
 - TD to share the knowledge and develop long-term plan for reducing the impacts of trawl fishing on the resources and ecosystems
 - TD to facilitate exchange of knowledge on gear marking including the possibility of linking this to the VMS, as well as knowledge on gear modification to mitigate bycatch of marine mammals
- (4) **Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region**
- MFRDMD to consider inclusion of data collection site in Thailand for long-term data collection of sharks and rays landing that could be used for estimating the stock and biomass
- (5) **Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region**
- IFRDMD to consider visiting and collecting data from other AMSs after the region has already recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic
 - SEAFDEC to consider the possibility of incorporating the aquaculture component in the eel project, especially hatchery and aquaculture techniques of anguillid eels
- (6) **Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia**
- SEAFDEC to expand the research activities to also include other areas, *e.g.* nutrient blooms, underexploited species, mesopelagic species (jellyfish)
 - TD to consult with Myanmar on the plan and cost-sharing details of the marine environmental survey in Myanmar using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which could be scheduled in 2023
 - AMSs to consider using the “Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean” as a reference in conducting relevant activities
 - SEAFDEC to consider coming up with a model for the region in managing marine litter taking into consideration the various guidelines that had already been developed
- (7) **Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region**
- AMSs were encouraged to submit their inputs to the questionnaire on catch and effort data of three small pelagic species/groups, namely *Rastrelliger kanagurta*, *Rastrelliger brachysoma*, and *Decapterus* spp.
 - SEAFDEC to consider establishing the reference points for sustainable management under harvest control to initiate the formulation of management plan for the pelagic fisheries resources
- (8) **Management Scheme of Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**
- IFRDMD to share results and lessons learned from the Special Area for Conservation and Fish *Refugia* (SPEECTRA) system pilot sites in Indonesia, to the Member Countries
- (9) **Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources**
- none
- (10) **Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**
- SEAFDEC to include a study on the impacts of collapsible fish traps used by local fishers at the coastal province in Cambodia

- (11) **Strengthening the Effective Management of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in AMS with GIS and RS Technology**
- SEAFDEC to consider selecting the appropriate GIS software that the Member Countries could easily apply
- (12) **Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia**
- SEAFDEC to consider conducting field activities and data collection on Anguillid eels in other Member Countries when the COVID-19 situation has already improved

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

- (13) **Sustainable Aquaculture through Cost-Effective Culture Systems, and Prompt and Effective Aquatic Animal Health Management**
- none

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

- (14) **Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products**
- none

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

- SEAFDEC to consider organizing a training to build the capacity and enhance the knowledge of legal officers of the Member Countries on international fisheries laws and to improve the prosecution of fisheries violations

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

- (15) **Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues**
- none

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

- (16) **Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2**
- AMSs and SEAFDEC to consider maximizing the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2
 - TD to acquire the appropriate software to analyze the data from SIMRAD EK-80 to support resource mapping
 - TD to obtain support from the Member Countries that have experiences in the analysis of data from SIMRAD EK-80, *e.g.* Viet Nam, Indonesia, and Thailand, and to enhance the capacity of the other Member Countries

New Projects

- (17) **ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia**
- SEAFDEC to avoid duplication of activities with those projects supported by the JTF, to cooperate with such relevant JTF project to enhance the activities, *e.g.* eACDS and PSM
- (18) **ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project**
- none



- (19) **Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia**
- SEAFDEC to consider conducting studies on marine litter on seabed especially in trawling areas
 - SEAFDEC to consider using the Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean as well as the report and data on microplastics from the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen survey in 2018 for the conduct of the proposed training for data collection and monitoring of marine debris in Southeast Asia
- (20) **Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities: Support to SEAFDEC Member Countries**
- none

Pipeline Projects

- (1) **Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)**
- none
- (2) **Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture**
- none
- (3) **Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity**
- none
- (4) **Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia**
- none
- (5) **USAID Public International Organization (PIO) Grant Contribution to Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)**
- none

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the progress and achievements of the projects implemented by SEAFDEC under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism in 2021, and endorse the proposed project activities for implementation in 2022, and four new projects including the abovementioned recommendations, for submission to the higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC
- To take note also three (3) pipeline projects to be placed under FCG/ASSP namely:
 - 1) Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture
 - 2) Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia
 - 3) USAID Public International Organization (PIO) Grant Contribution to Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
- To provide suggestions on the areas of improvement of the program formulation and implementation to enhance the impacts of the projects and maximize their benefits to the Member Countries

**PROJECTS UNDER THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP
OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP) MECHANISM
FOR THE YEAR 2021–2022**

Strategy/Project Title		Lead Department	2021	2022
Strategy I: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region				
1	Strengthening a Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
2	Harmonization and Enhancing Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information	SEC	Y	Y
3	Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice	TD	Y	Y
4	Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
5	Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	Y	Y
6	Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
7	Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
8	Management Scheme for Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	Y	Y
9	Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources	TD	Y	Y
10	Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	TD	Y	Y
11	Strengthening the Effective Management of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in AMS with GIS and RS Technology	TD	Y	Y
12	Development of Stock Assessment Method for Strengthening of Resources Management Measures of Tropical Anguillid Eels in AMS	SEC	Y	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				
13	Sustainable Aquaculture through Cost-Effective Culture Systems, and Prompt and Effective Aquatic Animal Health Management	AQD	Y	Y
Strategy III: Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region				
14	Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products	MFRD	Y	Y
Strategy IV: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements				
	Nil			
Strategy V: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries				
15	Assistance for Capacity Development 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				
16	Fisheries Resource Survey & Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	Y	Y

Y = Program implemented during the year

N = Program not implemented during the year

New Projects

Strategy/Project Title		Lead Department	Period
17	ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia	TD	2022–2024
18	ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project	SEC	2022–2024
19	Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia	TD	2022–2023
20	Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities: Support to SEAFDEC Member Countries	TD	2022–2026

Pipeline Projects

No.	Strategy/Project Title	Lead Department	Period
1	Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)	TD	2023–2027
2	Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture	SEC/AQD	2022–2026
3	Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	MFRDMD	2023–2024
4	Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia	AQD	2022
5	USAID Public International Organization (PIO) Grant Contribution to Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)	TD	2022–2026

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

KEY OUTCOMES:

The Tenth Meeting of the Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security was held virtually on 29 July 2021. The Meeting was chaired by Cambodia as the Chair of the SSOM-41st AMAF Meeting.

The Meeting:

- **AGREED** to remove “Ad hoc” from its title considering that the AHSCCC-FS has been regularised; and **NOTED** SOM-AMAF’s concern on the sustainability issues on funding resources to implement the AFCC and the future meeting.

- **NOTED** the updates from the relevant ASEAN Working Groups, among others:
 - i) The development of the ASEAN Guidelines for Climate Smart Agriculture and its implementation framework
 - ii) ASEAN-German Project Concept on “Innovative climate risk financing for the agricultural sector in the ASEAN region” and the support to mainstream climate-relevant issues along the agricultural value chain through the project “Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in ASEAN.
 - iii) Adoption of the POA for ASEAN Cooperation on Forest and climate change 2021-2025 by the 23rd ASOF Meeting.
 - iv) Capacity building, dialogue on land and adaptation and exchange sharing information on nature-based solutions, community/social forestry practices.
 - v) Progress of ASEAN cooperation on fisheries highlighting key initiatives that will be developed in 2022 such as i) regional guidelines on indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries to facilitate the adaptation to the impacts of climate change, ii) virtual consultative workshop on Climate change, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the assessment and conservation of blue carbon ecosystem.
 - vi) Inclusion of the activity on institutionalising disaster preparedness program to the environment and climate change risk towards resilience communities and households in the new work plan of SOM-RDPE 2021-2025.
 - vii) Implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Strengthening of Adaptation to Drought.

- **AGREED** in principle on the draft TOR of the AHSCCC; and **REQUESTED** the ASEAN Secretariat to circulate it to the members of the Steering Committee beyond FAFD to get further input/feedback as necessary before submission to the SOM-AMAF for endorsement.

- **REQUESTED** the ASEAN Secretariat to develop the synergy matrix to map potential areas for cross-sectoral collaboration, support needed and existing cooperation with the dialogue and international partners.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

The 24FCG/ASSP Meeting to note the key outcomes of the 10th AHSCCC-FS Meeting.

ASEAN FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM (AFCF)

KEY OUTCOMES:

The Thirteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (13th AFCF Meeting) was held virtually on 22 June 2021, and was chaired by Cambodia.

The Meeting:

- **NOTED** that Malaysia's project proposal on the Implementation and Assessment of Fishing Capacity and Zoning System for Southeast Asia is under the preliminary review process of the Japan-ASEAN Integrated Fund (JAIF) for possible funding.
- **NOTED** that SEAFDEC organized the Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity to discuss the implementation status of RPOA-Capacity.
- **NOTED** the outcomes of the Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of AMS in Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSSF) in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication to Support Access to Markets.
- **REQUESTED** Indonesia to develop a concept note on the two recommendations of the workshop relating to the development of regional strategies to encourage the implementation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines on SSSF and initiatives related to sustainable small-scale aquaculture.
- **WAS INFORMED** by the ASEAN Secretariat that the Dialogue Partner (India) is unable to support the project proposal on Consultative Workshop on Climate Change; and **REQUESTED** the ASEAN Secretariat to work with Viet Nam in finding a resource person to draft the regional guideline on indicators for capture fisheries and aquaculture to facilitate the adaptation to the impact of climate change.
- **NOTED** the new project under SEAFDEC relating to Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture, which will be implemented in the Philippines and Viet Nam to create new sustainable seaweed value chains
- **ENCOURAGED** RPOA-IUU Secretariat to engage with all Participating Countries to accelerate the preparation of the Ministerial Meeting and finalization of the Joint Statement taking into consideration its commitment to strengthening RPOA IUU cooperation.
- **NOTED** that Myanmar expressed willingness to cooperate with the RPOA-IUU Secretariat (Indonesia) at the 11th AFCF Meeting, and **REQUESTED** the RPOA-IUU Secretariat further information on the upcoming Ministerial Meeting.
- **NOTED** the progress of various regional and national initiatives implemented by SEAFDEC and AMS to combat IUU Fishing.
- **WAS INFORMED** by the ASEAN Secretariat that JICA agreed to include the development of ASEAN Guidelines on Inspection Mechanism for Aquaculture Fish and Fisheries Projects as one of the activities in the project proposal on ASEAN-JICA Development of Food Value Chain Project.
- **ADOPTED** the report of the Marine and Fisheries Business and Investment Forum focusing on the ASEAN Public-Private Partnership: Opportunities and Challenges virtually held on 28 January 2021; and Indonesia will further coordinate with the ASEAN Secretariat on future activities under the ASEAN Public-Private Task Force on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture.



- **NOTED** Thailand's presentation on the US Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) focusing on marine mammal bycatch limits, application for a comparability finding and encouraging AMS to share information and cooperate on MMPA.
- **NOTED** Indonesia could support activities aiming to facilitate information exchange on marine mammal management and protection. However, it would be difficult for Indonesia to support activity relating to the establishment of a regional position on MMPA since meeting the MMPA's requirement is a bilateral matter between the US and each AMS.
- **REQUESTED** ASWGFi to seek the support of SEAFDEC in organising regional activities that will facilitate information exchange, recommendations on marine mammal protection and management measures, and discussions on US MMPA.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

The 24FCG/ASSP Meeting to note the outcomes of the 13th AFCF Meeting.

PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION ON ASEAN COOPERATION ON FISHERIES (2021–2025)

PROGRESS

The SPA on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (2021–2025) was adopted by the 42nd AMAF Meeting on 21 October 2020. The SPA-Fisheries (2021–2025) contains 61 activities and sub-activities, in which twelve (12) activities have been implemented, seven (7) activities are ongoing, six (6) activities are in the project proposal stage and under consideration, and thirty six (36) activities requiring further actions.

The following activities have been implemented:

1. The report of the Overview Study: COVID-19 Pandemic Implications on Food and Agriculture Trade in ASEAN
2. Conduct Training Course on Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance Arising from Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquaculture
3. Development of the ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practice for Food Fish: Trainer’s Guide, including the Training-Workshop to pilot-test the Trainer’s Guide.
4. Conduct regional virtual workshop on Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of AMS in Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to Support Access to Markets
 - Promote cluster farming for small-scale producers to meet with regional/international standards.
 - Information compilation of relevant activities (*e.g.* extension services, provide technologies and financial access) in supporting small scale producers in securing and maintaining access to markets at national, regional and international level
 - Regional networking with fisheries cooperatives and fishers organisation to support access to international market
5. Conduct of a regional workshop Marine and Fisheries Business and Investment Forum with a theme of ASEAN Public-Private Partnership (PPP): Opportunities and Challenges.
6. Develop the Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing in the ASEAN Region (2021–2025).
7. Conduct of the 3rd ASEAN Meeting Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Partnership with the European Union (EU)
8. Develop Regional guidelines for prudent use of antimicrobials in aquaculture
9. Develop Regional Plan of Action on AMR in Aquaculture (2021–2025)
10. Develop regional guideline on performing risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in aquaculture and the Guideline on Techniques for Veterinary Drug Residue Detection in Aquaculture Product
11. Develop Recommendations on the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility Study Report.
12. Develop of ASEAN Guideline on the Utilisation of Digital Technologies for ASEAN Food and Agricultural Sector.

The following activities are ongoing:

1. Establishment of Mutual Recognition of Agri-food Standards and Conformity Assessment (MAMRASCA)
2. Project on Establishing Cooperation on Combating IUU Fishing under EREADi
3. Establish the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU)
 - Develop guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU interactive platform
4. Conduct pilot testing of ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries (ACDS) in selected in AMS.
5. Implement the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fisheries Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.



6. Conduct regional training/workshop on the application of GIS and Remote Sensing Technology in the management of inland fisheries and aquaculture.
7. Development of ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF)

The following activities are still under consideration.

1. Project proposal on Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia
2. Project proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia
 - Organise a workshop on sharing information and best practices on the management of Marine debris in AMSs Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)
 - Develop ASEAN guidelines on management of marine debris in the AMS Fisheries sector (focusing on Abandoned, Lost and Disregarded Fishing Gears)
3. Project proposal on ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project
 - Develop the ASEAN guidelines on inspection mechanisms for aquaculture fish and fisheries products.
4. Project Proposal on Consultative Workshop on Climate Change, Fisheries and Aquaculture
 - Information sharing on climate change impact and adaptation strategies for fisheries and aquaculture, early warning systems/indicators of climate impacts, and climate-resilient aquaculture/ fisheries technologies and approaches.
 - Stocktake on climate risk and mitigation and adaptation options across ASEAN fisheries and aquaculture sector.
 - Develop regional guidelines on indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries to facilitate ecosystem-based adaptation to the impact of climate change.
5. ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia
6. Project proposal on Assessing the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

The 24FCG/ASSP Meeting to note the progress of implementation of the SPA Fisheries (2021–2025).

STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION (SPA) FOR THE ASEAN COOPERATION IN FISHERIES (2021–2025)

SECTOR : AGRICULTURE
 SUB-SECTOR: FISHERIES
 RESPONSIBLEWORKING GROUP : ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi)

Strategic Thrust 1: Enhance quantity and quality of fisheries and aquaculture production with “green” technologies, sustainable resource management systems and minimise pre- and post-harvest losses and waste.

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
<i>Action Programme 1.1 Identify infrastructure investment and technology requirements to increase production and, promote technology adoption and capacity building programme to reduce post-production losses, and address investment needs.</i>				
1.1.1 Stock take on the infrastructure investment and technology requirements of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.	ASWGFi AFCF	2021–2025	List of infrastructure investment and technology requirements for fisheries and aquaculture sectors.	
1.1.1.1 Consultation with relevant stakeholders to identify and address investment needs (e.g. invite private sectors and small farmers to present investment needs in fisheries to the AFCF meeting)				
1.1.2 Conduct regional assessment on the efficient utilization of fisheries resources and in reducing post-harvest losses.	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Assessment report is completed.	
1.1.3 Promote the implementation of the Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Number of workshops conducted and number of personnel trained	
<i>Action Programme 1.2 Develop new and appropriate technologies, best practices and management systems to ensure food safety and address health/disease and environmental issues, particularly in the fast growing aquaculture sectors.</i>				
1.2.1 Review and revise (if necessary) the ASEAN Guidelines for the Use of Chemical in Aquaculture and Measures to Eliminate the Use of Harmful Chemical.	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Revised Guideline is endorsed by SOM-AMAF	

Activities/Sub-activities		ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
1.2.2	Pilot testing of the ASEAN Guidelines for Standard Operating Procedures for Responsible Movement of the Live Aquatic Animals in selected AMS.	ASWGFi Thailand	2021–2025	SOP is pilot tested in three (3) selected AMS.	
1.2.3	Promote the implementation of the regional technical guidelines on early warning system for aquatic animal health emergencies.	ASWGFi	2021–2025	No of workshop conducted	Project Proposal from SEAFDEC-AQD on <i>Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia</i> under preliminary review of JAIF
1.2.4	Conduct Regional Study on the Outlook of COVID-19 impacts on fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asian Countries.	ASWGFi	2021	Report on the regional outlook.	The report of the Overview Study: COVID-19 Pandemic Implications on Food and Agriculture Trade in ASEAN Member States was circulated to ASWGFi on 21 April 2021. The report was conducted Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada in collaboration with SOM-AMAF.
<i>Action Programme 1.3 Development adequate capacity of AMS in implementing specific measures to support more sustainable fisheries.</i>					
1.3.1	Conduct Training Needs Assessment to identify current demand for knowledge and skills needed for a sustainable fisheries development.	ASWGFi FCG/ASSP	2021–2025	Training Needs Assessment is completed.	
1.3.2	Organise capacity building for AMSs in implementing the specific measures to support more sustainable fisheries.	ASWGFi FCG/ASSP	2021–2025	Number or training/workshop completed.	The project applied for no-cost extension until December 2022.
1.3.2.1	Conduct regional training/workshop on the application of GIS and Remote Sensing Technology in the management of inland fisheries and aquaculture.				
<i>Action Programme 1.4. Examine and improve policy settings as necessary to ensure that they do not distort incentives for output increases and new technology adoption while ensuring that they incorporate fully the value of environmental assets and costs of resource depletion.</i>					
1.4.1	Develop recommendations on the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility Study Report.	ASWGFi Ad-Hoc Task Force AGFP	2021–2025	Policy Recommendation is endorsed by SOM-	The 2 nd AdHoc Task Force Meeting held on 24 November 2020 agreed to recommend to ASWGFi Option

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
			AMAF	1, which is not to develop an AGFP but to focus on the full implementation of the existing twelve (12) policy frameworks with the inclusion of marine debris. -The Recommendations on the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility was adopted by the 43 rd AMAF
1.4.2 Enhance regional Fishery Information Systems (FIS) and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information that are required at the sub-regional and regional level.	ASWGFi FCG/ASSP	2021–2025	Report outlining the gaps and recommendations to enhance FIS.	The activity is included in the project proposal on the Implementation and assessment of fishing capacity and zoning system for Southeast Asia. The project proposal is under preliminary review of JAIF.
1.4.2.1 Conduct regional technical consultation to review existing FIS and relevant statistics, identify gaps, and standardise the definition and classification and data analysis.			List of indicators on sustainable fisheries is developed.	
1.4.2.2 Develop simple and practical indicators in supporting planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries.				
1.4.3 Strengthen the knowledge and management of Marine debris in ASEAN Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)	ASWGFi	2021–2025		
1.4.3.1 Organise workshop on sharing information and best practices on the management of Marine debris in AMSs Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)			Regional workshop is organised.	The project proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia is under consideration by the ASEAN project appraisal and approval process.

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
1.4.3.2 Develop ASEAN guidelines on management of Marine debris in AMS Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)			Regional guidelines is endorsed by SOM-AMAF	The project proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia is under consideration by the ASEAN project appraisal and approval process.
1.4.3.3. Implement ASEAN guidelines on management of Marine debris in the AMS Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)			Country report on the implementation of the guideline.	

