



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

Iloilo City, Philippines
8–9 December 2022



Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

**REPORT OF
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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-fifth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or the 25FCG/ASSP was organized in Iloilo City, the Philippines from 8 to 9 December 2022 and was co-chaired by the representative from Indonesia on behalf of the Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC to discuss the programs implemented in 2022 and endorse the programs proposed for 2023 under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism that had been scrutinized by the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (45PCM). The 25FCG/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 25FCG/ASSP was attended by the representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, the representative 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 25FCG/ASSP was informed of the “Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership” and provided suggestions as follows:

- On the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), SEAFDEC was requested to facilitate the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in developing the regional strategies for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture, and collaborate with Indonesia in the conduct of the Workshop to be organized by Indonesia to discuss this matter during the first quarter of 2023, the results of which would be subsequently reported to the forthcoming ASWGFi Meeting in 2023.
- On CITES-related Issues, SEAFDEC was encouraged to continue facilitating the platform to review proposals and develop common positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to be conveyed to CITES CoP meetings.

3. On the “Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given by the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries during 2022,” the 25FCG/ASSP was informed on the results of the discussions of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries, namely: 1) the 30th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (30th ASWGFi); 2) the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 43rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-43rd AMAF); and 3) the 44th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (44th AMAF). The 25FCG/ASSP specifically took note of the progress and recommendations as follows:

- Regarding the linkage between the Database on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR Database) and the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) as requested by the 45PCM, clear directives from the AMSs are necessary before SEAFDEC could move forward to sharing the data with FAO. In this connection, the AMSs which are also members of FAO were suggested to raise the need for linking the RFVR Database with the FAO Global Record at FAO/COFI meeting.
- SEAFDEC was encouraged to coordinate with the ASEAN Secretariat on the development of possible project proposals aiming to support the implementation of key priorities of ASEAN focusing on the promotion of sustainable and circular agriculture, upscaling of nature-based solutions, and decarbonization of the agriculture/fisheries sector.

- The ASEAN Secretariat was requested to provide information on the future events of the ASEAN Secretariat to SEAFDEC, especially on technical and policy matters related to fisheries and aquaculture where SEAFDEC can provide relevant technical inputs.

4. On the “FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2022–2023,” the 25FCG/ASSP noted the progress and achievements of the projects implemented by SEAFDEC in 2022 and endorsed the proposed projects and activities for 2023. These include nineteen (19) ongoing projects and five (5) new projects which would be commenced in 2023, namely: 1) USAID/SEAFDEC/Sustainable Fish Asia-SEA Project; 2) 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; 3) Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project); 4) Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture; and 5) Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia. Furthermore, one pipeline project “Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity” was approved to be placed under the FCG/ASSP mechanism and for the Project to be implemented in 2023 once the fund could be secured. The 25FCG/ASSP specifically provided recommendations as follows:

- SEAFDEC was encouraged to define the purpose of the RFVR Database which could be used to verify the fishing vessels operating in the waters of the Southeast Asian region and support the compliance of the AMSs of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies which requires the IUU fishing vessels list. SEAFDEC was therefore suggested to expand the RFVR Database to include the IUU fishing vessels. Moreover, while the AMSs were recommended to participate more actively in the continuous negotiation on the forbidden subsidy to fishing operations that contributed to overfishing and overfishing capacity (OFOC); SEAFDEC was requested to undertake programs to support the AMSs to implement the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
- With regards to linking the RFVR Database with the FAO Global Record, technically the two databases could be linked, but this is subject to the agreement of the AMSs that the information could be shared. The AMSs noted that there is a need for further discussion among the AMSs on whether the information should be shared only among the AMSs or with others.
- With regards to cooperation for combating IUU fishing, SEAFDEC was proposed to serve as a regional platform regarding the IUU fishing vessels list concerning the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. Moreover, it was noted that a regional platform would be provided by inviting representatives from AN-IUU, SEAFDEC, and RPOA-IUU Secretariat to discuss a suitable mechanism to identify the common grounds of work and cooperation to avoid duplication of their initiatives. It was also noted that SEAFDEC will organize a workshop to discuss the aforementioned issues, where SEAFDEC could provide technical recommendations and report the result further to the higher authority of relevant mechanisms.

5. The 25FCG/ASSP noted the “Progress of SEAFDEC-related Activities/Proposals under the ASEAN Fisheries-Related Bodies,” and the relevant recommendations as follows:

- Results of the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security, which was held virtually on 18 August 2022
- Results of the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) which was held virtually on 21 June 2022:
 - SEAFDEC was requested for technical assistance to formulate the regional strategies for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and the common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture.

- The ASWGFi was requested to include the issue of the U.S. Marine Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act (Maritime SAFE Act) in the future discussion of the AFCF.
- Progress of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025:
 - SEAFDEC was requested to make use of the results of the monitoring and evaluation of the RES&POA-2030 and identify priority actions to support one of the activities under the SPA-Fisheries (2021–2025) on “Training Needs Assessment to Identify the Current Demand for Knowledge and Skills Needs for a Sustainable Fisheries Development” with support from Thailand in 2023.
- Progress of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing:
 - The Roadmap which was adopted by the AMAF in November 2020 contained seven action programs and 24 activities and to date, there are two completed activities, nine ongoing activities, one pending activity or under project appraisal and approval process, and twelve (12) activities requiring further action from ASWGFi.
- Results of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU), which was held virtually from 22 to 23 February 2022:
 - Thailand is developing a draft action plan for the effective implementation of the Guidelines on Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-related Information, which was endorsed by the 44th AMAF. The draft action plan will be proposed for consideration at the upcoming 3rd Meeting of the AN-IUU in 2023.
- Results of the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), which was held online on 20 June 2022:
 - In response to the request of the ASA Secretariat for possible support from SEAFDEC on the implementation of the project proposal on “regional collaboration for long-term genetic improvement of growth, robustness, and resistance to Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in white shrimp for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance,” particularly on the possibility of providing assistance in organizing a training program on broodstock management, the Chief of AQD informed the 25FCG/ASSP that AQD has relevant training on the management of *Penaeus monodon* broodstock and looked forward to supporting the workshop on broodstock management of white shrimp. Moreover, the SEAFDEC Secretariat would further discuss with ASA Secretariat on this matter.

6. With regards to the “Policy Consideration on Important Issues,” the 25FCG/ASSP took note of the implementation of relevant initiatives and provided the following recommendations:

- Combating IUU Fishing
 - The 25FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the implementation of ongoing regional initiatives promoted by SEAFDEC to support the AMSs in combating IUU fishing, including the RFVR, the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), and the Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures (PSM).
 - SEAFDEC was requested to consider supporting the activities on enhancing the capacity of the AMSs for effective implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.
 - The AFCF was requested to include the issue on the “Maritime SAFE Act” in the agenda of its annual meeting for discussion.
 - The FCG/ASSP was requested to consider seeking a channel for Myanmar to obtain information from the RPOA-IUU that could be useful and relevant to Myanmar considering that Myanmar is not a member of the RPOA-IUU.

- Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region:
 - The 25FCG/ASSP noted the progress of implementation of the “Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region” including the training course on stock and risk assessment in 2021, annual meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessments in the Southeast Asian Waters in 2022, population study, DNA analysis, and life history study of neritic tuna species in Southeast Asian region.

- Fish Trade-related issues:
 - On the CITES-related Issues:
 - The 25FCG/ASSAP took note of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries Positions on Inclusion of the Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) to the CITES Appendices at the CoP19; the results of the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices organized on 30 August–1 September 2022 which were reported to the SEAFDEC Council *ad referendum*; as well as the results of the CITES CoP19 particularly the proposals related to CEAS.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to increase the number of invited participants from the Member Countries when organizing the RTC since different CEAS are under the responsibility of different departments.
 - The AMSs were suggested to pay attention to emerging issues of the listed species such as livelihood, purpose code on CITES permits and certificates, and scientific basis for proposed listing; while SEAFDEC was encouraged to continue conducting activities similar to RTC to discuss emerging issues in the fisheries sector.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to continue to support the AMSs including capacity building for species identification and taxonomy.
 - On the Fisheries Subsidies:
 - Noting that the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies has already been adopted and not many agencies in fisheries participated in the previous discussion on fisheries subsidies, there is a need for AMSs to develop a self-assessment tool to see the impacts of ratification of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to consider establishing a platform for sharing information on IUU fishing vessels to facilitate the determination of the IUU fishing vessels under the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
 - Viet Nam offered to share information on the compilation of textual proposals on OFOC with SEAFDEC so that it could be further shared with other AMSs.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to assist the AMSs to develop a joint proposal on technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries for the purpose of implementation of the disciplines under the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and upon agreement by the AMSs, and submit the proposal to WTO. It was, however, noted that the development of the joint proposal could be undertaken through either SEAFDEC or ASEAN mechanisms.
 - On the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Indonesia is willing to explore the opportunity of capacity development in partnership with the U.S. agencies under the ASWGF mechanism.
 - On Japan’s Catch Documentation Scheme, while appreciating SEAFDEC for jointly organizing the Webinar on the Japan’s Catch Documentation Scheme under the Act Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants, Japan will continue to endeavor to combat IUU fishing as well as exert effort to cooperate with the AMSs and facilitate the smooth implementation of the scheme.

7. Under Other Matters, the 25FCG/ASSP took note of the information and the progress of related activities as follows:

- On 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 25FCG/ASSP took note of the progress including the preliminary report of the 2021 Baseline Information.
 - The AMSs that have not yet submitted inputs to the 2021 Baseline Information were requested to submit their respective inputs to SEAFDEC by the end of January 2023.
 - Key indicators should be made clear and reflect the real implementation of the RES&POA-2030 before submitting through the ASEAN mechanism.
- On the Study on the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, the 25FCG/ASSP noted the result of the study.
- On International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022, the 25FCG/ASSP noted the publication “Small-scale Fisheries of Southeast Asia: A Regional Digest” produced by SEAFDEC in celebration of IYAFA and that Thailand organized an event in the hybrid platform on 2 August 2022 under the theme of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture toward Security, Prosperity and Sustainability.

8. The Report of the 25FCG/ASSP was adopted on 9 December 2022.

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

8–9 December 2022, Iloilo City, Philippines

INTRODUCTION

1. The Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or the 25FCG/ASSP was organized in Iloilo City, Philippines from 8 to 9 December 2022 to take note of the programs of activities implemented in 2022 and endorse the programs proposed for 2023 under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism as endorsed by the SEAFDEC Program Committee at its Forty-fifth Meeting (45PCM) organized from 5 to 7 December 2022. The 25FCG/ASSP also 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 25FCG/ASSP was attended by the representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, representative 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 in **Annex 1**.

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The 25FCG/ASSP was co-chaired by the Head of the Bureau of Public Relation and Foreign Cooperation, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, *Mr. Ari Prabowo*, on behalf of the current Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i), and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*.

3. The Co-chairperson for SEAFDEC welcomed the participants to the 25FCG/ASSP. While mentioning that this is the first time for the FCG/ASSP Meeting to be held in person after the COVID-19 pandemic, she expressed appreciation to the SEAFDEC Program Committee during their meeting held on 5–7 December 2022 back-to-back with this 25FCG/ASSP for reviewing and scrutinizing the programs implemented in 2022 as well as those proposed for 2023 under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism. She reiterated that at this 25FCG/ASSP, several matters including the progress of the proposals implemented under the ASSP as well as consideration of fisheries-related issues concerning the region would also be discussed. She, therefore, looked forward to obtaining views from all participants to pave the way for the advancement of future works. Her Welcome Remarks appear in **Annex 2**.

4. While expressing gratitude for the opportunity to join with delegates of the other ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries at this 25FCG/ASSP, the Co-chairperson for ASEAN reiterated the importance of the 25FCG/ASSP as a forum for the ASEAN and SEAFDEC as the ASEAN technical arms in fisheries to exchange views and related information regarding cooperation and development of fisheries sector in the region. He underlined the challenges faced by the region, especially small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, IUU fishing, destructive fishing practices, and marine debris including abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) that require strong cooperation and collective actions among the countries. Moreover, he mentioned that Indonesia is in the final stage to implement the national policies to support the preservation of marine and fisheries resources sustainability in accordance with the country's commitment to sustainable fisheries management based on Blue Economy Principle; and that after completing the G20 Presidency in 2022, Indonesia is now ready to serve as ASEAN Chairman in 2023 with the theme ASEAN Matters: "Epicentrum of Growth." Finally, he extended his appreciation to SEAFDEC for making arrangements for the 25FCG/ASSP and looked forward to a fruitful discussion and achieving the goal to strengthen the ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation, and declared the Meeting open. His Opening Remarks appear in **Annex 3**.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Agenda which appears in **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 54th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the 24th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)

6. The 25FCG/ASSP was informed of the follow-up actions undertaken by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the 54th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (54CM) organized on 23–25 May 2022 and the 24th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (24FCG/ASSP) organized on 24–25 November 2021 as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC. The summary of the follow-up actions to the 54CM and 24FCG/ASSP appear in **Annex 5** and **Annex 6**, respectively.

7. The representative from Indonesia requested SEAFDEC to facilitate the AMSs in developing the regional strategies for 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 common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture. In this regard, he informed the 25FCG/ASSP that Indonesia is planning to organize a workshop to discuss this matter during the first quarter of 2023, the results of which would be subsequently reported to the forthcoming ASWGF_i Meeting in 2023. He, therefore, sought collaboration with SEAFDEC in the conduct of the workshop and Indonesia would further communicate with SEAFDEC on this matter.

8. With regard to CITES-related issues, the representative from Thailand expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for organizing the “Regional Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices.” Moreover, he also appreciated the other ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, especially those who supported the proposal of Thailand to down-list Siamese crocodile from the CITES Appendix I to Appendix II, although this was eventually turned down at the CITES-CoP19. Nonetheless, SEAFDEC was encouraged to continue facilitating the platform to review proposals and develop common positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to be conveyed to CITES CoP meetings.

