



SEAFDEC NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 2 April–June 2022

BANGKOK, THAILAND, ISSN 0857 - 233X

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EDITORIAL

During the second quarter of 2022, one of the highlighted events of SEAFDEC was the Fifty-fourth Meeting of SEAFDEC Council (54CM), where the progress and achievement of SEAFDEC activities in 2021 as well as the proposed program of activities to be undertaken in 2022 were reported. The international/regional fisheries-related issues that were discussed include regional initiatives for combating IUU fishing, plan for development of the positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of commercially exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices, fishery subsidies, U.S. MMPA, and roadmap and key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030.

Moreover, several regional meetings were organized including the Regional

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SEAFDEC convenes the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the Council



At the kind invitation of the Government of Malaysia through its Department of Fisheries Malaysia as the host, the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was convened on 23 and 25 May 2022 through an online platform due to the situation brought by the COVID-19.

In attendance at the Meeting were the Council Directors and delegations from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, as well as officials from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, and representatives from collaborating organizations. The Opening Session of the Meeting was held on 23 May 2022 and was presided over by the Director-General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries and the SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR, *Mrs. Vilayphone Vorraphim*. The Meeting unanimously elected the Council Director for Malaysia,

Mr. Haji Mohd Sufian bin Sulaiman, as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2022–2023.

While taking note of the progress and achievements of SEAFDEC programs in 2021, the Council approved the proposed programs of activities to be undertaken in 2022 ensuring that the implementation would correspond to the priorities and needs of the countries in the region.

On the regional initiatives for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the Council acknowledged the progress made by SEAFDEC in sustaining the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over, and that the vessel data is to be updated regularly by the respective ASEAN Member States (AMSs) to ensure that the RFVR Database could be used effectively to combat IUU fishing; enhancing the regional cooperation to support the implementation of port State measures (PSM); and promoting the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS).

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EDITORIAL

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Workshop on Finalization of the Key Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030 which discussed the results of the trial exercise and finalized the key indicators and timeframe for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. The Regional Workshop for the Finalization of the Study Report on Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector was also conducted which came up with the final version of the study report that was subsequently submitted to the 54CM.

In continuing its close cooperation and collaboration with regional/international agencies/organizations such as ASEAN Secretariat, SEAFDEC attended the 12th ASA, 14th AFCF, and 30th ASWGF Meeting to report the progress of the implementation of several policy frameworks under the ASEAN cooperation in fisheries. SEAFDEC also participated in relevant fora to share the results of its projects and activities and experiences with partners on the various aspects including efforts of the AMSs to combat IUU fishing, traceability system, safety of fish and fishery products, small-scale fisheries and market access, fisheries subsidies, CITES, and others.

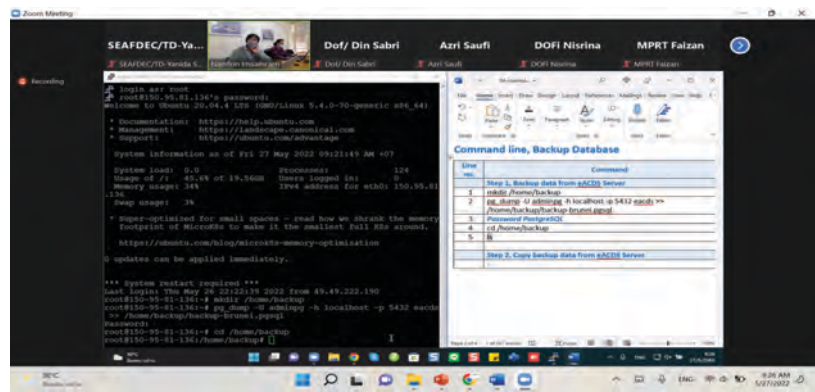
SEAFDEC also sustained the conduct of several training and workshops including culture of mangrove crab, seaweeds, and algae; eACDS application; EAFM for inland fisheries; and fish handling techniques onboard fishing vessels. Moreover, SEAFDEC, in collaboration with USAID, organized training-workshops on funding requirements and budget preparation to enhance the capacity of SEAFDEC to receive funding support from USAID in the future.

Furthermore, SEAFDEC welcomed new officials, namely: *Dr. Tomoko Nakazato* as SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of TD, *Dr. Masahito Hirota* as Deputy Chief of MFRDMD, and *Mr. Tomohito Shimizu* as Deputy Chief of IFRDMD. ☒

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Online Training on Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server for Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia

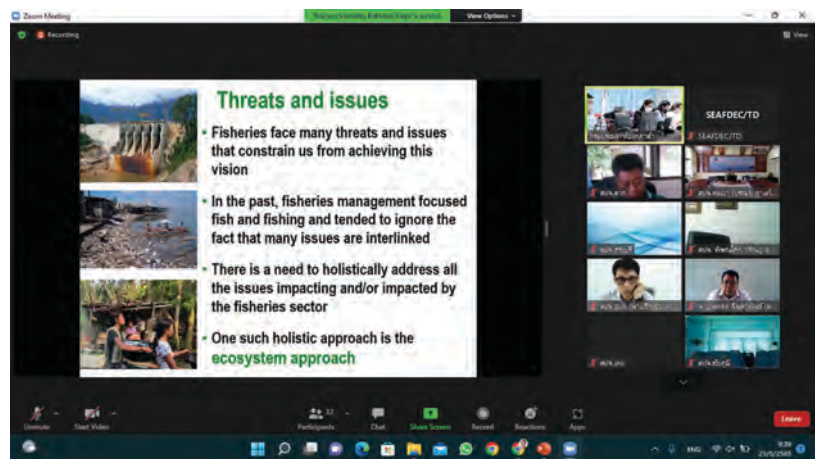


SEAFDEC/TD organized the “Online Training on Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server” via the Zoom platform on 26–27 May 2022 for Brunei Darussalam and on 9–10 June 2022 for Malaysia. The Training was intended to enhance the understanding of the technical staff of the respective countries of the preparation and installation of the eACDS application to their server by transferring the eACDS application as a prototype for traceability of fish and fishery products. The Training was an

activity under the project “Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia.”

The electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) is a software for enhancing the traceability of fish and fishery products from fishing to plate which was developed by SEAFDEC with the support from the Japanese Trust Fund and implemented in participating AMSs upon their requirement. ☒

TD organizes Lead EAFM Training for Inland Fisheries

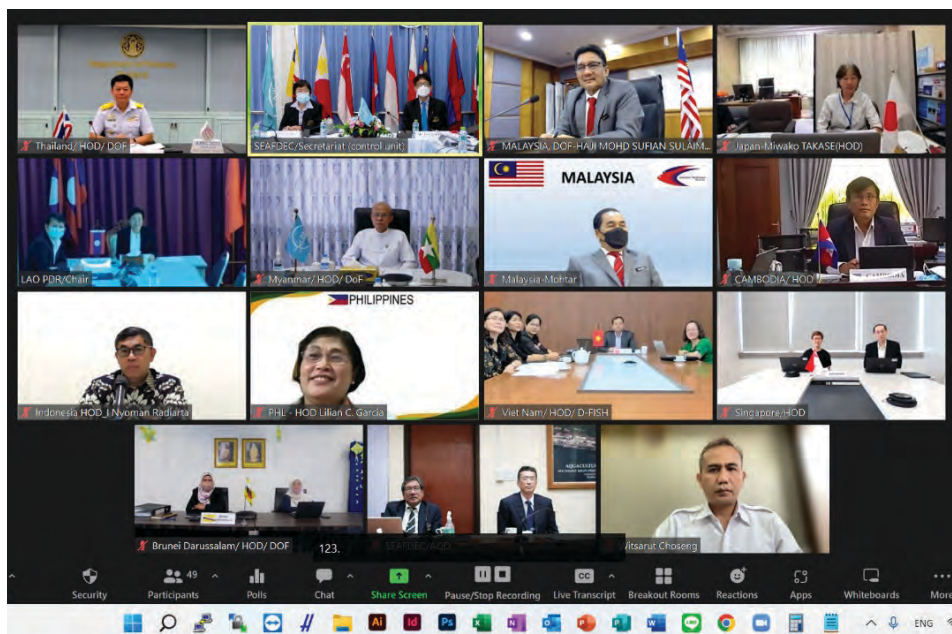


SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Thailand organized the “Training Course on Lead Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) for Inland Fisheries” on 25 May 2022 through the online platform and face-to-face at the headquarters of the DOF Thailand. A total of 34 participants including fisheries officers from the DOF Thailand and staff from TD attended the