Strategic Thrust 2: Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
<i>Action Programme 2.1 Identify and eliminate non-tariff measures (NTMs) that have no economic or scientific rationale and reinforce efforts to improve trade facilitation and revise, as appropriate, trade-impeding regulatory barriers to minimise adverse effects.</i>				
2.1.1 Information sharing on NTMs in fisheries that have potential to be trade barrier.	ASWGF	2021–2025	List of NTMs developed.	
<i>Action Programme 2.2 Certification, inspection, accreditation and traceability.</i>				
2.2.1 Strengthen fish quality and safety management systems that support the competitive position of ASEAN fish products in the world markets.	ASWGF	2021–2025	Regional guideline is endorsed by SOM-AMAF.	
2.2.1.1 Develop regional guideline on performing risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in aquaculture.	Singapore			The Final Draft Guideline has been developed and submitted to ASWGF for consideration The guideline was developed with the support from JAIF under the project AMR in Aquaculture – Laboratory Capacity Building, Risk Analysis, and the Way Forward.

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
				<p>Singapore organised an Introductory Training Course on Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance Arising from Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquaculture virtually on 1–3 February 2021</p> <p>The regional guideline on performing risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in aquaculture, and Guideline on Techniques for Veterinary Drug Residue Detection in Aquaculture Product were adopted by the 43rd AMAF.</p>
2.2.1.2 Develop regional guidelines for prudent use of antimicrobials in aquaculture			Regional guidelines is endorsed by SOM-AMF	<p>The Final Draft Guideline has been developed and submitted to ASWGF_i for consideration</p> <p>The guideline was developed with the support from JAIF under the project AMR in Aquaculture – Laboratory Capacity Building, Risk Analysis, and the Way Forward.</p> <p>The guideline was adopted by the 43rd AMAF.</p>
2.2.1.3 Develop Regional Plan of Action on AMR in Aquaculture			Regional Plan of Action endorsed by SOM-AMAF.	<p>The POA has been developed and submitted to ASWGF_i for consideration</p> <p>The POA was developed with the support from JAIF under the project AMR in Aquaculture – Laboratory</p>

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
				Capacity Building, Risk Analysis, and the Way Forward. The POA was adopted by the 43 rd AMAF.
2.2.1.4 Conduct Regional Workshop on the implementation of the regional guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobial and its resistance in aquaculture.	Indonesia	2022	Input to 2.2.1.2	
2.2.1.5 Report existing capacities of national reference laboratories to address fish quality and safety management issues and perform risks analyses.	ASWGFI	2021–2025	Existing capacities of national reference laboratories are reported.	
2.2.2 Harmonise the accreditation and certification system for Good Aquaculture Practices in AMS, in alignment with international standards, to enable the recognition of ASEAN-wide, equivalent requirements.	ASWGFi, EWG-ASEAN GAqP	2021–2022	Guideline is endorsed by SOM-AMAF	
2.2.2.1 Develop guidelines/manual for ASEAN GAqP for Food Fish and ASEAN Shrimp GAP certification and accreditation system.				On-going The ASEAN GAqP for Food Fish and the ASEAN GAP for Shrimp Farming are being revised and integrated into one guideline.
2.2.2.2 Develop common training programme and materials on GAqP for trainers.				Common training programme and materials is endorsed by SOM-AMAF <u>Completed</u> Training-workshop held on 3-6 February 2020 in Penang, Malaysia to discuss and pilot-test the draft ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practice for Food Fish: Trainer's Guide, including the conduct of a The Trainer's Guide was adopted by the 42 nd AMAF Meeting on 21 October 2020.
2.2.3 Mutual recognition (MRA) and conformity assessment arrangements, in alignment with international standards and practices, for product and services to facilitate integration into a single market and	ASWGFi, EWG-ASEAN GAqP	2021–2025		Number of AMS who

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
production base.			have referenced/ used the template when discussing bilateral arrangements with another AMS for trade in fishery products	
2.2.3.1 Promote the implementation of the template on arrangement on the equivalence of fishery products inspection and certification systems.				
2.2.3.2 Establish MRA for endorsed ASEAN aquaculture good practices.	ASWGFi EWG-GAqP	2021–2025	MRA is established.	Discussion on Mutual Recognition of Agri-food Standards and Conformity Assessment (MAMRASCA) is still on-going.
<i>Action Programme 2.3 Streamline and improve quarantine systems and procedures, and harmonize standards and regulations to facilitate trade.</i>				
2.3.1 Strengthen the quarantine and inspection/ sampling procedure and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and bio- security measures for aquaculture products to secure food safety.	ASWGFi Thailand	2021–2025	Regional workshop is organised.	
2.3.1.1 Organise workshop on sharing information and best practices on fisheries quarantine and inspection procedures.				
2.3.1.2 Develop the ASEAN guidelines on inspection mechanism for aquaculture fish and fisheries products.			Regional guidelines is endorsed by SOM-AMAF.	The activity is included under the ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project. The project proposal is under consideration by the ASEAN project appraisal and approval process.
2.3.1.3 Harmonise aquatic animal quarantine and health certification for exportation and importation in alignment with international standards and practices	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Number of AMS with aquatic animal quarantine and health certification harmonised to international standards and practices	
2.3.2 Involve the private sector in identifying priority products for the development of standards on aquaculture	ASWGFi, EWG-GAqP	2021–2025	Number of capacity building training/	

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
commodities and priority fisheries products with high value-add.	FCG/ASSP		workshops on standards for aquaculture commodities and priority fisheries product	
2.3.2.1 Organise regional consultation to increase understanding of standards for aquaculture commodities and priority fisheries products.				
<i>Action Programme 2.4 Enhance regional and international cooperation to ensure that all major ASEAN food market are integrated, and the food trading system is strengthened and utilised to provide stable food supplies.</i>				
2.4.1 Develop regional networking with fisheries cooperatives and fishers organization to support the implementation of ASEAN fisheries standards, guidelines and best practices.	ASWGF AFCF	2021–2025	Number of private sectors involved in the promotion of ASEAN fisheries standards, guidelines and best practices.	<u>On-going</u> Public Private Partnerships for Scaling of Innovative Inclusive Insurance in Agriculture Value Chains” will be conducted on 24–25 November 2021

Strategic Thrust 3: Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution.

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
<i>Action Programme 3.2 Food Safety and Health.</i>				
3.2.1 Strengthen national policy and accelerate the establishment of food safety and food quality standards, in alignment with international standards and requirements/practices, and mobilise resources for effective ASEAN wide adoption.	ASWGF	2021–2025	Compiled information on national food safety and quality standards of fisheries products.	
3.2.1.1 Information exchange on existing national policy on food safety and quality standards of fisheries products.				
3.2.1.2 Develop regional food safety and quality standards on fisheries products aligned with international standards.				Food safety and quality standard on fisheries products developed.
3.2.1.3 Provide input as requested by relevant ASEAN bodies on the development of ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF)			Protocols of AFSRF is endorsed by relevant ASEAN Bodies,	AFSRF was endorsed by SOM-AMAF and SOM-HD (<i>ad-ref</i>) on 15 July 2016. The endorsement

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
			including ASWGFi.	<p>from AEM, AMAF, and AHM on 15 August 2016, followed by the endorsement of the AFSRF Task Force.</p> <p>The AMS finalised the text of the AFSRF Agreement in 2020. This Agreement is currently with AMS for the official signing.</p> <p>The AFSRF Task Force Workshop held on 11 August 2021 identified priority protocols as provided ASEAN Food Safety Framework (AFSRF) Agreement.</p>

Strategic Thrust 4: Increase resilience of fisheries and aquaculture to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks.

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
<i>Action Programme 4.1 Increase investment in R&D for technologies and management systems with a focus on resilience to facilitate climate smart/friendly agriculture, land use, and fishery in cooperation with research programmes and networks on the basis of best practices.</i>				
4.1 Information sharing on climate change impact and adaptation strategies for fisheries and aquaculture, early warning systems/indicators of climate impacts, and climate resilient aquaculture/ fisheries technologies and approaches.	ASWGFi AFCF	2021–2025	Climate change related information on fisheries and aquaculture is compiled.	The project proposal on Consultative Workshop on Climate Change, Fisheries and Aquaculture is being consulted to Dialogue Partners for possible support.
4.2 Stock take on climate risk and mitigation and adaptation options across ASEAN fisheries and aquaculture sector.	ASWGFi AFCF	2021–2025	Stocktaking report.	The project proposal on Consultative Workshop on Climate Change, Fisheries and Aquaculture is being consulted to Dialogue Partners for possible support.
4.3 Develop regional guideline on indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries to facilitate ecosystem-based adaptation to the impact of climate change.	ASWGFi AFCF Philippines &	2021–2025	Regional guideline is endorsed by SOM-AMAF.	The project proposal on Consultative Workshop on Climate Change, Fisheries and Aquaculture is being

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
	Viet Nam			consulted to Dialogue Partners for possible support.
4.4 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 (IMTA).	ASWGF AFCF	2021–2025	List of green technologies identified and promoted.	On-going Development of ASEAN <i>Guideline on the Utilisation of Digital Technologies for ASEAN Food and Agricultural Sector</i> . -2 nd Knowledge sharing workshop was held on 26 April 2021. -1 st Knowledge sharing workshop was held on 22 February 2021. The ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting the Utilization of Digital Technologies for ASEAN Food and Agricultural Sector was adopted by the 43 rd AMAF
4.5 Establish regional data and information on critical habitats such as mangrove, seagrass and coral reef as well as linkage between relevant institutions in AMS.	ASWGF	2021–2025	Regional information on critical habitats and linkage with institutions in AMS is established.	

66

Strategic Thrust 5: Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality, to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness in line with the ASEAN Policy Blueprint on SME Development

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
<i>Action Programme: 5.1. Assist small scale producers and SMEs in the FAF sector to become viable and competitive enterprises by provision of better technology, inputs, finance and extension services, access to higher value markets, and by facilitating integration into modern value chains</i>				
5.1.1. Assist small-scale producers from both capture fishery and aquaculture to meet with standards on safety and quality of fish and fishery products for securing and maintaining access to markets at the national, regional	ASWGF	2021–2025	Number of training organised.	Indonesia organised a regional virtual workshop on Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of AMS in Implementing the FAO

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
and international level.				Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to Support Access to Markets on 16–17 September 2020
5.1.1.1 Conduct of training for small-scale producers to understand and familiarize with safety and quality standards of fish and fishery products.	ASWGFi	2021–2025		
<i>Action Programme 5.2 Encourage larger scale enterprises to perform a mentoring role by linking with small-scale producers and SMEs through mechanisms such as contract farming to foster adoption of innovations and participation in high value markets.</i>				
5.2.1 Promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in extending technology from large enterprises to small-scale farmers.	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Country report on the promotion of PPP activities.	Indonesia organised a virtual regional workshop Marine and Fisheries Business and Investment Forum with a theme of ASEAN Public-Private Partnership (PPP): Opportunities and Challenges on 28 January 2021.
5.2.2. Promote cluster farming for small-scale producers to meet with regional/international standards.	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Country report on the promotion of cluster farming.	Indonesia organised a regional virtual workshop on Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of AMS in Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to Support Access to Markets on 16–17 September 2020

Strategic Thrust 6: Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues.

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
<i>Action Programme: 6.1 Enhance coordination and develop joint approaches through consultations among AMS and related ASEAN bodies in regional and international fora in order to gain a better hearing for its views and proposals, and obtain more favourable outcomes in negotiations and agreements affecting FAF sector.</i>				
6.1.1 Collaborate with relevant regional and international partners to build capacity on international trade-related issues (e.g. Marine Mammal Protection Act)	ASWGF FCG/ASSP AFCE	2021–2025	Training/Workshop is organised.	
6.1.2 Develop and present ASEAN common positions on issues affecting the fisheries sector the region in various regional fora (e.g. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, RPOA-IUU, Coral Triangle Initiatives on Coral Reef, Fisheries and Food Security, Codex Alimentarius Commission, and World Trade Organization).	ASWGF	2021–2025	Common positions are developed and presented in regional fora.	
<i>Action Programme 6.2. Engage with regional and international processes to enhance ASEAN cooperation to improve the governance of trans-boundary fishing and traceability of fishery products in order to combat IUU fishing.</i>				
6.2.1 Conduct pilot testing of ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries (ACDS) in selected in AMS.	ASWGF	2021–2025	Pilot testing of ACDS is completed in three AMS.	The pilot testing has completed in Brunei Darussalam, and expanded to other AMS.
6.2.2 Assess the implementation of ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity.	ASWGF	2021–2025	Assessment report is completed.	The project proposal on the Implementation and assessment of fishing capacity and zoning system for Southeast Asia is under preliminary review of JAIF.
6.2.3 Develop the Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing in the ASEAN Region (2021–2025).	ASWGF	2021–2025	Roadmap is endorsed by SOM-AMAF.	Completed AMAF adopted the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing (2021–2025) by ad-referendum on 30 November 2020.

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
6.2.4 Establish the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU)	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of AN-IUU endorsed by SOM-AMAF. Focal Points of AN-IUU are appointed by AMS. AN-IUU is operationalized.	On-going The Cooperation Framework, TOR and ROP was adopted by the 42 nd AMAF Meeting. AN-IUU Focal Points have been nominated by AMS. Thailand serves as the Network Center to host the online interactive platform. The AN-IUU will develop guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU interactive platform
6.2.5 Foster dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners, and international and regional organizations in combating IUU fishing.	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Dialogue or joint activity is organised.	On-going The project on Establishing Cooperation on Combating IUU Fishing under EREADi is still on-going. The 3 rd ASEAN Meeting Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Partnership with the European Union (EU) was held virtually from 23–24 February 2021.

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	
				IUU – Information Session on CRIMARIO II’ IORIS was held in 17 June 2021.
6.2.6 Build up the capacity of AMS to effectively meet the requirements of international agreements relating to combating IUU fishing (<i>e.g.</i> Port State Measures).	ASWGF FCG/ASSP	2021–2025	Training/Workshop is organised.	ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia has been approved by the Japanese Mission to ASEAN on 22 April 2021. The Project will be implemented in February 2022.
6.2.7 Implement the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fisheries Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.	ASWGF	2021–2025	Country report on the implementation of the guideline.	On-going The progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines to Prevent the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain was reported at the 23 rd FCG/ASSP Meeting.

PROGRESS OF THE ASEAN ROADMAP ON COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

PROGRESS

The ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing (2021–2025) was ad-referendum adopted by AMAF on 30 November 2020. The Roadmap contains 7 action programmes and 25 activities. To date, there are eight (8) ongoing activities, one (1) activity under consideration, and sixteen (16) activities requiring further actions.

The following are the ongoing activities:

- 1) Support the operation of AN-IUU in accordance with the Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure
 - *Development of guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU (Thailand)*
- 2) Provide regular updates on SEAFDEC Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) and FAO global fishing vessel records (GR), and explore the possibility of cross-linking both records through SEAFDEC.
- 3) Facilitate dialogues among fisheries officers to share, at the sub-regional/regional level, best practices (e.g. MCS) and share lessons in efforts to combat IUU fishing.
 - *The project on Establishing Cooperation on Combating IUU Fishing under EREAD. The 3rd ASEAN Meeting Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Partnership with the European Union (EU) was held virtually from 23–24 February 2021.*
 - *IUU – Information Session on CRIMARIO II' IORIS was held in 17 June 2021.*
- 4) Implement ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.
- 5) Implement the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) and other traceability systems, where appropriate, to ensure compliance with international requirements (e.g. EU Catch Certificate; SIMP).
- 6) Capacity needs assessments of AMS towards the implementation of Port State Measures.
- 7) Implement, where appropriate, the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)
 - *Implementation and assessment of fishing capacity and zoning system for Southeast Asia (Malaysia)*
- 8) Share and exchange information on evolving seafood export requirements, trade barriers, and market access (e.g. Seafood Import Monitoring Program, EU Catch Certification Scheme and the Marine Mammal Protection Act), where relevant.
 - *The 28th ASWGF Meeting agreed to include the discussion on the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the purview of AFCF.*

The ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia has been approved by the Japanese Mission to ASEAN on 22 April 2021, and currently awaiting from JICA on the implementation procedure of the project.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

The 24FCG/ASSP Meeting to:

- note the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing (2021–2025)
- identify, discuss and agree on priority deliverables for 2022, and request lead countries to work on the timely delivery of the activity.

ACTION PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES 2021–2025

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	
1. Strengthen Regional Collaboration and Information Sharing <i>Priority 6. Strengthening collaboration among AMS and international and regional organizations; expanding knowledge sharing and collaboration platforms for regional and sub-regional exchange of information, experiences and best practices.</i>				
1.1 Support the operation of AN-IUU in accordance with the Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.	2021–2025	AN-IUU	<p>AN-IUU is launched and operational.</p> <p>Exchange and share MCS information related to IUU fishing and best practices on combating IUU fishing.</p>	<p>On-going The Cooperation Framework, TOR and ROP was adopted by the 42nd AMAF Meeting.</p> <p>AN-IUU Focal Points have been nominated by AMS.</p> <p>Thailand serves as the Network Center to host the online interactive platform.</p> <p>The AN-IUU will develop guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU interactive platform</p>
1.2 Provide regular updates on SEAFDEC Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) and FAO global fishing vessel records (GR), and to explore the possibility of cross-linking both records through SEAFDEC.	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Number of AMS regularly updating and accessing the RFVR and GR.	<p>On-going The 23rd FCG reported that as of 6 Nov 2020, a total of 2,614 fishing vessels with 24 meters in length and over had been registered covering the following AMS: BN, CA, ID, MY, MM, PH, and TH.</p>
2. Expand Capacity Building and Awareness Activities <i>Priority 4. Building capacity especially in the use of advanced technologies (e.g. catch certification and traceability) and in the application of regulatory instruments and operational fisheries enforcement procedures.</i>				

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	
2.1 Facilitate dialogues among fisheries officers to share, at the sub-regional/regional level, best practices (<i>e.g.</i> MCS) and share lessons in efforts to combat IUU fishing.	2021–2025	ASWGF <i>i</i>	Workshops, conferences and roundtables at the sub-regional/regional level.	On-going The project on Establishing Cooperation on Combating IUU Fishing under EREAD <i>i</i> is still on-going. The 3 rd ASEAN Meeting Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Partnership with the European Union (EU) was held virtually from 23–24 February 2021. IUU – Information Session on CRIMARIO II' IORIS was held in 17 June 2021.
2.2 Provide technical assistance and training on traceability; the use and application of regulatory measures; methodologies and operational fisheries enforcement procedures; technologies to combat IUU fishing and fishing-related activities.	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Training workshops; training modules and manuals.	
2.3 Promote awareness and understanding of the detrimental impacts of IUU fishing and applicable international and regional instruments and agreements through information dissemination campaigns targeting fishers and seafood businesses.	2021–2025	ASWGF <i>i</i>	Regional information campaign developed.	
2.4 Conduct regional workshops and training courses on combating IUU fishing in collaboration with regional organizations.	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Number of technical workshops, meetings and studies relevant to IUU (<i>e.g.</i> ACDS etc.).	ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia has been approved by the Japanese Mission to ASEAN on 22 April 2021. Currently, awaiting from JICA on the implementation procedure of the project.
2.5 Sharing of experience and best practices on the implementation of the Fisheries Observer Programme.	2021–2025	ASWGF <i>i</i>	Workshop on the implementation of Fisheries Observer Programme.	