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

9. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat presented the follow-up actions to the directives given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries from October 2021 to October 2022. The 25FCG/ASSP noted the results of the discussions of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries, namely: 1) 30th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (30th ASWGF_i Meeting) held virtually on 22–23 June 2022; 2) Special Senior Official Meeting of the 43rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM-43rd AMAF) held virtually on 23 August 2022; and 3) 44th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (44th AMAF) held virtually on 26 October 2022. The summary of the results of the discussions as well as the progress of the collaboration appears in **Annex 7**.

10. The representative from Indonesia informed the 25FCG/ASSP that Indonesia nominated a speaker to the ASEAN-OECD Workshop on Food Security which was scheduled in February 2023 and the arrangements will be informed by the ASEAN Secretariat.

11. The representative from the Philippines informed the 25FCG/ASSP of the Development of Alignment Assessment Tools for GAQP Food Fish and the regional workshop will be organized in March 2023.

12. While taking note of the Guidelines for Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-related Information, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat recalled the request from 45PCM on the linkage between the Database on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR Database) and the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record). Nevertheless, clear directives from the AMSs are necessary before SEAFDEC could move forward to sharing the data with FAO. Regarding the Guidelines, he hoped the Guidelines could serve as a regional initiative for providing a directive to share information with third parties.

13. In addition, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General cited that SEAFDEC could only provide technical support to the ASEAN Member States (AMSs); thus, she suggested the AMSs which are also members of FAO raise the need for linking the RFVR Database with the FAO Global Record at FAO/COFI meeting.

14. In response to the concern of the representative from Viet Nam about the linkage between the Guidelines for Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-related Information with the ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU), the 25FCG/ASSP was informed by the ASEAN Secretariat that the Guidelines do not provide specific directives for sharing information with third parties, but only contain basic principles, procedures, and tools for data sharing, access, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU interactive platform.

15. In response to the concern of the representative from SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) about the support of the implementation of key priorities of ASEAN focusing on the promotion of sustainable and circular agriculture, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat clarified that this includes the fisheries sector. He then encouraged SEAFDEC to coordinate with the ASEAN Secretariat on the development of possible project proposals aiming to support the implementation of key priorities of ASEAN focusing on the promotion of sustainable and circular agriculture, upscaling of nature-based solutions, and decarbonization of the agriculture/fisheries sector.

16. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat requested the ASEAN Secretariat to provide information on the future events of the ASEAN Secretariat, especially on technical and policy matters related to fisheries and aquaculture, to which SEAFDEC can provide relevant technical inputs.

IV. ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2022–2023

4.1 Summary Report on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2022–2023

17. The 25FCG/ASSP noted the presentation made by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General on the collaborative programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism for 2022–2023 which were reviewed by the 45PCM on 5–7 December 2022. The summary of the program scrutiny and the recommendations from the 45PCM appears in **Annex 8**.

18. The 25FCG/ASSP noted the progress and achievements of the projects implemented by SEAFDEC in 2022, and endorsed the proposed projects and activities for 2023. These include nineteen (19) ongoing projects; and five (5) new projects which would commence in 2023, namely: 1) USAID/SEAFDEC/Sustainable Fish Asia-SEA Project; 2) 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; 3) Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project); 4) Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture; and 5) Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia.

19. With regard to the pipeline project “Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity” the 25FCG/ASSP approved this Project to be placed under the FCG/ASSP mechanism and for the Project to be implemented in 2023 once the fund could be secured.

20. The representative from Viet Nam expressed her appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing the FCG/ASSP projects and providing valuable inputs for the AMSs to cooperate in the fisheries sector. She reiterated that there are various good results from individual projects which should be compiled to effectively address the issues in the region, *e.g.* combating IUU fishing. In this regard, she encouraged SEAFDEC to define the purpose of the RFVR Database which could be used to verify the fishing vessels operating in the waters of the Southeast Asian region and support the compliance of the AMSs of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies which requires the IUU fishing vessels list, however, there is no



information on such a list in the RFVR Database. She then suggested SEAFDEC expand the RFVR Database to include the IUU fishing vessels and recommended the AMSs participate more actively in the continuous negotiation on the forbidden subsidy to fishing operations that contributed to overfishing and overfishing capacity (OFOC). Moreover, she requested SEAFDEC to undertake programs to support the AMSs to implement the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

21. In response, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the 25FCG/ASSP that the RFVR Database was established with a clear definition and purpose under the FCG/ASSP mechanism. However, he informed the 25FCG/ASSP that the RFVR Database does not include the list of IUU fishing vessels. On the dialogues between SEAFDEC and FAO on the linkage between the RFVR Database and FAO Global Record, the two databases could be linked; however, this is subject to the agreement of the AMSs that the information could be shared. Regarding the technical recommendations on the stock status of a specific species based on the regional initiatives of SEAFDEC on stock and risk assessment, this information can be used as a basis for further study by the respective AMSs in managing fish stocks and implementing the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, as appropriate.

22. Concerning the RFVR Database, the representative from Malaysia reiterated that the database provides information on fishing vessels registered in the respective AMSs. In this connection, she informed the 25FCG/ASSP that Malaysia has a comprehensive licensing system and an electronic database comprising all fishing vessels including traditional and commercial fishing vessels. Regarding the sharing of information from the RFVR Database, there is a need for further discussion among the AMSs on whether the information should be shared only among the AMSs or with others.

23. The representative from Viet Nam reiterated that the RPOA-IUU platform provides the IUU fishing vessels list operating in regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) areas. In this connection, she proposed SEAFDEC serve as a regional platform regarding the IUU fishing vessels list concerning the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

24. Regarding the cooperation to combat IUU fishing in the region, the representative from Indonesia reiterated that a regional platform will be provided by inviting representatives from AN-IUU, SEAFDEC (RFVR Database), and RPOA-IUU Secretariat to discuss a suitable mechanism to identify the common grounds of work and cooperation to avoid duplication of their initiatives.

25. In following up on the query of SEAFDEC whether the RFVR Database could be shared with others, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat requested the FCG/ASSP may explore and discuss this matter to provide guidance to the AMSs, and the decision of the FCG/ASSP to further discuss the proposal and provide recommendations to ASWGFi for consideration and approval.

26. Concerning the several platforms to share data and information on IUU fishing, the representative from Cambodia raised the concern that the duplication of effort should be avoided. Moreover, the representative from Viet Nam pointed out that there should be a platform under ASEAN and SEAFDEC to share information on IUU fishing with others. In this regard, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General informed the 25FCG/ASSP that SEAFDEC will organize a workshop as soon as possible to discuss the abovementioned issues. However, it should be noted that SEAFDEC has not been involved at the beginning of the establishment of these two platforms (*i.e.* RPOA-IUU and AN-IUU), thus, SEAFDEC could only provide technical recommendations and a platform to discuss this issue and report the result further to the higher authority of relevant mechanisms.

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

5.1 ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security

27. The 25 FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security, particularly the results of the 11th Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security which was held virtually on 18 August 2022 and chaired by SOM-AMAF Chair Indonesia (**Annex 9**), as presented by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat.

5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum

28. The 25FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of activities under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF), particularly the results of the 14th Meeting of the AFCF held virtually on 21 June 2022 (**Annex 10**) as presented by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat. The 25FCG/ASSP specifically took note of the request for technical assistance from SEAFDEC to formulate the regional strategies for 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 common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture.

29. While thanking SEAFDEC for organizing the “Webinar on Regional Responses to the U.S. MMPA: Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act” on 2–3 November 2021, the representative from Thailand informed the 25FCG/ASSP that the summary of the Webinar was reported by SEAFDEC during the 30th Meeting of the ASWGFi in 2022. Subsequently, the ASEAN Secretariat and the AMSs discussed with the USAID the required assistance identified at the Webinar in order to be incorporated into the USAID SuFIA Project. In this regard, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat updated the 25FCG/ASSP that the adopted Partnership Cooperation Plan between the AMSs and USAID includes regional training to enhance the capacity of the AMSs to meet the requirements of the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

30. The 25FCG/ASSP requested the ASWGFi to include the issue of the U.S. Marine Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act (Maritime SAFE Act) in the future discussion of AFCF.

31. With regard to the cooperation under the USAID SuFIA Project, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General informed the 25FCG/ASSP that SEAFDEC would also receive the direct grant from the USAID through the Public International Organizations (PIO) Grant. She then inquired the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat about the activities of the ASEAN-US SuFIA Project to avoid the duplication of the activities and maximize the benefit for the AMSs.

32. While observing that the USAID-SuFIA Technical Assistance focuses more on bridging to obtain technical assistance from other organizations, the representative from Viet Nam sought more information from the ASEAN Secretariat on the USAID cooperation with ASEAN. In response, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the 25FCG/ASSP that the Partnership Cooperation Plan between ASEAN and USAID on the implementation of SuFIA Technical Support was approved by ASWGFi and SOM-AMAF on 15 November 2022 and 23 November 2022, respectively. Under the Partnership Cooperation Plan, the SuFIA Project will provide a range of capacity-building activities such as training and workshops to assist the AMSs in meeting the requirements of the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act, development of guidelines/strategic communication plan, and implementation of the Regional Roadmap for Combating IUU Fishing (2021–2025). The cooperation also includes the participation of Timor Leste but would be limited only to capacity-building activities subject to the approval of the ASEAN sectoral bodies. The workplan is designed for three years, and new activities could still be added to support specific priorities of ASWGFi.

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

33. The 25FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025 which was adopted by the 42nd AMAF Meeting on 21 October 2020 (**Annex 11**) as presented by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat.

34. The representative from Indonesia informed the 25FCG/ASSP that Indonesia organized the “Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Regional Guidelines on the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and its Resistance in Aquaculture” on 22 November 2022, the result of which would subsequently be reported to the ASWGFi in 2023 for endorsement.

35. The representative from Thailand requested SEAFDEC to make use of the results of the monitoring and evaluation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 and identify priority actions to support one of the activities under the SPA-



Fisheries (2021–2025) on “Training Needs Assessment to Identify the Current Demand for Knowledge and Skills Needs for a Sustainable Fisheries Development” with support from Thailand in 2023.

5.4 ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

36. The 25FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (2021–2025) (**Annex 12**) as reported by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat. It was noted that the Roadmap which was adopted *ad referendum* by AMAF on 30 November 2020 contained seven action programs and 24 activities. To date, there are two completed activities, nine ongoing activities, one pending activity or under project appraisal and approval process, and twelve (12) activities requiring further action from ASWGFi.

5.5 ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

37. The 25FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU), particularly the results from the 2nd Meeting of the AN-IUU organized on 22-23 February 2022 (**Annex 13**) as presented by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat.

38. The representative from Thailand expressed appreciation to the AMSs for supporting the regional counter-measures in combating IUU fishing especially the draft Guidelines on Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-related Information which was endorsed by the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (44th AMAF). Moreover, he informed the 25FCG/ASSP that Thailand is developing the draft action plan for the effective implementation of the abovementioned guidelines which will be proposed for consideration at the upcoming 3rd Meeting of the AN-IUU in 2023.

5.6 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance

39. The 25FCG/ASSP noted the progress of activities carried out by the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), particularly the results of the 12th Meeting of the ASA which was held online on 20 June 2022, including the revised project proposal on regional collaboration for long-term genetic improvement of growth, robustness and resistance to Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in white shrimp for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (**Annex 14**) as presented by the representative from the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand on behalf of the ASA Secretariat.

40. The representative from the DOF of Thailand on behalf of the ASA Secretariat sought possible support from SEAFDEC on the implementation of the project proposal in accordance with the directive given by the 30th Meeting of ASWGFi, particularly on the possibility of providing assistance in organizing a training program on broodstock management as one component of the project proposal. Moreover, the representatives from Myanmar and the Philippines supported the project proposal developed by the ASA. In response to the request of the ASA Secretariat, the Chief of AQD informed the 25FCG/ASSP that AQD has relevant training on the management of *Penaeus monodon* broodstock and looked forward to supporting the workshop on broodstock management of white shrimp. In this connection, SEAFDEC took note of the request and would further discuss with ASA Secretariat on this matter.

VI. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES-RELATED ISSUES

6.1 Combating IUU Fishing

6.1.1 Progress on the Implementation of the Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing

41. The 25FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the implementation of ongoing regional initiatives promoted by SEAFDEC to support the AMSs in combating IUU fishing, including RFVR, ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), and Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures (PSM) (**Annex 15**), as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC.

6.1.2 *FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment*

42. The 25FCG/ASSP took note of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (**Annex 16**) which was adopted at the 35th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in September 2022 as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC. It was noted that the Guidelines are envisaged to supplement other measures including port State measures and traceability schemes to prevent IUU fishing.

43. While noting the adoption of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, the representative from Thailand requested SEAFDEC to consider supporting the activities on enhancing the capacity of the AMSs for effective implementation of the Guidelines.

44. In response to the query of the Chief of AQD on how the Guidelines that is voluntary in nature could be a powerful tool to combat IUU fishing, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the 25FCG/ASSP that there were lots of debates on this matter during the FAO Expert Consultation prior to the finalization of the Guidelines. In this connection, although it is voluntary, the Guidelines contain detailed measures that FAO member countries should follow. Moreover, exporting countries could also make use of the Guidelines to prepare national relevant schemes to ensure that they could comply with the requirements of the Guidelines, as appropriate.

6.1.3 *U.S. Measures to Address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Harmful Fishing Practices, so-called “Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act” or the “Maritime SAFE Act”*

45. The 25FCG/ASSP noted the information on the U.S. Measures to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and related harmful fishing practices, the so-called “Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act” or the “Maritime SAFE Act” (**Annex 17**) as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC.

46. While taking note of the Maritime SAFE Act, the representative from Thailand requested the 25FCG/ASSP that the AFCF include this issue on the Maritime SAFE Act in the agenda of its annual meeting for discussion.