Training. The aims of the Training were to improve the understanding of the EAFM at different levels of government and across sectors as well as to understand the need for developing capacity towards the implementation of the EAFM concept. This activity was under the Departmental Program “Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Enhancing Human Capacity Building” of TD. ☒

SEAFDEC convenes the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the Council

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Moreover, the Council discussed several international fisheries-related issues. Noting that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is planning to organize its 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, the Council supported SEAFDEC in the organization of the Regional Technical Consultation in August 2022 to discuss and come up with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/coordinated positions on the proposed listing of commercially exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices. On the negotiation of Fisheries Subsidies under the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Council took note of the updated information on the discussion and expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for organizing a series of Training Workshops that provided capacity building on stock assessment for the Member Countries to fulfill the WTO requirements. In addition, with regards to the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) the Council noted the results of the Webinar on Regional Responses to the U.S. MMPA, and requested SEAFDEC to further coordinate with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) to provide technical support to enable the AMSs to fulfill the U.S. MMPA requirements.

With regard to the 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 (RES&POA-2030), the Council took note of the progress made by SEAFDEC in conducting the “RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Development of the Key Indicators and Detailed Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation” in March 2022 and that the draft key indicators will be finalized at the Second Regional Workshop scheduled in June 2022.

The Council acknowledged the publication “The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022” produced by SEAFDEC to provide information on the status, issues, challenges, and outlook of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. The Council also took note of the results of the “Study on the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries” undertaken by SEAFDEC

providing a set of recommendations to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 and revive the fisheries and aquaculture sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

Noting that the “Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants” of Japan will enter into force on 1 December 2022, the Council welcomed and approved the proposal of Japan for SEAFDEC to jointly conduct the Webinar on Japan’s Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in late July or August 2022.

On the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 which was granted by the Government of Japan to SEAFDEC in 2004, proposals were put forward by some Member Countries such as Thailand and the Philippines for utilizing the research vessel in 2022; while the survey plan utilizing the research vessel by Myanmar in the near future would also be discussed and finalized within 2022.

The Council appreciated the extension of close cooperation and collaboration between SEAFDEC and other regional/international agencies/organizations, including the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), in undertaking activities towards sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region.

At the closing of the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Council extended its appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for the excellent hosting of the Meeting. The Council then announced that the Fifty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2023 would be hosted by the Government of Myanmar. ❖

DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

SEAFDEC organizes two in-house trainings to share knowledge on USAID funding requirements



SEAFDEC Secretariat organized two in-house training courses including the “USAID Funding Requirements” and “USAID Budget Preparation” on 12 and 17 May 2022, respectively, at SEAFDEC/TD in Samut Prakan Province, Thailand. The Training courses were supported by the Sustainable Fish

Asia Local Capacity Development-Capacity Strengthening Initiative (SUFIA LCD/CSI) which is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The trainings were attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, senior officials, and staff from TD and the Secretariat

including project implementation related officer, information, research, training, finance, human resource, procurement, and administrative officers.

During the first training, the USAID Rules & Regulations: Grants & Cooperative Agreements, Financial Management for USAID Fundings, USAID Procurement: Grants and Cooperative Agreements, USAID Subaward Management, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning were introduced and discussed. In the second training, the discussion focused on the USAID budget preparation. The two activities enhanced the capacity of SEAFDEC for compliance as a public international organization to receive funding support from the USAID in the coming years.



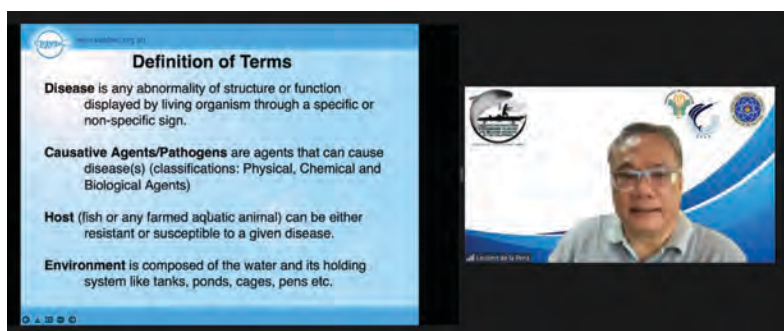
IFRDMD organizes Workshop on Improving Women’s Participation in Inland Fishery Activities

Women play important roles and contribute significantly to sustainable fisheries development. Nevertheless, there is a need to improve the level of women’s participation in the decision-making process in the fishery sector and access to and control of the resources and benefits. Toward this, SEAFDEC/IFRDMD organized the “Workshop on Improving Women’s Participation in Inland Fishery Activities to Support Family Welfare” on 15 June 2022 in Patra Tani Village and Gedung Buruk Village, Muara Enim Regency, South Sumatra Province, Indonesia. Lecturers from Sriwijaya University, *Dr. Dade Jubaidah*, *Dr. Indah Widyastuti*, and *Dr. Fauziyah*, were invited to share their knowledge of freshwater fish culture, fish processing, and fishing gear.

The Workshop was participated by 21 local women who are engaged in fishing and fish processing. During the Workshop, the women exercised the simple, low-cost, and eco-friendly fish culture methods.



AQD scientist lectures on marine fish diseases



Scientist and Head of the Research Division of SEAFDEC/AQD, *Dr. Leobert de la Peña*, talked about the “Diseases in Marine Finfish Farming in the Philippines” to fisheries professionals during the training organized by the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and

Aquatic Resources-National Fisheries Development Center (BFAR-NFDC). The lecture was delivered on the third day of the training titled “Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Training on the Production Practices and Strategies to Boost the Milkfish Industry

in the Philippines” which ran from 25 to 29 April 2022 *via* the Zoom platform.

The five-day virtual event gathered fisheries professionals from all over the Philippines to enhance their knowledge about the operation, management, and production practices of a milkfish hatchery; understand the different commercial grow-out practices for milkfish in earthen ponds and sea cages in the Philippines; develop awareness of how to mitigate problems related to feeds and feeding management; as well as be updated about the local and export markets of milkfish. ✂

Eel research up at AQD



Eel juveniles collected from Calaca, Batangas, Philippines, were stocked at SEAFDEC/AQD's Multi-species Freshwater Hatchery in Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines on 25 April 2022. The *Anguilla bicolor pacifica* eels, weighing 250 g each, will be studied at the hatchery, where researchers will track their growth, feeding behavior, and reproductive performance. AQD aims to develop hatchery techniques for anguillid eels to address the dwindling population in the wild. Their potential for aquaculture will also be investigated. Moreover, eel juveniles *Monopterus albus* from Concepcion, Iloilo were also stocked on 8 February 2022 in the same hatchery where they are now being studied.

This project on eels is part of the Joint Mission for Accelerated Nationwide Technology Transfer Program (JMANTTP II), a collaborative project between AQD and the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. ✂

TD conducts fisheries management activities in Ranong Province, Thailand

Under the project “Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources” supported by the Japanese Trust Fund, SEAFDEC/TD has conducted a series of fisheries management activities at the pilot site in Ban Hat Sai Khao Village in Ranong Province, Thailand.