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	
3. Implement Traceability and Catch Documentation Scheme <i>Priority 3. Applying innovative use of technologies to support monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities, including traceability of fish throughout the supply chain as well as regional/sub-regional networks for sharing and exchanging information.</i>				
3.1 Implement ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.	2021–2025	AFCF FCG/ASSP	Country updates on the implementation of the guidelines.	Ongoing The progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines to Prevent the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain was reported at the 23 rd FCG/ASSP Meeting.
3.2 Implement the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) and other traceability systems, where appropriate, to ensure compliance with international requirements (e.g. EU Catch Certificate; SIMP).	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Pilot-testing of ACDS is completed in three AMS; ACDS and/or other traceability systems demonstrating compliance with EU, SIMP, etc.	On-going The 23 rd FCG/ASSP reported that the eACDS web-based application version 1 has been developed and pilot-tested in Brunei Darussalam, while version 2 will be implemented in Viet Nam and Myanmar. -Cambodia eACDS application will focus small-scale fishing Malaysia- 2 pilot sites were selected. Viet Nam-4 pilot sites were selected. Myanmar- Yangon was selected as pilot site.
3.4 Leverage on a public-private partnership to improve the implementation of fisheries traceability systems.	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Country report on the promotion of PPP activities.	
4. Implement Port State Measures <i>Priority 1. Implementing Port State Measures (PSM) based on the principles of the FAO Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA).</i>				
4.1 Work towards the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM).	2021–2025	ASWGF _i	Port State measures applied based on FAO Port State Measures Agreement.	
4.2 Improve the capacity of relevant national authorities to effectively	2021–2025	ASWGF _i	Technical assistance and capacity building	On-going

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	
implement the requirements of Port State Measures and Flag State responsibilities. 4.2.1 Capacity needs assessments of AMS towards the implementation of Port State Measures. 4.2.2 Conduct of training for port inspections including legal and operational aspects with emphasis on the practical hands-on component.			workshops, training and needs assessment conducted.	The 23 rd FCG/ASSP reported the status and 13 action points that are needed to support the implementation of PSM in ASEAN,
4.3 Share information on national fisheries/port laws and regulation for designated ports for foreign fishing vessels, and best practices on fishing vessel inspection.	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Workshop on sharing of information on fisheries laws and regulation for designated ports conducted.	
5. Strengthen Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Systems <i>Priority 2. Implementing monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures at national, sub-regional and regional scales</i>				
5.1 Enhance MCS programs under national laws and regulations, including strengthening cooperation among relevant national agencies for the implementation of the MCS programme.	2021–2025	ASWGFi	Regional/sub-regional/national workshops and forums on MCS.	
5.2 Intensify national surveillance during fishing operations, where appropriate.	2021–2025	ASWGFi	Country report on surveillance records are shared during ASWGFi Meeting.	
5.3 Implement Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for commercial fishing vessels licensed by the AMS.	2021–2025	ASWGFi	VMS system in place.	

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	
<p>6. Implement National and Regional Fisheries Management Measures to Combat IUU Fishing. <i>Priority 5: Enhance coordination with the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU) and optimizing impacts related to the implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) IPOA-IUU.</i></p>				
6.1 Support AMS to develop, implement and revise their National Plan of Action (NPOA) to combat IUU Fishing in line with the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU), including sharing of best practices.	2021–2025	AFCF	Number of AMS with developed/ revised NPOA-IUU. NPOA-IUU implementation status	
6.2 Encourage AMS to adopt and implement measures to address IUU Fishing to comply with international and regional agreements pertaining to combating IUU fishing, where appropriate.	2021–2025	ASWGF AFCF	New measures or policies adopted and shared among AMS through the ASWGF Meeting.	
6.3 Implement, where appropriate, the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity).	2021–2025	AFCF	Assessment reports on RPOA-Capacity implementation.	On-going The 23 rd FCG/ASSP reported that SEAFDEC/MFRDMD will organise a Regional Technical Consultation in December 2020 to discuss the status of implementation of the RPOA-Capacity. The project proposal on the Implementation and assessment of fishing capacity and zoning system for Southeast Asia is under preliminary review of JAIF.

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	
7. Enhance Key Trade-related Measures to Combat IUU Fishing <i>Priority 7. Enhancing cooperation on trade-related measures to combating IUU-Fishing.</i>				
7.1 Collaborate with relevant regional and international partners to build capacity on international fisheries trade-related issues.	2021–2025	ASWGFi AFCF	Training/Workshops.	
7.2 Share and exchange information on evolving seafood export requirements, trade barriers, and market access (<i>e.g.</i> Seafood Import Monitoring Program, EU Catch Certification Scheme and the Marine Mammal Protection Act), where relevant.	2021–2025	ASWGFi AFCF	Workshops/Meetings.	On-going The 28 th ASWGFi Meeting agreed to include the discussion on Marine Mammal Protection Act under the purview of AFCF.
8. Effectively Apply International Organizations, Instruments, Agreements and Treaties of Relevance to Fisheries and Fishery Activities <i>Priority 6. Strengthening collaboration among AMS and international and regional organizations; expanding knowledge sharing and collaboration platforms for regional and sub-regional exchange of data and information, experiences and best practices.</i>				
8.1 Encourage AMSs to ratify and implement international instruments, agreements and treaties related to fisheries (UNCLOS, CITES, CBD, UNFSA, FAO CA, STCW-F, and PSMA), as appropriate.	2021–2025	ASWGFi	Number of countries ratifying relevant international instruments.	
8.2 Improve the participation of AMS in relevant regional and international fora related to combating IUU fishing.	2021–2025	ASWGFi	Participation in regional and international fora and other relevant dialogues	

**ASEAN NETWORK FOR COMBATING ILLEGAL,
UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING (AN-IUU)**

KEY OUTCOMES:

The 1st AN-IUU Meeting was held virtually from 21–22 December 2020 and was chaired by Thailand.

The Meeting:

- **NOTED** the progress on the establishment of the AN-IUU highlighting the series of consultations leading to the adoption of the Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of AN-IUU.
- **APPRECIATED** Thailand for the initiative to develop the AN-IUU interactive platform; and **NOTED** the following suggestions to further improve the operation of the interactive platform: i) need to establish criteria for inclusion of IUU fishing vessels in the interactive platform; ii) need to establish procedures or clearing mechanism similar to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) where AMS can first discuss before deciding to include alleged IUU fishing vessels in the interactive platform; and iii) need to conduct capacity building for AN-IUU focal points to familiarize the interactive platform.
- **NOTED** the proposed 2021 activities of the AN-IUU for possible support under E-READI, which include:
 - i) Organise meeting events of AN-IUU, but should be within the context of ASEAN-EU dialogue (e.g. Back-to-back meetings of the ASEAN Meeting on Combatting IUU Fishing in Partnership with EU and the AN-IUU Meeting);
 - ii) Development of Guideline on sharing, access to and use of IUU fishing related information (technical expert and workshop);
 - iii) Workshop or training course on the operationalization of interactive platform;
 - iv) Regional assessment on capacity needs, gaps, and obstacles to combat IUU fishing; and
 - v) Capacity building on fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance.
- **REQUESTED** Thailand and the ASEAN Secretariat to work together in developing the guidelines on sharing, access to and use of IUU fishing-related information taking into account the suggestion of AMS to include the criteria and procedures on the listing of IUU fishing vessels in the interactive platform.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

The 24FCG/ASSP Meeting to note the key outcomes of the 1st AN-IUU Meeting.

**PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE (ASA):
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE 11TH MEETING OF ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE**

1. INTRODUCTION

The 11th Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) was organized on 21 June 2021 virtually via Blue Jeans Application and was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the 9 ASEAN Member States (AMSs) except Singapore, as well as the representatives from SEAFDEC, FAO-RAP and INFOFISH. Thailand was the chair of the Meeting which *Mr. Charlermchai Suwannarak*, Deputy Director-General of Department of Fisheries of Thailand was the Chairperson.

2. CURRENT STATUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- **Progress of Action of Activities under the Plan of Action of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance 2021–2025**

The meeting noted the progress of activities under the PAA 2021–2025 as follows:

No.	Objectives	Activities	Progress	Schedule	Responsible Agency/body/ Country
1	Share and exchange information of shrimp commodities relating to shrimp export toward the same direction of shrimp products development among ASEAN Countries through the website;	1.1 Request AMSs to designate its ASA Focal Points.	All AMS proposed ASA focal point	July 2020	AMSs
		1.2 Coordinate and communicate among ASA Focal Points to identify issues or topics to be uploaded in the ASA website.	Improved ASA website (Focal point can input data by themselves)	December 2020	ASA Focal Points
		1.3 Share and, exchange updated the information as identified in 1.2 on the ASA Website on regular basis		2021–2025	ASA Focal Points
2	Create strong mechanism among ASEAN to jointly prevent non-tariff trade barrier by shrimp importing countries and all NGO	Convene a special meeting to discuss on specific topic about non-tariff trade barrier.	-	2021–2022	AMSs
3	Develop proposal and recommendations for action in relation to common concern issues and collaborative actions by the members	Thailand proposed two Projects: 3.1 Regional Collaboration for long-term genetic improvement of growth, robustness and resistance to early mortality syndrome in white shrimp for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance	1) Presented to 23 rd FCG/ASSP 2) Circulated to ASA focal point for comments	2021–2025	AMSs
		3.2 ASEAN Awareness Building on Implementing Traceability System		2022–2023	Thailand

No.	Objectives	Activities	Progress	Schedule	Responsible Agency/body/Country
		and Aquaculture Certification			
4	Jointly coordinate and provide dialogue for communication to international forum;	Develop the Road map to promote the ASEAN Shrimp GAP in relevant events such as the International Seafood exposition, dialogue major international seafood importers, etc.	-	2021–2025	AMSs

- **Current situation on marine shrimp under the COVID-19 pandemic**

- 1) The Director of INFOFISH, *Ms. Shirlene Maria Anthonysamy*, presented the global shrimp production, trade and market trends.
- 2) The representative of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP), *Mr. Simon Funge-Smith*, highlighted his presentation on “What was the stories behind ASEAN production, right now?”.
- 3) The country presentation on the current situation on marine shrimp under the COVID-19 pandemic concerning national measures to support shrimp farmers, technology/innovation, trading and impact of COVID-19.

- **Conclusion and Recommendation of 11th ASA Meeting**

- 1) The Meeting agreed to adopt the two project proposals under the Objectives No. 3 of PAA and submit to ASWGFi for further consideration.
- 2) Since there was no progress of activities under the Objectives No. 2 and No. 4 of PAA due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, the Meeting agreed that there is a need to accelerate the execution of those activities to meet the objectives of PAA and delivering the results within the timeframe.
- 3) For the benefits of ASEAN shrimp industry, the Meeting agreed that there is a substantial need for the ASA to increase close collaboration and coordination among AMSs regardless of COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4) The Meeting was informed that the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance will be hosted by Indonesia

- **After 11th ASA Meeting**

Department of Fisheries, Thailand (the Secretariat of ASA) reported output of 11th ASA Meeting and submitted the two project proposals under Objective No. 3 of PAA to ASWGFi on 23 June 2021 and also submitted the two project proposals to ASEC in order to seek for financial support.

3. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

The 24FCG/ASSP Meeting to take note.

PROGRESS OF THE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES FOR COMBATING IUU FISHING

1. INTRODUCTION

In the global and regional situation of Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing can take place in all capture fisheries. Efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks are undermined by IUU fishing, which can lead to the collapse of fisheries or can seriously impair efforts to rebuild fish stocks that have already been depleted. This may result in the loss of both short- and long-term social and economic opportunities and could have negative impacts on food security. In this regard, the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) with the technical support from SEAFDEC made the collaborative effort in the development of regional initiatives and tools for combating IUU fishing such as 1) regional database on fishing vessels (Regional Fishing Vessels Record: RFVR database); 2) international and regional cooperation on capacity building programs to support implementation of Port State Measures in AMSs; and 3) development and promotion of the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS). These were endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN mechanism. Such regional initiatives have supported AMSs in preventing IUU fishing and achieving sustainable utilization as well as sound management of fisheries resources in Southeast Asia.

After the endorsement of the above-mentioned regional initiatives/tools until present, SEAFDEC in collaboration with AMSs have been implementing activities and conducting regular updates on the progress and following-up actions based on the recommendations from SEAFDEC and ASEAN.

2. STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES FOR COMBATING IUU FISHING

2.1 Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR Database)

The RFVR database, an online system, adopted by SEAFDEC and ASEAN mechanism, is one of regional management tool created with an intention to share information on fishing vessels among AMSs on fishing vessels. The RFVR Database is basic information required effective tools to support the fishing vessel inspection to reduce the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels through enhancing transparency, traceability, and support inspection in relation to PSM activities. It is expected that RFVR will work as a practical tool for related authorities such as local inspector, port state inspector, high rank fisheries officer, and technical fisheries officer of the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in checking and taking corrective actions against inappropriate behavior of its fishing vessels, thereby supporting the elimination of IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian Region. For example, AMSs can take appropriate actions against “Stateless Vessels, IUU fishing vessels, poaching” by sharing information and identifying problematic vessels through the RFVR database.

Currently, information in the RFVR database is available for the vessel 24 meters in length and over, including information of 28 Key Data Elements as agreed by AMSs. Since 2015, SEAFDEC has assisted AMSs by providing services on updating information in the RFVR database. As of 31 August 2021, the total number of fishing vessels in the database is shown as follows.

Country	Fishing vessels	Carrier vessels	Processing vessels	Support vessels	Total
Brunei Darussalam	10	-	1	-	11
Cambodia	6	-	-	-	6
Indonesia	1,988	222	-	-	2,210
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-

Country	Fishing vessels	Carrier vessels	Processing vessels	Support vessels	Total
Malaysia	144	-	-	-	144
Myanmar	1,130	186	-	-	1,316
Philippines	67	93	-	7	167
Singapore	-	1	-	-	1
Thailand	339	19	-	-	358
Viet Nam	2,144	492	-	-	2,636

Remarks: Information from the Database of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record updated in 2021 (except the information from Indonesia and Philippines that were updated in 2020)

To support utilization of the current RFVR database, the required information should be updated in real time. In this connection, the Council during its 53rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Council agreed that the SEAFDEC Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) should transfer the key-in data responsibility to AMSs in order to get such real-time information. Therefore, the SEAFDEC/TD developed a regional template/format for AMSs uploading the respective KDEs by using CSV/Excel file.

For introduction and demonstration how to use a template/format of CSV/Excel file whereby the respective country can key in and upload the KDEs to the RFVR database with the updated information on vessel registration and fishing license through the implementation of activities to combat IUU fishing among AMSs, the SEAFDEC/TD organized “Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia” from 28 to 30 September 2021 via online platform. The Teleworkshop came up with updated information of vessels registration and fishing license through the implementation of activities to combat IUU fishing among AMSs, and understanding of the introduced template/format for uploading the KDEs of RFVR database in order to get such real-time information by AMSs.

2.2 Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of Port State Measures

To continue capacity building on PSM implementation in the region, “The Regional Training on Port State Measures implementation for Inspectors in Southeast Asia” in collaboration with partners such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Department of Fisheries (DOF), Thailand, was organized from 26 to 29 October 2021 via online platform. The target participants who engaged in and conducted PSM and/or port control activities at inspection level from AMSs attended this training. The training focused on updating the current situation on PSMA and sharing information on the implementation of PSM inspection from our partners. In the end, the participants are expected to better understand the implementation of PSM and increase knowledge, skill, and experience on inspection to support PSM and port control implementation.

2.3 Development and Promotion of an Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS)

The eACDS is an application that links all information and data in the supply chain from point of catch to plates/consumers. The eACDS consists of two applications:

- (I) web-based application is designed for:
 - (a) port-out permission and issuance of initial Catch Declaration (CD) to fishing masters,
 - (b) port-in permission including catch weight and species verification and issuance of the CD to fishing masters,
 - (c) issuance of Movement Document (MD),
 - (d) issuance of Statement of Catch (SC), and
 - (e) requirement of Catch Certification (CC) and issuance of CC; and

(II) mobile application is designed for catch reporting at sea and purchasing fish. The eACDS requires several inputs of basic data and information called “Key Data Elements” (KDEs) including information on: 1) Point of Catch, 2) Buyers/Receivers and Sellers (Broker/Wholesaler), 3) Processors, 4) Exporters and International Shippers, 5) Importers, and 6) End Consumers.

In 2021, the eACDS user’s manual is being printed and to be published soon. Moreover the online practical workshop on the use of eACDS application was conducted and encouraged for trial in the participating countries as follows:

Myanmar

The Online Practical Workshop on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) Application Version 2 in the Part of Catch Declaration was organized from 21 to 22 January 2021 through the Google Meet platform. The online workshop focused on the Catch Declaration (CD) part of eACDS application via learning by doing. The introduction on eACDS Version 2 and the new feature of eACDS Version 2 was presented. Moreover, installation of the eACDS mobile application on catch report, requesting and approving for Port-out, catch report at sea via eACDS-catch report application, requesting and approving for Port-in, and verification weight, through issuance of the Catch Declaration (CD) were imparted and practiced to all participants. The workshop expects that the participants will be a trainer to impart this application for fishermen and stakeholders to use eACDS application.

Malaysia

The Online Practical Workshop on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) Application Version 2 in the Part of Movement Document (MD), Statement of Catch (SC), and Catch Certification (CC) was organized from 24 to 25 February 2021 via Zoom platform. The Workshop focused to inform how to use eACDS application version 2 in the part of MD, SC, and CC via learning by doing as practical. After this Workshop, the trial on the use of eACDS application version will be conducted by DOF staff with close facilitated by SEAFDEC eACDS working team.

Brunei Darussalam

The Online Practical Workshop on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) Application Version 2 in the Part of Movement Document (MD), Statement of Catch (SC), and Catch Certification (CC) was organized from 30 March to 1 April 2021 via Zoom platform. The Workshop focused to inform new features of eACDS Version 2, the using of eACDS application version 2 in the part of MD, SC, and CC through practice. After this Workshop, the trial on the use of the eACDS application version will be conducted by DOF staff with close facilitation by the SEAFDEC eACDS working team.

Viet Nam

The Online Practical Workshop on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) Application Version 2 in the Part of Movement Document (MD), Statement of Catch (SC), and Catch Certification (CC) was organized from 7 to 9 April 2021 via Zoom platform. The Workshop focused on how to use eACDS application version 2 in the part of MD, SC, and CC through practice. Moreover, the introduction of eACDS application Version 2 and the new feature of eACDS Version 2 through the practical Catch Declaration part were also recapped for participants. After this Workshop, the trial on the use of eACDS application version will be conducted by D-Fish staff with close facilitation made by SEAFDEC eACDS working team.

3. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the progress of ongoing regional initiatives on RFVR, PSM and eACDS promoted by SEAFDEC to support combating IUU fishing of AMS.
- To request AMSs responsibility on updating and key-in data on RFVR database in order to acquire such real-time information by country themselves.
- To provide further directions on new areas of work for SEAFDEC to pursue in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia.

PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY

1. INTRODUCTION

The marine capture fisheries production in Southeast Asia shows an increasing trend from 11.9 million metric tons in 2000 to 18.3 million metric tons in 2018, which contributed approximately 18.9% to the global marine capture fisheries production, with an average increase of 0.37 million metric tons or 2.6% annually. In the past three to four decades, ASEAN Member States (AMSs) ranked among the top ten countries with the largest fishing industries in the world. The rising number of fishing fleets in the region coupled with a fast increase in harvesting capacity has not been matched with the development of national capacities and regional or sub-regional cooperation to manage fishing efforts with due consideration given to the sustainability of fishery resources.

Finfish represented 85 percent of total production, with small pelagic fish as the main group, followed by gadiformes and tuna and tuna-like species. Pelagic species have a high possibility of shared transboundary stocks in the Southeast Asian region, which requires strategic and collective efforts between AMSs to manage their resources to ensure sustainability. It has therefore become necessary to improve and implement the capacity management measures in the region that would effectively limit entry into the fisheries and sustain stocks of the pelagic species.

Therefore, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD collaborated with the Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOFM) have developed the two-years proposal entitled: ‘Implementation and Assessment of The ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for The Management of Fishing Capacity’ with aim to enhance ASEAN cooperation and facilitate improvement of regional fisheries information system through implementation of RPOA-Capacity in the trans-boundary fisheries management towards resource sustainability and environmental well-being. There are five (5) main outputs for this proposal: a) Status of the RPOA-Capacity implementation in AMSs; b) Assessment of the existing fisheries statistics and information or relevant system in AMSs; c) Simple and practical indicators in supporting planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic fish; d) Current status and establishment of closed season, closed areas or other management strategies of transboundary species in AMSs; and e) Terminal report.

Direct beneficiaries for this project are government agencies engaging in fisheries management in the AMSs except LAO PDR as well as fishers and researchers involved in the project. While indirect beneficiaries for this project are national/local governments and private sectors in AMSs, including consumers within and outside the ASEAN region.

2. STATUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD has sent the proposal to the SEAFDEC/SEC before the SEAFDEC/SEC sends it to the JAIF Management Team (JMT) at the end of 2020. The Food, Agriculture and Forestry Division (FAFD) of the ASEAN Secretariat and JMT have reviewed the proposal and sent it to SEAFDEC/MFRDMD on 29 June 2021. Later, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD and DOFM edited the proposal based on the comments and suggestion by FAFD and JMT before sending it to JMT on 27 August 2021. The revised proposal is in *Appendix 1*. Summary of the latest proposal is as follows:

- a. Title: Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
- b. Objective: To enhance ASEAN cooperation and facilitate improvement of regional fisheries information system through implementation of RPOA-Capacity in the trans-boundary fisheries management towards resource sustainability and environmental well-being
- c. Duration: 2 years (January 2023 – December 2024)



- d. Output:
 - i. Output 1: Status of the RPOA-Capacity Implementation in AMSs
 - ii. Output 2: Assessment of the existing fisheries statistics and information or relevant system in AMSs
 - iii. Output 3: Simple and practical indicators in supporting planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic fish
 - iv. Output 4: Current status and establishment of closed season, closed areas or other management strategies of transboundary species in AMSs
 - v. Output 5: Terminal report

- e. Activity:
 - i. Activity 1: Management and assessment of fishing capacity
 - ii. Activity 2: Enhancing the existing fisheries statistics and information or relevant system in AMSs and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information
 - iii. Activity 3: Standardization of simple and practical indicators to support planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic fish
 - iv. Activity 4: Conservation programme
 - v. Activity 5: Terminal report

The proposed timeline for the project is as follows:

Activity	Timeline
1.2 Regional Hybrid Kick-Off Meeting	February 2023
1.4 RTC on status implementation of the RPOA-Capacity, fishing capacity profiles, fishing effort and stock status in AMSs	July 2023
2.3 Regional Workshop on current status of existing fisheries statistics and information or relevant system, proposed mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information	December 2023
3.1 Regional Workshop for standardization of simple and practical indicators to support planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic fish	January 2024
4.3 RTC on conservation efforts and management strategies of transboundary species resources in AMSs	September 2024
5.1 Compilation information for the success stories in AMSs	April 2023 & October 2024
5.2 Compilation information for the draft of terminal report	January & November 2024
5.3 Harmonization and finalization of terminal report	July & December 2024

3. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the latest version of the proposal entitled: ‘Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity’ by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD.
- To provide advice and suggestions to implement all activities proposed by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD.



ASEAN Cooperation Project Proposal

For assistance on how to complete this template, please refer to the “ASEAN Cooperation Projects Design and Management Manual”, which can be downloaded at <http://asean.org/resource/asean-project-templates/>.

1. PROJECT DETAILS

Proposal Identification Code:

Project Title:

IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY

Brief Project Description – 300 words max:

In ASEAN Member States (AMSs) marine capture fisheries production shows an increasing trend from 11.9 million metric tons in 2000 to 18.3 million metric tons in 2018, which contributed approximately 18.9% to the global marine capture fisheries production, with an average increase of 0.37 million metric tons or 2.6% annually. The rapidly growing fisheries industry in Southeast Asia has led to increasing fishing capacity and fishing areas to cover international waters particularly the South China Sea and towards the offshore areas of the AMSs. The rising number of fishing fleets in the region coupled with a fast increase in harvesting capacity has not been matched with the development of national capacities and regional or sub-regional cooperation to manage fishing efforts with due consideration given to the sustainability of fishery resources.

This proposed project will study the implementation and assessment of the fishing capacity for AMSs particularly for transboundary species. Therefore, this project aims to enhance the cooperation in the AMSs in the governance of the transboundary fishing capacity in the Southeast Asia region and move towards the development of a Fisheries Management Plan.

Five (5) main key activities will be conducted, namely: 1) Management and Assessment of Fishing Capacity, 2) Compilation and Enhancement of Relevant Existing Fisheries Information System/Mechanisms, 3) Standardization of Simple and Practical Indicators, 4) Compilation and Assessment of Management Strategies of Transboundary Species, and 5) Compilation and Publication of Terminal Report. The project will support the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action of ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021-2025 under the Strategic Thrust 1 and 6 namely on the activity:

1.4.2 Enhance regional Fishery Information Systems (FIS) and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information that are required at the sub-regional and regional level.; and

6.2.2 Assess the implementation of ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity.

This project also supports the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action (RPOA) on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 and Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation under the partners for Quality of Life. Moreover, the project is expected to support the implementation of SDG14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, while contributing to the principles of ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific, particularly Openness, Good Governance and Mutual Benefits. Besides that, this project supports the AOIP in maritime co-operation to further enhance cooperation for sustainable management of marine resources in ASEAN.



Recurring Project: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, Previous Project Identification Code: .	
Project Classification: Scope: Single Sector <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-Sector <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pillar: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>(Main) Blueprint: Economic Community Blueprint 2025</p> <p>(Main) Characteristic: C. Enhanced Connectivity and Sectoral Cooperation</p> <p>Action Line(s): C5: Food, Agriculture and Forestry</p> <p>Action(s): 57: i. Increase crop, livestock, and fishery/aquaculture production; iii Enable sustainable production and equitable distribution</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%;"> <p>Connectivity <input type="checkbox"/> IAI <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Linkage:</p> <p>Strategy:</p> <p>Key Action(s):</p> </div> </div>	
Information below to be completed by the ASEAN Secretariat: <i>Nature of Cooperation:</i> <i>Confidence Building</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Harmonisation</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Special Assistance</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Joint Effort</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Regional Integration / Expansion</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Type of Policy Initiative</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Intervention:</i> <i>Establishment of Institutional Mechanisms</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Human Capacity Building</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Project Duration: < 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> 6-12 months <input type="checkbox"/> > 12 months <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed Commencement Date: 01.01.2023 Proposed Completion Date: 31.12.2024 <i>A project is considered to have commenced on the date that the Proponent or IA is informed of the approval and upon receipt of the first tranche of funds disbursement. A project is considered to have been completed when the project completion report and unspent balance, if any, has been received and verified by the ASEAN Secretariat. The proponent is required to submit the project completion report, which comprise of narrative and financial report, within 60 days after the project is fully implemented.</i> <i>The report templates are available at http://asean.org/resource/asean-project-templates/</i>	
Participating ASEAN Member States: All <input type="checkbox"/> All except Lao PDR If not all (or not all in the same way), please indicate reason: Lao PDR is a land locked states and this project will only cover maritime waters (transboundary issues)	
Sponsoring ASEAN Body Sectoral Committee/Main Body: Meeting Number/Date: / dd.mm.yyyy Working Group/Sub-Committee: ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) Meeting Number/Date: 28 / 24.06.2020 Meeting Number/Date: 27 / 27.06.2019-29.06.2019	

<p>Meeting Number/Date: 26 / 09.05.2018-12.05.2018 Working Group/Sub-Committee: ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) Meeting Number/Date: 12 / 23.06.2020 Meeting Number/Date: 11 / 25.06.2019-26.06.2019 Meeting Number/Date: 10 / 07.05.2018-08.05.2018 Working Group/Sub-Committee: ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Meeting Number/Date: 23 / 17.11.2020-18.11.2020 Meeting Number/Date: 22 / 14.11.2020-15.11.2019 Meeting Number/Date: 21 / 08.11.2018-9.11.2018</p>
<p>Proponent's Name and Address:</p> <p>Contact Person and Contact Details: Contact Person and Contact Details: Ms Yeo Moi Eim Director of Planning and Development Division Department of Fisheries Malaysia Wisma Tani, Aras 1 - 6 Blok Menara 4G2, Presint 4 Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Persekutuan 62628 PUTRAJAYA e-mail: meyeo@dof.gov.my / abdof@dof.gov.my</p> <p>Tel: +603-8000 8000 Fax: +603-8889 5490</p> <p>Implementing Agency's Name and Address (if different from above):</p> <p>Contact Person and Contact Details: Dr. Masaya Katoh Deputy Chief SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Taman Perikanan, Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Terengganu Malaysia Tel: +609-6175940 Fax: +609-6175136 e-mail: katoh@seafdec.org.my</p>
<p>Date of Proposal Submission: 10.12.2020</p>
<p>Proposed Funding Source(s): Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF): AJCEP.</p>
<p>Proposed Project Budget (total in USD): USD 550,842.86</p>



Information below to be completed by the PCPMD of the ASEAN Secretariat

Recommendation of the ASEAN Secretariat

Meeting No./Date : / dd.mm.yyyy

Action : Endorsed Not Endorsed

Approval of Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR)

Meeting No./Date : / dd.mm.yyyy

Action : Endorsed Not Endorsed

2. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION, REGIONALITY AND BENEFICIARIES – 600 words max

(For more details, see the “ASEAN Cooperation Projects Design and Management Manual”)

(a) Current Problem

The rapidly growing fisheries industry in Southeast Asia since late the 1970s has led to increased fishing capacity, especially with the introduction of highly efficient fishing gears such as trawlers and later on the purse seiners, as well as to the increasing capacities of processing plants. Promotion of the surimi industry in the region is one of the examples that significantly increased the capacities of processing industries, while increasing amounts of fish as raw materials are required to supply these processing industries. The fishing areas since the 1970s have been largely expanded to cover international waters particularly the South China Sea and towards the offshore areas of the Southeast Asian countries. The Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZs), which used to be only 12 nautical miles from shore and increased to 200 nautical miles after the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1982, has created significant impacts in many AMSs. The expansion of EEZs to 200 nautical miles without effective Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and fisheries management schemes was considered as one of the primary reasons that drives the fishing industries to operate illegal fishing activities, later identified as Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the EEZs of neighbouring countries.

Why pelagic species fishing capacity is important?

Pelagic species have a high possibility of shared transboundary stocks in Southeast Asia region, which requires strategic and collective efforts between AMSs to manage their resources to ensure sustainability. The current studies on longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) in Southeast Asia region covering South Andaman Sea and South China Seas indicates that longtail tuna belong to one single stock, while the studies on Indian Mackerel (*Rastrelliger kanagurta*) in the South Andaman Sea and Strait of Malacca confirms that they shared the same genetic makeup.

(b) Regionality

In the past three to four decades, AMSs ranked among the top ten countries with the largest fishing industries in the world, which could be due to the introduction of new fishing gear technologies as well as post-harvest and processing facilities since the 1960s leading to the rapid and intensive development of the fisheries industry in the region. The rising number of fishing fleet in the Southeast Asian region coupled with the rapid increase in harvesting capacity has not been matched with the development of national capacities and regional or sub-regional cooperation to manage fishing effort with due consideration given to the sustainability of fishery resources. Limited management or regulation and control of active fishing capacity allow fisheries to operate in an “open-access regime” leading to a continued increase in the number of vessels and people engaged in fisheries. It has therefore become necessary to improve and implement licensing schemes and other capacity management measures that would effectively limit entry into the fisheries by replacing the present inadequately designed systems. The development of a Fisheries Management Plan is one of the important measures to prevent overfishing and help overfished stocks rebound. In this project, an assessment of the implementation of ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity will be conducted. The result could be used to further develop the Fisheries Management Plan or other measures in AMSs.

(c) Project History

Related Project: Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region

The project conducted by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD involves compilation and comparison of annual and/or monthly catch per unit effort (CPUE) where data are available for the last three decades in the region, comparison purse seine fisheries management systems/measures including total allowable catch (TAC) systems and other management measures in the world, the genetic study of a commercially important pelagic species, and construction of management strategies for sustainable purse seine fisheries in the Southeast Asian region.

(d) Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries are government agencies engaging in fisheries management in the AMSs except LAO PDR as well as fishers and researchers involved in the project.

Indirect beneficiaries are national/local governments and the private sector in AMSs, including consumers within and outside the ASEAN region.

3. PROJECT RESULTS**Overall Objective (impact)**

In line with the Strategic Plan of Action of ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021-2025, this project aims to assess the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity and regional fishery information systems/mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange, and compilation of fishery data and information that are required at the sub-regional and regional level towards the improvement of trans-boundary fisheries management

Project Objective (outcome)

To enhance ASEAN cooperation and facilitate improvement of regional fisheries information systems/mechanisms through the implementation of RPOA-Capacity in the transboundary fisheries management towards resource sustainability and environmental well-being

Indicators (to measure project achievements)

*How will achieving project outputs be measured?
Indicate realistic and measurable quantitative or qualitative factors.*

Sources/Mean of Verification

How will data be collected to support indicators? What secondary sources are available? Does the project need to use primary data collection tools?

Risk/ Assumption

*Risks: Which external factors might negatively affect the successful achievement of the project's objective?
Assumptions: Which conditions need to hold true for the project objective to be successfully achieved?*

Outputs (direct project results)

Output 1: Status of the RPOA-Capacity

Indicators (to measure project achievements)**Sources/Mean of Verification****Risk/ Assumption**

<p>Implementation in AMSs is assessed through survey conducted in AMSs</p>	<p>i. Questionnaire and survey on the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity, fishing capacity profiles, fishing effort and stock status in AMSs. ii. Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) organized for compilation of information</p>	<p>Published report & Endorsement from AMSs</p>	<p>i. Insufficient data provided by AMSs. ii. Movement restriction due to COVID-19</p>
<p>Main Activities:</p> <p>1. Management and Assessment of Fishing Capacity</p> <p>1.1. Develop questionnaires on the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity, fishing capacity profiles, fishing effort and stock status in AMSs</p> <p>1.2. Regional Hybrid Kick-Off Meeting *AMSs participants will join online and physical for Malaysian. The final questionnaire will be sent to AMSs after the meeting</p> <p>1.3. Assessment of fishing capacity based on questionnaire</p> <p>1.4. Regional Technical Consultation on status implementation of the RPOA-Capacity, fishing capacity profiles, fishing effort and stock status in AMSs</p>			
<p>Outputs (direct project results) Output 2: The relevant existing fisheries information systems and mechanisms are compiled and enhanced to facilitate information sharing and exchange among AMSs</p>	<p>Indicators (to measure project achievements) i. Questionnaire and survey on current status of existing fisheries statistics and information or relevant system in AMSs. ii. Regional Workshop organized</p>	<p>Sources/Mean of Verification Published report & Endorsement from AMSs</p>	<p>Risk/ Assumption i. Insufficient data provided by AMSs. ii. Movement restriction due to COVID-19</p>
<p>Main Activities:</p> <p>2. Compilation and Enhancement of Relevant Existing Fisheries Information Systems/Mechanisms</p> <p>2.1. Develop questionnaires on current status of existing fisheries statistics and information or relevant system in AMSs and send the questionnaire to AMSs</p> <p>2.2. Compilation information on fisheries statistics profile and gap analyses based on questionnaire</p> <p>2.3. Regional Workshop on current status of existing fisheries statistics and information or relevant system, proposed mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information</p>			

<p>Outputs (direct project results) Output 3: Simple and practical indicators are standardized in supporting planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic fish</p>	<p>Indicators (to measure project achievements) Regional Workshop organized to standardize indicators in supporting planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic fish</p>	<p>Sources/Means of Verification Published report & Endorsement from AMSs</p>	<p>Risk/ Assumption i. Insufficient data provided by AMSs. ii. Movement restriction due to COVID-19</p>
<p>Main Activities: 3. Standardization of Simple and Practical Fisheries Indicators 3.1. Regional workshop for standardization of simple and practical indicators to support planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic fish</p>			
<p>Outputs (direct project results) Output 4: Current status and establishment of closed season, closed areas or other management strategies of transboundary species in AMSs are identified and documented</p>	<p>Indicators (to measure project achievements) i. Questionnaire and survey on current status and establishment of closed season, closed areas or other management strategies in AMSs ii. RTC on conservation efforts of transboundary species resources in AMSs</p>	<p>Sources/Means of Verification Published report & Endorsement from AMSs</p>	<p>Risk/ Assumption i. Insufficient data provided by AMSs. ii. Movement restriction due to COVID-19</p>
<p>Main Activities: 4. Compilation and Assessment of Management Strategies of Transboundary Species. 4.1. Develop questionnaires on current status and proposed establishment of closed season, closed areas or other management strategies of transboundary species in AMSs and send the questionnaire to AMSs 4.2. Regional synthesis on proposed management strategies for transboundary species in AMSs based on questionnaire 4.3. RTC on conservation efforts and management strategies of transboundary species resources in AMSs</p>			
<p>Outputs (direct project results) Output 5: Terminal report is prepared and published</p>	<p>Indicators (to measure project achievements) i. Compilation of information for terminal report</p>	<p>Sources/Means of Verification Published terminal report</p>	<p>Risk/ Assumption i. Lack of information collected within the project timeline ii. Time constraint</p>

			iii. Movement restriction due to COVID-19
Main Activities: 5. Compilation and publication of terminal report. 5.1. Compilation information for the success stories in AMSs 5.2. Compilation information for the draft of terminal report 5.3. Harmonization and finalization of terminal report			

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS – 600 words max

(a) Management Arrangements

This project will be managed under one specific committee comprising officers from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, DOFM, and technical focal point from each AMSs. Funding of this project will be managed by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD.

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD:

- i. Project Manager (Chief SEAFDEC/MFRDMD)
- ii. 5 researchers

Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOFM):

- i. Project Assistant Manager
- ii. 4 Fisheries Officers
- iii. 5 Researchers

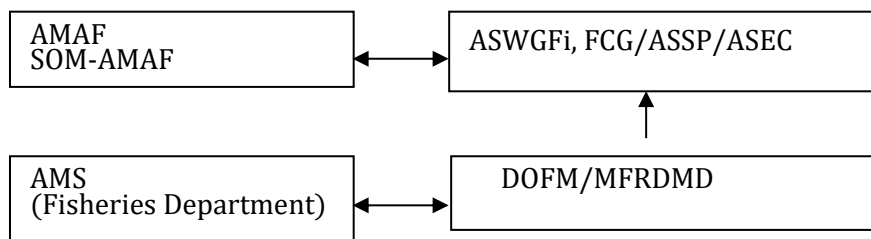
Department of Fisheries Sabah:

- i. 1 Fisheries officer

ASEAN Member States:

- i. 1 focal point for each AMSs (except Lao PDR)

Organization Management Arrangement



Disbursement arrangement and reporting requirement

- The IA (fund recipient) will take full responsibility of the utilisation of the fund and will manage it professionally to ensure the accountability.
- The IA will follow accurately the details of approved project proposal including the budget breakdown and understand budget realignment (cross-subsidy between different budget items) and/or use of contingency without GOJ's approval is not acceptable for JAIF supported project. The fund recipient has to consult with JAIF Management Team (JMT) first as soon as possible budget overrun or unlisted expenditures in the budget proposal is found inevitable.
- To clarify the reporting requirements of the IA entrusted to utilise the fund from JAIF, a "Disbursement Letter" will be issued and signed by ASEC and shall be countersigned by the Proponent/IA.

- The IA shall note that the approved fund will be disbursed in tranches according to ASEC's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Project Financial Disbursement and Reporting (PFDR), effective from 1 January 2016.
- In case the IA requests for the second fund tranche, the first Tranche Financial Report accompanied by its summary and supporting documents (original invoices* and receipts or certified true copies) shall be submitted to ASEC Finance and Budget Division (FBD).
- The Proponent/IA will submit Project Completion Report (PCR) and Project Financial Report accompanied by its summary and supporting documents within 60 days of the end of project implementation. (For projects which spans between two financial years, the Proponent will also submit Annual Interim Report and Annual Financial Interim Report (as of 31 December) with supporting documents within 30 days after end of ASEC fiscal year. Project longer than 12 months with the budget of USD 1,000,000 and above should conduct external audit.).
- Upon receiving financial verification from ASEC FBD, the IA is required to refund unspent balance together with interest earned from the project funds, if any, to the JAIF account of ASEC within 90 days of the end of the project implementation.

**Remarks: For expenses where invoices can be obtained (e.g. buying supplies from companies), invoices and/or receipts should be submitted as the supporting documents of the expenses. For all other expenses, especially cash transactions (e.g. taxi or supermarket purchases), where invoices are not applicable, receipts would be sufficient.*

Visibility

As this project will be supported by the Government of Japan through JAIF, the Proponent/IA will follow the Guide on Visibility for JAIF Supported Projects, including the use of JAIF logos and reference to JAIF support, whenever project outcomes, outputs, and activities have communication and visibility aspects.