47. With regard to the Maritime SAFE Act, the Chief of AQD shared the view that the AMSs should come up with its maritime standards for combating IUU fishing in the region rather than adopting the U.S. standards. In response, the SEAFDEC Secretary-General informed the 25FCG/ASSP that the Maritime SAFE Act is aimed at regulating the importation of capture fisheries products to the U.S. As for the EU regulations, if the measures of the AMSs are comparable with the relevant international measures, the respective countries could have a bilateral agreement with the EU so that the certification will be acceptable by the EU and the products could be exported. However, it is not certain that this will be the case for the Maritime SAFE Act.

48. The representative from Myanmar informed the 25FCG/ASSP that Myanmar is not a member of the RPOA-IUU. Therefore, he requested the 25FCG/ASSP to consider seeking a channel for Myanmar to obtain information from the RPOA-IUU that could be useful and relevant to Myanmar.

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*

49. The 25FCG/ASSP was informed on the progress of implementation of the “Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region” as reported by the representative from SEAFDEC. The 25FCG/ASSP also noted the outputs of the activities including the training course on stock and risk assessment in 2021, annual meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessments in the Southeast Asian Waters in 2022, population study, DNA analysis, and life history study of neritic tuna species in Southeast Asian region (**Annex 18**).



6.3 Fish Trade-related Issues

6.3.1 CITES-related Issues

50. The 25FCG/ASSP took note of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries Positions on Inclusion of the Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) to the CITES Appendices at the CoP19 as well as the results of the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices organized on 30 August–1 September 2022 which were reported to the SEAFDEC Council *ad referendum* as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC (**Annex 19**). In addition, the 25FCG/ASSP also noted the results of the CITES CoP19 particularly the proposals related to CEAS.

51. While the representative from the Philippines thanked SEAFDEC for organizing the RTC, he requested SEAFDEC to increase the number of invited participants from the respective Member Countries since different CEAS are under the responsibility of different departments.

52. The representative from Indonesia expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for its effort, especially in supporting the region through the RTC to develop the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common positions. He reiterated that the AMSs should also pay attention to emerging issues of the listed species such as livelihood, purpose code on CITES permits and certificates, and scientific basis for proposed listing. Therefore, he encouraged SEAFDEC to continue conducting similar activities to discuss emerging issues in the fisheries sector. Moreover, he also supported the request of the representative from the Philippines on increasing the number of participants in future RTCs.

53. While appreciating the efforts and support of SEAFDEC in providing regional technical fora for its Member Countries to discuss the proposed listing of CEAS in the appendices of CITES, the representative from Japan expressed disappointment with the unacceptable outcome of the CITES CoP19. Furthermore, he expressed the willingness of the Government of Japan to maintain the support to the other Member Countries through SEAFDEC to enhance their understanding of CITES listing proposals.

54. The representative from Malaysia thanked the other Member Countries and SEAFDEC for coordinating and organizing the RTC. Moreover, she informed the 25FCG/ASSP that Malaysia will exert more effort to prepare for the CITES related-issues. She then requested SEAFDEC to continue to support the AMSs including capacity building for species identification and taxonomy.

6.3.2 Fisheries Subsidies

55. The 25FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiation on the Fisheries Subsidies (**Annex 20**) as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC. While noting that the WTO Ministers finally adopted a binding multilateral Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies during the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) on 17 June 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland, the 25FCG/ASSP also noted that SEAFDEC conducted two Training Workshops on Stock Assessment in Support of the Implementation of the International Commitments for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia on 9 and 13–17 December 2021 and 29 August–6 September 2022, both through hybrid mode, in response to the recommendations made during the SEAFDEC Webinar held in 2021 for SEAFDEC to support capacity building for the AMSs.

56. The representative from Viet Nam expressed gratitude to SEAFDEC for supporting the AMSs in addressing international issues including the fisheries subsidies. Considering that the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies has already been adopted and not many agencies in fisheries participated in the previous discussion on fisheries subsidies, she proposed the need to develop a self-assessment tool to see the impacts of ratification of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies by the AMSs.

57. The representative from Viet Nam also mentioned that there are three pillars of prohibition in the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies; of which, the overfished stock and fishing in the high seas had been finalized while OFOC is under negotiation. She then proposed that SEAFDEC should establish a platform for sharing information on IUU fishing vessels. As for the issues related to OFOC, Viet Nam can share information on the compilation of textual proposals on OFOC with SEAFDEC so that it could be

further shared with other AMSs. She further added that the WTO also provided technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries for the purpose of implementation of the disciplines under the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies; however, she expressed the view that the submission of proposals from individual countries to WTO could be difficult, and it could be easier to obtain support as a group by submitting a joint proposal.

58. With regard to the suggestion on the IUU fishing vessels list, the representative from Viet Nam added that the authorization in the determination of the IUU fishing vessels under the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies belongs to the coastal state and flag State with the due process; therefore, she shared the view that having the list through international organizations like SEAFDEC would be better.

59. In response to the suggestion of the representative from Viet Nam on the joint proposal, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the 25FCG/ASSP that this matter could be undertaken through either SEAFDEC or ASEAN mechanisms. SEAFDEC can help the AMSs develop a proposal and upon agreement by the AMSs, submit the proposal to WTO. If political support is further required, then the project proposal can be submitted to ASEAN for endorsement of ASWGFi and SOM-AMAF. However, if WTO requires an official recognition of their support to ASEAN, then the project proposal has to go through the whole process of the ASEAN project appraisal and approval process requiring final endorsement from the ASEAN Committee of Permanent Representatives (ASEAN CPR).

60. While appreciating the effort of SEAFDEC in supporting the capacity building on stock assessment of the AMSs, the representative from Indonesia reiterated the differences in proficiency level and difficulty among the AMSs in the development of common positions on fisheries subsidies in 2021 as well as the joint proposal for seeking support.

6.3.3 *U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act*

61. The 25FCG/ASSP took note of the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) which applies to any foreign nations for Comparability Findings for their commercial fishing operations export fish and fishery products to the U.S. Moreover, the 25FCG/ASSP also noted the Modification of Deadlines under the Fish and Fish Products Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection by One Year to end on 31 December 2023 (**Annex 21**).

62. While noting the exemption period to receive a comparability finding, the representative from Indonesia informed the 25FCG/ASSP that the country is willing to explore the opportunity of capacity development in partnership with the U.S. agencies under the ASWGFi mechanism.

6.3.4 *Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme*

63. The 25FCG/ASSP took note that Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme under the Act Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants which was established in Japan in December 2020 entered into force on 1 December 2022. Furthermore, the outcomes from the Webinar on Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) which was organized on 26 July 2022 and co-hosted by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Fisheries Agency of Japan (**Annex 22**) were also noted by the 25FCG/ASSP.

64. While expressing appreciation to SEAFDEC for jointly organizing the Webinar, the representative from Japan informed the 25FCG/ASSP that Japan will make good use of this CDS and will continue to endeavor to combat IUU fishing. Moreover, he emphasized that Japan would exert effort to cooperate with the AMSs and facilitate the smooth implementation of the scheme.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

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

65. The 25FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030, including the preliminary report of the 2021 Baseline Information (**Annex 23**) as



presented by the representative from SEAFDEC. The 25FCG/ASSP also noted the request made by SEAFDEC for the AMSs that have not yet submitted inputs to the 2021 Baseline Information to submit their respective inputs by the end of January 2023.

66. The representative from Viet Nam reiterated the comment made by Viet Nam during the 45PCM that the key indicators should be made clear and reflect the real implementation of the RES&POA-2030 before submitting through the ASEAN mechanism.

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

67. The 25FCG/ASSP noted the results of the Study on the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries (**Annex 24**) as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC.

7.3 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYFA) 2022

68. The 25FCG/ASSP noted the publication “Small-scale Fisheries of Southeast Asia: A Regional Digest” (**Annex 25**) as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC.

69. While expressing appreciation to SEAFDEC for the publication “Small-scale Fisheries of Southeast Asia: A Regional Digest,” the representative from Thailand informed the 25FCG/ASSP that Thailand also celebrated the IYFA 2022 by organizing an event in the hybrid platform on 2 August 2022 under the theme of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture toward Security, Prosperity and Sustainability. The event involved representatives from relevant stakeholders, including Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Thailand, the representatives of Thai artisanal fishery association, aquaculture farmers, academes, and non-government organizations to discuss the challenges of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in the changing world situations.

VIII. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT OF THE MEETING

70. The 25FCG/ASSP adopted the Report of the 25th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) on 9 December 2022 in Iloilo City, Philippines.

71. The results of the 25FCG/ASSP will be submitted to the higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC for consideration and appropriate action.

IX. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

72. The Co-chairperson for SEAFDEC expressed her gratitude to all ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries for their active participation. She extended her sincere thanks to the Co-chairperson for ASEAN for his excellent chairmanship. She wished all participants to have a safe journey back home and the best of luck.

73. The Co-chairperson for ASEAN thanked the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat as well as all delegates for their active participation and deliberation during the 25FCG/ASSP. As there are a list of activities to follow up in the coming year, he wished that all activities will be implemented in time. He expressed his gratitude to the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department for the excellent hosting and then declared the 25FCG/ASSP closed. His Closing Remarks appears in **Annex 26**.

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WELCOME REMARKS

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

Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries,
The ASEAN Secretariat,
SEAFDEC Senior Officials,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning to all of you, especially to my Co-chairperson for ASEAN, Head of Bureau for Public Relations and Foreign Cooperation, Secretariat General, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia and the SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Indonesia, *Mr. Ari Prabowo*

It is my pleasure to say how wonderful it is to be with you all today in this beautiful City of Iloilo, the City of Smiles. On behalf of my Co-chairperson for FCG/ASSP, it is my honor to welcome you to the 25th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership.

I would like to extend our gratitude to SEAFDEC/AQD for arranging this back-to-back meeting with the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee. This is the first chance for the FCG/ASSP to meet in person after the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate the efforts of the SEAFDEC Program Committee which met earlier this week on 5–7 December to conduct a thorough review and scrutiny of the programs implemented in 2022 as well as those planned for 2023 under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism.

Our main issues include but are not limited to combating IUU fishing, promotion of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region, fish trade-related issues, and emerging issues.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are already at the beginning of the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030. Therefore, in addition to the discussion on the programs and activities implemented under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism, we would also need to provide policy guidance on the future directions and actions that should be undertaken to address several challenges that have arisen in our region that may have an influence on the sustainability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector of Southeast Asia.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for the support and commitment you have shown by taking the time to participate in this meeting. I look forward to hearing about your contributions to advance our collective cause.

Thank you and have a good day.

OPENING REMARKS

By *Mr. Ari Prabowo*

Chair of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries

Honorable Secretary-General of SEAFDEC,
Representative of ASEAN Secretariat,
Head of Delegations of SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Representative of SEAFDEC Departments,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
Very Good Morning,

My name is *Ari Prabowo*, Head of Bureau of Public Relation and Foreign Cooperation, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia.

I am glad to be here with all the delegates from ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries in this beautiful city of Iloilo, in the Philippines as the host country of this meeting.

As a current chair of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i), and the Co-Chair of the 25th Fisheries Consultative Group ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership along with Madam Secretary General of SEAFDEC, please allow me to facilitate this annual meeting of SEAFDEC and ASEAN cooperation.

The 25th FCG ASSP meeting is a strategic forum for ASEAN and SEAFDEC to exchange views and any related information regarding cooperation and development of marine and fisheries sector in the region. This mechanism is mandated to identify important regional/international fisheries issues, provide technical assistance to ASEAN for the formulation and implementation of common policies and assist the Member Countries in formulating common positions on regional/international fisheries issues. SEAFDEC as Technical Arms of ASEAN has played various important role to facilitate and improve ASEAN member states capacity in Marine and Fisheries Sector.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Recently, current global world is entering the second year of pandemic and going to a recovery phase. However, there are still huge challenges faced by all ASEAN and SEAFDEC members especially in economics issues. Some of them notably: Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture, Climate Change, IUU Fishing and Destructive Fishing Practices, Marine Debris including Abandoned, Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) are require strong cooperation and collective action among members to address these challenges.

In this great opportunity as well, Indonesia is currently in the final stages to implement national policies to support the preservation of marine and fisheries resources sustainability. In accordance to the commitment upon sustainable fisheries management based on Blue Economy Principle which balancing ecology, economy, and society, this principle is implemented through 5 Strategic Programs of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, namely:

1. expansion of marine conservation areas;
2. a quota-based capture fishing policy;
3. sustainable marine, coastal and inland aquaculture;
4. controlling, monitoring and managing coastal and small islands; and
5. management of plastic waste in the ocean through Bulan Cinta Laut.

After completing the G20 Presidency in 2022, Indonesia is now ready to serve as ASEAN Chairman in 2023 with the theme ASEAN Matters: “Epicentrum of Growth”. With this chairmanship, I am hoping that the development of Fisheries Cooperation can be accelerated and move forward in a positive and sustainable manner.



Last but not least, I would like to extend my appreciation to the SEAFDEC and Government of the Philippines for the excellent arrangement in preparing this first physical meeting of FCG/ASSP.

I hope this meeting will be fruitful and meet our goal to strengthen the ASEAN-SEAFDEC cooperation.