The training course on fisheries laws and regulations was organized on 22 June 2022 to enhance the knowledge of fisheries law and regulations as well as Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

(MCS) of the fisheries officers and local fishers. Moreover, the meeting with local fishers in the pilot site was organized in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Thailand from 23 to 24 June 2022. The meeting was intended to raise the awareness of the local fishers and other stakeholders of the importance of aquatic resources conservation and management through the establishment of a “Squid Bank” where the members of the Bank deposit the donated squid eggs until hatched. ✂



DOST-6 eyes partnership with AQD for hatchery project



The Philippine Department of Science and Technology Region 6 (DOST-6) sought the assistance of SEAFDEC/AQD to construct a private hatchery for marine fish in Capiz, Philippines. DOST-6 personnel, together with their private sector client, met with AQD officials on 23 June 2022 at AQD Tigbauan Main

Station in Iloilo, Philippines to discuss the details of the proposed project. DOST-6 requested the assistance of AQD in conducting a feasibility study on the proposed site of a small-scale marine fish hatchery in Panitan, Capiz, and to come up with the hatchery design. It was also discussed during the meeting that when the hatchery is ready to operate, the private company will send its technicians to be trained at AQD and an AQD expert will oversee the initial operation of the hatchery facility. ❖

AQD's opinion sought on proposed "closed season" of Iloilo River



The Iloilo City Agriculturist Office, a government office in Iloilo City, Philippines, requested SEAFDEC/AQD to provide an expert opinion on the proposed "closed season" of the Iloilo River during a meeting on 6 April 2022 in Iloilo City, Philippines. The Iloilo City government team is intending to amend the existing ordinance to include closed/off-season to regulate the fishing activities and conserve the population of fish such as sea bass (*Lates calcarifer*) in the river.

AQD researcher, *Ms. Erish Estante-Superio* stated that the spawning season of sea bass at the AQD hatchery is from April to October. Also, based on AQD

published manual, 2–8 kg of sea bass spawners may be collected from the mouth of the river from June to October. However, the closed season needs to be backed with more data. So far, the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has conducted a rapid assessment but further assessments by the National Stock Assessment Program (NSAP) will be conducted to come up with data to declare a closed season.

The closed season is defined in the Philippine Republic Act No. 10654 as a period in which the taking of specified fish species by specified fishing gear is prohibited in a specified area. ❖

Sea turtle released by AQD after months of rehabilitation



A female olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) that was turned over to SEAFDEC/AQD FishWorld Museum in 2021 was released back into the sea in Barotac Viejo, Iloilo, Philippines on 17 June 2022. The sea turtle was rescued in 15 October 2021 after it was found floating on the water and was brought to FishWorld by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Sara, Iloilo. It measured 67 cm long and 69 cm wide and weighed about 26 kg.

According to FishWorld Officer-in-Charge, *Ms. Hananiah Sollesta-Pitogo*, the sea turtle was not eating when it was turned over, hence, the museum staff administered vitamins and antibiotics. After which, the sea turtle began eating on its own in January 2022. This activity was one way of showing AQD's support for coastal and marine conservation. ❖

In-person and online aquaculture training done by AQD

In-person training courses on mangrove crab, seaweed, and algal culture were held between April and June 2022 at SEAFDEC/AQD, along with an online course on giant freshwater prawn culture.

A total of 16 participants from the Philippines completed the training courses on mangrove crab culture with five trainees from the Mindanao State University Maguindanao Campus who attended the training course on “Mangrove Crab Hatchery and Nursery Operations” from 19 April to 3 May 2022 at AQD Tigbauan Main Station (TMS) in Iloilo, Philippines. Another five trainees, who are members of the Isla de Pitogo Mangrove Crab Association, Inc., an organization based in Bohol, Philippines, participated in the “Mangrove Crab Nursery and Grow-out Operations” training course conducted in TMS from 16 to 25 May 2022. Moreover, the training course on mangrove crab hatchery operations was conducted by AQD for six participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Philippines. The training course was held at TMS from 6 to 24 June 2022.

Depending on the culture phase covered, the training courses on mangrove crab included lectures and hands-on activities on mangrove crab biology and species identification; site selection; hatchery design and construction; broodstock management; pond design and construction; nursery and grow-out management; nutrition and feed formulation; health and disease prevention; and economics.

Three members of Isdabest, a social enterprise that supports the livelihood of fishers in their project areas in Luzon, Philippines, also completed the specialized training course on seaweed culture from 16 to 30 May 2022. The Training, held mainly at TMS, included



*A participant of the training course on “Mangrove Crab Hatchery and Nursery Operations” learns to identify a mangrove crab during a practical activity on the biology and identification of *Scylla* species.*



*The participant of the training on “Algal Culture and Isolation Techniques” learns how to scale up the microalgae *Nanochlorum**



*An AQD technical staff shows the seaweed *Kappaphycus* to trainees*

lectures and practical sessions such as sustainable aquaculture concepts and principles; micropropagation of *K. alvarezii*; propagule monitoring and sampling; seaweed hatchery operations; grow-out culture of *Kappaphycus*; water quality monitoring; and practical carrageenan extraction. The trainees also went to Pandan, Antique, Philippines to visit a commercial seaweed producer.

The online training course on giant freshwater prawn hatchery and grow-out operations held on 17–19 May 2022 was completed by twelve participants, which was consisted of live and recorded lectures, live discussions with AQD

experts, and video demonstrations. The modules covered the research, practicality, and economic considerations in farming the giant freshwater prawn, *Macrobrachium rosenbergii*.

Another face-to-face training course titled “Algal Culture and Isolation Techniques” was held at TMS from 13 to 21 June 2022. This course had a sole participant from the Philippines who attended the training to expand her skills in algal culture using various media and isolation techniques such as the streak plate, micropipette, and microdilution techniques.



AQD and BFAR-6 discuss proposed hatchery project

SEAFDEC/AQD and the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 6 (BFAR-6) convened on 19 April 2022 at AQD's Main Station in Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines to discuss updates on the proposed establishment of a multispecies marine hatchery in Antique, Philippines.



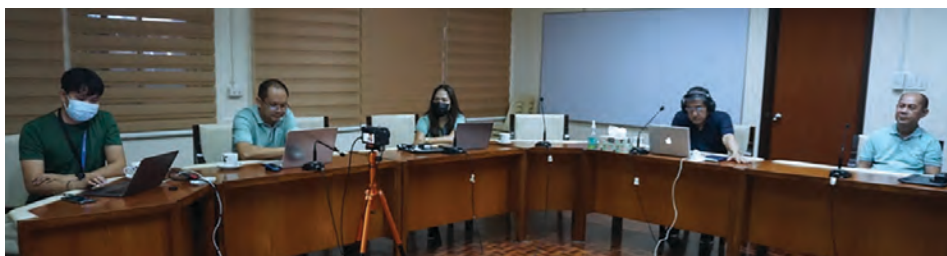
During the meeting, BFAR-6 reported the status of the proposed multispecies hatcheries in Western Visayas and the requirements for the preparation and submission of feasibility study reports. The AQD team, working on the feasibility studies of legislated hatcheries

in Western Visayas with funding support from BFAR, presented the preliminary results of the market study on a legislated hatchery in Tibiao, Antique. The team

also presented their recommendations to BFAR-6 for the project to be profitable and sustainable. ❖

Zamboanga Sibugay taps AQD for agri-fishery modernization

The expertise of SEAFDEC/AQD was sought by government officials from Zamboanga Sibugay, a province in Mindanao, Philippines, as they laid their plans for a more modern agriculture and fisheries sector in the province.