Activity	Proposed Visibility Material (include details on the media used and a link/URL to website)	Timeline	Contact Information on person in charge for Visibility (if any)
1.2 Regional Hybrid Kick-Off Meeting	Press Release on proponent's website Backdrop / banner / poster	February 2023	
1.4 RTC on status implementation of the RPOA-Capacity, fishing capacity profiles, fishing effort and stock status in AMSs	Press Release on proponent's website Backdrop / banner / poster	July 2023	
2.3 Regional Workshop on current status of existing fisheries statistics and information or relevant system, proposed mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information	Press Release on proponent's website Backdrop / banner / poster	December 2023	



3.1 Regional Workshop for standardization of simple and practical indicators to support planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic fish	Press Release on proponent's website Backdrop / banner / poster	January 2024	
4.3 RTC on conservation efforts and management strategies of transboundary species resources in AMSs	Press Release on proponent's website Backdrop / banner / poster	September 2024	
5.3 Harmonization and finalization of terminal report	Project Report	December 2024	

(b) Human Resource Inputs

This project will be coordinated and implemented by:

- i) SEAFDEC/MFRDMD:
 - Project Manager (Chief SEAFDEC/MFRDMD)
 - 6 researchers
- ii) Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOFM)
 - Project Assistant Manager
 - 8 Fisheries Officers
 - 8 Researchers
- iii) Department of Fisheries Sabah:
 - 1 Fisheries officer
- iv) Resource Persons (for each activity):

One resource person from regional / local universities or research institution will be identified and invited for each workshop and RTC. The area of expertise required in this project are fisheries management and fishing capacity.

(c) Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

This project will be monitored by committee comprising officers from DOFM, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD and technical focal point from each AMSs.

As the proponent, Malaysia will regularly report the progress and achievement of the project to the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) and the AFCF

5. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY – 300 words max

It is envisaged that the project outputs/ outcomes will be included under the next FCG/ASSP activities and AFCF Work Plan, such as:

- a) Assessment of countries performances in regards to the established fishery indicators for planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries of pelagic fish; and
- b) Assessment of established closed season, closed areas or other management strategies (for pelagic fishes) in AMSs.

This project will strengthen the cooperation between AMSs in the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity.

The enhancement of the existing fisheries statistics and information or relevant system in AMSs and mechanisms will assist to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information.

Information sharing among AMSs on conservation efforts and regional management strategies of transboundary species resources could be adopted at National level by AMSs.

AMSs need to consider planning and implementation of all activities in their national program in future based on recommendations from this project.

6. GENDER AND OTHER CROSS CUTTING ISSUES – 300 words max

(a) Gender

This project will take into account gender sensitivity and will ensure equal opportunity to participate in the project based on their knowledge and expertise.

(b) Other Cross Cutting Issues

This project will look into cross cutting issues related to marine resources management such as the biodiversity, quality of the marine environment (e.g. marine debris, pollution), and food security and food sovereignty issues (including IUU fishing).

7. POTENTIAL RISKS

Risk / threat	Mitigation strategy
Lack of expertise	To adopt strategic partnership with local universities/ research institutions from Malaysia and Japan or other countries as well as international research institutions/ agencies.
Lack of commitments from AMSs	To highlight any hiccups during the project implementation under FCG/ASSP and AFCF platforms.
Lack of data/ information	To adopt strategic partnership with local universities/ research institutions from Malaysia or other AMSs.
Movement restriction due to the pandemic of COVID-19	To adopt virtual meeting/workshops/consultation among concerned parties

Annex 1 – Budget Proposal

Using the format provided, outline budget input costs under relevant subheadings. Include a project evaluation budget for projects that have an estimated budget of more than USD 1 million or that will last longer than one year. For more details on project evaluations, see the “ASEAN Cooperation Projects Design and Management Manual .”

Annex 2 – Indicative Work Plan

Using the format provided, develop a work plan that sets out a timeframe for each of the project’s main activities. The work plan must cover the entire period of the project.

Annex 3 – Notation on Additional Supporting Documents

List additional supporting documents that will be submitted with the project proposal that will enhance understanding of the proposal and its overall strategy, e.g., reports, memoranda of understanding, etc.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

The regional cooperation between SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member States to promote the sustainable utilization of neritic tunas was initially started in 2013. The “Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region (RPOA-Neritic Tunas)” and the establishment of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on Stock Assessment for Neritic Tunas in the Southeast Asian Waters (SWG-Neritic Tunas) were approved by SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN mechanism in 2015. During 2015–2019, five meetings were held with funding support of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project. Among its roles, the SWG provides technical/scientific findings on the current status of neritic tuna fisheries resources and policy advice to the SEAFDEC Council for sustainable utilization and improvement of fisheries management of neritic tunas in Southeast Asia. Since the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project already ended in 2019, the SWG neritic tuna currently attached to JTF VI Phase II project under the second objective which is to evaluate the current status of two neritic tuna species through stock assessment and risk assessment studies. Under the attachment with this project, three meetings of SWG-Neritic tunas would be continued from 2020 until 2024.

According to the Terms of Reference of SWG-Neritic Tunas, the scope of work focus on the conduct of a series of the stock and risk assessments on neritic tunas in Southeast Asia waters namely: for longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) and kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*), as well as for narrow-barred spanish mackerel (*Scomeromorus commerson*) and Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*S. guttatus*), the results would be reported through SEAFDEC Program Committee and subsequently be reported to SEAFDEC Council. Since the implementation of RPOA-Neritic Tunas and earlier discussion and recommendations through the platforms, many ASEAN Member States had started improving their statistical system to comply with data requirements for better data analyses on neritic tuna resources. In February 2020, SEAFDEC organized the second Workshop on Stock and Risk Assessments of Longtail Tuna and Kawakawa, as a continuation of the first assessment workshop, which was conducted in 2016. Later, the report of this workshop was presented during the 6th Meeting of SWG-Neritic Tunas on 2 December 2020 and agreed upon by the SWG-Neritic Tunas members. During the 53rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, the report of this workshop was adopted and subsequently noted at the 29th Meeting of the ASWGFⁱ and the Special SOM-42nd AMAF in August 2021.

2. PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RPOA-NERITIC TUNAS IN 2021–2022

On 2 December 2020, the MFRDMD held the 6th Meeting of SWG-Neritic Tunas via an online platform. During this meeting, the members of SWG-Neritic Tunas shared the updated information on the revised ToR of the Scientific Working Group for Stock Assessment on Neritic Tunas in The Southeast Asian Region and its updated List of SWG Members. The results and findings on a series of regional studies such as 1) Practical Workshop on Stock and Risk Assessments of Longtail tuna and Kawakawa, 2) Clarification of the Stock Structure for *E. affinis* and 3) Life-history study for *E. affinis* in Southeast Asia were presented during the meeting. Furthermore, the members of SWG-Neritic Tuna also discussed the future work plan of activities.

After approval of the Stock and Risk Assessments of Kawakawa (*E. affinis*) and Longtail Tuna (*T. tonggol*) Resources (1950–2018) in the Southeast Asian Waters using ASPIC by SEAFDEC Council in 2021 and ASEAN Mechanism in 2021, respectively, the MFRDMD had published the hardcopy version of the report on the SEAFDEC Practical Workshop on Stock and Risk Assessments of Kawakawa (*E. affinis*) and Longtail Tuna (*T. tonggol*) Resources (1950–2018) in the Southeast Asian Waters using ASPIC in September 2021, which is available for download from <http://repository.seafdec.org.my/handle/20.500.12561/1508>. The results of these assessments were also disseminated to other organizations such as IOTC (11th Session of the IOTC Working Party on Neritic Tunas). The report is uploaded as an information paper at <https://www.iotc.org/documents/WPNT/11/INF01> and the report is also shared with the FAO Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS).



As for the continuation of the implementation of RPOA-Neritic Tunas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MFRDMD will organize the practical workshop internally in the fourth quarter of 2021. This internal workshop entitled "Workshop on Seerfish in Malaysian Waters using ASPIC in Collaboration with DOF Malaysia." This collaboration involves the usage of Malaysia's catch and effort data for seerfish (*Scomberomorus guttatus* and *Scomberomorus commerson*) as well as teaching staff (resources person) from DOF Malaysia. Based on this internal practical workshop, a report will be published and shared with all AMSs for their reference and guidelines. This result also will be finalized and reported during the 7th Meeting of SWG on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters scheduling in the third quarter of 2022.

MFRDMD is also in the progress of analyzing DNA samples for "Clarification of the Stock Structure for One Neritic Tuna species (*E. affinis*) in the Southeast Asian Region." In the MFRDMD laboratory, these DNA samples were analyzed using mitochondrial DNA *d-loop* region. During the past study (2016–2018), a total number of 710. *E. affinis* samples were collected from 15 different locations in Southeast Asia. From all the samples collected, 213 DNA samples were successfully sequenced.

Lastly, MFRDMD has collected otolith samples of neritic tuna (*Euthynnus affinis*) since February 2021. Currently, 338 samples of otolith were collected. The ages for the Kawakawa samples in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia ranged from 2 to 7 years. However, sampling and data analysis is still going on until December 2021.

3. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the activities that had been done by MFRDMD.
- To note that MFRDMD will be sharing the results of practical workshop on stock status of Seerfish (*Scomberomorus guttatus* and *Scomberomorus commerson*) in Malaysian Waters using ASPIC in Collaboration with DOF Malaysia during the 7th Meeting of SWG on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters scheduling in the third quarter of 2022.

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY SPECIES: INDO-PACIFIC MACKEREL IN THE GULF OF THAILAND SUB-REGION

1. BACKGROUND

Indo-Pacific mackerel (*Rastrelliger brachysoma*) is an economically important pelagic fish species of the Southeast Asian region. This species is distributed along the coastal areas of Southeast Asian waters that includes along the Gulf of Thailand. Due to high fishing pressure of the utilization of this species, the trend of catch production of Indo-Pacific mackerel has been decreased according to the SEAFDEC Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia. Over the years, SEAFDEC and Member Countries through the sub-regional initiatives have been carried out the consultations and studies in order to understand the AMSs to understand marine fisheries stocks in particular the transboundary and economically important fish species, which include Indo-Pacific mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand sub-region. The SEAFDEC-Sweden Project implementation during 2013-2019, capacity of the GOT countries on data collection has been enhanced and DNA study of Indo-Pacific mackerel was conducted to understand stock structure of the Indo-Pacific mackerel in the GOT. SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project on “Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand”, gave the same attention by Thailand and Cambodia toward establishment of fisheries *refugia* sites in Trat and Koh Kong, respectively. Data analysis from DNA samples showed the mixed stock structure of the Indo-Pacific mackerel in the EEZ of the GOT countries. The results implied that the Indo-Pacific mackerel migrates throughout the areas in the GOT.

In September 2019, the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project in collaboration with the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF/Fisheries *Refugia* Project jointly developed a draft “**Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region**” at the Technical Consultative Meeting on Drafting of the Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel (*Rastrelliger brachysoma*) in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-Region, with the participation of the country representatives from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam and academic researchers. The draft RAP providing necessary implementing actions under scope of ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), with aiming at “Sustainable Indo-Pacific mackerel fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand sub-region through science-based management for shared benefit to other ASEAN Member States by 2030”. Key actions undertaken through the course of the RAP development include, understanding and defining spawning and nursery grounds of transboundary species, and confirming migration routes using DNA samples and mix-stock analysis for stock structure. After reviewing by the SEAFDEC Program Committee in November 2019, the final draft was approved by the SEAFDEC Council during its 52nd Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2020 and approved by the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG/ASSP (23FCG/ASSP) in November 2020.

2. STATUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

After consideration by the 23FCG/ASSP in November 2020, the final draft RAP for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region” was approved at the 29th Meeting of ASWGFi in June 2021 and the Special SOM-42AMAF Meeting in August 2021, and at the 43rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (43 AMAF) in October 2021.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAP OPPORTUNITY AND WAYS FORWARD

The RAP-Mackerel provides the actions to be undertaken by stakeholders in the countries and it could be also used as a model that could be applied for other pelagic fish species and could be useful for the management of fisheries resources in other sub-regions. There are now some ongoing initiatives that could further use the RAP-Mackerel; for example:

- FAO is under the process on the development of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase, to develop the project document of “Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries” (GoTFish), which to be funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). One of focus areas would be includes the development fisheries management plan. It would be the opportunity for the



participating countries to consider for further discussion for the actions by building upon the RAP.

- In addition, Thailand has been conducting the ongoing collaborative research project, on Indo-Pacific Mackerel of Thai Waters aiming at the sustainable use of the resources, which integrated the research areas innovation technologies, such as biology and stock assessment, mariculture, marketing and distribution.

4. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the endorsement of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region at the ASEAN mechanism.
- To further promote on the use of this RAP for the management of fish species in the countries, or sub-region level.

CITES-RELATED ISSUES

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership Mechanism, SEAFDEC through the project on “Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fish-Trade Related Issues” has supported ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in identifying and providing updated information on the proposed listing of commercially exploited aquatic species (CEA species) into the CITES Appendices since the 32nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee in 2000. One of the project’s main output is the formulation of a regional common/coordinated position of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to represent the situation of Southeast Asian fisheries. To protect the regional interest, SEAFDEC has held a series of technical consultations for discussion and the establishment of common/coordinated positions of SEAFDEC Member Countries.

During 2015–2018, SEAFDEC had conducted the CITES-EU-funded initiative to improve data collecting, particularly for recording sharks and rays at species level, and to promote capacity building in the development of the Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs). In 2019, SEAFDEC organized the Regional Consultation for the Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species in the CITES Appendices to discuss and develop a common/coordinated position of AMSs on the CEA species, which was later used by the SEAFDEC Member Countries at the CoP18 in Switzerland on 17–28 August 2019. During the CoP18, three sea cucumber species which are *Holothuria (Microthele) fuscogilva*, *Holothuria (Microthele) nobilis* and *Holothuria (Microthele) whitmaei* were listed in Appendix II of CITES.

2. UPDATED INFORMATION ON CEA SPECIES AND MEETING RELATED TO CITES

During the 31st Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31) in June 2021, AC31 discussed the progress after the last CoP18 in 2019 and consideration for reporting to the forthcoming CoP19 in 2022. AC31 also discussed species-specific issues which are 1) sharks and rays; 2) eels; 3) seahorses; 4) Banggai cardinalfish, and 5) marine ornamental fishes. The summary of the discussion on these species is attached in **Appendix 1–5**, respectively.

On sharks and rays, the Committee recommended that the CITES Secretariat conduct a study to investigate the apparent mismatch between the trade in products of CITES-listed sharks recorded in the CITES Trade Database and what would be expected based on information on catches of listed species; and that the results of such a study would be reviewed by the 74th Meeting of the Standing Committee. In this connection, the Committee suggested NDF workshop organizers to consider including a focus on sharks within the marine or aquatic species work stream to support the making of NDFs, in particular for data-poor, multi-species, shared and migratory stocks, small-scale artisanal, introduction from the sea and non-target (bycatch) and report the outcomes to CoP19. Furthermore, the Standing Committee was recommended to consider the inclusion of a new three letter code form for registering trade in wet (fresh, chilled, frozen) fins of sharks in the Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports.

For eels, the Committee noted uncertainties linked to the use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of *Anguilla anguilla* from aquaculture production systems which will be reviewed by the Animal Committee after CoP19. The Committee recommended that European eel could be a good case study for consideration at the planned workshop on Non-Detriment Findings. On seahorses, the Committee noted the study on trade in *Hippocampus* spp. is being undertaken by Project Seahorse and it may not be completed until 2022 while additional funding sources are required for organizing an expert workshop to discuss the implementation and enforcement of CITES for trade in seahorses.

For Banggai Cardinalfish, the Committee noted on the implementation of National Plan of Action by Indonesia especially on population surveys, harvest quota, utilization mechanism, and business registration of this species. The Committee then recommended that the conservation and management of Banggai Cardinalfish could be used as a case study in the upcoming discussion on marine ornamental fishes. On marine ornamental fishes, the Committee agreed to extend the mandated of the Working Group’s marine

ornamental fishes beyond CoP19 and ornamental fishes trade and suggested that the case of Banggai Cardinalfish can be applied in the marine ornamental fishes sustainable management.

3. SEAFDEC ACTIVITIES

The concern on aquatic species that could be proposed for listing in the upcoming CoP19 are for example Asian eels, and corals. It is crucial for countries to consider preparing and improving data collection in order to provide justification on these species. SEAFDEC by the Inland Fisheries Research Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) and Aquaculture Department (AQD) therefore have conducted several studies to obtain necessary information on catadromous eels especially the *Anguilla* spp. which are found in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. These are for instance; conducted surveys to determine the status, trend, commercial distribution and trade of eel fisheries in the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), identified issues and concerns that need to be addressed for the sustainability of the Anguillid eel resources in AMSs, and investigated genetic diversity of *Anguilla bicolor pacifica* from three sites *i.e.* Indonesia, Philippines, and Viet Nam.

In addition, SEAFDEC Secretariat participated in the Sixteenth Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Wildlife Enforcement (16th AWG and WE) in May 2021 to share information on the progress and status of issues related to endangered aquatic species including the AMS position on the proposed listing of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) in CITES CoP18 as well as regional initiatives *e.g.* capacity building and information sharing, conservation and management of sharks and catadromous eels. In this connection, the Meeting was informed that SEAFDEC anticipates and is willing to support if AMSs express the need for a common position for submission to the upcoming CoP19 in 2022.

4. ACTIVITIES BEFORE CoP19

As the CoP19 is scheduled in November 2022, Panama City, SEAFDEC retains its support to provide platform and update information on such proposed listing to the Member Countries as well as come up with common/coordinated position among AMSs before the CoP19. A Party to CITES would submit relevant documents for consideration by the CoP19 at least by June 2022. SEAFDEC therefore plans to review proposal(s) to be submitted by the Parties during July to August 2022. The schedule for submission of relevant documents to the CoP19 by the Parties and proposed activities to be carried out by SEAFDEC are as follows;

Parties to CITES submit document for consideration by CoP19	Date
A proposal to amend Appendix I or II where a species or a population of a species that occurs outside of its jurisdiction of a Party and requires consultation with range States	19 December 2021
Amendment proposal on 'Ranching and trade in ranched specimens of species transferred from Appendix I to Appendix II'	19 December 2021
The text of any draft resolution, draft decision, or other document	17 June 2022
The text of the proposed amendment to Appendix I or II	17 June 2022
Organization of CoP19 in Panama City	November 2022
Proposed activities to be carried out by SEAFDEC	Date
Review and request inputs data and information from Member Countries on such proposal(s)	July-August 2022
Organize the Regional Technical Consultation on Common or Coordinated Position for CoP19	September 2022
Submit <i>ad referendum</i> on the results of such Consultation to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and endorsement	By 2 nd week of October

5. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the updated information on CEA species discussed during the meeting under CITES.
- To provide policy directives to SEAFDEC and Member Countries on the CITES-related issues as well as preparations of the CITES-CoP19 in 2022.

Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31): Sharks and Rays (*Elasmobranchii* spp.)
Online, 31 May–1, 4, 21 and 22 June 2021

Summary Report

1. Introduction

At the CoP18 in 2019, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.218 to 18.225 on Sharks and rays (*Elasmobranchii* spp.), as shown in **Annex i**. The results on the implementation of such Decisions were reported to the 31st Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31), held from 31 May–24 June 2021. The AC31 was the first ever convened online platform and was attended by Members, Parties, Observer Parties and Observer Organizations. The AC31 was divided into plenary discussion from 31 May–1 June and joint session with the Plants Committee on 4 June, and followed by the in-session working groups (closed session) from 7–11 June 2021. After that, the AC31 reconvened in plenary session again on 21–24 June 2021. SEAFDEC also participated in the AC31.