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 54th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and 24th 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 2022

Agenda 4: ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2022–2023

- 4.1 Summary Report on the FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2022–2023

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

- 5.1 ASEAN 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)
- 5.7 Others

Agenda 6: Policy Considerations and International Fisheries-related Issues

- 6.1 Combating IUU Fishing
 - 6.1.1 Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing
 - 6.1.2 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment
 - 6.1.3 U.S. New Measures to Address Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Harmful Fishing Practices, so called “Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act” or the “Maritime SAFE Act”
- 6.2 Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region
 - 6.2.1 Regional Plan of Action Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN 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
 - 6.3.4 Japan’s Catch Documentation Scheme
 - 6.3.5 Others



6.4 Others/Emerging Issues

Agenda 7: Other Matters

- 7.1 Monitoring and Evaluation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030
- 7.2 Study on Impacts from COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
- 7.3 Others

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 54th MEETING OF SEAFDEC COUNCIL 2022

Paragraph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC	Status
10	<u>Myanmar</u> : SEAFDEC to consider reactivating the program of activities on the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) and the allocation of sustainable financial resources for this program.	SEC	Once the pandemic is resolved, SEAFDEC will reactivate in consultation with the member countries based on their area of requirements during that period.	
IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING				
21	<u>Myanmar</u> : SEAFDEC to support the AMSs in the implementation of relevant projects in collaboration with the ASEAN and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025.	TD, AQD, MFRD, MFRDMD, IFRDMD, SEC	SEAFDEC has implemented various programs under the collaborative arrangement with ASEAN including programs related to Anguillid eels projects, GIS&RS applications for fisheries resource management, IUU fishing, etc.	
V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES				
5.1 Implementation of Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing				
25	<u>Malaysia</u> : SEAFDEC to continue providing technical assistance, especially on the implementation of the eACDS.	TD	Online Training on Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server for Malaysia was organized from 9 to 10 June 2022. The training came up with an understanding on preparation and installation of eACDS application to server through transferring of eACDS application as a prototype for traceability of fish and fishery product to the country. There were four technical staff who are working on the server (4 males) attended in this training.	Done
<i>Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)</i>				
29	<u>Thailand</u> : SEAFDEC to explore the possibility of establishing a linkage among the RFVR Database, Global Record, and AN-IUU platform for a more efficient effort in combating IUU fishing which would be more effective and beneficial to the AMSs.	TD	TD has collaborated with FAO/HQ regarding the establishment of linkages between these two sets of fishing vessels database. The RFVR Database webpage has currently linked the webpage of Global Record and AN-IUU's initiatives.	Done
31	<u>Indonesia</u> : TD to continue its support on the key in of data into the RFVR to the AMSs when	TD	TD welcomes any request from the countries to facilitate capacity-building for AMS to key into the RFVR Database.	Done

Paragraph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC	Status
	capacity-building activities are needed.			
Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme				
No specific action was requested				
Regional Cooperation to support the implementation of PSM				
No specific action was requested				
5.2 The 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora				
38	<u>Thailand:</u> Thailand is currently drafting a Concept Note proposing to transfer the Siamese crocodile (<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>) from Appendix I to Appendix II at the CITES-CoP19 and will send it to SEAFDEC and other Member Countries for consideration and support.	SEC to follow up with Thailand	SEC will keep providing regional fora for such request SEC: At the Regional Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices, on 30 August-1 September 2022, in Bangkok. Thai DOF delegate presented the Concept Note for the proposing to transfer the Siamese crocodile (<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>) from Appendix I to Appendix II at the CITES-CoP19.	Done
40	<u>Myanmar:</u> SEAFDEC to continue providing technical support and sharing knowledge among the Member Countries about the trading procedures of CITES-listed aquatic species.	SEC	SEC will keep providing regional fora for such request	Done
5.3 Fisheries Subsidies				
No specific action was requested				
5.4 Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act				
45	<u>Thailand:</u> requested SEAFDEC to consult with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the implementation of pilot projects initiated by the DOF Thailand, namely: 1) improving the efficiency of aquatic animal traceability to deal with the U.S. MMPA, and 2) improving the knowledge of fisheries officers of determining the cause of death of marine mammals to improve the compliance of the AMSs with the U.S. MMPA.	SEC	SEC is exploring potential support from relevant program/project such as USAID's PIO Grant activities.	
VI. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS				
No specific action was requested				

Paragraph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC	Status
VII. OTHER MATTERS				
7.1	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			
	No specific action was requested			
7.2	The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 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			
	No specific action was requested			
7.4	Japan’s Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) under the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants			
	No specific action was requested			
VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC				
	No specific action was requested			
IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER				
9.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels				
74	<u>Myanmar</u> : TD to discuss further with the DOF Myanmar the plan for survey track and period, budget estimation, and resource person allocation; and to conduct the meeting to finalize the cruise order in Myanmar waters.	TD	The concept notes for the fisheries resource survey in Myanmar water by using hydroacoustic equipment and estimated expenses were submitted to the National focal point, TD is waiting for the appointment date to conduct the meeting to finalize the cruise plan from National focal point.	50%

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE 24th MEETING OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP)

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress	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-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-third 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 2021				
Indonesia 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.	11	SEC, TD	So far, no request from Indonesia.	0%
IV. ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) 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				
No follow-up action required				
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 action required				
5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)				
Indonesia requested the ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC to support Indonesia in the conduct of a workshop related to the development of regional strategies to encourage the implementation	21	SEC, TD	So far, no request from Indonesia.	0%

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress	Status
of the SSF Guidelines and initiatives related to sustainable small-scale aquaculture in 2022.				
5.3 Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021-2025				
No follow-up actions required.				
5.4 ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing				
No follow-up actions required.				
5.5 ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU)				
No follow-up actions required.				
5.6 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)				
No follow-up actions required.				
VI. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES-RELATED ISSUES				
6.1 Combating IUU Fishing				
<i>6.1.1 Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing</i>				
On the difficulties of Viet Nam in the uploading of data on vessels 24 meters in length and over in the RFVR Database	40	TD	The official letter and email were sent to Viet Nam to follow up and monitor the obstacles to upload information on RFVR database. Until now, Viet Nam does not request any assistance.	100%
Thailand sought the assistance of SEAFDEC for the conduct of capacity building for the AMSs on AIS inspection to combat IUU fishing.	41	TD	This activity is not planned to conduct in this quarter	0%
Concerning large numbers of small-scale fishing vessels operating in the region, Thailand requested SEAFDEC to help enhance the capacity of the AMSs on MCS implementation to combat IUU for this group of fishing vessels.	41	SEC & relevant departments/ projects	SEAFDEC will explore the request from Thailand in the current project.	0%
eACDS: 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.	42	TD	There is no request from Malaysia to TD for such assistance.	0%
<i>6.1.2 Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region</i>				

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress	Status
No follow-up action required				
6.2 Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region				
<i>6.2.1 Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region</i>				
No follow-up action required				
6.3 Fish Trade-related Issues				
<i>6.3.1 CITES-related Issues</i>				
SEAFDEC was suggested to consider revising the timeline in order to have sufficient time for the endorsement by the FCG/ASSP, ASWGF, and SOM-AMAF, respectively.	55	SEC	The RTC on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices was convened on 30 August–1 September 2022, in Bangkok, Thailand. No ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions of the proposed listing of CEAS. SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the outcomes to SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN Secretariat.	Done
<i>6.3.2 Fisheries Subsidies</i>				
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.	59	MFRDMD, TD, SEC	SEAFDEC in collaboration with FAO conducted the two Training Workshops on Stock Assessment first Workshop was organized in December 2022 and the second Workshop on 29 August-6 September 2022 at SEAFDEC/TD. The follow-up has been conducting bilateral between separated country and SEAFDEC and FAO to complete the reports.	Done
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.	60	SEC, TD, MFRDMD	SEAFDEC in collaboration with FAO conducted the two Training Workshops on Stock Assessment first Workshop was organized in December 2022 and the second Workshop on 29 August-6 September 2022 at SEAFDEC/TD. The follow-up has been conducting bilateral between separated country and SEAFDEC and FAO to complete the reports.	Done

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Required action/Progress	Status
<i>6.3.3 U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act</i>				
SEAFDEC should consider facilitating the sharing of experiences among the countries on (U.S.) regulations and management measures applied for the specific fisheries.	63	TD and SEC	SEC is planning to organize the Webinar in 2023 to update the NOAA and SEAFDEC Member Countries for Comparability finding results and others. SEC communicated with representative from NOAA still no response.	0%
SEAFDEC to consider convening a forum under the existing programs of SEAFDEC in 2022 on sharing of information on comparability findings among the countries.	63-64	SEC	SEC is planning to organize the Webinar in 2023 to update the NOAA and SEAFDEC Member Countries for Comparability finding results and others. SEC communicated with representative from NOAA still no response.	0%
6.4 Other/Emerging Issues				
<i>6.4.1 Study on Impacts from COVID-2019 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries</i>				
No follow-up action required				
VII. OTHER MATTERS				
7.1 Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030				
No follow-up action required				
7.2 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAF) 2022				
No follow-up action required				

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT ASEAN BODIES RELATED TO FISHERIES DURING 2022

30th ASWGFi Meeting (Virtual), 22–23 June 2022, Indonesia

The key outcomes of the Meeting are as follows:

NOTED the adoption of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Blue Economy, which determines how ASEAN conducts its work on the Blue Economy and outlines the potential areas that ASEAN will explore for action and cooperation.

WAS INFORMED that Viet Nam is currently in the process of recruiting a consultant to develop the Regional Guidelines on Indicators for Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture to Facilitate the Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change. Viet Nam, in collaboration with the Philippines, will organize a workshop to discuss the guidelines and facilitate the exchange of information on climate change adaptation in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

WAS INFORMED that Indonesia would organise a Regional Workshop on the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Aquaculture on 22 October 2022.

AGREED to carry over to 2023 Indonesia's 2022 priority deliverables, namely i) the Development of the 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; and ii) the Development of common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture

NOTED Indonesia's request for SEAFDEC's technical assistance to formulate the regional strategies for the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on SSSF and the common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture.

AGREED to seek possible cooperation opportunities or technical assistance from USAID to support AMS in complying with the requirements of the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA).

ADOPTED the report of the 24th FCG/ASSP Meeting held virtually on 24–25 November 2021.

AGREED on the Lead Countries for the following projects under FCG/ASSP:

- i. ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia (**Thailand**).
- ii. Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia (**Viet Nam**)

NOTED that Vietnam proposed to co-lead the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia with Thailand.

REQUESTED AMS to inform SEAFDEC Secretariat of their intention to be the Lead Country for the following projects:

- i. *ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project*
- ii. *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*
- iii. *Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture*
- iv. *Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia*
- v. *USAID Public International Organization (PIO) Grant Contribution to Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)*

NOTED the progress made by SEAFDEC after the 24FCG/ASSP, particularly on CITES-related issues, fisheries subsidies, and monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA 2030.

NOTED the draft project proposal on ASEAN-Bangladesh Cooperation on Aquaculture and Fisheries, which aims to enhance the capacity of AMS on good aquaculture practices and cluster aquaculture farming, sustainable management of inland and marine fisheries, and climate change mitigation and adaptation in the sector

NOTED the draft project proposal on ASEAN and Chile Cooperation on Innovative Approaches to Sustainable Sourcing of Seafood (Salmon) and Fishmeal.

NOTED the progress of fisheries cooperation between ASEAN and EU focusing on the development of the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility Study and Promotion of Cooperation in Combating IUU Fishing.

NOTED the draft project proposal on Cooperation and institutional capacity building on Sustainable coastal and maritime development in ASEAN Countries, which aims to exchange best practices between ASEAN and Italy on sustainable coastal development models, and prevention and recycling of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discharged Fishing Gears.

NOTED the progress of various projects supported by Japan to promote the food value chain, enhance human resource development, combat IUU fishing, manage marine debris and promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

NOTED Mekong River Commission's presentation on Enhancing transboundary fisheries management in the Lower Mekong River Basin.

WELCOMED the proposal of OECD to organise an ASEAN-OECD Workshop on Food Security to be held virtually on 8 December 2022 with a thematic session on fisheries focusing on fisheries subsidies and sustainable fisheries management.

WELCOMED USAID's proposal to cooperate with ASEAN in the implementation of the Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFiA) Programme; and **REQUESTED** USAID to include capacity building and technical assistance activities to support AMS in complying with the technical requirements of the Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA).

Special SOM-43rd AMAF Meeting (Virtual), 23 August 2022, Indonesia

The key outcomes of the Meeting are as follows:

NOTED the suggestion to establish a dedicated platform to steer and oversee the implementation of sustainable and circular agriculture; and **TASKED** the ASEAN Secretariat to explore possible options by considering existing platforms and provide recommendations to SOM-AMAF for consideration.

NOTED that the ASEAN Secretariat will continue to engage with partners and counterparts in the energy sector to develop projects aiming to harness the potential of biomass energy in the region.

ENCOURAGED AMS, partners and private sectors to work with the ASEAN Secretariat to identify and implement relevant activities to ensure sustainable, circular and resilient agricultural systems.

AGREED to submit the twelve (12) priority deliverables for 2023 to the 44th AMAF for endorsement, including the three (3) Priority Economic Deliverables (PED) for Indonesia's 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship.

Fisheries

- Development of Alignment Assessment Tool for GAqP Food Fish (*Philippines*)
- Training Needs Assessment to identify the current demand for knowledge and skills needed for sustainable fisheries development (*Thailand*)

Indonesia's 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship

- The Roadmap for the Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture.
- Development of Project on Mangrove Ecosystem Management in the ASEAN Region
- ASEAN Leaders Declaration on Strengthening Food Security

SUPPORTED in principle the *ASEAN-CGIAR Innovate for Food Regional Program* and encouraged CGAIR to work closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and various ASEAN sectoral working groups for the finalisation of the regional programme.

WELCOMED OECD's proposal to organise the *ASEAN-OECD Workshop on Food Security* on 8 December 2022, which aims to exchange policy experiences between the AMS and OECD on food security.

44th AMAF Meeting (Virtual), 26 October 2022, Lao PDR

The key outcomes of the Meeting are as follows:

NOTED four (4) documents and **ADOPTED** twenty-two (22) documents related to food, agriculture and forestry cooperation.

Fisheries

- ASEAN Standard on ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices for Food Fish
- Guidelines for Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-Related Information

REQUESTED the ASEAN Secretariat to work on selected pilot sites to examine the feasibility of implementing the strategies identified in the ASEAN Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture and to provide evidence-based practices and learning experiences on transforming into more sustainable and circular agriculture.

TASKED to ASEAN Secretariat to draft an ASEAN Statement or Declaration in 2023 calling for coordinated actions to prevent and eventually eliminate the use of banned harmful agrochemicals in the region and promote the safe use of agrochemicals as well as sustainable alternatives.

ENCOURAGED the ASEAN Member States to support the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting the Utilisation of Digital Technologies for the ASEAN Food and Agricultural Sector by identifying specific projects that could be supported and jointly implemented with Dialogue Partners

SUGGESTED for AMAF to work collectively with other sectors to transform the food system into more resilient and sustainable and to start considering the development of a work plan on food security towards 2030.