In a consultative meeting held on 16 June 2022, provincial officers from Zamboanga Sibugay requested experts from AQD to review the concepts, strategies, and objectives of a proposed

workshop that focuses on formulating a modernization roadmap for its agri-fishery sector. Last 5 May 2022, the province also contacted AQD for

technical assistance and guidance in the establishment of a small-scale oyster hatchery in their locality. ❖

In-house Training on the Introduction of Policies and Concept on Human Resources Management



SEAFDEC/TD, in collaboration with the Research Triangle Institute (RTI International) under the Master

Service Agreement, organized the "In-house Training on the Introduction of Three Policies and Concept of Human

Resources Management" on 7 April 2022 at its premises in Samut Prakan Province, Thailand. The objective of the Training was to enhance the understanding of the participants of the importance of culture and principles of good governance for a successful organization. A total of 33 staff from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and TD participated in the Training.

During the Training, the code of ethics and conduct, guidelines for preventing conflicts of interest, and anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies were introduced. Moreover, the concept of human resources management and importance of gender equality and social inclusion were also imparted to the participants. ❖

IFRDMD Deputy Chief delivers lecture at Riau University, Indonesia



The Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/IFRDMD, *Mr. Tomohito Shimizu*, delivered a lecture entitled “A Release Project on Salmon” at the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Riau University, Indonesia on 2 June 2022. *Mr. Shimizu* shared his experience while

working at the Chitose Field Station, Hokkaido National Fisheries Research Institute, Fisheries Research Agency, Japan. The participants of the Lecture include students and lecturers from the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Riau University.

In his presentation, *Mr. Shimizu* talked about the life cycle of salmon, an anadromous fish that hatches in freshwater, migrates to the ocean, then returns to freshwater to reproduce. However, populations of several salmon species are restricted to freshwater throughout their lives. He also explained the process of releasing salmon to the sea which includes the capturing of adult salmon returning to the natal river, stocking of adults for maturation, artificial fertilization, egg management, rearing of hatched larvae, feeding salmon fry, and releasing the 5 cm or 1 g salmon fry. Salmon is a popular fish and commands a high price in Riau Province, Indonesia. ❖

Stakeholders visit AQD facilities to seek collaboration



AQD associate researcher *Marinelle Espino* answers queries about the oyster hatchery's activities from *MSU Naawan* officials during their tour of *AQD's* hatchery facilities in *Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines*

With the easing of travel restrictions, stakeholders from the public and private sectors are once again flocking to SEAFDEC/AQD stations to tour and observe the operations of its aquaculture facilities in Iloilo and Guimaras, Philippines. Officials from the Mindanao State University (MSU) Naawan, a university in Misamis Oriental, Philippines, toured the AQD facilities in Tigbauan, Iloilo on 5 April 2022 and discussed with AQD Chief, *Mr. Dan Baliao*, the possible partnership in research, information sharing, and

training. Moreover, officials from the Iloilo State College of Fisheries Barotac Nuevo Main Campus also visited on 27 April to discuss the acceptance of their students for on-the-job training.

Technical and engineering personnel of the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region 8 also visited AQD Tigbauan Main Station and Igang Marine Station on 22 June 2022 to observe hatchery and cage culture operations. On 22–23 June, a group from BFAR Mimaropa Region



AQD technical staff shows an abalone broodstock reared at the Department's abalone hatchery in *Tigbauan, Iloilo* to the visitors from the Philippines' Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 8

also toured the Tigbauan and Igang stations and met with the AQD Chief to seek technical assistance in operating a central hatchery that will be established in their area.

Between April and June, several private companies engaged in aquaculture, seafood processing, and logistics, that were interested in AQD activities and technologies, also met with the AQD Chief, discussed possible partnerships, and toured the Department's facilities. ❖

SPECIAL REPORT

Estimating the age of *Euthynnus affinis* through hard part analysis

Annie Nunis Billy, Raihana Abdul Rahman, Nik Zuraini Nawawi Omar, and Mohamad Syahidan Azmi
SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

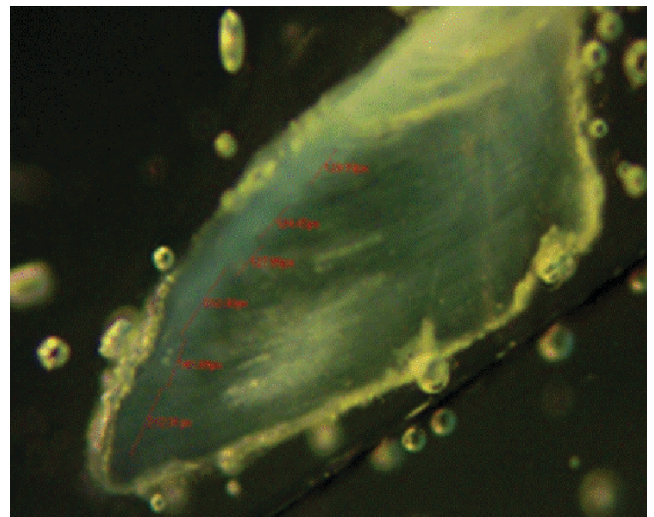
Tunas belong to the family Scombridae and are categorized into oceanic tunas, neritic tunas, and tuna-like species. While neritic tunas are most often found in the waters of Southeast Asia, notably the Andaman Sea (AS) and South China Sea (SCS), oceanic tunas roam across a distance of a thousand kilometers (SEAFDEC, 2017). The most commonly fished oceanic and neritic tunas in the region include skipjack, yellowfin, albacore, bigeye, striped bonito, longtail, kawakawa, and frigate tunas. Neritic tunas are captured using purse seines, drift gillnets, and falling gear (Siriraksophon *et al.*, 2013).

In Malaysia, kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) is an economically significant neritic tuna; however, there is a lack of biological knowledge of this species and the fishery resource is threatened to be overexploited (SEAFDEC, 2022). Estimating the age and reproductive cycle could support the conservation and management of *E. affinis* populations in Malaysian waters. Besides, length-weight correlations are also essential in determining the average weight of fish at a particular length, body condition, growth rates, and age patterns of the dynamics of fish populations (Abdullah & Zain, 2019).

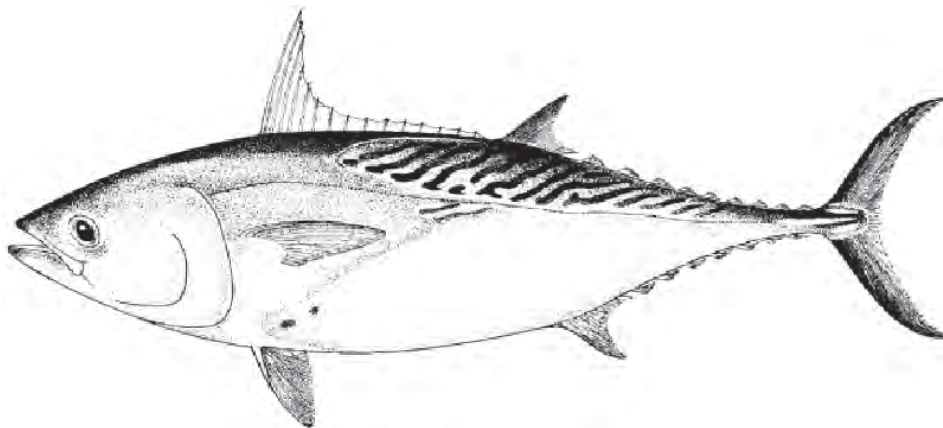
SEAFDEC/MFRDMD is currently conducting a study to determine the age of kawakawa at the time of fishing mortality. The study is under the project “Fish Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region” implemented from 2020 to 2024 supported by the Japanese Trust Fund VI Phase II. The findings of this study could aid the population research and stock management of *E. affinis* to

enhance the development of fisheries management measures such as the regulation of fishing gear.

For the preliminary study, a total of 370 samples of *E. affinis* were collected from the two fish ports in Malaysia, *i.e.* Tok Bali in Kelantan and Kuala Besut in Terengganu, which were caught by purse seine from the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The length (mm) and weight (g) of each fish sample were recorded. The monthly sampling was from January to December 2020; however, no samples were collected in March due to COVID-19 restrictions in the country, and no samples were collected in November and December due to the northeast monsoon.