2. Highlights of the discussion on agenda item on Sharks and Rays at AC31

- The agenda item on Species Specific Matter: Sharks and Rays was discussed on 1 June 2021 and the working document is (AC31 Doc 25).
- As refer to the AC Doc 25, the CITES Secretariat sent Notification to the Parties No. 2020/16 on 28 February 2020, inviting Parties to submit summaries of new information on shark and ray conservation and management activities, as well as highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties they are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade for the CITES trade database. In response, there are responses submitted by Parties, of which includes SEAFDEC Member Countries namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, and Thailand). These responses are contained in Annex 2 of AC31 Doc25.
- During the plenary, the Chair gave the opportunity for the Committee for few comments. The Committee, in general, welcomed the trade data analysis as presented by CITES Secretariat and however, still gaps information in the analysis that would discuss further at the Working Group intersession. The Meeting was appreciated relevant countries can share the successful experience in making Non Detriment Finding (NDF) of sharks species
- The Committee established the In-session Working Group, which was discussed on 10 June 2021 (closed session).
- The proposed mandate for the Working Group are:
 - a) taking into consideration on the following:
 - i) the CITES trade data analysis in document AC31 Doc. 25 and its addendum;
 - ii) the responses from Parties to Notification No. 2020/016 and its summary presented in information document AC31 Inf. 9 to questions A (new information on shark and ray conservation and management activities), B (the making of non-detriment findings), and D (the identification of CITES-listed shark-products in trade);
 - iii) the non-detriment findings (NDF) provided by Parties to the Notification; and
 - iv) new information on sharks and rays presented in document AC31 Doc. 25 and its addendum as well as any other relevant information;
 - b) identify Decisions on sharks and rays (Decisions 18.218 to 18.225) that may merit revisions or renewal to extend the work beyond CoP19; and
 - c) draft recommendations to integrate the development of NDF guidance, in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, migratory/shared regional stocks, and non-target (bycatch) situations for CITES-listed shark species, with the NDF workshop envisaged under Decisions 18.132 paragraph c) ii).
- The Executive summary of the discussion on 1 June 2021 is available on <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/AC/31/sum/E-AC31-ExSum-01.pdf>

- The In-Session working group on sharks and rays (closed session) was held on 10 June 2021. The result of discussion is available <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/31/com/E-AC31-Com-07.pdf> , which reported back to the Joint Session of the AC31 on 22 June 2021.
- The results of the in-session working group are summarized as follows:
 - The Standing Committee will be invited to review the results of the Secretariat’s study on the apparent mismatch between trade in shark products, at the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee
 - NDF workshop organizers were requested to consider including a focus on sharks within the marine or aquatic species work stream to support the making of NDFs, in particular for data-poor, multi-species, shared and migratory stocks, small-scale artisanal, introduction from the sea and non-target (bycatch).
 - The Standing Committee will consider the inclusion of a new three letter code form for registering trade in wet (fresh, chilled, frozen) fins of sharks in the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual illegal trade reports*.
- In conclusion, the AC agreed to the recommendations from a-i and agreed the draft decisions with the amendments. The summary is referred to AC31 Com7.



**Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in Effect After the 18th Meeting
(Reference to <https://cites.org/eng/taxonomy/term/42086>)**

18.218

Decision directed to:

Parties

- a) Parties are encouraged to: provide information to the Secretariat in support of the study called for in Decision 18.221 paragraph a), in particular on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade, and in response to the Notification called for in Decision 18.220;
- b) in accordance with their national legislation, provide a report to the Secretariat about the assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained before the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable;
- c) inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transhipped, to verify presence of CITES-listed species and verify the presence of a valid CITES permit or certificate as required under the Convention or to obtain satisfactory proof of its existence; and
- d) continue to support the implementation of the Convention for sharks, including by providing funding for the implementation of Decisions 18.219, 18.221 and 18.222, and considering seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat.

18.219

Decision directed to:

Secretariat

Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall continue to provide capacity-building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties upon request.

18.220

Decision directed to:

Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to:
 - i) provide concise summaries of new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular:
 - A. the making of non-detriment findings;
 - B. the making of legal acquisition findings;
 - C. the identification of CITES-listed shark-products in trade; and
 - D. recording stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; and
 - ii) highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade for the CITES Trade Database;
- b) 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;
- c) disseminate existing guidance identified, or newly developed, guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives pursuant to Decision 18.224, paragraph b) by the Standing Committee; and
- d) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.

18.221

Decision directed to:

Secretariat

The Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, and in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts:

- a) conduct a study to investigate the apparent mismatch between the trade in products of CITES-listed sharks recorded in the CITES Trade Database and what would be expected against the information available on catches of listed species; and
- b) bring the results of the study in paragraph a) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

18.222

Decision directed to:

Secretariat

- a) The Secretariat, subject to external funding, is requested to collaborate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to: verify that information about Parties' shark management measures are correctly reflected in the shark measures database developed by FAO (<http://www.fao.org/ipoa-sharks/database-of-measures/en/>) and, if not, support FAO in correcting the information;
- b) compile clear imagery of wet and dried unprocessed shark fins (particularly, but not exclusively, those from CITES-listed species) along with related species level taxonomic information to facilitate refinement of iSharkFin software developed by FAO;
- c) conduct a study analysing the trade in non-fin shark products of CITES-listed species, including the level of species mixing in trade products and recommendations on how to address any implementation challenges arising from the mixing that may be identified; and
- d) bring the results of activities in paragraphs a) to c) to the attention of the Animals Committee or Standing Committee, as appropriate.

18.223

Decision directed to:

Animals Committee

- a) The Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organisations and experts, shall: continue to develop guidance to support the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs), in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (bycatch) situations, for CITES-listed shark species; and
- b) report the outcomes of its work under Decision 18.223, paragraph a) to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

18.224

Decision directed to:

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on *Legal acquisition findings*;
- b) develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II; and
- c) report its findings under Decision 18.224, paragraphs a) and b) to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

18.225

Decision directed to:

Standing Committee, Animals Committee

The Animals Committee and Standing Committee shall analyse and review the results of any of the activities under Decisions 18.221 and 18.222 brought to their attention by the Secretariat, and with the support of the Secretariat prepare a joint report for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of these Decisions.

Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31): Eels (*Anguilla* spp.)
Online, 31 May–1, 4, 21 and 22 June 2021

Summary Report

1. Introduction

At the CoP18 in 2019, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decisions 18.197 to 18.202 on Eels (*Anguilla* spp.), as shown in **Annex i**. The results on the implementation of such Decisions were reported to the 31st Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31), held from 31 May–24 June 2021. The AC31 was the first ever convened online platform and was attended by Members, Parties, Observer Parties and Observer Organizations. The AC31 was divided into plenary discussion from 31 May–1 June and joint session with the Plants Committee on 4 June, and followed by the in-session working groups (closed session) from 7–11 June 2021. After that, the AC31 reconvened in plenary session again on 21–24 June 2021. SEAFDEC also participated in the AC31.

2. Highlights of the discussion on agenda item on Eels at AC31

- The Agenda item on Species Specific Matters: Eels was discussed on 1 June 2021 and referred to the Working document AC31 Doc 22 and Addendum. Due to many points to be discussed, the AC31 established the In-session Working Group on Eels to be discussed on 7 June 2021.
- The Chair gave the opportunity for the Committee to discuss at the plenary
 - At the AC31, the Meeting was reminded on the response to the questionnaire of the questionnaire of all anguillid eels (*Anguilla* spp.) which was developed by the CITES Secretariat, under Decision 18.197 (directed to range States of *A. anguilla*) and Decision 18.198 (directed to range States of non-CITES *Anguilla* spp. in international trade), to be reported to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.
 - The Committee was informed that the addendum to Eels was not available in time for the Parties to have sufficient time to review the agenda items.
- Due to time limitation, the Meeting supported the forming of the Working Group on Eels to discuss at the in-session, however, the TOR should be adjusted.
- The Committee established an in-session working group on eels (*Anguilla* spp.) with the mandate to:
 - a) initiate a discussion to consider the potential use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of *A. anguilla* from aquaculture production systems and make recommendations to the Animals Committee as appropriate;
 - b) consider the Secretariat's draft decisions in paragraph 17 of the addendum and identify other parts of Decisions 18.197 to 18.202 that may merit a renewal or extension;
 - c) review available information relating to the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) to the wild and, if appropriate, provide advice on suitable protocols taking into account existing guidance and practices; and
 - d) as appropriate, draft recommendations directed to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties for the Animals Committee to consider.
- The Executive summary of 1 June 2021 (plenary discussion) is available on <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/AC/31/sum/E-AC31-ExSum-01.pdf>
- The In-Session working group on eels (closed session) was held on 7 June 2021. The result of discussion is available <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/31/com/E-AC31-Com-001.pdf>, which reported back to the Joint Session of the AC31 on 22 June 2021.
- After the report, the Chair concluded the following recommendations on:

The group noted uncertainties linked to the use of source code R. The group agreed to reconsider the issue when making recommendations on the study on levels of trade and trade patterns, especially in live eels for aquaculture, that are currently being prepared in the implementation of Decision 18.199, paragraph d), which will be reviewed by the Animals Committee after CoP19.

The group also recommended that European eel could be a good case study for consideration at the planned workshop on Non-Detriment Findings under Decision 18.132.

The group discussion has come up with the set of draft decisions in paragraph 17 of the addendum to document AC31 Doc. 22, which suggested by EU representatives to add a new bullet in 19.AA, read “of seized introduction of live European eels to the wild, to be considered by the 74th Standing Committee to be considered for submission to CoP19.



Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in effect after the 18th Meeting
(Reference to <https://cites.org/eng/taxonomy/term/42080>)

18.197

Decision directed to: Parties

Range States of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) are encouraged to:

- a) submit any non-detriment finding studies on European eel they have undertaken to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website; explore the different approaches that might be taken for making non-detriment findings for European eels traded as fingerlings (FIG) compared with those traded as other live eels (LIV); collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding such studies and their outcome, especially where the Parties share catchments or water bodies; seek review and advice from the Animals Committee or other suitable body on any non-detriment findings for European eels where appropriate;
- b) develop and/or implement adaptive European eel management plans 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;
- c) share information on stock assessments, harvests, the results of monitoring and other relevant data with the Joint Working Group on Eels (WGEEL) of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission, the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas and the Central Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM), so that a full and complete picture of the state of the European eel stock can be established;
- d) develop measures or implement more effectively existing measures to improve the traceability of eels in trade (both live and dead);
- e) provide the Secretariat with information regarding any changes to measures they have in place to restrict the trade in live 'glass' or fingerling European eels; and
- f) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision to allow it to report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

18.198

Decision directed to: Parties

Range States of non-CITES *Anguilla* spp. in international trade are encouraged to:

- a) where appropriate, implement conservation and management measures, such as adaptive eel management plans, enhanced collaboration within countries, between authorities and other stakeholders with responsibilities for eel management, 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 programmes of work and share knowledge and experience;
- c) establish monitoring programmes and develop abundance indices in range States where none exist. For ongoing programmes, identifying opportunities for expanding to new locations and/or live stages would be favourable;
- d) improve traceability of *Anguilla* spp. in trade (both live and dead); and
- e) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision to allow it report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.

18.199

Decision directed to: Secretariat

The Secretariat shall:

- a) prepare and submit a summary report on the implementation of Decisions 18.197 and 18.198 with draft recommendations to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate, for their consideration

- b) collate available information on the biology of *Anguilla anguilla* in collaboration with experts, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Anguillid Specialist Group, with a view to determining whether the glass eel (fingerling) life stage can be considered to have a “low probability of surviving to adulthood”, and report its findings to the Animals Committee;
- c) invite Parties, through a Notification, to submit information regarding current levels of, or emerging trends in, trade in specimens of *Anguilla* spp;
- d) subject to the availability of resources, commission a study to consider levels of trade and trade patterns, especially in 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; and
- e) prepare and submit a summary of the responses to the Notification and the study referred to in paragraph c) of this Decision, if available, with draft recommendations to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee as appropriate for their consideration.

18.200

Decision directed to: Animals Committee

The Animals Committee shall:

- a) if requested, consider any reports submitted by Parties with respect to the making of non-detriment findings for trade in European eel and provide advice and guidance as needed;
- b) review the report from the Secretariat on the biology of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) prepared under Decision 18.199 paragraph b) and consider the potential use of source code R (ranching) for specimens of *A. anguilla* from aquaculture production systems, and provide advice and make recommendations to the Parties and the Standing Committee as appropriate;
- c) review available information relating to the potential risks and benefits of reintroducing seized, live European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) to the wild and, if appropriate, provide advice on suitable protocols taking into account existing guidance and practices, for consideration at the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and
- d) consider the progress reports provided by Parties and the report by the Secretariat with respect to Decisions 18.197, 18.198 and 18.199 and make any recommendations to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

18.201

Decision directed to: Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall:

- a) consider the report prepared by the Secretariat and any other available information relating to illegal trade in European eel, including the case study by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on European eel trafficking as part of the 2nd World Wildlife Crime Report, and make recommendations as appropriate;
- b) review any advice and recommendations coming from the Animals Committee concerning Decision 18.200 paragraph b) and make recommendations as appropriate; and
- c) with the assistance of the Secretariat, engage with the World Customs Organization to examine the feasibility of harmonizing customs codes relevant to trade in all *Anguilla* species and report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

18.202

Decision directed to: Parties, Others

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 18.197 and 18.198.

Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31): Seahorses
Online, 31 May–1, 3, 21 and 22 June 2021

Summary Report

1. Introduction

The 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, 2019) adopted Decisions 18.228 to 18.233 on Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.). Specifically, the Decision 18.229 directed the Secretariat to issues a Notification to the Parties requesting their information on national management measures; regulations on international trade; and enforcement of such measures for seahorses. The CoP18 also directed the Secretariat to compile the responses received to the abovementioned Notification and communicate them to CITES Authorities through a Notification to the Parties and through its website, In this connection, the responses of the SEAFDEC Member Countries *i.e.* Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, and Thailand are in the **Annex i**.

2. Highlights of the discussion

During the AC31 on 1st June 2021, the Committee noted document AC31 Doc. 26 and its addendum prepared by the Secretariat. These documents illustrated the progress and implementation of the Decisions directed to the Secretariat, Parties, the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee. The Committee also noted that the study on trade in *Hippocampus* spp. is being undertaken by Project Seahorse which incorporated the provision of the Decision 18.229 paragraph c) i). In addition, the Committee took note that the Secretariat is working to identify additional funding sources to organize the expert workshop envisaged under Decision 18.229, paragraph c) ii) and the study by Project Seahorse that will form the basis of the expert workshop may not be completed until 2022.

Due to the pandemic, the expert workshop could not be organized, the Secretariat proposed the draft decisions to be submitted to the 74th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC74). While expressing the appreciation to the Secretariat on the progress of implementation of the Decisions, the representatives from North America and South America and the Caribbean supported the draft decisions prepared by the Secretariat which allowed the remaining work to be undertaken.

The representative from Peru informed the Committee that since 2004 that seahorses have been prohibited as a precautionary measure then setting up a permanent ban. That is why there have been no detrimental findings made. However, despite the existing regulations, seahorse captured still being registered mainly through bycatch by artisanal fishers. The country therefore has carried out data collection in various regions on the perceptions of the artisanal fishers on bycatch and trade in seahorses. She pointed that it is relevant to progress in the implementation of the decisions adopted at the CoP and build greater cooperation between Parties. So, it will increase knowledge on the biological, ecological and population aspects to ensure legal and sustainable trade in seahorses.

3. Follow-up actions

The Committee agreed to submit the draft decisions in paragraph 7 of the addendum of document AC31 Doc. 26 to the SC74 for consideration and submission to the CoP19. The summary of the draft decisions is as follows;

- **Decision 19.AA directed to the Secretariat** to organize an expert workshop (subject to external funding) to discuss the implementation and enforcement of CITES for trade in seahorses and report its progress to the Animals and Standing Committee, as appropriate.
- **Decision 19.BB directed to the Animals Committee** to analyze and review the result of activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229 paragraph c) i) and other relevant information; develop recommendations to the Parties, the Secretariat and relevant stakeholders to ensure sustainable and legal trade in seahorses; and report these implementation to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.

- **Decision 19.CC directed to the Standing Committee** to analyze and review the results of any activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229 paragraph c) i) and report of the Animals Committee; develop recommendations to the Parties and the Secretariat; and report on the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC to CoP20.

Responses of the SEAFDEC Member Countries on the national management measures, regulations on international trade and enforcement such measures in seahorses

Country	Species	National management measures and its enforcement
Cambodia	<i>Hippocampus</i> spp.	<p>Seahorse (<i>Hippocampus</i> spp.) is classified as Endangered Fisheries Resource by the Sub-Decree No. 128 dated 12 August 2009. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries enacted a Proclamation 571 MAFF dated 6 September 2010 to protect these endangered species. Based on this Proclamation, catching, selling, buying, transporting, collecting, processing and stocking of this species from natural water shall be prohibited. In case of accidentally catching, fishers must release them urgently. Person, who is found causing harm to this species, shall be penalized under the Article 98 of the Law on Fisheries.</p> <p>The Fisheries Administration in collaboration with relevant partners including Fauna and Flora International and Marine Conservation, has been working along the coastline to identify seahorse species, seahorse habitats and distribution, seahorse landing site and by-catch fishing gear.</p>
Indonesia	<i>Hippocampus barbauri</i> , <i>Hippocampus kuda</i>	<p>Indonesia has implementing strict management measure for international trade in seahorse by the following action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> limited export only from captive breeding operation. set up harvest quota only for broodstock of captive breeding operation and research. the harvest quota of 2016-2019 for seahorses are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2016: 600 individuals In 2017: <i>Hippocampus barbauri</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1000 individuals for captive broodstock ● 400 individuals for research <i>Hippocampus kuda</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1000 individuals for captive broodstock ● 250 individuals for research In 2019: 800 individuals for captive broodstock <p>There is no NDFs for seahorses because the export quota is given only for live broodstock from captive breeding thus it does not require NDFs.</p>
Japan	<i>Hippocampus</i> spp.	<p>Japan made a reservation to the listing of <i>Hippocampus</i> spp. in Appendix II in 2004. Nonetheless, notwithstanding paragraph 3 of Article XV of CITES, upon exporting the species to all countries including those which are not parties to CITES, Japan voluntarily conducts procedures related to export permits that are required under CITES, in accordance with its relevant laws and regulations.</p> <p>In the past decade, Japan issued only one export permit for <i>Hippocampus</i> spp. It is mainly because there is no specialized fishery targeting seahorses in Japan. The only case was an export of 15 live specimens in 2015, which were bred in an aquarium with a relevant method that has been proved to be viable to make F2 generation.</p>
Thailand	<i>Hippocampus</i> spp.	<p>The Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives as CITES Management Authority for aquatic fauna of Thailand has established the Notification of the Department of Fisheries that suspended the exportation <i>Hippocampus</i> spp. since the 1st January 2016. However, this Notification remains in place of trade suspension for export wild specimens of seahorses. Therefore, any further change in the</p>

Country	Species	National management measures and its enforcement
		<p>suspension of trade of these species, Thailand will submit the documents to the CITES Secretariat.</p> <p>Additionally, it had a National Workshop on CITES Listed Non-Detriment Findings Document on 18–19 July 2019, SEAFDEC Training Department, Samut Prakan, Thailand. The main objective of the workshop is to provide knowledge on the process for development of NDF guidance documents for marine species. The workshop included the issues of NDFs guidance documents for marine species and experiences and lessons learnt in developing CITES listed NDF documents for marine species <i>i.e.</i> sharks and seahorse.</p>

Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31): Banggai Cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*)
Online, 31 May–1, 3, 21 and 22 June 2021

1. Introduction

Indonesia has undertaken actions and measures to conserve and manage Banggai Cardinalfish as directed by Decision No. 17.259 (REF. COP 17), and submitted its progress report in AC 29 (AC29 Doc. 25.2) and AC 30 (AC30 Doc. 21.2). The actions are based on the Banggai Cardinalfish National Plan of Action (2017-2021) where 6 major targets have been agreed: 1) availability of and information on Banggai Cardinalfish population in its natural habitats and other geographic areas, 2) implementation of protection and preservation of Banggai Cardinalfish and its natural habitats, 3) sustainable use and trade of Banggai Cardinalfish, 4) improvement of human resources capacity to conserve and manage Banggai Cardinalfish, 5) improvement of conservation governance, and 6) implementation of restocking of Banggai Cardinalfish population. The 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18, 2019) adopted Decisions 18.263 on Banggai Cardinalfish directed to Indonesia that “Indonesia is encouraged to continue its conservation and management measures to ensure the sustainability of international trade in *Pterapogon kauderni*, and submit a progress report on these measures, including the implementation of recommendations made by the Animals Committee in document AC30 Com.1 (Rev. by Sec.), to the Secretariat for onward transmittal to the Animals Committee, with its own recommendations, as appropriate.” In response, Indonesia reported the progress of activities for each target of the Banggai Cardinalfish National Plan of Action in AC29 and AC30 especially information on Banggai Cardinalfish population in its natural habitats and other geographic areas and protection and preservation of Banggai Cardinalfish and its natural habitats.