REITERATED the commitment to accelerate the post-Covid-19 pandemic economy recovery efforts to ensure sufficient and continuous food supplies and the functioning of business activities and services to the food and agricultural systems.

ADOPTED the Concept Note for the development of the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Strengthening Food Security, which will reinforce ASEAN's strategic thrusts of recovery building, strengthening the regional supply chain, and sustainability.

AGREED to participate in the Interface Meeting between the AEC Council and ASEAN Energy, Transport and Agriculture Ministers to provide strategic leadership and guidance on how to scale up cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration on promoting carbon neutrality and green growth strategies and approaches in the region.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To note the outcomes of the 30th ASWGFi, SOM-43rd AMAF, and 44th AMAF Meetings.
- To support the implementation of key priorities of ASEAN focusing on the promotion of sustainable and circular agriculture, upscaling of nature-based solutions and decarbonisation of the agriculture sector

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS UNDER THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP) MECHANISM FOR THE YEAR 2022–2023

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The programs of activities under the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Mechanism for the year 2022–2023 were reviewed by the Forty-fifth Meeting of the Program Committee (45PCM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) hosted by Aquaculture Department (AQD) on 5–7 December 2022 in Iloilo City, Philippines. Results of the program scrutiny and the adopted recommendations are summarized and submitted to the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (25FCG/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 2022–2023 AND RECOMMENDATIONS RAISED DURING THE FORTY-FIFTH 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 2022, the proposed activities for 2023, new projects, and Pipeline Projects appear in *Appendix I*. Nineteen (19) ongoing projects and five (5) new projects are under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Mechanism. In addition, the 45PCM noted one (1) Pipeline Project, 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 45PCM will be submitted to the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) through the 25FCG/ASSP for endorsement and also to the forthcoming meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and approval. The 45PCM approved the implementation of the proposed new projects in 2023, and provided recommendations on the Pipeline Project, 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

- TD to work with the Fisheries Administration (FiA) of Cambodia on fish catch monitoring at landing sites
- TD to develop a handbook on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) prior to the conduct of the training to ensure effectiveness of the training
- TD to discuss with FAO regarding the integration of the Database on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR Database) with the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) subject to confirmation from the AMSs on their intention to share the data with FAO
- AMSs to raise the issue of integrating the RFVR Database and the FAO Global Record at the FAO/COFI meeting in order to facilitate the process of integration of the RFVR Database and Global Record
- TD to include an activity on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment in the Project activity for 2023
- TD to explore the possibility of organizing an online regional meeting inviting the AMSs and representatives from AN-IUU and RPOA-IUU to discuss on how the three platform could complement each other in combating IUU fishing
- TD to support Malaysia to organize training for stakeholders in Malaysia and IT experts to facilitate the harmonization of eACDS with the existing traceability system in the country



- TD to consider continuing activities on regional training course on Port States Measures in Inspection focusing on other modes of transportation other than shipping container
- AMSs to share experiences to SEAFDEC on the process to develop eACDS

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

- The 45PCM took note of the progress of this Project in 2022.

(3) Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice

- TD to strengthen the capacity of the AMSs in the assessment of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and fishing gear marking by organizing training and online seminar following the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear
- TD to consider the development of technologies to improve fuel efficiency, especially for small-scale fishing vessels
- TD to share the information to Malaysia on the experiment on the efficiency comparison between the use of Vee type and rectangular flat otter boards of trawls in the Gulf of Thailand by M.V. PLALUNG as well as consider the possibility of having officers from the Fisheries Research Institute Kampung Acheh, Malaysia to participate in such activity
- TD to provide a regional platform to share experience and discuss mitigation measures on the impacts of climate change on the fisheries sector based on the outcomes of the M.V. PLALUNG's activities on innovation and technology for optimizing energy use and carbon emission reduction
- TD to include research on fishing gear and technologies that could reduce the incidental catch of marine mammals

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

- SEAFDEC to follow up on the movement of CITES-related issues, review the proposed listings based on scientific evidence, and facilitate the Member Countries to develop common positions related commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEAS)
- SEAFDEC to conduct activities on the identification of priority key shark species to build capacity on data collection and stock assessment
- AMSs to consider having a sub-regional collaboration for the management of sharks and rays

(5) Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia

- TD to explore GIS applications that could generate images in better resolution for the conduct of future training courses on GIS for marine resources management

(6) Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region

- AMSs to consider the results of the study conducted by MFRDMD as a scientific reference and develop their respective national fisheries management plans

(7) Management Scheme of Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region

- IFRDMD to consult with the Inland Fisheries Research and Development Institute of Cambodia and other development partners to supplement the research activities on fish catch monitoring in inland fisheries
- IFRDMD to consider Thailand to be one of the project sites to apply the Special Area for Conservation and Fish *Refugia* (SPECTRA) system
- IFRDMD to include fisheries management in reservoirs in this Project
- IFRDMD to consider conducting activities in Malaysia with the objective to improve the management of inland fisheries in Malaysia, especially in East Malaysia (*i.e.* Sabah and Sarawak)

- (8) **Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources**
- TD to consider providing additional activities such as training or extension to assist EAFM pilot sites in Cambodia to implement their fisheries management plan
 - SEAFDEC to follow up on the previous training and facilitate the management plan at the pilot site in Lao PDR
- (9) **Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**
- Project participating countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam to submit their respective audited financial reports for 2022 to SEAFDEC by 31 March 2023
- (10) **Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS (Geographic Information System) & RS (Remote Sensing) Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at AMS**
- The 45PCM took note of the progress of this Project in 2022
- (11) **Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region**
- SEAFDEC to provide technical assistance to Malaysia and Myanmar on the breeding technology of tropical eels
- (12) **Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia**
- The 45PCM took note of the progress of this Project in 2022
- (13) **Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia**
- TD to refer to the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear in developing the technical manual for fishing gear marking especially for the AMSs with multigears
- (14) **ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia**
- SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to the Program Committee *ad referendum* the information on the proposal once agreed by JICA

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

- (15) **Sustainable Aquaculture through Cost-Effective Culture Systems, and Prompt and Effective Aquatic Animal Health Management**
- SEAFDEC to consider mentioning the title of activities from “training course” to “knowledge sharing” or “seminar” when sending invitation letters to Myanmar in order to enable the participation of the representatives in the event

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

- (16) **Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products**
- The 45PCM took note of the progress of this Project in 2022



(17) ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to the Program Committee *ad referendum* the information on the proposal once agreed by JICA
- SEAFDEC to consider the inclusion of the study on zoonotic diseases in addition to the study on parasites in fish

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

- This strategy has no project in 2022

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

(18) Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to continue facilitating the ASEAN-SEAFDEC platform to review regional proposals and develop common positions to be conveyed to CITES CoP meetings
- SEAFDEC Secretariat to conduct a regional workshop or webinar on the U.S. Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act or Maritime Safe Act

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

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

- AMSs requesting to use the M.V. SEAFDEC or M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to submit the "Request for Utilization of SEAFDEC Research Vessel" form to SEAFDEC together with an official letter requesting the use of the research vessels
- SEAFDEC to consider the request from Brunei Darussalam to use the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the marine fisheries resources and environmental surveys in the coming years
- SEAFDEC to consider the request from Malaysia to use the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for an acoustic survey in 2024 subject to the availability of the budget from Malaysia
- SEAFDEC to provide capacity-building programs to the Philippines on the analysis of data from hydroacoustic equipment EK80
- SEAFDEC to coordinate with Myanmar on the cruise plan and to obtain the official letter and request form for the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the fishery resource survey in Myanmar

New Projects

(20) USAID/SEAFDEC/Sustainable Fish Asia-SEA Project

- SEAFDEC to consult with USAID SUFIA to include the activities, namely: 1) improving the efficiency of aquatic animal traceability to deal with the U.S. MMPA, and 2) improving the knowledge of fisheries officers of determining the cause of death of marine mammals to enhance the capacity of the AMSs to comply with the U.S. MMPA in the USAID SUFIA Project
- AMSs to share information with SEAFDEC on technical issues faced when dealing with NOAA on comparability findings and how SEAFDEC could support the AMSs to solve these issues in order to serve as inputs for the development of appropriate activities under this Project

(21) Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to the Program Committee *ad referendum* the information on the proposal once agreed by FAO

(22) Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to the Program Committee *ad referendum* the information on the proposal once agreed by FAO

(23) Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to the Program Committee *ad referendum* the information on the proposal once agreed by WWF-US

(24) Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia

The 45PCM took note of the Project status in 2022

Pipeline Project

(1) Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

- The 45PCM took note of the Project status in 2022 and approved this Project to be placed under the FCG/ASSP mechanism and for the Project to be implemented in 2023 once the fund could be secured
- SEAFDEC to assist the Member Countries to monitor their ratification and implementation of the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA)
- MFRDMD to identify key target species that are common for several countries as the focus of the Project and the framework of managing fishing capacity should be based on the stock status

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- Take note of the achievements of the projects implemented by SEAFDEC under FCG/ASSP Mechanism in 2022, and endorse the proposed project activities for implementation in 2023 including the new projects, for submission to the higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC
- Take note of the Pipeline Project “Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity” and approve this Project to be placed under the FCG/ASSP mechanism and for the Project to be implemented in 2023 once the fund could be secured
- 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 2022–2023**

Strategy/Project Title		Lead Department	2022	2023
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 Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
6	Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
7	Management Scheme for Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	Y	Y
8	Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources	TD	Y	Y
9	Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	TD	Y	N
10	Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS (Geographic Information System) & RS (Remote Sensing) Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at AMS	TD	Y	N
11	Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	Y	Y
12	Development of Stock Assessment Method for Strengthening of Resources Management Measures of Tropical Anguillid Eels in AMS	SEC	Y	Y
13	Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
14	ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia	TD	N	Y
Strategy II: Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region				
15	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				
16	Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products	MFRD	Y	Y
17	ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project	SEC	N	Y
Strategy IV: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements				
	<i>Nil</i>			
Strategy V: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries				
18	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				
19	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
20	USAID/SEAFDEC/Sustainable Fish Asia-SEA Project	TD	2023–2027
21	Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities	TD	2023–2026
22	Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)	TD	2023–2027
23	Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture	TD	2023–2026
24	Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia	AQD	2023

Pipeline Project

Strategy/Project Title		Lead Department
1	Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	MFRDMD

ASEAN STEERING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY (ASCCC-FS)

The 11th Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security was held virtually on 18 August 2022, and was chaired by SOM-AMAF Chair Indonesia. The key outcomes of the Meeting are as follows:

NOTED the endorsement of the Concept Note on EU-ASEAN Dialogue on Decarbonizations Strategies Agriculture, which aims to contribute to the overall strategy on carbon neutrality.

NOTED the endorsement of the priority areas of the FAF cooperation in 2023, which include: i) sustainable and circular agriculture, ii) stocktaking paper on the use of agrochemicals in crops production, iii) promoting Nature-based Solutions in the agriculture and forestry sector and, iv) decarbonization efforts

NOTED the development of Regional Guidelines for Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture Indicators to Facilitate Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts, which aims to provide practical advice to the ASEAN Member States (AMS) on the key elements that should be considered in developing indicators for climate change adaptation in aquaculture and capture fisheries sector.

NOTED the climate change initiatives under ASOEN such as the conduct of regional studies on emissions from land and forest degradation and the formulation of the ASEAN Roadmap on climate change capacity.

CALLED the need to build capacities of AMS (governments, institutions, communities and individuals) to address and mitigate the effects of climate change and environmental challenges through the participation of the marginalized sectors, especially those in the rural areas.

NOTED the activities in the ASEAN Urban Resilience Forum - ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINet) such as sharing best practices and innovation on resilient cities and human settlements exposed to climate change and disaster, and sharing of training tools and courses in disaster risk management for urban planning practitioners.

DISCUSSED and **FINALISED** the ToR of ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security.

NOTED the presentation from GIZ on the Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in the ASEAN (ASEAN AgriTrade) Project, which will support relevant ASEAN entities working on climate resilience and the agriculture value chain.

NOTED the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity proposed joint actions in mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture through developing regional and national collaboration plans and promoting a common understanding of agrobiodiversity.

INFORMED of SEARCA's engagement with ASEAN on climate change and food security, such as i) Strengthening agroforestry education in SEA; ii) Mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable development and food security in SEA; iii) Developing an example of a jurisdictional-level platform for Philippines; iv) Climate Smart Villages; v) ASEAN Climate Leadership Programme; and vi) ASEAN Guidelines on Climate Smart Agriculture and Plan of Action (Vol III).

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To note the outcomes of the 11th Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security.

ASEAN FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM (AFCF)

14th AFCF Meeting (Virtual), 21 June 2022, Indonesia

The key outcomes of the Meeting are as follows:

NOTED Malaysia's project proposal on the Implementation and Assessment of Fishing Capacity and Zoning System for Southeast Asia, including the following to further improve the project proposal:

- To remove the word “transboundary” in the Project Objective or replaced it with specific target species, namely: longtail tuna and Indian Mackerel.
- On Output 4, to remove the word “Transboundary species”

WAS INFORMED that Malaysia is revising the project proposal based on the preliminary assessment made by Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). Upon receipt of JAIF's in-principle approval, the ASEAN Secretariat will coordinate the official submission of the project proposal to the ASEAN project appraisal and approval process.

NOTED Indonesia's Concept Notes on the: i) *Development of the regional strategies to encourage the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines)*; and ii) *Development of common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture*; and **REQUESTED** for SEAFDEC's technical assistance in formulating the regional strategies for the implementation of the FAO SSF Guidelines and the common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture. Indonesia will further coordinate with SEAFDEC to discuss and work on the details of the two activities.

WAS INFORMED that the 43rd AMAF took note of Thailand's Concept Note on the *Development of ASEAN Guidelines on Inspection Mechanism for Aquaculture Fish and Fisheries Products*. The Concept Note has been included as one of the key outputs of the ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project, which is currently waiting for the approval of Japan.