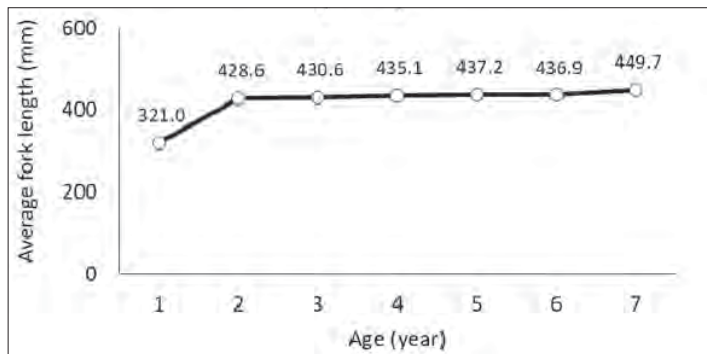
Cross-section of the otolith of *Euthynnus affinis* under the light compound microscope with 40× magnification



Euthynnus affinis (Photo: Collette & Nauen, 1983)

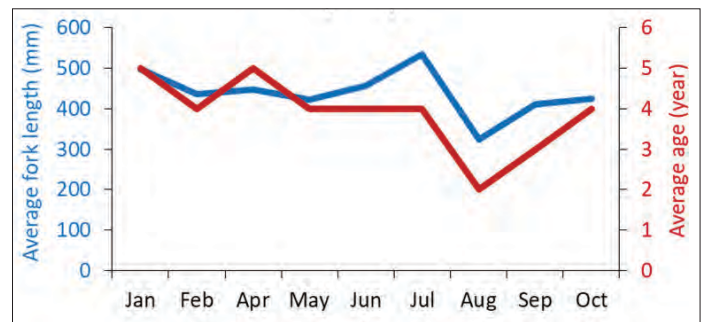
The hard part analysis was employed in this study which is the most precise and dependable technique to determine the growth parameters of fish by examining the hard component of the body (e.g. otolith) (Morales-Nin, 1992). The development of otolith is proportional to the size of fish and typically follows an allometric rise in dimensions when measuring the age of a fish (Jawad *et al.*, 2011). In this study, a total of 180 otolith samples were extracted from *E. affinis* samples and examined. The opaque zone of the otolith sample which represented the annuli ring was counted to determine the age of the fish samples.

The results revealed that the *E. affinis* samples (n = 180) had a fork length (FL) range of 232–601 mm and an average of 437 mm. Based on the analyzed otolith samples (n = 180), the age range of the fish samples was between one year and seven years and the average age was four years. Therefore, this study confirmed the linear correlation between FL and annuli rings of the otolith samples.



Correlation between fork length and age of *Euthynnus affinis* samples from the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia in 2020 (n=180)

From August to October, the samples of *E. affinis* seemed to be immature (FL = 232–481 mm; age = 1–6 years). Considering the preliminary results of this study, the fisheries management authority could propose a closed fishing season, especially from August to October when this species is in the process of stock-recruitment. Another management option is to increase the mesh size of purse seines from the current 78 mm to a maximum of 100 mm during the stock-recruitment phase to avoid growth overfishing. Alternatively, the fish samples appeared to be mature (FL = 392–601 mm; age = 2–7 years) from January to July, thus, the open fishing season on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia could be imposed during those months.



Average fork length and average age of *Euthynnus affinis* samples from the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia by month in 2020 (n=180)

MFRDMD would continue collecting more fish samples and analyzing otolith samples to generate more reliable data. The information that will be obtained from this study would support the development of science-based management measures to sustain and manage the *E. affinis* resource in Malaysia and other countries in the Southeast Asian region.

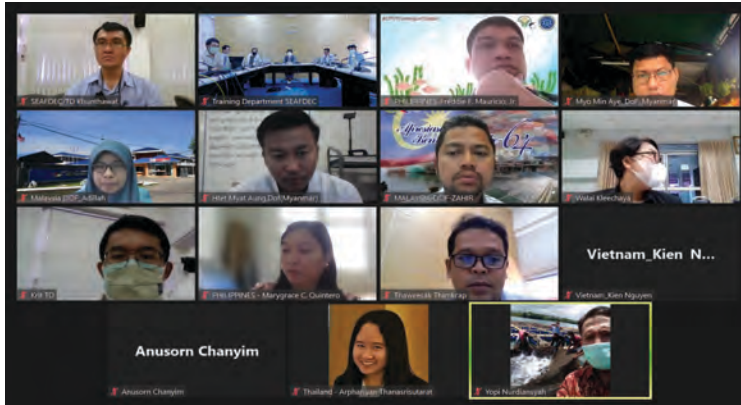
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REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Regional Training Course on Fish Handling Techniques



The “Online Regional Training Course of Fish Handling Techniques Onboard Fishing Vessels” was organized by SEAFDEC/TD from 28 to 30 June 2022 via the Zoom platform. Supported by Japanese Trust Fund, the Training was attended by 14 trainees from

the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), namely: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. During the Training, the trainees learned about the simple techniques on the application of hygienic environment/user-friendly

fish handling tools to maintain the quality of the catch onboard fishing vessels. In addition, the practical skills and concepts related to the reduction of post-harvest losses in fisheries, including fish handling techniques, ice storage, preservation techniques, and transportation of fishery products were imparted to the trainees. The resource persons of the Training are experts from the Faculty of Fisheries, Kasetsart University, *Dr. Jirapa Hinsui* and *Dr. Walai Kleechaya*, as well as *Mr. Pawared Intuserdha* from the Department of Fisheries, Thailand. This Training is an activity under the project “Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice.”



SEAFDEC organizes the Regional Workshop for the Finalization of the Study Report on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries



SEAFDEC Secretariat organized the virtual “Regional Workshop for the Finalization of the Study Report on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries” on 20 April 2022. The Workshop was attended by the representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia,

Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam as well as the SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General and senior officials and officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. During the workshop, the data and information provided by the countries were verified. The workshop also came up with the recommendations to mitigate the impacts

of COVID-19. The final version of the Study Report was subsequently submitted to the 54th SEAFDEC Council Meeting in May 2022. The Study was part of the project “Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues” supported by the Japanese Trust Fund.



SEAFDEC attends a series of ASEAN virtual meetings



At the kind invitation of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) of Indonesia, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, and senior officials of SEAFDEC Secretariat, attended a series of ASEAN meetings, namely: 12th ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (12th ASA), 14th Meeting of ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (14th AFCF), and 30th Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (30th ASWGF) on 20, 21, and 22–23 June 2022, respectively.

During the 12th ASA, the progress of activities under the Plan of Action of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance 2020–

2025 was noted. Subsequently, during the 14th AFCF Meeting, SEAFDEC provided updates on the progress of the implementation of its relevant activities in 2021 and planned activities in 2022 under fisheries priority areas, namely: fishing capacity and zoning system, securing sustainable small-scale fisheries, resource rehabilitation and enhancements, impacts of climate change on fisheries, combating IUU fishing, and traceability of fisheries and aquaculture products. Moreover, considering that the 13th AFCF in 2021 agreed on seeking technical support from SEAFDEC to provide the regional platform for sharing of information in response to the U.S. Marine Mammals

Protection Act (U.S. MMPA), the results of the “Webinar on Regional Responses to the U.S. MMPA” organized by SEAFDEC on 2–3 November 2021 was reported to the 14th AFCF.