During AC30, the following recommendations were adopted for Indonesia;

- consider the recommendations from the study by the International Union for Conservation of Nature for further development and implementation of National Plan of Action for the Banggai Cardinalfish, and report on progress to the AC31;
- enhance designation of identified marine protected areas and to report on implementation, including enforcement, of the Banggai Marine Protected Areas to AC31;
- build on the T0 survey making sure that data obtained in future surveys are comparable with T0 and record the number of sea urchins during monitoring at transects;
- consider all releases of the species, including unintentional releases from captive-breeding facilities to avoid genetic mixing;
- 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;
- carry out a genetic study, and a trade survey reflecting the geographic origin of the traded specimens and describing the trade routes; and
- work with relevant technical partners on implementing the National Plan of Action.

2. Highlights of the discussion

The representative from Indonesia updated the progress of its implementation of National Plan of Action for the Banggai Cardinalfish especially after AC30. The country conducted the population surveys and found that the density of this species is relatively stable and even displace the trends at several observation points. There is no significant difference between the population in controlled site and that within the MPA. The country will conduct three surveys in October 2021 including genetic field study. The results will be used to determine microhabitat rehabilitation and/or restocking sites. Restocking activities have taken into account the recommendations of AC29, to minimize the genetic mixing for which the Banggai Cardinalfish Rehabilitation Guidelines was developed. To protect the species and its microhabitats, the harvest control has been enforced based on MPA zones. The harvesting activity is prohibited within the MPA no-take zones. The country has introduced harvest quota, utilization mechanism, and business registration for Banggai Cardinalfish. Based on the result of the population surveys, the Government of Indonesia issued the Ministerial Decree No. 21/2021 stipulated that the harvest quota for 2021 is 63,380 individuals. The utilization and trade of Banggai Cardinalfish require the fish utilization permit, harvest quota permit, and fish

transport permit. This arrangement will make Banggai Cardinalfish as a non-CITES-listed species since it applies CITES trade mechanism. Considering aforementioned progress and the statement, Indonesia requests the Animals Committee to take note that this document (AC31 Doc. 31 Rev.1) is in accordance with the AC30 recommendation. This resulted in many positive outcomes of Banggai Cardinalfish protection, conservation and management. Lastly, AC31 is requested to acknowledge the current status of Banggai Cardinalfish as a non-CITES-listed species, and agree that Banggai Cardinalfish shall not be discussed further in future CITES meetings.

The representative from EU expressed the appreciation on the substantive improvement and important progress in the conservation and management of the species in Indonesia. She therefore suggested that this case can serve as a best practice example under the ongoing review of marine ornamental fishes for establishing management for potential future listings of marine ornamental fish. She therefore invites Indonesia to share the experience as a best practice example in the process under Decision 18.297 on marine ornamental fishes. And with these observations, we can agree to be proposed recommendations and to conclude the discussion on Banggai Cardinalfish in CITES.

The representative from North America supported Indonesia efforts and most of the recommendations. The Committee took note his suggestion to revise texts of the recommendations in paragraph 7 b) and 7 c).

While expressing the appreciation on the efforts made by Indonesia, the representative from United Kingdom supported the suggested amendments in paragraph 7 c) in AC31 Doc. 31 Rev. 1. She also supported the EU's recommendations that the conservation and management of Banggai Cardinalfish could be used as a case study in the upcoming discussion on marine ornamental fishes.

The representative from the Fondation Franz Weber expressed the gratitude to Indonesia in preparing the document. However, there is extremely concern on the survival of this highly endangered species. While appreciating the designation of MPAs, recent surveys suggested that the general population trend for the fish remains negatives and conservation measures adopted are inadequate. Many cores of no take zones in the MPAs are not within the main area of distribution of the fish. Furthermore, utilization zones are often adjacent to the core zone making capture in the no take zones are very probable. At this stage, there are no effective protections for the microhabitat, including sea urchins and sea anemones, which are critical component of the fish habitat. Moreover, population surveys must be expanded to include more sites. For the seasonal capture of this species, prohibitions are not adequate as the species can breed year round and any quota must also consider the high mortality during capture and transit. Overall, according to Indonesian conservationists, while regulations have been issued, these remain largely unimplemented. Given these issues, the Committee is suggested to retain the species on its agenda. In the absence of the listing of the species of the CITES appendices, CoP-19 should approve new decision texts at the CoP, asking Indonesia to conduct more comprehensive study, disclose export data, mortalities and evidence of illegal trade, detailed production from any capture breeding facilities and clarify regulations governing the capture of the species within existing MPAs.

The representative from the Ornamental Fish International supported Indonesia on the management of wild population of Banggai Cardinalfish and appreciated the success in steering its sustainability and trade. He also supported the removal of the species in future CITES meetings.

In sum, the Committee acknowledged and noted document AC31 Doc. 31 (Rev. 1). Though, the document was recognized by AC31, but it does not mean that AC31 agreed on such document. Since, AC31 did not have chance to consider and provide comments on it.

3. Follow-up actions

Though Banggai Cardinalfish is not listed under the CITES Appendices, Indonesia's efforts on the conservation and management of this species under Indonesian national laws should be acknowledged. The Committee recognized the current status of Banggai Cardinalfish as a non-CITES-listed species and, referring to significant progress achieved by Indonesia. The Committee then encouraged Indonesia to continue promoting the conservation, management and sustainable trade in Banggai Cardinalfish and asked Indonesia to present this as a case study at the Technical Workshop on Marine Ornamental Fishes envisaged under Decision 18.296.



Thirty-first meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31): Marine Ornamental Fishes
Online, 31 May–1, 4, 21 and 22 June 2021

Summary Report

1. Introduction

The 18th meeting of the Conference of the parties (CoP18, 2019) adopted Decision 18.926 to 18.928 on the Marine Ornamental Fishes which describes three thematic studies; (1) international trade of non-CITES listed live coral reef fish; and (2) including small sharks and rays; (3) proposal to extend the mandated of the Marine Ornamental Fishes beyond 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19). Regarding the studies, the Animal Committee (AC) was invited to confirm the scope of the work in the abovementioned studies and provide comments/suggestions on the activities outlined.

2. Highlights of the discussion

The representative from EU encouraged Indonesia to continue its works to promoted conservation management sustainable trade for Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) and present this case study to the Workshop of marine ornamental fishes to be organized under Decision 18.296

The representative from North America expressed support for the implementation of activities in Decision 18.296 and also support for the Working Group's recommendation to the extent the relevant part to extent of the mandate of marine ornamental fishes beyond COP19.

The representative from Foundation Franz Weber stated the support for the directions of works as outline in the document (AC31 Doc.36) which funded by Switzerland, the EU and the USA. She expressed concern on the questionnaire for the thematic study 1 from UNEP/WCMC requested to provide the data for the activities in the specific format which is time-consuming, then recommended UNEP/WCMC to revisit this matter to improving the standardized inputs.

The representative from Ornamental Fish International and European Pet Organization expressed the support on the long-term substantiality activities for ornamental fishes trade and suggested that the case of Banggai cardinalfish (*Pterapogon kauderni*) can be applied in the Marine Ornamental fishes sustainable management and looking forward to the results which conducting by UNEP/WCMC would be provided inputs for future directions for the marine ornamental fish trade management.

3. Follow-up actions

The AC31 agree on the Decisions and activities outline to continue works on the Marine Ornamental fish.

FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

1. INTRODUCTION

The World Trade Organization (WTO) launched the negotiations on fisheries subsidies at the Doha Ministerial Conference (MC4) since 2001, with a mandate to “clarify and improve” existing WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies. In 2005, the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference (MC6), reaffirmed the need to strengthen the disciplines for prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing. Since then, the Negotiating Group on Rules has been extensively discussing the scope of subsidies and ways to regulate them. Until late 2016, a series of new proposals from the members submitted at the Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference (MC11) in 2017, the MC11 agreed that discussions on fisheries subsidies should be continued, to meet the Target 6 of the SDG14 “*by 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation,*” and expected to be concluded by 2019.

Over the past 20 years, the negotiation on the fisheries subsidies almost reached to the final decision to be discussed at the planned 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12), which was originally scheduled in June 2020, but was suspended, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, in 2020, the WTO on Fisheries Subsidies of the Negotiating Group on Rules continued the discussions in the revised text through online and hybrid meetings in 2020. Finally, the chair of the negotiations, Ambassador Santiago Wills of Colombia introduced the revised draft text on fisheries subsidies (dated 11 May 2021) and discussed at the Ministers meeting virtually on 15 July 2021. This revised draft text on fisheries subsidies will be tabled at the upcoming 12th Ministerial Conference, which will be taken place from 30 November to 3 December 2021 in Geneva, Switzerland, where is expected for the final stage of the WTO Fisheries Subsidies to be completed.

2. UPDATE REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN RESPONSES TO WTO ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

In September 2020, SEAFDEC organized a two-day Webinar on “Fisheries Subsidies: Southeast Asian Region Perspective” in order to obtain updated information on the status of the negotiations from key relevant agencies/countries. During the Webinar, the MCs also provided the views on the needs on capacity building for stock assessment and appropriate stock assessment model. In follow-up, SEAFDEC discussed with FAO for the capacity building programs on stock assessment to enhance the knowledge, and identify the reference points (*e.g.* overcapacity, overfishing) for better understanding stock status, and development of an appropriate model to be applied by SEAFDEC Member Countries on multi-species stock assessment. This would be beneficial for the SEAFDEC Member Countries in the negotiation process with the WTO on fisheries subsidies.

At the 53rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2021, the Council suggested SEAFDEC to facilitate the platform for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to exchange update information and develop the common voice/opinion among the Member Countries to be reflected during the forthcoming WTO negotiations. In June 2021, SEAFDEC organized the Webinar Series on WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text (Negotiation Group on Rules) on 10 and 17 June 2021 with funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund. The Webinar Series was convened in two sessions. The first of the Webinar Series organized on 10 June 2021 was an open session and participated in by representatives from SEAFDEC Member and non-Member Countries as well as from international and regional organizations. Subsequently, the second session of the Webinar Series on 17 June 2021 was organized as a closed session and attended by representatives from the SEAFDEC Member Countries (except Singapore). During such Webinar Series, the discussion focused on the “Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Chair Text, TN/RL/W/276 dated 11 May 2021,” from which the issues of concern of the SEAFDEC Member Countries were identified corresponding to every article of the Chair Text. Although the Webinar Series intended to come up with common position among the SEAFDEC Member Countries, development of such common position was challenging due to the diverse views and positions expressed by the countries. Nonetheless, the issues and concerns identified by the countries were summarized and shown in **Appendix 1**:



In addition, in following up the recommendations made from the previous SEAFDEC Webinars on Fisheries Subsidies organized in 2020 and 2021 and subsequently advised by the SEAFDEC Council during its 53rd Meeting in 2021 on the needs for the capacity building program on the stock assessment for multi-gears and multi-species and how to determine the reference points for sustainable management of fisheries resources, SEAFDEC with funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) and the technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), will organize the Consultative Planning and Training Workshop on Stock Assessment in Support the Implementation of the International Commitments for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia, which to be held on 9 December, and 13–17 December 2021, respectively, at SEAFDEC Secretariat, Bangkok, Thailand. The purpose of the Consultative Planning and Training Workshop is to gather the ideas and gain knowledge on stock assessment methods based on the current status and level of understanding and knowledge on stock assessment and the available datasets of SEAFDEC Member Countries and would further develop comprehensive training courses in the future.

3. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

- To take note of:
 - The consolidated views of SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Draft Consolidated Text as the results of the SEAFDEC Webinar Series on WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text (Negotiation Group on Rules) on 10 and 17 June 2021
 - The follow-up actions on the organization of the Consultative Planning and Training Workshop on Stock Assessment in Support the Implementation of the International Commitments for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia to be organized on 9 and 13–17 December 2021.
- To provide directive guidance on the way forward for fisheries subsidies.

**SEAFDEC Webinar Series:
WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text (Negotiation Group on Rules)
(10 and 17 June 2021)**

SEAFDEC organized the Webinar Series on WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text (Negotiation Group on Rules) on 10 and 17 June 2021 with funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund. As a response to the recommendations made by the SEAFDEC Council during its 53rd Meeting in April 2021 for SEAFDEC to facilitate the establishment of a regional platform for discussion and development of common position of the Member Countries on fisheries subsidies that could be reflected at the Ministerial Meeting of the WTO scheduled on 15 July 2021 and in November 2021, the Webinar Series was convened in two sessions. The first of the Webinar Series organized on 10 June 2021 was an open session and participated in by representatives from SEAFDEC Member and non-Member Countries as well as from international and regional organizations. Subsequently, the second session of the Webinar Series on 17 June 2021 was organized as a closed session and attended by representatives from the SEAFDEC Member Countries (except Singapore). During such Webinar Series, the discussion focused on the “Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Chair Text, TN/RL/W/276 dated 11 May 2021,” from which the issues of concern of the SEAFDEC Member Countries were identified corresponding to every article of the Chair Text.

Although the Webinar Series intended to come up with common position among the SEAFDEC Member Countries, development of such common position was challenging due to the diverse views and positions expressed by the countries. Nonetheless, the issues and concerns identified by the countries were summarized and shown in the following Table:

Article	Consolidated Views of SEAFDEC Member Countries*
General Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Instrument should be made part of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement), and not as a standalone document [MY] • The Instrument, once finalized, should be a legally binding instrument and should be enforceable under the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) [PH]
1. Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries that agree with the whole Article 1: MM, PH • Other countries generally agree with Article 1, but with some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree with Article 1.1 [TH] - Article 1.2 on fuel subsidies is not agreeable [BN, KH, JP, MY] - Article 1.2 on territoriality is not agreeable [VN] - Article 1.2: would agree only if small scale and artisanal fisheries are excluded in the scope[ID]
2. Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries that agree with the whole Article 2: BN, JP, MY • Other countries generally agree with Article 2, but with some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terminologies in Article 2 should adhere to the terms and principles embodied in relevant international instruments such as the PSMA, FAO, FAO IPOA-IUUF [PH] - Terminologies in Article 2 should adhere to the terms embodied in relevant fisheries-related international instruments developed by FAO [VN] - Definition of fishing and fishing related activities are agreeable but needs more clarification on the definition of operator [ID]
3. Prohibition on Subsidies to IUU Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries that agree with the whole Article 3: BN • Other countries generally agree with Article 3, with some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Article 3.1, the phrase “or fishing related activities in support of such fishing” should be added after the end of original sentence [KH] - Article 3 should not be applied to “operator” [MY] - Article 3 should be applied to “operator” [MM] - Article 3.2: support the determinant entities of IUU fishing [ID] - In Article 3.3 (a): concerns expressed on the determination of IUU fishing activities in overlapping areas [VN]

Article	Consolidated Views of SEAFDEC Member Countries*
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Article 3.3 (a): determination of IUU fishing activities in overlapping areas should follow the principles of UNCLOS [PH] - In Article 3.3 (b): it might be difficult to acquire positive evidence for determining IUU fishing activities [MM] - Article 3.3 (c): would not support the inclusion of the phrase “[, and shall provide an opportunity to the flag State and subsidizing Member to submit information to be taken into account in the determination] [ID] - New Article 3.3 (d) should be added so that the issue on “forced labor” is considered [KH] - In Article 3.4: specific duration should be indicated for application of prohibition of subsidies [MM] - In Article 3.6: technical support for implementation of this Article is required [MM] - Article 3.8: no exemption should be provided in Article 3 [JP, PH, TH] - Article 3.8: exemption should be provided to small-scale and artisanal fisheries operated for livelihood [VN] - Article 3.8: should provide flexibility for fishing within the 12 nautical miles, with or without further filters or qualifications [PH] - Article 3.8: exemption period should follow the Agreement on Aquaculture (AoA) and Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) -[MY]
<p>4. Prohibition on Subsidies Concerning Overfished Stocks (OFS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries that agree with the whole Article 4: BN • Other countries generally agree with Article 4 but with some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Text of Article 4.3 should be changed to “Notwithstanding Article 4.1, a Member may grant or maintain subsidies referred to in Article 4.1: if such subsidies <u>and/or other measures for stock recovery</u> are implemented in a manner of promoting the rebuilding of the stock to a biologically sustainable level.” [JP] - Article 4.3: would not support flexibilities that could lead to enhanced capacity in the overfished areas [ID] - Article 4.4: exemption should be permanently provided to the subsidies for fishing and fishing related activities within 12 nautical miles from baselines in order to give flexibility to artisanal fisheries [TH] - Article 4.4: exemption should be extended up to the countries’ EEZs [MY] - Article 4.4: as the same rules and regulations are applied to small fishing vessels and off-shore fishing vessel, SDT in these areas might not be necessary [MM] - Article 4.4: geographical terminology, <i>e.g.</i> 12 nm should not be referred to, since SSF determination may differ in different countries, and for some countries such determination may not follow geographical areas [VN] - Footnote 9: although the use of MSY is agreeable, difficulties could be encountered in undertaking stock assessments in terms of cost, expertise, and resources [MY]
<p>5. Prohibition of Subsidies Concerning Overcapacity and Overfishing (OCOF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries that agree with the whole Article 5: BN • Other countries generally agree with Article 5 but with some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Article 5.1: would support the list-based approach [ID] - Article 5.1.1: would not support any fisheries management flexibility [ID] - Article 5.1.1: there is too much flexibility for countries to provide subsidies in the case where fisheries management is in place [PH] - Article 5.1 and Footnote 9&10: should be modified to include reference points that are applicable for multi-gears and multi-species fisheries [VN] - Article 5.1.1 and Footnote10: would support this provision which is accessible to all members with fisheries management and allow the policy space for members to provide necessary subsidies for the development of fisheries sector. Members could also use alternative references points other than MSY that could indicate a biological sustainable level [TH] - Article 5.1.1 and footnote 10: no need to make geographical limitations [JP] - Article 5.2 (a): would support but without any “contingency test” [ID]

Article	Consolidated Views of SEAFDEC Member Countries*
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Article 5.2 (b): would support for government-to-government access to agreements in the EEZ is not agreeable as this has been opposed by concerned stakeholders [MM] - Article 5.2 (b) on access agreement, should be followed by stricter notification requirements [ID] - For Article 5.5: preference is on ALT 2 [JP] - Article 5.5: preference is on ALT 2 which is a good starting point for the negotiation, but exemption should be permanently provided to the subsidies for fishing and fishing related activities within 12 nautical miles from baselines in order to give flexibility to artisanal fisheries [TH] - Article 5.5: SDT provides too much flexibility for developing countries that may have no fisheries management in place, to provide subsidies [PH] - Article 5.5 Alt 2, strongly opposed because SDT provided to small-scale fisheries of developing countries including LDCs should be without time limitation [ID]
6. Specific provisions for LDC members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree in principle with Article 6, but there should be specific and appropriate timeframe for the transitional period under this article [TH] - In Article 6.1: transition period should be 5 years [KH]
7. Technical Assistance and Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree in principle with Article 7 and that technical assistance and capacity building should be provided to developing country Members to support implementation of the Instrument (All countries)
8. Notification and Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries that agree with the whole Article 8: BN • Other countries generally agree with Article 8 with some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Article 8.2: add new topic (b) “any vessels and operators for which the Member has information that reasonably indicates the use of forced labor, along with relevant information to the extent possible,” and change the current topic (b) to topic (c) [KH] - In Article 8.3: request for additional information should be based on concrete reasons [MY] - Provision of information and notification as part of this agreement (Instrument) should not create burden to the countries [ID] - Provision of additional information and notification as part of this agreement (Instrument) should not create burden to the countries, and only for such information that are directly relevant to fish subsidies [PH] - For Article 8.1 (a) ii: countries might have difficulties in providing “catch data by species” due to the multi-gears and multi-species nature of the fishing activities [MY, VN, ID] - In Article 8.1 (b) iv: common understanding should be provided on some terminologies, <i>e.g.</i> fleet capacity [VN] - Provision on notification should not be linked with the SDT provisions [ID] - Article 8.2 (b): notification requirement for access agreement need to be stricter to provide information on surplus quantity and price for quantity (ID)
9. Institutional Arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries that agree with the whole Article 9: BN • Other countries generally agree with Article 9 with some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The instrument should be an annex to the existing SCM Agreement, and thus no new Committee should be established [MY] - Any legal form of this Instrument is acceptable [ID] - The mandate, responsibilities, and limitations of the proposed Committee should be clearly specified [PH] - In Article 9.3: clarification should be provided on the terminology “fishery regime,” whether this refers to “fishery management” or “fishery subsidy” regime [VN]
10. Dispute Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries that agree with the whole Article 10: BN, TH • Other countries generally agree with Article 10 with some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - possible ‘add-ons’ to this Article should be discussed [PH, ID]



Article	Consolidated Views of SEAFDEC Member Countries*
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - position of the country for this Article is reserved in relation to dispute settlement between coastal State and flag State [VN] - would support to limit the discipline on Violation Complaints and exclude Non-Violation and Situation Complaints[ID]
11. Final Provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries that agree with the whole Article 11: (All countries) • Other countries generally agree with Article 11 with some comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - current text of Article 11.4 (b) is not agreeable, especially in relation to territoriality, <i>i.e.</i> territorial or maritime jurisdiction issues already settled by international courts should be exempted from this provision [PH]

***BN:** Brunei Darussalam; **KH:** Cambodia; **ID:** Indonesia; **JP:** Japan; **MY:** Malaysia; **MM:** Myanmar; **PH:** Philippines; **TH:** Thailand; **VN:** Viet Nam

U.S. MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT

1. BACKGROUND

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) was enacted since 1972 by the United States. All marine mammals are protected under the MMPA. It prohibits taking marine mammals and enacts a moratorium on the import, export, and sale of any marine mammals, along with any marine mammal part or product within the United States. The United States also prohibits importations of commercial fish or fish products caught in commercial fishing operations resulting in the incidental killing or serious injury (bycatch) of marine mammals.