NOTED the progress of regional efforts to combat IUU fishing under RPOA-IUU; including among others: i) imposing of administrative and criminal sanctions; ii) diplomatic representation, enforcement and monitoring and educational outreach programme; iii) national fisheries MCS; iv) capacity building on Flag State, Coastal State and Port State's responsibilities; and v) developing Community-Based IUU Reporting System and Accident Reporting System.

NOTED Indonesia's suggestion that the activities of RPOA-IUU should complement other regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing under SEAFDEC and AN-IUU.

THANKED the RPOA-IUU Secretariat for organising the *International Workshop on Advancing Regional Standards of Responsible Fisheries to combat IUU Fishing*, held on 7–9 June 2022; and **WAS INFORMED** that Thailand had an opportunity to deliver a presentation on the event and the RPOA-IUU member countries were able to share and exchange in-depth and comprehensive information on their efforts in combating IUU fishing.

NOTED that SEAFDEC has upgraded the eACDS to version 2, conducted Online Training courses on the Use of eACDS Application Version 2 for Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, and organized Online Training on the Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server for Brunei Darussalam.

INVITED AMS to participate in the *Webinar on Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Under the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants*, which will be held on 26 July 2022.

WAS INFORMED that Viet Nam is currently in the process of consultant recruitment to develop the *Regional Guidelines on Indicators for Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture to Facilitate the Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change*. To facilitate the guideline development process, the ASEAN Secretariat prepared an initial draft guideline that will serve as a working document for Viet Nam and the Philippines; and

REQUESTED the ASEAN Secretariat to share the draft guidelines with AMS once finalised and agreed upon by Viet Nam and the Philippines.

NOTED that Viet Nam, in collaboration with the Philippines, plans to organise a workshop by the end of this year to discuss the draft guidelines and facilitate the exchange of information on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

WAS INFORMED by SEAFDEC on the outcomes of the *Webinar on Regional Responses to the US MMPA* held virtually on 2–3 November 2021 focusing on: i) The implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act will be on 1 January 2023; and ii) the 2020 List of Foreign Fisheries (LOFF) and timeframe for the application of a comparability finding were to be submitted trading nations by 30 November 2021.

NOTED that SEAFDEC will consult with NOAA on the implementation of the following initiatives:

- i. improving the efficiency of aquatic animal traceability to deal with the U.S. MMPA,
- ii. improving the knowledge of fisheries officers of determining the cause of death of marine mammals to improve the compliance of the AMSs with the U.S. MMPA; and
- iii. capacity-building activities to develop the regulations and mitigation measures to reduce the bycatch of marine mammals from capture fisheries.

NOTED that AMS are facing technical problems in complying with the MMPA regulations, especially on the issues of certification guaranteeing that all fish and fishery products are not species subject to the list of MMPA import prohibition, including the result of comparability finding given the very short amount of time to take remedial actions before MMPA regulation enters into force in January 2023.

AGREED to push forward the regional concerns on MMPA to the ASWGFi for guidance and to request ASWGFi to discuss and explore a possible solution in Agenda 9.9: ASEAN-US Cooperation of the 30th ASWGFi Meeting.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To note the outcomes of the 14th AFCF Meeting
- To take into consideration the request for SEAFDEC's technical assistance in formulating the regional strategies for the implementation of the FAO SSF Guidelines and the common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture

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 59 activities and sub-activities, in which fifteen (15) activities have been implemented, fourteen (14) activities are ongoing, five (5) activities are pending or under the project appraisal and approval process, and twenty (20) activities requiring further action from ASWGFi (Annex 1).

The following activities have been implemented:

1. Conduct regional training/workshop on the application of GIS and Remote Sensing Technology in the management of inland fisheries and aquaculture.
2. Conduct a Regional Study on the Outlook of COVID-19 impacts on fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asian Countries.
 - The report of the Overview Study: COVID-19 Pandemic Implications on Food and Agriculture Trade in ASEAN
3. Develop a common training programme and materials on GAqP for trainers.
 - The ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practice for Food Fish: Trainer’s Guide was adopted by the 42nd AMAF Meeting on 21 October 2020
 - 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
4. Assist small-scale producers from both capture fishery and aquaculture to meet standards on the safety and quality of fish and fishery products for securing and maintaining access to markets at the national, regional and international levels.
 - 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
5. Promote cluster farming for small-scale producers to meet regional/international standards.
 - 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
6. 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)
 - Regional workshop Marine and Fisheries Business and Investment Forum with a theme of ASEAN Public-Private Partnership (PPP): Opportunities and Challenges.
7. Develop the Roadmap for Combating IUU Fishing in the ASEAN Region (2021– 2025).
8. Pilot testing of the ASEAN Guidelines for Standard Operating Procedures for Responsible Movement of the Live Aquatic Animals in selected AMS.
 - Assessment on the Implementation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals for ASEAN
9. Development of the regional guidelines for the prudent use of antimicrobials in aquaculture
10. Development of the Regional Plan of Action on AMR in Aquaculture
11. Regional Guideline on Performing Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance Arising from the Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquaculture
 - Conduct Training Course on Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance Arising from the Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquaculture
12. Development of the recommendations on the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility Study Report.
13. 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



- Development of ASEAN Guideline on the Utilisation of Digital Technologies for ASEAN Food and Agricultural Sector.
 - 2nd Knowledge sharing workshop was held on 26 April 2021.
 - 1st Knowledge sharing workshop was held on 22 February 2021.
14. Foster dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners, and international and regional organizations in combating IUU fishing.
- The project on Establishing Cooperation on Combating IUU Fishing under EREADi is still ongoing. 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.
15. Establish the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU) Development of guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU interactive platform

The following activities are ongoing:

1. Establish MRA for endorsed ASEAN aquaculture good practices.
 - Discussion on the Establishment of Mutual Recognition of Agri-food Standards and Conformity Assessment (MAMRASCA) covering GAP, GAqP and GAHP is on-going
2. Conduct pilot testing of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries (ACDS) in selected AMS.
3. Implement the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fisheries Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.
4. Development of regional guidelines on indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries to facilitate the adaptation to the impacts of climate change
5. Stocktake on climate risk and mitigation and adaptation options across the ASEAN fisheries and aquaculture sector
6. 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.
7. Promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in extending technology from large enterprises to small-scale farmers.
 - Development of the 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
 - Development of common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture
8. Organise a workshop on sharing information and best practices on the management of Marine debris in the AMSs Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)
 - Project proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia
 - ASEAN-Italy Project: Cooperation and institutional capacity building on Sustainable coastal and maritime development in ASEAN Countries. The project includes capacity building on managing abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gears.
9. Develop ASEAN guidelines on the management of marine debris in the AMS Fisheries sector (focusing on Abandoned, Lost and Disregarded Fishing Gear)
 - Project proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia
10. Provide input as requested by relevant ASEAN bodies on the development of the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF)
 - The ASEAN Member States officials finalised the text of the ASEAN Food Safety Framework (AFSRF) Agreement in 2020. This Agreement is currently with the ASEAN Member States and undergoing national consultation in preparation for the official signing.
11. Build up the capacity of AMS to effectively meet the requirements of international agreements relating to combating IUU fishing (e.g. Port State Measures).
 - ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia
12. Information sharing on NTMs in fisheries that have the potential to be a trade barrier.

- Issues on the catch documentation scheme, US Seafood Import Programme (US SIMP), and US Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) are discussed annually in various ASWGFi- Related Meetings.
 - The Partnership Concept Note between ASEAN and USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support (SuFiA-TS) includes technical support to enhance AMS's capacity to meet the requirements for full compliance with the United States Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Partnership Concept Note is currently under consideration by ASWGFi.
13. Collaborate with relevant regional and international partners to build capacity on international trade-related issues (e.g. Marine Mammal Protection Act)
- The Partnership Concept Note between the USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support Activity and the ASEAN Secretariat is under the endorsement process of ASWGFi and SOM-AMAF, and will include capacity-building activities on MMPA)
14. Organise capacity building for AMSs in implementing the specific measures to support more sustainable fisheries.
- OECD-ASEAN workshop on food security: Sharing evidence and policy experiences Virtual workshop will be organised on 2 February 2023;
 - Include a session on sustainable support to fisheries and sustainable fisheries management

The following activities are pending or under project appraisal and approval process:

1. 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 levels.
 - Project proposal on assessing the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity.
2. Assess the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity.
 - Project proposal on assessing the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity.
3. Promote the implementation of the regional technical guidelines on an early warning system for aquatic animal health emergencies.
 - Project proposal on Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia
4. Organise a workshop on sharing information and best practices on fisheries quarantine and inspection procedures.
 - Project proposal on ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project
5. Develop the ASEAN guidelines on inspection mechanisms for aquaculture fish and fisheries products.
 - Included in the Project proposal of the ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project

The following activities require further action from ASWGFi:

1. Stocktake on the infrastructure investment and technology requirements of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
2. Conduct regional assessment on the efficient utilization of fisheries resources and reducing post-harvest losses.
3. Promote the implementation of the Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood
4. Review and revise (if necessary) the ASEAN Guidelines for the Use of Chemicals in Aquaculture and Measures to Eliminate the Use of Harmful Chemicals.
5. Conduct a Training Needs Assessment to identify the current demand for knowledge and skills needed for sustainable fisheries development.
6. Organise regional consultation to increase understanding of standards for aquaculture commodities and priority fisheries products.
7. Conduct regional technical consultation to review existing FIS and relevant statistics, identify gaps, and standardise the definition and classification and data analysis.
8. Develop simple and practical indicators in supporting the planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries.
9. Implement ASEAN guidelines on the management of marine debris in the AMS Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)

10. Report existing capacities of national reference laboratories to address fish quality and safety management issues and perform risk analyses.
11. Develop guidelines/manual for ASEAN GAqP for Food Fish and ASEAN Shrimp GAP certification and accreditation system.
12. Promote the implementation of the template for the arrangement of the equivalence of fishery products inspection and certification systems.
13. Harmonise aquatic animal quarantine and health certification for exportation and importation in alignment with international standards and practices
14. Develop regional networking with fisheries cooperatives and fishers organization to support the implementation of ASEAN fisheries standards, guidelines and best practices.
15. 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.
16. Information exchange on existing national policy on food safety and quality standards of fisheries products.
17. Develop regional food safety and quality standards on fisheries products aligned with international standards.
18. Establish regional data and information on critical habitats such as mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs as well as the linkage between relevant institutions in AMS.
19. Conduct training for small-scale producers to understand and familiarize themselves with the safety and quality standards of fish and fishery products.
20. Develop and present ASEAN common positions on issues affecting the fisheries sector in the region in various regional fora.

Priority Deliverables for 2022–2023

The lists of priority deliverables for 2022–2023 are as follows:

1. Development of regional guidelines on indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries to facilitate the adaptation to the impacts of climate change (*Viet Nam and the Philippines*)
2. Development of the 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*)
3. Development of common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture (*Indonesia*)
4. Development of Alignment Assessment Tool for GAqP Food Fish (*Philippines*)
5. Training Needs Assessment to identify the current demand for knowledge and skills needed for sustainable fisheries development (*Thailand*)

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To note the progress of implementation of the SPA Fisheries (2021–2025).
- To note the priority deliverables of ASWGFi for 2022–2023.

ASEAN ROADMAP ON COMBATING IUU FISHING (2021–2025)

Progress

The ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing (2021–2025) was *ad-referendum* adopted by AMAF on 30 November 2020. The Roadmap contains seven (7) action programmes and twenty-four (24) activities. To date, there are two (2) completed activities, nine (9) ongoing activities, one (1) pending activity or under project appraisal and approval process, and twelve (12) activities requiring further action from ASWGFi.

The following are completed activities:

- *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.*
 - *An information session on the CRIMARIO II Project's IORIS Maritime Coordination Platform was held on 17 June 2021.*
 - *Project on Establishing Cooperation on Combating IUU Fishing under EREADI. 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.*
- *Support the operation of AN-IUU in accordance with the Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure*
 - *The regional guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU platform were adopted by the 44th AMAF on 26 October 2022.*
 - *A virtual Workshop on the Guidelines on Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-Related Information for the AN-IUU Interactive Platform was organised on 9 February 2020.*

The following are the ongoing activities:

- 1) 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.
 - *The 24th FCG/ASSP Meeting reported that 6,849 fishing vessels from AMS were already included in the database.*
- 2) Implement ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.
- 3) 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).
- 4) Enhance MCS programs under national laws and regulations, including strengthening cooperation among relevant national agencies for the implementation of the MCS programme.
 - *Operationalisation of AN-IUU Interactive Platform.*
- 5) 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.
 - *Covered under the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, particularly: Output 1: Training on Responsible fishing technologies and practices to combat IUU fishing*
 - *The project proposal has been approved by the Japanese Mission to ASEAN on 22 April 2021 and is expected to be implemented by 15 June 2022. JICA is preparing a revision of the implementation arrangement of the project*
 - *The revised implementation date (September 2022) of the project was approved by SOM-AMAF on 30 August 2022.*



- 6) Conduct regional workshops and training courses on combating IUU fishing in collaboration with regional organizations
 - *Covered under the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, particularly: Output 2: Organize a workshop on "Human resource development on ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) for eliminating IUU fishing" and on-site training of eACDS at the pilot sites.*
 - *The revised implementation date (September 2022) of the project was approved by SOM-AMAF on 30 August 2022.*
- 7) 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.
 - *Covered under the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, particularly: Output 3: Review and Formulate detailed recommendations for development/revision of NPOA IUU for each AMS.*
 - *The revised implementation date (September 2022) of the project was approved by SOM-AMAF on 30 August 2022.*
- 8) Capacity needs assessments of AMS towards the implementation of Port State Measures.
 - *The 23rd FCG/ASSP reported the status and 13 action points that are needed to support the implementation of PSM in ASEAN*
- 9) 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 AFCE.*

Pending activity/under the project appraisal and approval process:

- 1) Implement, where appropriate, the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)
 - *The project proposal on the Implementation and assessment of fishing capacity and zoning system for Southeast Asia is under preliminary review by JAIF.*

The following are activities requiring further action from ASWGF:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Sharing of experience and best practices on the implementation of the Fisheries Observer Programme.
- 3) Leverage public-private partnerships to improve the implementation of fisheries traceability systems.
- 4) Work towards the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM).
- 5) Conduct training for port inspections including legal and operational aspects with emphasis on the practical hands-on component.
- 6) Share information on national fisheries/port laws and regulations for designated ports for foreign fishing vessels, and best practices on fishing vessel inspection.
- 7) Intensify national surveillance during fishing operations, where appropriate.
- 8) Implement Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for commercial fishing vessels licensed by the AMS.
- 9) 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.
- 10) Collaborate with relevant regional and international partners to build capacity on international fisheries trade-related issues.
- 11) 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.