As for the 30th ASWGF, SEAFDEC reported the key outcomes of the 24th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (24FCG/ASSP) which was convened virtually on 24–25 November 2021. Specifically, the 30th ASWGF took note of the progress of 16 ongoing projects under the FCG/ASSP mechanism implemented in 2021–2022; four new projects to commence in 2022; and three pipeline projects which would be placed under the FCG/ASSP mechanism once the funding could be confirmed. Specifically, the ASEAN Lead Countries were nominated for the new projects to commence in 2022. During the 30th ASWGF, a number of ASEAN Member States (AMSs) also expressed their appreciation to SEAFDEC for sustaining cooperation, especially with the financial support of the Government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund which had contributed to enhancing the capacity of the AMSs in promoting sustainable development of the fisheries sector.



SEAFDEC updates on efforts to combat IUU fishing at EAS Workshop



The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, delivered a statement during the virtual “East Asia Summit (EAS) Workshop on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing” on 12 April 2022, which was co-hosted by the governments of India and Singapore. *Ms. Malinee’s*

statement on the efforts of the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) to combat IUU fishing underscored the regional policy documents on the prevention of the IUU fishing including the “Joint ASEAN-SEAFDEC Declaration on Regional Cooperation for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Enhancing the Competitiveness of ASEAN Fish and Fishery Products” and the “Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030.” She also shared the initiatives of SEAFDEC such as the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing

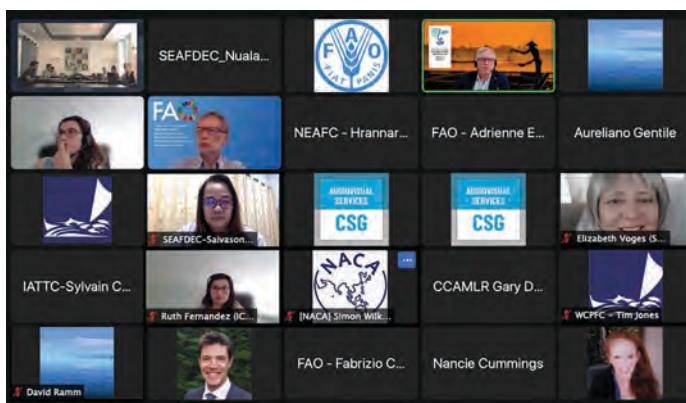
the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain, the Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 Meters in Length and Over (RFVR-24m), electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) for Marine Capture Fisheries, capacity building for human resources to implement of the port State measures through the cooperation among the AMSs.

The delivery of the statement can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtdOUUntbG0&t=7s>



SEAFDEC takes part in the Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Group and the 27th Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics

SEAFDEC Information Program Coordinator *Ms. Nualanong Tongdee* and Senior Information Officer *Ms. Saivason Klinsukhon* attended the “Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Groups” on 20–23 June 2022 and “27th Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (27CWP)” on 24 June 2022 through the online platform. Hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the two Meetings were participated in by thirteen partners of the CWP including SEAFDEC. The aim of the Meetings was to discuss the progress made by the partners in relation to its scopes and frameworks as well as the activities and achievements of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Groups after the 26CWP held in 2019 *i.e.* revision of the CWP Handbook and web pages; works by the ad-hoc Task Groups on Catch Concepts, Fishing Effort Concepts, Aquaculture, Reference Harmonization for Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics, and Best Practices for Streamlining Statistical data workflow. Moreover, to the Meetings also discussed the works

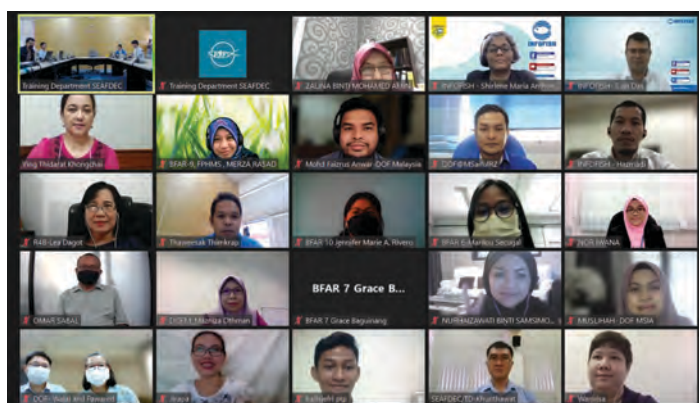


to be undertaken until the next 28CWP, and the results from the Intersessional Meetings were submitted to and adopted by the 27CWP.

During the Intersessional Meeting, *Ms. Saivason* reported the progress of SEAFDEC activities in relation to fisheries statistics during the first half of 2022 including the publication “Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022” which made use of statistics and information to support the reporting of the status and trends of fisheries in the region. She also reported the plan of SEAFDEC to organize the “Second Regional Technical

Consultation on Fishery Statistics and Information of Southeast Asia” on 23–26 August 2022 to discuss with the ASEAN Member States the revision of the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia which was adopted since 2007 specifically the parts of marine and inland capture production, aquaculture, fishers and fish farmers, and producer prices. In this connection, SEAFDEC looks forward to the support from FAO in the process of streamlining the Regional Framework with standards, definitions, and classifications adopted by the CWP. ✦

SEAFDEC organizes tailor-made training course for INFOFISH members



SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with INFOFISH organized a tailor-made “Online Training Course on Fish Handling Technique Onboard Fishing Vessel” from 10 to 12 May 2022. There were 42 participants in the Training including fisheries officers, fisheries extension officers, and fishers from the INFOFISH Member Countries. The

aim of the Training was to transfer the knowledge of hygienic environment/user-friendly fish handling tools through simple techniques to maintain the quality of the catch onboard fishing vessels. In addition, practical skills and concepts related to the reduction of post-harvest losses in fisheries including fish handling techniques, ice storage, preservation

techniques, and transportation of fishery products were also discussed during the Training. The resource persons were the experts from the Faculty of Fisheries of Kasetsart University, namely: *Dr. Jirapa Hinsui*, *Dr. Walai Kleechaya*, and *Mr. Pawared Inthuserdha*.

INFOFISH is an intergovernmental organization providing marketing information and technical advisory services to the fishery industry of the Asia-Pacific region and beyond from its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Twelve countries are currently members of INFOFISH, namely: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. ✦

Eel research at AQD on spotlight in int'l conference

The anguillid eel research of SEAFDEC/AQD was presented by the AQD Scientist, *Dr. Maria Rowena R. Eguia*, during the 4th JAAP International Research and Development Conference (JAAP-IRDC4) held on 23–25 June 2022 in El Nido, Palawan, Philippines. Her presentation, “Revitalising the Anguillid Eel Industry in the Philippines in the Post-COVID Era,” was delivered during the Plenary and Scientific Talks session on the first day of the Conference.

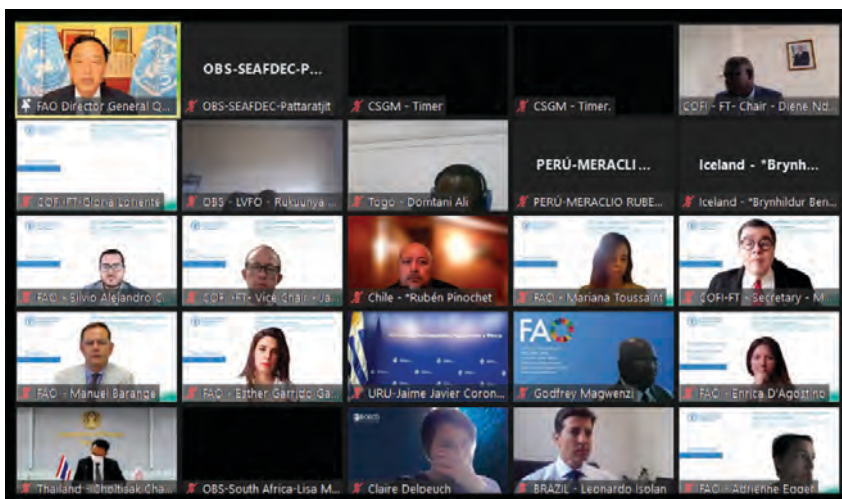


Dr. Eguia, who is also the Vice President of the JSPS Alumni Association of the Philippines (JAAP), emphasized the importance of promoting anguillid eel research in the country. She gave a brief discussion about anguillid eels and the reasons why the eel industry was thriving pre-pandemic. She also discussed the status of tropical eel stocks in Southeast Asia and the Philippines, as well as the impact of the pandemic on the country's eel fishery. She elaborated

that due to commercial trade, these eels are among the most sought-after aquatic species, particularly in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China. The decline of temperate eel populations such as the European (*Anguilla anguilla*), American (*Anguilla rostrata*), and Japanese (*Anguilla japonica*) eels has also shifted demand from the American and European markets to tropical eel species caught and farmed in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines.