Recently, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has announced the regulations MMPA Import Provisions Rule applying any foreign nations export fish and fish products to the United States, which have been caught with commercial fishing technology that results in the incidental kill or serious injury of ocean mammals in excess of U.S. standards. Effective from 1 January 2023, fish and fish products from fisheries identified by the NMFS in a list of foreign fisheries (LOFF) can only be imported if the harvesting nation has applied for and received a comparability finding for those fisheries.

With such concern, it was raised at the 13th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum and subsequently by the 29th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries which was held virtually on 22, 23–24 June 2021, respectively, to call the AMSs to be aware of this regulation, it could be impacted for trading fish and fishery products to U.S market. It is in line with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 on *“Promote joint ASEAN approaches and positions in international trade in fish and fishery products produced in the region, by harmonizing the standards, criteria, and guidelines, and developing mutually-recognized agreements on sustainability and food safety management systems.”*

2. REGIONAL RESPONSES TO THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT (MMPA)

In response to the request, SEAFDEC with the support of the Japanese Trust Fund organized the Webinar on Regional Responses to the U.S. MMPA on 2–3 November 2021 through online platform. A total of 50 participants attended that includes SEAFDEC Member Countries, and SEAFDEC and the resource persons from NOAA and INFOFISH. The Webinar update information regard updated the Import Provisions of the MMPA and Application for Comparability Finding and the progress of the countries on the preparation for the Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the MMPA. During the discussion, the SEAFDEC Member Countries expressed their respective issues, actions, and needs and the technical support in response to the MMPA. The Summary report appears in **Appendix 1**.

3. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

To take note of the results of the Webinar on Regional Responses to the U.S. MMPA, and the results will be reported to the 54th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2022, and ASEAN mechanism, respectively.



Summary Report

The Webinar on Regional Responses to the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act 2-3 November 2021, online platform

SEAFDEC organized the Webinar on Regional Responses to U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) on 2–3 November 2021 through an online platform. This Webinar was organized as one of the activities of the Project on the “Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues” which hosted by SEAFDEC Secretariat with funding support of the Japanese Trust Fund. The objectives of the Webinar were to i) update the status and highlight issues/concerns with the U.S. MMPA regarding “Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act”; ii) share and exchange information on major issues/concerns of SEAFDEC Member Countries on U.S. MMPA; and iii) identify SEAFDEC Member Countries’ major concerns, issues, and capacity building needs.

The Webinar was attended by 50 participants from SEAFDEC Member Countries namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam and the resource persons from NOAA, INFOFISH as well as SEAFDEC officers from Secretariat, Training Department (TD) and Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD).

The representative from NOAA Fisheries Service presented the overview and highlights on major issues related to exportation of fish and fishery products from Southeast Asian countries to the United States of America. In the presentation, the participants were informed on the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) provisions to prohibit fish imports from nations with marine mammal bycatch which will be effective on 1 January 2023. NOAA updated that the final 2020 List of Foreign Fisheries (LOFF), which is comprised of 131 nations and 2,805 fisheries, was published in October 2020. NOAA also informed that the application of the Comparability Finding by trading nations was opened on 30 November 2020 and will be closed on 30 November 2021. After that NOAA will review and issues Comparability Findings on 30 November 2022 and the Import Provision will be effective on 1 January 2023. The information on the conditions for a Comparability Finding are:

- Marine mammal abundance estimate for stocks that interact with fisheries
- Bycatch limit for these marine mammal stocks
- Monitoring program to estimate marine mammal bycatch in fisheries
- Requirement that fishermen report marine mammal bycatch
- Vessel registration, authorization, or license program
- Mitigation measures to reduce bycatch, especially in fisheries where the total bycatch exceed the bycatch limit

The resource person from INFOFISH shared the trade information on fish and fishery products focusing on products exporting from AMSs to U.S., highlighted how the importance of the ASEAN countries are the major exporters are Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam exporting several of fish and fishery projects (canned tuna, tuna frozen, shrimp) to the US market.

The country representatives shared the views with regard to the country’s response and the progress to the Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the MMPA, and they expressed their respective issues, actions, and technical needs were expressed by the MCs in related to the MMPA.

In addition, the representative from SEAFDEC/TD also shared the outcomes of the past capacity building programs such as on record of cetacean sightings and development of fishing gear and technology to reduce bycatch of marine mammals.

Issues/concerns/challenges

- Concern on trade barrier for fishery products entering US market and continuation export to the US
- Comparability findings for all listed fisheries under LOFF and flexibility space for currently not listed under LOFF of the other future fisheries as harvesting nations
- Concern on non-compliance of most of fisheries

- After US implementation by MMPA, how the US consider fish and fish products from an intermediary nation (re-export country) that will not contaminate with fish from the banned area (export fishery)?
- Limited national and regional marine mammal abundance survey data
- Cross-sectoral issues (fisheries, environment) that created the delayed the information gathering process and needs to enhance multi-agencies coordination and
- Lack of monitoring mechanisms
- Lack of bycatch, mortality, and injured data
- How to deal with small-scale fisheries with a wide range of different fisheries
- Limited experts on marine mammals

Technical assistance needs

- Marine mammal abundance survey
- Determination of bycatch limit
- Monitoring Program
- Methods for marine mammal population estimate and stock assessment.
- Marine mammal surveys and stranded animal necropsies for cause of death finding
- Research on marine mammal bycatch based on fishing gears, especially in small-scale fisheries
- Gear modifications and technologies to lessen marine mammal interaction in fishing operations
- Develop the mitigation measure and monitoring program to reduce the bycatch, especially fishing industry where the total bycatch exceeds the bycatch limited based on the biological parameters.
- Better designed program for identifying activity priorities and long-term conservation strategy
- Stranding network along coastal regions
- Roll out of the relevant FAO Technical Guideline to prevent and reduce bycatch of marine mammal in capture fisheries.
- Good handling practices to mitigate serious injury and mortality of marine mammal bycatch
- Cooperation among the AMSs on the study of distribution of transboundary marine mammals in Southeast Asian waters
- Collaboration among the AMSs on catch certification that fish and fish products do not originate from MMPA banned areas

In summary, SEAFDEC summarized on the areas for the capacity building needs Marine mammal abundance stock assessment (sub-regional or regional program, bycatch limit estimation and building up the national programs, enhancing of the excising networks IFCOME (regional) network (*e.g.* fishing gear/practices modification for reducing mortality mitigation by fishing gear) and providing the regional fora for sharing information and enhancing the cooperation among international and regional organizations for technical supports.

STUDY ON IMPACTS OF COVID–19 PANDEMIC ON FISHERIES SECTOR OF THE ASEAN–SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES

I. BACKGROUND

The coronavirus diseases 2019 (COVID-19) was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11 March 2020. The COVID-19 causes human health problems, in particular the respiratory system and causes more than 4.55 millions of deaths around the world (as of 15 September 2021). The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has affected people’s livelihood, food security, social activities, and economies at various levels and scales. Over the year, all nations have been working hard, to stop and prevent the spreading of COVID-19. Several containment measures have been imposed in order to control the infection and spread of the disease (*e.g.* social distancing, curfew, lockdown, mandatory shop closure, etc.) including the COVID-19 vaccines has rolled out since late of 2020. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected people’s livelihood, food security, social activities, and economies at various levels and sectors.

Many of the Southeast Asian countries ranked in the top 25 countries and are important on international trade, according to the FAO State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020. In terms of employment, in 2018, approximately 59.51 million people were engaged in the primary sector of fisheries and aquaculture, of which 85% of workers were from Asia. The fisheries and aquaculture sector of Southeast Asia region therefore play an important role in generating incomes and contributing food supply to the world. As a consequence of the implementation of containment measures by each individual country in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it made devastating effects on fisheries activities ranging from capture fisheries, aquaculture, post-harvest processing, and the trade of fish and fishery products.

At the last 43rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee in November 2020 and subsequently, at the 53rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2021, SEAFDEC therefore proposed to conduct a study on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries sector of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries, with the aims to share information among the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries on the impacts and mitigation of the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries sector. The expected deliverables would be a synthesis report on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries sector of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries, an analysis for long–term implications towards sustainable food security and livelihood, and a policy brief on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries sector of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries.

II. PROGRESS

SEAFDEC in consultation with Technical Departments developed the Questionnaire which was designed to gather information on the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic to the fisheries sectors such as capture fisheries, inland fisheries, aquaculture, fish processing, fish trade, and the mitigation measures of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries. In February 2021, SEAFDEC organized the virtual Regional Workshop on the Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries to explain and discuss on the questionnaire and the instruction to obtain data and information by the national focal points (NFPs). The questionnaire was sent to NFPs at the end of February 2021 and requested for submission on 30 May 2021.

However, due to the worsening COVID-19 situation in the Southeast Asian region, it was a challenge for the respective countries to compile the data and information as inputs to the questionnaire. Nevertheless, SEAFDEC is currently drafting the Study Report. The remaining activity of the Study is the Second Regional Workshop on the Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries to finalize the Study Report. It is expected that the Study Report will be finalized by the end of 2021.



III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

To take note of the progress of the Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

ROADMAP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION AND PLAN OF ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR FOOD SECURITY IN THE ASEAN REGION TOWARDS 2030

I. BACKGROUND

The ASEAN Senior Officials and Ministers adopted the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030), which was developed in collaboration with the ASEAN and SEAFDEC by ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. This RES&POA-2030 serves as a policy framework and direction for the region's fisheries development in the future decade, guiding it towards sustainability and increased contribution of fisheries to food security and livelihood of people in Southeast Asia. Specifically, on the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (POA-2030), there are six subjects namely: 1) Planning and Information, 2) Fisheries Management, 3) Aquaculture, 4) Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, 5) Fish Trade, and 6) Regional and International Policy Formulation. From these subjects, there are totally 88 actions for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries for the implementation programs, projects, and activities at national level by the AMSs and at sub-regional and/or regional level through the appropriate ASEAN-SEAFDEC mechanisms.

At national level, apart from the efforts of AMSs in implementing this RES&POA-2030, monitoring and evaluation of the goal's and plan's implementation in 2030 are also required to assess progress and achievements. SEAFDEC by the Secretariat therefore proposed the Concept Note for the Regional Workshop on the Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 during the 53rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (53CM) in early 2021.

The Council supported such ideas and suggested several issues. Firstly, SEAFDEC was suggested to engage AMSs in the implementation of RES&POA-2030. Secondly, the Council suggested SEAFDEC to develop and disseminate the key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030 in order that the countries could provide valuable inputs during the Workshop. Thirdly, SEAFDEC and the Member Countries were recommended to take cognizance toward complementation and cooperation, and to minimize duplication of efforts in this aspect. Lastly, the Council suggested SEAFDEC to consider developing the scale for the monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the Council wished that the majority of the RES&POA-2030 would be achieved within the projected timeline while the promotion of RES&POA-2030 in the region and support of the monitoring and evaluation would be possible through the roles of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network.

II. PROPOSED ROADMAP FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTION AND PLAN OF ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR FOOD SECURITY FOR THE ASEAN REGION TOWARDS 2030

Taking the abovementioned suggestions by 53CM, SEAFDEC proposed the tentative workplan to develop the roadmap for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030 as appears in **Table 1**. The POA-2030 would be used as a framework to develop this roadmap comprising of six subjects as earlier mentioned. SEAFDEC plans to develop this roadmap including the key indicators in consultation with AMSs prior to the Regional Workshop on the Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030. Subsequently, the finalized roadmap will be reported to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration in April 2023.

Table 1. Tentative work plan of activities in 2021 and onwards

Oct-Nov 2021	Preparation of the roadmap for monitoring and evaluation including the indicators
Jan 2022	Regional Workshop on the Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 to discuss on the proposed roadmap



Apr 2022	Submit the draft Roadmap to the SEAFDEC Council
2025	Mid-term review of the implementation of RES&POA-2030 based on the Roadmap
2030	Evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030 based on the Roadmap

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the preparation of the roadmap for monitoring and evaluation implementation of the RES&POA-2030
- To provide policy directives to SEAFDEC and Member Countries on monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

Concerning the importance of millions of small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers that contributed to food security, livelihood, poverty alleviation as well as to achieve Zero Hunger, the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022 has been acknowledged by the United Nations General Assembly. FAO is the lead agency to celebrate the Year in collaboration with other agencies. The aims of celebrating IYAFA 2022 are to raise the world recognition on the role of small-scale fishers, fish farmers, and fish workers as well as sustainable utilization of natural resource.

As guided by the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 to sustain the supply of fish and fishery products from the ASEAN region to improve food security, facilitate poverty alleviation, and improve the livelihoods of ASEAN people dependent on fish and fishery products. Since small-scale fisheries are dependent on fishery resources for their livelihoods, SEAFDEC will join this celebration to echo the importance of this sector with relevant partners. The table 1 shows the SEAFDEC plan to celebrate IYAFA 2022.

Table 1. SEAFDEC plan to celebrate IYAFA 2022

Activities	Schedule
1) Develop the publication tentative title ‘Small-scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia: A Regional Digest’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Received inputs from the Technical Departments ▪ Required inputs from the SEAFDEC Council and relevant organizations ▪ Submit the final draft to the 54th Council meeting 	Done Dec 2021 Apr 2022
2) Joint regional event (FAO/RAP, WorldFish, INFOFISH etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Informal discussion among relevant partners ▪ Proposed the organization of the event to the 54th Council meeting 	Oct 2021–Feb 2022 Apr 2022

2. UPDATED INFORMATION

SEAFDEC had an informal discussion with collaborative partners *i.e.* FAO/HQ, FAO/RAP, WorldFish, INFOFISH on the plan to celebrate IYAFA in 2022 on 15 October 2021. During the discussion, all partners shared their planned activities and views to celebrate IYAFA. **Appendix 1** is the FAO/RAP planned activities and information in relation to the celebration of IYAFA by FAO. However, a concrete collaborative activity among the partners has not yet been finalized. It was then suggested that each organization should identify the anticipated objectives to be achieved by the end of 2022. These could be the objective expected to be inside/outside fisheries sector *e.g.* raise awareness of public sector on the role of small-scale fisheries. The dialogues among the partners would be continued with the suggestion to include NACA, APRACA, ICSF, SEAFDEC/AQD, SEAFDEC/IFRDMD etc. in order that the collaborative activities reflect the interest of all perspective in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.

3. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 24FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the updated information on the plan to celebrate the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture
- To share information of the country’s activities in relation to IYAFA 2022 (if any)
- To provide policy directives to SEAFDEC and Member Countries on the celebration of IYAFA 2022 or activities relevant to small-scale fisheries and aquaculture

FAO/RAP planned activities in support of IYAFa 2022

Objective: Raise awareness and increase visibility of the contribution of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture to food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and ecosystem restoration in Asia

Activity	Target date
1. Include presentation on IYAFa 2022 in the following webinars where findings and highlights of studies will be presented and discussed	
Restoration of productive aquatic ecosystems by communities and fisher organizations in Asia: Good practices, innovations and success stories (in collaboration with James Cook University)	25 November 2021
Resilience and seizing opportunities: small-scale fisheries and aquaculture businesses that thrived during the COVID-19 pandemic in South and Southeast Asia (in collaboration with INFOFISH)	30 November 2021
Women and men in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture: barriers, constraints and opportunities towards equality and secure livelihoods (in collaboration with AIT)	9 December 2021
2. Publication: “International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFa) 2022: Celebrating diversity of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in Asia”	
A photostory book that puts a spotlight on Asia as home to the world’s majority of small-scale fishers and aquaculturists, celebrating the diversity of Asian small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, making visible their faces and circumstances, and honouring the numerous women and men in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture value chains who are contributing to the Asian region’s food security, nutrition, livelihoods, trade, and foreign exchange reserves. (in collaboration with INFOFISH)	First quarter 2022
3. Publication of studies on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture	
Women and men in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture: barriers, constraints and opportunities towards equality and secure livelihoods (in collaboration with AIT)	End of 2021
Resilience and seizing opportunities: small-scale fisheries and aquaculture businesses that thrived during the COVID-19 pandemic in South and Southeast Asia (in collaboration with INFOFISH)	End of 2021
Restoration of productive aquatic ecosystems by communities and fisher organizations in Asia: Good practices, innovations and success stories (in collaboration with James Cook University)	First quarter 2022

FAO information on the celebration of IYAFa 2022

- [IYAFa 2022 Webpage](#), available in all six UN languages:
 - [About](#) – access the history objectives of the Year
 - [Communication Toolkit](#) – online document with materials and guidance on how to use the IYAFa logo
 - [IYAFa 2022 Events](#) – Organise [activities/events](#) and share it. Find out about upcoming events and listen to past events wherever they happened and by who. See [Events list](#) for inspiration!
 - [IYAFa supporters](#)– guidance on how you can get involved!
 - [International Steering Committee \(ISC\)](#) – find out who is running the show
- Global Action Plan available in six languages: card page <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB4875EN> and pdf <http://www.fao.org/3/cb4875en/cb4875en.pdf>
- [Human interest stories template](#) for people to fill in and submit to IYAFa ISC. Attached herewith
- [Asset bank for gadgets](#) where information can be downloaded
- Use a Trello board to concentrate efforts and communications [Access it here](#)
- SSF-GSF: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7737en/>
- Monthly IYAFa 2022 Newsletter from November 2021 (soon)

- Attached the IYFA logo in vertical and horizontal version



CLOSING REMARKS

By Ms. Malinee Smithrithee
SEAFDEC Secretary-General

My Co-Chair, *Mr. Buoy Roitana*,
Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Representative from the ASEAN Secretariat,
SEAFDEC Senior Officials,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Congratulations,

After the long discussion and deliberation, we have finally come to the last session of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP. Please allow me to express my sincere thanks to my Co-chair for his effort in chairing this Meeting with me. I also would like to thank all participants for your cooperation and support during the discussion that enabled us to reach significant conclusion. My special thanks also to the Government of Japan for the financial and technical support provided to SEAFDEC for over five decades. During the meeting, we are very happy to hear that our works are useful and have been adopted to be implemented by the Member Countries. That information has strengthened our working spirit to the fullest.

As an immediate way forward, SEAFDEC would submit the results from this Meeting to the next SEAFDEC Council meeting; while this would also be submitted under the ASEAN mechanism through the ASWGFi Meeting for notification or endorsement to the higher authorities of ASEAN.

With that, I now declare the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership closed.

Thank you once again for your cooperation and stay safe. Have a Good day!