- 12) Improve the participation of AMS in relevant regional and international fora related to combating IUU fishing.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To note the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing (2021–2025)

ACTION PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES 2021–2025



Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	Status/Progress
<p>1. Strengthen Regional Collaboration and Information Sharing</p> <p><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></p>				
<p>1.1 Support the operation of AN-IUU in accordance with the Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.</p>	<p>2021–2025</p>	<p>AN-IUU</p>	<p>AN-IUU is launched and operational.</p> <p>Exchange and share MCS information related to IUU fishing and best practices for combating IUU fishing.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Cooperation Framework, TOR and ROP were 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 guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU interactive platform are currently under the endorsement process of AN-IUU and are expected to be submitted to ASWGFi and AMAF for endorsement in 2022.</p> <p>The workshop on the Guidelines on Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-Related Information for the AN-IUU Interactive Platform was organised on 9 February 2020.</p> <p>The guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information were adopted by the 44th AMAF Meeting on 26 October 2022.</p>
<p>1.2 Provide regular updates on SEAFDEC Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) and FAO global fishing vessel records (GR), and</p>	<p>2021–2025</p>	<p>FCG/ASSP</p>	<p>Number of AMS regularly updating and accessing the RFVR and GR.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>The 24th FCG/ASSP Meeting reported that 6,849 fishing vessels from AMS were already included in the database.</p>

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	Status/Progress
explore the possibility of cross-linking both records through SEAFDEC.				
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>				
2.1 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.	2021–2025	ASWGFi	Workshops, conferences and roundtables at the sub-regional/regional level.	Completed The project on Establishing Cooperation on Combating IUU Fishing under EREADi is still ongoing. 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. An information session on the CRIMARIO II Project's IORIS Maritime Coordination Platform was held on 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.	On-going Covered under the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, particularly: Output 1: Training on Responsible fishing technologies and practices to combat IUU fishing •The revised implementation date (September 2022) of the project was approved by SOM-AMAF on 30 August 2022.

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	Status/Progress
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	ASWGFi	Regional information campaign developed.	Not yet implemented
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 (e.g. ACDS etc.).	<p>On-going</p> <p>Covered under the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, particularly:</p> <p>Output 2: Organize workshop on “Human resource development on ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) for eliminating IUU fishing” and on-site training of eACDS at the pilot sites.</p> <p>The revised implementation date (September 2022) of the project was approved by SOM-AMAF on 30 August 2022.</p>
2.5 Sharing of experience and best practices on the implementation of the Fisheries Observer Programme.	2021–2025	ASWGFi	Workshop on the implementation of the Fisheries Observer Programme.	Not yet implemented
<p>3. Implement Traceability and Catch Documentation Scheme</p> <p><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></p>				
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.	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines to Prevent the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing</p>

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	Status/Progress
				Activities into the Supply Chain was reported at the 24 th 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 on small-scale fishing Malaysia- 2 pilot sites were selected. Viet Nam-4 pilot sites were selected. Myanmar- Yangon was selected as a pilot site.
3.4 Leverage public-private partnerships to improve the implementation of fisheries traceability systems.	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Country report on the promotion of PPP activities.	Not yet implemented
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>i</i>	Port State measures applied based on FAO Port State Measures Agreement.	Not yet implemented
4.2 Improve the capacity of relevant national authorities to effectively 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.	2021–2025	ASWGF <i>i</i>	Technical assistance and capacity building workshops, training and needs assessment conducted.	On-going The 23 rd FCG/ASSP reported the status and 13 action points that are needed to support the implementation of PSM in ASEAN,

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	Status/Progress
4.2.2 Conduct of training for port inspections including legal and operational aspects with emphasis on the practical hands-on component.				Not yet implemented
4.3 Share information on national fisheries/port laws and regulations 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 regulations for designated ports conducted.	Not yet implemented
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	ASWGF <i>i</i>	Regional/sub-regional/national workshops and forums on MCS.	On-going Operationalization of AN-IUU Interactive Platform
5.2 Intensify national surveillance during fishing operations, where appropriate.	2021–2025	ASWGF <i>i</i>	Country report on surveillance records are shared during ASWGF <i>i</i> Meetings.	Not yet implemented
5.3 Implement Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for commercial fishing vessels licensed by the AMS.	2021–2025	ASWGF <i>i</i>	VMS system in place.	Not yet implemented
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).</i>				
6.1 Support AMS to develop, implement and revise their National Plan of Action (NPOA) to combat	2021–2025	AFCF	Number of AMS with developed/ revised NPOA-IUU.	Ongoing

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	Status/Progress
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.			NPOA-IUU implementation status	Covered under the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, particularly: Output 3: Review and Formulate detailed recommendations for the development/revision of NPOA IUU for each AMS. The revised implementation date (September 2022) of the project was approved by SOM-AMAF on 30 August 2022.
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.	Not yet implemented
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.	Pending 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 by JAIF.
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	ASWGF AFCF	Training/Workshops.	Not yet implemented
7.2 Share and exchange information on evolving seafood export requirements, trade barriers,	2021–2025	ASWGF AFCF	Workshops/Meetings.	On-going

Action Programme / Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/Lead Country	Output Indicators	Status/Progress
and market access (e.g. Seafood Import Monitoring Program, EU Catch Certification Scheme and the Marine Mammal Protection Act), where relevant.				<p>The 28th ASWGFi Meeting agreed to include the discussion on the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the purview of AFCCF.</p> <p>The Partnership Concept Note between the USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support Activity and the ASEAN Secretariat is under the endorsement process of ASWGFi and SOM-AMAF, and will include capacity-building activities on MMPA)</p>
<p>8. Effectively Apply International Organizations, Instruments, Agreements and Treaties of Relevance to Fisheries and Fishery Activities</p> <p><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></p>				
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.	Not yet implemented
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	Not yet implemented

ASEAN NETWORK FOR COMBATING IUU FISHING (AN-IUU)

2nd AN-IUU Meeting (Virtual), 22–23 February 2022, Viet Nam

The key outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

INFORMED by Thailand that the AN-IUU Interactive Platform currently provides a connection platform only for ASEAN Member States (AMS) to share IUU Fishing related information. Any proposal to share information with other organisations or other partners is subject to approval by AMS.

NOTED CSIRO's presentation about the Project on Estimating IUU Fishing in the Indian Ocean, which aims to implement a low-cost, transparent, and repeatable approach for estimating IUU Fishing; and **AGREED** to share with CSIRO the list of AN-IUU Focal Points and requested CSIRO to submit official communication on the conduct of the survey, through the AN-IUU Focal Points, for consideration of AMS.

NOTED EU's support to the establishment of AN-IUU and the development of the draft ASEAN Guidelines on Sharing, Access to and Use of IUU Fishing-related Information for the AN-IUU Interactive Platform. The AN-IUU and its tools are created by AMS for AMS, and the success of combating IUU fishing depends on AMS's engagement and commitment to using these tools.

NOTED the conduct of Online Training on the use of the Interactive Platform for the AN-IUU Focal Points, and the ongoing improvement works on the stability and security of the IT infrastructure of the Interactive Platform.

NOTED that the interactive platform is fully functional, and the IT Division of the Department of Fisheries-Thailand is responsible for the data backup storage.

WAS INFORMED that the IUU watch list was derived from IUUvessel.org developed by TM-Tracking. The website collects the IUU list from RFMOs, which is updated monthly. The AN-IUU Interactive Platform has no direct link to the IUU watch list of RPO-IUU and RFMOs.

ENCOURAGED AMS to use the interactive platform and provide feedback to Thailand on the desired function or bugs found upon using the platform; and **REQUESTED** AMS to share information on their respective national regulations on IUU fishing for inclusion in the interactive platform.

DISCUSSED the draft Draft Guidelines on Sharing, Access to and Use of IUU Fishing-related Information.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To note the outcomes of the 2nd AN-IUU Meeting.

ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE

1. The 12th Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) was organized on 20 June 2022 virtually via Zoom Video Conference Application and hosted by Indonesia. The key outcomes of the Meeting are as follows:

NOTED the outcomes of the 2nd Meeting of EWG – ASEAN GAqP virtually held on 17 – 18 May 2022 highlighting on the combination of the standard on ASEAN Shrimp GAP and ASEAN GAqP for Food Fish into one single standard; and **WAS INFORMED** that the combined standard would be further used for the standard alignment among ASEAN Member States and for the implementation of Multilateral Arrangement for the Mutual Recognition of Agri – food Standards and Conformity Assessment (MAMRASCA) which is during the drafting process.

NOTED the progress of activities under the Plan of Action of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance 2021 – 2025 (PAA)

REQUESTED the ASA Focal Points of each Member States to regularly update information related to shrimp commodities and trade on the ASA website.

AGREED to submit the 12th ASA summary report including the revised project proposal on “*Regional Collaboration for long-term genetic improvement of growth, robustness and resistance to Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in white shrimp for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance*” (**Appendix I**) to the 30th ASWGFi Meeting for seeking possible support from SEAFDEC.

NOTED that the project proposal on “*ASEAN Awareness Building on Implementing Traceability System and Aquaculture Certification*” was in the process of revision according to comments of JAPAN-ASEAN Integration fund (JAIF) and would be further submitted to ASEAN Secretariat after its completion.

NOTED the overview of non – tariff trade barriers of marine shrimp products as presented by INFOFISH, the concepts supporting sustainable shrimp aquaculture in Asia-Pacific as presented by NACA, and country’s update on the current situation of marine shrimp as presented by each AMSs focusing on national measures, impacts of COVID-19, technology and innovation.

HIGHLIGHTED the importance of biosecurity as a key to encounter new emerging shrimp diseases and successful sustainable aquaculture development.

REQUESTED the ASA Secretariat to organize a consultative meeting among ASA Focal points to discuss the possibility of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) to include other seafood industries besides shrimp commodity, and to be expanded as ASEAN Seafood Alliance (ASA) as recommended by the 29th Meeting of ASWGFi.

RECOMMENDED that relevant intergovernmental organizations should work in close collaboration with the ASA to provide technical assistance through training programs, workshops and seminars.

2. The report of the 12th ASA Meeting appears as **REF07**.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- The Meeting may wish to note the outcomes of the 12th ASA Meeting.
- The Meeting may wish to provide guidance for ASA Secretariat to support the implementation of the project proposal on genetic improvement of disease resistance against EMS in white shrimp, as deemed appropriate.



ASEAN Cooperation Project Proposal

For assistance on how to complete this template, you can refer to the see the "Handbook on Proposal Development for ASEAN Cooperation Projects" which can be downloaded at <http://asean.org/resource/asean-project-templates/>