In response to rising market demand, SEAFDEC launched a study from 2017 to 2019 to investigate the utilization, abundance, and status of the eel fishery in Southeast Asia; eel population genetic structure; development of refined culture methods to improve eel survival rates from glass eel stage to elver; and formulate eel resource management policies in Southeast Asia. The Study was supported by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). ❖

SEAFDEC joins virtual Eighteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade



SEAFDEC was invited to attend virtually the “18th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade of the Committee on Fisheries (18COFI:FT)” which was hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on 7–9 and 20 June 2022. The 18COFI:FT was attended by over 180 participants including

delegates from FAO members and observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The 18COFI:FT provided the forum for the member countries to review the progress of works of FAO and member nations related to international trade of fish and fishery products as well as to provide guidance to FAO for future

work priorities. During the plenary sessions, FAO presented a number of topics *i.e.* recent trends in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, food safety and quality of fisheries and aquaculture products, and update on FAO work on traceability under the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes and on scoping paper and future developments on social responsibility.

In line with the agenda of the 18COFI:FT, SEAFDEC has several ongoing regional programs and initiatives that support the ASEAN Member States to address global and emerging issues such as combating IUU fishing and traceability system, safety of fish and fishery products, small-scale fisheries and market access, fisheries subsidies, CITES, and others. ❖

SEAFDEC attends 2022 UN Ocean Conference

The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Ms. Malinee Smithrithee, and Policy and Program Coordinator of the SEAFDEC Secretariat, Dr. Worawit Wanchana, attended the “2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” which was convened from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal. During the Conference, the priority emerging ocean environmental issues that are of concern to mankind were addressed and solutions for a sustainably managed ocean involving green technology and innovative uses of marine resources using integrated, ecosystem-based approaches were highlighted. The Conference emphasized the main threats to the health, ecology, and economy of the ocean – climate change, marine plastics and pollution, unsustainable fishing, invasive species, and loss of marine habitats and biodiversity. Moreover, SEAFDEC disseminated leaflets to showcase SEAFDEC activities that address the issues related to marine pollution (ALDFG, microplastics, etc.), marine and coastal fisheries management approach using EAF, energy optimization, fisheries resource enhancement and utilization towards achieving the sustainable development goal 14 targets.

During the Interactive dialogue 1: Addressing marine pollution of the Conference, the emerging global concerns on marine pollution that made impacts on human health and ocean ecosystems were emphasized. The occurrence of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) from the fishing industry was one of the concerns addressed.

It was estimated that ghost gear was about 10 % of marine litter (more than 500,000 million t of fishing gear left in the ocean annually), comprising



mainly of nets, lines, and ropes. Such abandoned fishing gear materials have been reported as ghost gears in many places and the trouble is not only for fish but also for many marine mammals. It is considered that these threats are affecting harvest loss, tourism, and the sustainable development of economics. Major solutions include improving/strengthening collaboration between key stakeholders including fishers, fishing gear producers, NGOs, researchers, governments and intergovernmental organizations, among others.

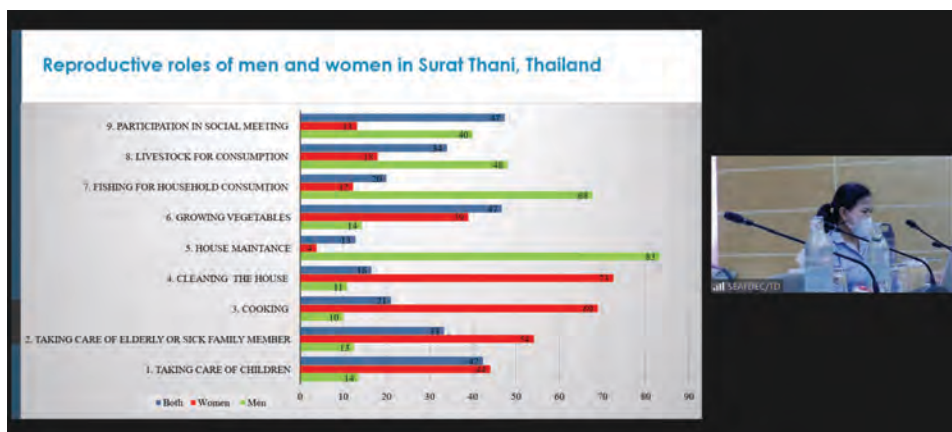
Furthermore, the negative impacts of marine pollution on the aquaculture production, including the effects on small-scale fisheries and women were mentioned. Stakeholders also reflected on the establishment and surveillance of marine protected areas (MPAs) which should be extended and adequately funded. Stakeholders referred also to the potential of transboundary and multilevel MPAs. A number of stakeholders also identified that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in increased marine litter pollution due to the increased use of single-use plastics through disposal equipment, residential wastes, and others.

It was also highlighted that the increase in the number of electric vessels will be a step closer to the decarbonization of sea transport. Another highlight was on the establishment of an international negotiating committee for agreement on the elimination of new marine pollutants and standardizing plastic credits by way of incentivizing the collection and recycling of plastic wastes. Conclusions were made on mobilization actions which will be built upon science-based innovative solutions.

The Conference was participated by the Members States of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, and other international bodies; associate members of the regional commissions; organizations and bodies of the United Nations; and non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, private sector, and philanthropic organizations.



Regional Workshop on Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia



namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam as well as officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, and representatives from FAO, USAID/Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Project, and SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Fisheries *Refugia* Project. During the Workshop, the overall project results as well as the results of case studies in the Project sites in Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand were presented. The outputs of the Project are an infographic on the daily life of women and men in small-scale aquaculture and fisheries and a video on the promotion of gender in fisheries. Moreover, the training modules on gender mainstreaming in fisheries and gender integration were developed through the Project.

SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) implemented the Project “Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia” from 2020 to 2022. To culminate the Project implementation, the virtual “Regional

Workshop on Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia” was organized on 30 May 2022 to present the results and outputs of the Project. The Workshop was attended by 72 participants including the representatives from the ASEAN Member States,

TD develops training modules on gender mainstreaming in small-scale fisheries



Under the project “Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia” implemented from January 2020 to June 2022 by SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with FAO, TD organized the two sessions of “Writershop on Developing Training Modules on Gender Mainstreaming in Small-scale Fisheries” on 4–6 May 2022 and 1–3 June 2022 in Samut Prakan Province, Thailand. The Writershops were participated by the staff from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and TD, and a student from Prince of Songkla University. The resource persons were

the experts on fisheries and gender from Prince of Songkla University (Hat Yai Campus and Phuket Campus), Chiang Mai University, and Mahidol University. During the Writershops, the “training module on gender mainstreaming in fisheries” and the “training module on gender integration in small-scale fisheries” were developed.


Subsequently, the “Regional Workshop on Finalizing Training Modules of Gender Mainstreaming in Small-scale Fisheries” was organized from 27 to 29 June 2022 in Chonburi

Province, Thailand to validate the effectiveness of the training modules. The participants of the Workshop were the gender focal persons from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand as well as staff from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD. The experts from Kasetsart University, Mahidol University, and Prince of Songkla University were invited as resource persons. The training modules will be tested and improved under the ongoing projects in the SEAFDEC Member Countries.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Date	Venue	Title	Organizer(s)
2022			
1–10 July	Pathum Thani, Thailand	32 nd Pramong Nomklao Exhibition	TD
8 July	Pattani Province, Thailand	Onsite Training Program on Fish Handling Onboard Fishing Vessels	TD
26 July	Webinar	Webinar on Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme	SEC & Japan
15 August–5 September	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Mangrove Crab Hatchery Operations	AOD
22–26 August	Samut Prakan, Thailand	National Training Course on Fisheries Management Tools	TD
23–24 August	Chonburi, Thailand	Regional Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia	TD
23–26 August	Chonburi, Thailand	Second Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics and Information in Southeast Asia	SEC
23–24 August	Online	7 th Meeting of Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD
29 August–2 September	Samut Prakan, Thailand and Kawthaung, Myanmar	Training Course on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management	TD and DOF/ Myanmar
5–9 September	Rome, Italy	35 th Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI)	FAO
6–8 September	Palembang, Indonesia	Training on Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries Sector	TD
12–17 September	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Training Course on Fisheries Management Tools for Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)	TD
13–15 September	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Training on Port State Measures Inspection in Focus of Shipping Container for Fish and Fisheries Product	TD
19–28 September	Iloilo, Philippines	Training Course on Mangrove Crab Nursery and Grow-out Operations	AOD
20–29 September	Samut Prakan and Rayong Provinces, Thailand	Regional Training Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming in Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia	SEC&TD
21–23 September	Bangkok, Thailand	Workshop on Analyzing Catch Data and GIS Data	SEC
2–6 October (tentative)	Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia	Workshop on Chondrichthyan Taxonomy and Biology	MFRDMD
17–19 October (Tentative)	Bangkok, Thailand	1 st Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) for the Project Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (SCS SAP Project)	TD/SCS project
18–20 October	Bali, Indonesia	23 rd Meeting of the Information Staff Program (ISP)	SEC & IFRDMD
25–27 October	Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia	Training on Gender Mainstreaming in Fisheries Sector	TD & MFRDMD
October (tentative)	Trat Province, Thailand	6 th Field Trip Survey for Evaluation SOPs for Artificial Reefs Installation to Enhance Marine Resources: Case Study of Fish Enhancing Devices (FEDs)	TD
7–21 November	Rizal, Philippines	Training Course on Community-based Freshwater Aquaculture for Remote Rural Areas of Southeast Asia	AOD
8–10 November (Tentative)	Jakarta, Indonesia	7 th Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC7) for the Project Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> Project)	TD/Fisheries <i>refugia</i> project
15–27 November	Samut Prakan, Thailand	Regional Training Course on Fish Larvae Phase I: Larval Identification and Early Life History of Marine Fishes	TD
5–7 December	Iloilo, Philippines	45 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee	SEC & AOD
8–9 December	Iloilo, Philippines	25 th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP)	SEC
10 December	Iloilo, Philippines	SEAFDEC Department Chiefs' Meeting (DCM)	SEC


SEAFDEC participates in FAO Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment

The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, and Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana*, attended the “Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment” organized by the Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on 30 May to 3 June 2022 in Rome, Italy. The participants in the Consultation include representatives from the FAO member countries and observers from intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations. The Consultation was aimed at finalizing the draft Voluntary Guidelines for the Regulation, Monitoring and Control of Transshipment. However, due to several issues and concerns of the member countries, the Guidelines could not be finalized and adopted during the Consultation. Thus, it was agreed that a virtual consultation will be organized by FAO on 7 July 2022 to resolve the interventions made during the Consultation in Rome. Later this year, FAO plans to present the adopted Guidelines to the Committee on Fisheries for endorsement. The Guidelines were developed to assist States, regional fisheries management organizations, and other relevant organizations in developing or reviewing their respective policies to combat illegal fishing activities by regulating transshipment at sea and at the port. 

SEAFDEC organizes the RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Finalization of the Key Indicators

(Continued from Page 20)

63 participants including the representatives from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam as well as Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, senior officials and officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD, MFRD, AQD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD. The Workshop was aimed at discussing the results of the trial exercise and finalizing the key indicators, rating system, template, and timeframe for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. During the discussion, the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) provided comments on the results of the trial exercise and recommendations on the revision of the key indicators, rating system, and template. At the end of the Workshop, the AMSs agreed on the timeline of the submission of the 2021 baseline information using the finalized template. The results of this Workshop and results of the 2021 baseline evaluation would be reported to the upcoming meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and SEAFDEC Council as well as through the ASEAN mechanism.

The Workshop was one of the activities under the regional program of the Japanese Trust Fund project “Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues.” 

Note for contributors

The SEAFDEC Newsletter publishes quarterly news on all aspects of fisheries in Southeast Asia. The Editors reserve the right to accept and/or abridge articles based on available space. Anyone wishing to submit an article to the SEAFDEC Newsletter is requested to send it to the Editor in Chief or Editors at the given addresses.

Information in this Newsletter may be quoted only if reference is made to SEAFDEC.

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Layout: Sunutta Pudtal

SEAFDEC organizes the RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Finalization of the Key Indicators

Following up to the development of the key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 in March 2022, SEAFDEC organized the “RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Finalization of the Key Indicators” for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 on 14 June 2022 through a virtual platform. The Workshop was attended by

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SEAFDEC welcomes new Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of TD



On 1 June 2022, SEAFDEC welcomes *Dr. Tomoko Nakazato* as its new Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of the Training Department (TD), succeeding *Mr. Koichi Honda* who had served as the SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of TD for two years from 1 September 2020 to 31 May 2022.

Prior to her designation in SEAFDEC, *Dr. Nakazato* served as Head of the Fish and Fishery Products Safety in Oversea Fisheries Cooperation of the Fisheries Agency of Japan. She was nominated by the Government of Japan to serve in SEAFDEC for two years until 31 May 2024. With her experiences in various aspects of international fisheries, it is certain that she would provide invaluable guidance and support to SEAFDEC in the implementation of programs and projects toward sustaining the development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. ❖

MFRDMD welcomes new Deputy Chief



The Government of Japan has appointed *Dr. Masahito Hirota* to be the new Deputy Chief of the SEAFDEC/MFRDMD starting 5 June 2022. *Dr. Hirota* worked at the Fisheries Research Institute of the Aomori Prefecture in 2001 and at the Fisheries Research Agency of Japan (FRA) in 2009. He is an expert in research and management of fishery resources, seafood

business management, and information technology which would significantly contribute to fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region.

Moreover, a farewell celebration to acknowledge *Dr. Masaya Katoh* for the completion of his duty as the Deputy Chief of the MFRDMD from April 2019 to March 2022 was held on 10 February 2022 at MFRDMD in Terengganu, Malaysia. During his tenure at MFRDMD, *Dr. Katoh* played a vital role in enhancing sustainable fisheries management in the region through the implementation of projects and activities funded by the Japanese Trust Fund. ❖

IFRDMD welcomes new Deputy Chief



SEAFDEC/IFRDMD welcomes its new Deputy Chief and Co-Japanese Trust Fund Project Manager, *Mr. Tomohito Shimizu*. He succeeded *Mr. Toshiya Suzuki* who had served as the Deputy Chief of IFRDMD from April 2020 to March 2022. Prior to his designation in IFRDMD, *Mr. Shimizu* served as the Senior Scientist of the Aquaculture

Division, Fisheries Technology Institute, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA) where he was in charge of the technical development of stock enhancement for mud crab, octopus, and grouper.

Mr. Shimizu was nominated by the Government of Japan to serve in SEAFDEC IFRDMD for two years from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024. With his over 30 years of experience as an aquaculture scientist, it is believed that he would greatly contribute to the success of various IFRDMD activities in cooperation with SEAFDEC staff and Member Countries. ❖