1. PROJECT DETAILS											
Proposal Identification Code: (to be completed by the ASEAN Secretariat)											
Project Title: Regional collaborative for long-term genetic improvement of growth, robustness and resistance to early mortality syndrome in white shrimp for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance											
Brief Project Description – 300 words max: In ASEAN, aquaculture is one of the fastest growing business sectors, especially <i>Penaeus vannamei</i> (quantity in 2017: 4,456,603 t with the value of \$26,743 billion). Shrimp farming in ASEAN is facing several challenges, i.e., emerging diseases and outbreaks, lack of quality seeds, high mortality, slow growth, and inbreeding, causing lower productions, slow economic growths, and economic losses. Genetically improved strains of <i>Penaeus vannamei</i> is important for shrimp farming industries but its genetic resources need to be imported from North and South Americas because <i>Penaeus vannamei</i> is not a native species in ASEAN. Most breeding programs of <i>Penaeus vannamei</i> are in America where the rearing environments could greatly differ from ASEAN climates and rearing conditions. Hence, genetic seeds may grow slowly, low survival or easily be susceptible to pathogens. This could be explained by selection process that may not sufficiently consider the adaptivity of the animals in various ASEAN farming conditions. In the 1980s, genetically improved farm tilapia (GIFT) was established and it has been a great success, not only in ASEAN but globally. With selective breeding technology, ASEAN may create a new success by collaborating more effectively in research and development of new genetically improved <i>Penaeus vannamei</i> . Locally adapted genetically improved strains may considerably increase farming productions and stimulate economic growth. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established since August 8, 1967 in Bangkok with the purposes of economic growth acceleration and active collaboration in training, technical, scientific and administrative fields. In line with ASEAN, the aim of this project is to develop regional collaboration in establishing a long-term genetic improvement of white shrimp for growth, robustness to climates and rearing conditions, and resistance to EMS for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance, leading to new genetic resources that will promote sustainable development of shrimp farming in ASEAN and ultimately globally.											
Recurring Project: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, Previous Project Identification Code:											
Project Classification: <i>Indicate the Scope and Pillar</i> Scope: Single Sector <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cross-Sector <input type="checkbox"/> Pillar: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> (Main) Blueprint: (Main) Characteristic: Action Line(s): Action(s): </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Connectivity <input type="checkbox"/> IAI <input type="checkbox"/> Linkage: Strategy: Key Action(s): </td> </tr> </table>		(Main) Blueprint: (Main) Characteristic: Action Line(s): Action(s):	Connectivity <input type="checkbox"/> IAI <input type="checkbox"/> Linkage: Strategy: Key Action(s):								
(Main) Blueprint: (Main) Characteristic: Action Line(s): Action(s):	Connectivity <input type="checkbox"/> IAI <input type="checkbox"/> Linkage: Strategy: Key Action(s):										
Information below to be completed by the ASEAN Secretariat: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Nature of Cooperation:</td> <td>Confidence Building <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Harmonisation <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Special Assistance <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Joint Effort <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Regional Integration / Expansion <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> Type of Policy Initiative <input type="checkbox"/>		Nature of Cooperation:	Confidence Building <input type="checkbox"/>		Harmonisation <input type="checkbox"/>		Special Assistance <input type="checkbox"/>		Joint Effort <input type="checkbox"/>		Regional Integration / Expansion <input type="checkbox"/>
Nature of Cooperation:	Confidence Building <input type="checkbox"/>										
	Harmonisation <input type="checkbox"/>										
	Special Assistance <input type="checkbox"/>										
	Joint Effort <input type="checkbox"/>										
	Regional Integration / Expansion <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: 01.01.2022				
Proposed Completion Date: 31.12.2026				
Participating ASEAN Member States: All <input type="checkbox"/>				
If not all (or not all in the same way), please indicate reason: Research and development activities in establishing and running breeding programs requires 4 ASEAN Member States to actively and routinely participate.				
Sponsoring ASEAN Body				
Sectoral Committee/Main Body:				
Meeting Number/Date: / dd.mm.yyyy				
Working Group/Sub-Committee:				
Meeting Number/Date: / dd.mm.yyyy				
Proponent's Name and Address:				
Contact Person and Contact Details:				
Pathum Thani Aquatic animal genetics research and development center				
1) Mr. Kongphop Ampolsak, Director				
E-mail address: kongphopa@yahoo.com				
39 Moo 1 Klong-Ha, Klong-Luang, Pathumthani 12120, Thailand				
Tel: +66-2-904-1557 Fax: -				
Aquatic animal genetics research and development division				
1) Ms. Sujitra Pechkong, Head of Academic Group				
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Nakhon Si Thammarat Campus, Rajamangala University of Technology Srivijaya.				
1) Dr. Panya Sae-Lim, Lecturer				
E-mail address: panya.sae@gmail.com				
243/10 Kanchanapisek Rd, Tawee Wattana, Bangkok 10170, Thailand				
Tel: +66 95 529 5099				
Implementing Agency's Name and Address (if different from above):				
To be clarified after identifying voluntary countries for nucleus breeding centre (NBC) and test production environments.				
Date of Proposal Submission: --				
Proposed Funding Source(s):				
Proposed Project Budget (total in USD): approx. USD 1,581,591				
<i>Information below to be completed by the PCPMD of the ASEAN Secretariat</i>				
Recommendation of the ASEAN Secretariat				
Meeting No./Date	:	/ dd.mm.yyyy		
Action	:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Not Endorsed
Approval of Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR)				
Meeting No./Date	:	/ dd.mm.yyyy		
Action	:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Endorsed	<input type="checkbox"/>
				Not Endorsed
2. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION, REGIONALITY AND BENEFICIARIES – 600 words max				
(a) Current Problem				
Southeast Asia contributed to the highest white shrimp production globally in 2017 (1.5 MT) but its genetic resources are originated from North and South Americas. Reuse of imported bloodstocks are attempted – known as copy hatcheries, but it is hardly successful to continue with genetic improvement due to lack of proper broodstock management and even worst due to cumulative inbreeding from limited gene pool. Furthermore, the imported broodstocks are mostly from overuse parents (on purpose) to protect genetic lines of breeding companies. This creates less choices of genetic lines that adapts better in ASEAN farming conditions. In addition, the breeding goal traits are of importance and should be derived from participatory approaches, such as based on the current status of challenges in ASEAN. Therefore, the availability and reliability of high seed quality – low inbreeding level and high farming performance are still lacking in				

ASEAN. Good managements are mainly placed on farming but not sufficiently on genetics and selective breeding.

From the aquaculture viewpoint, selective breeding contributes significantly to sustainable aquaculture production because fast growing and high survival due to robustness/disease resistance can considerably increase productions with less resources, production costs and footprints. The lack of good seed quality can lead to key issues on lower productions and economic growths -- a common concern at the regional level includes:

- i) **Slow growth** due to low genetic potential of white shrimps and causing low productions;
- ii) **Robustness** is the ability to adapt and thrive in various production environments. Selection on growth in breeding environments (Americas) may lead to lower-than-expected genetic gain in production environments (ASEAN) if genotype-by-environment (GxE) interaction presents in the breeding population;
- iii) **Low resistance** to specific pathogen, for example EMS/APHND – one of the most important pathogens which has caused over \$13 billion economic losses in ASEAN;
- iv) **Inbreeding** due to overuse parents in breeding management and genetic deseminations, resulted in inbreeding depression, e.g., for hatch rate was -12.3% and for grow-out survival was -3.8 for 0.1% increase of inbreeding.

ASEAN therefore needs to move from imported genetic resources relying producers toward applying selective breeding technology producers, producing high quality genetic seed with high farming performance and low level of inbreeding.

(b) Regionality

Published document reports approx. 70% copy hatcheries disseminating inbred marine shrimp (see Inbreeding and disease in tropical shrimp aquaculture: a reappraisal and caution by Doyle, 2016) and c.a. 50% of copy hatcheries in Thailand, reflecting high proportion of inbred post-larva from not well hatcheries and lack of good quality genetic seeds available.

During 2010–2016, EMS/AHPND caused financial losses of \$11.58 billion in Thailand and more than 100,000 job losses. In Vietnam, AHPND has caused a \$2.56 billion losses since 2011. Many shrimp producing countries affected by AHPND are still recovering from the outbreak and many other unaffected countries are preparing prevention measures to stop its spread.

Climate and farming system can cause slow growth, for example high water temperature during summer grow-out period. According to Wyban et al. (1995), when pond temperature is $\leq 23^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $\geq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$, slow growth can be expected. If there is genetic variation in heat tolerance, improving growth white shrimp of heat stress through selective breeding may be possible.

(c) Project History

This is a new proposed project and for the first time to develop white shrimp selective breeding collaboration under ASEAN and for the Plan of Action of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) 2021-2025.

(d) Beneficiaries

-Direct beneficiaries shall be separated into 3 levels:

Level A: Government agencies from Thailand (DoF), 1 voluntary country for NBC, 2 voluntary countries for test environments, and the government of funding agency shall have equally access (physical transfer of broodstocks) to genetic improvement stocks in NBC, as well as dissemination stocks, knowledge transfer on breeding program managements and relevant trainings. The direct benefit also cover to research publications and personnel developments based on proposed white shrimp breeding program.

Level B: ASEAN Shrimp Alliance members/countries, including private sectors that does not involve in this project as specified in level A shall be able to access dissemination stocks as many times possible. This is to boardly distribute well managed genetically improved strains through ASEAN and Any financial profit of selling (25% selling price) dissemination stock shall be solely used for running a long-term breeding programs.

Level C: Countries not in the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance members shall be able to access as Level B but with 100% selling price. Any financial profit from selling dissemination stock shall be solely used for running a long-term breeding programs.

- Indirect beneficiaries are national/local governments and private sector in ASEAN Member State including processing plants and consumers within and outside the ASEAN region.

3. PROJECT RESULTS

Project Objective/ Outcome:

The overall aim of proposed research project is to construct the ASEAN *Penaeus vannamei* breeding program under the collaboration of ASEAN member countries in the following research objectives: **a)** to quantify the heritable variation for growth and resistance to key diseases in new established breeding population; **b)** to estimate heritability and genetic correlations of growth and resistance to EMS/APHND, adaptivity of shrimp growth to different rearing systems – different level of salinities and temperatures; **c)** to perform genetic evaluation (BLUP-estimated breeding values) for selection with the control of inbreeding; **d)** to evaluate the performance of genetic improved *Penaeus vannamei* in the ASEAN member countries.

With above stated research objectives, research activities can be divided into 5 outputs as following;

Outputs	Indicators (to measure the project's achievements)	Means of Verification
Output 1 <i>(Workshop)</i>	1-1 Workshop – understanding breeding plan and broodstock management, artificial insemination	

Main Activities:

Activity 1-1: Workshop: broodstock management

- (1) Breeding design for shrimp breeding program with respect to a constraint on inbreeding
- (2) Physiological tag for individual identification (VIE and PITtag)
- (3) Artificial insemination and individual female broodstock spawning technique

Output 2: Year 2

(Construction of base population with high gene pool)

2-1 Imported Certified SPF broodstock already transferred from quarantine units to NBC
2-2 SPF certified base population (NBC) with various genetic sources inferring high gene pool
2-3 Database phenotypes/pedigree data/biological samples

Main Activities:

Activity 2-1: Importing broodstock from 8 different sources

- (1) A total of 400 SPF certified broodstock from 8 different countries with known genetic background
- (2) Quarantine and specific pathogen following OIE list diagnostics

Activity 2-2: Establishment of based population with 8x8 diallel crosses

- (1) Mating of 128M:128F for 128 full-sib families

Activity 2-3: Family rearing until 5 g

- 1) NBC: random sample of c.a. 4000 animals from 128 families | backup NBC | biological samples
- 2) Production test environment 1: indoor x tanks with low and high salinities, c.a. 3,000 animals per salinity levels VIE tag
- 3) Production test environment 2: (optional/if feasible): 1 earthen pond (4,000 animals) VIE tag – summer season with high temperature

Activity 2-4: Phenotyping after 3-4 months: growth, survival, pedigree information in all environments and genetic evaluation

<p>Activity 2-5: Selection and mating: selected 200 M: 400F as selected parents.</p> <p>(1) Selection based on selection index with relative weighting factors</p> <p>(2) Mating decision based on minimizing inbreeding</p>		
<p>Output 3: Year 3 <i>(First generation of genetically improved white shrimp -G₁)</i></p>	<p>3-1 SPF certified G₁ population (NBC)</p> <p>3-2 genetic progress in growth in different rearing environments and overall survival</p> <p>3-3 Rate of inbreeding less than 1% per generation</p> <p>3-4 Estimation of genetic parameters, i.e., heritability and genetic correlations</p>	
<p>Main Activities:</p> <p>Activity 3-1: Production of G₁ population</p> <p>Activity 3-2: Family rearing until 5 g</p> <p>1) NBC: random sample of c.a. 4000 animals from 128 families backup NBC biological samples</p> <p>2) Production test environment 1: indoor x tanks with low and high salinities, c.a. 3,000 animals per salinity levels VIE tag</p> <p>3) Production test environment 2: (optional/if feasible): 1 earthen pond (4,000 animals) VIE tag – summer season with high temperature</p> <p>Activity 3-3: EMS/APHND laboratory challenge test</p> <p>1) Test animal: 128 postlarva families random sample of 100 PL30 per family – biological samples collected</p> <p>Activity 3-4: Phenotyping: growth, survival, survival to EMS/APHND, pedigree information in all environments and genetic evaluation</p> <p>Activity 3-5: Selection and mating: selected 200 M: 400F as selected parents.</p> <p>(1) Selection based on selection index with relative weighting factors</p> <p>(2) Mating decision based on minimizing inbreeding</p>		
<p>Output 4: Year 4 <i>(Second generation of genetically improved white shrimp -G₂)</i></p>	<p>4-1 SPF certified G₂ population (NBC)</p> <p>4-2 genetic progress in growth in different rearing environments, overall survival, survival to EMS/APHND</p> <p>4-3 Rate of inbreeding less than 1% per generation</p> <p>4-4 Estimation of genetic parameters, i.e., heritability and genetic correlations.</p> <p>4-5 Benchmarking results</p>	
<p>Main Activities:</p> <p>Activity 4-1: Production of G₂ population</p>		

<p>Activity 4-2: Family rearing until 5 g</p> <p>1) NBC: random sample of c.a. 4000 animals from 128 families backup NBC biological samples</p> <p>2) Production test environment 1: indoor x tanks with low and high salinities, c.a. 3,000 animals per salinity levels VIE tag</p> <p>3) Production test environment 2: (optional/if feasible): 1 earthen pond (4,000 animals) VIE tag – summer season with high temperature</p> <p>Activity 4-3: EMS/APHND laboratory challenge test</p> <p>1) Test animal: 128 postlarva families random sample of 100 PL30 per family – biological samples collected</p> <p>Activity 4-4: Phenotyping: growth, survival, survival to EMS/APHND, pedigree information in all environments and genetic evaluation</p> <p>Activity 4-5: Selection and mating: selected 200 M: 400F as selected parents.</p> <p>(1) Selection based on selection index with relative weighting factors</p> <p>(2) Mating decision based on minimizing inbreeding</p> <p>Activity 4-6: Benchmarking</p> <p>1) Additional families consisted of 3 high EBV families and 3 low EBV families for each trait will be transferred to test environments and EMS/APHND challenge test.</p>		
<p>Output 5: Year 5 <i>(Third generation of genetically improved white shrimp -G₃)</i></p>	<p>5-1 SPF certified G₃ population (NBC)</p> <p>5-2 genetic progress in growth in different rearing environments, overall survival, survival to EMS/APHND</p> <p>5-3 Rate of inbreeding less than 1% per generation</p> <p>5-4 Estimation of genetic parameters, i.e., heritability and genetic correlations.</p> <p>5-5 Dissemination lines</p>	
<p>Main Activities:</p> <p>Activity 5-1: Production of G₃ population</p> <p>Activity 5-2: Family rearing until 5 g</p> <p>1) NBC: random sample of c.a. 4000 animals from 128 families backup NBC biological samples</p> <p>2) Production test environment 1: indoor x tanks with low and high salinities, c.a. 3,000 animals per salinity levels VIE tag</p> <p>3) Production test environment 2: (optional/if feasible): 1 earthen pond (4,000 animals) VIE tag – summer season with high temperature</p> <p>Activity 5-3: EMS/APHND laboratory challenge test</p> <p>1) Test animal: 128 postlarva families random sample of 100 PL30 per family – biological samples collected</p> <p>Activity 5-4: Phenotyping: growth, survival, survival to EMS/APHND, pedigree information in all environments and genetic evaluation</p>		

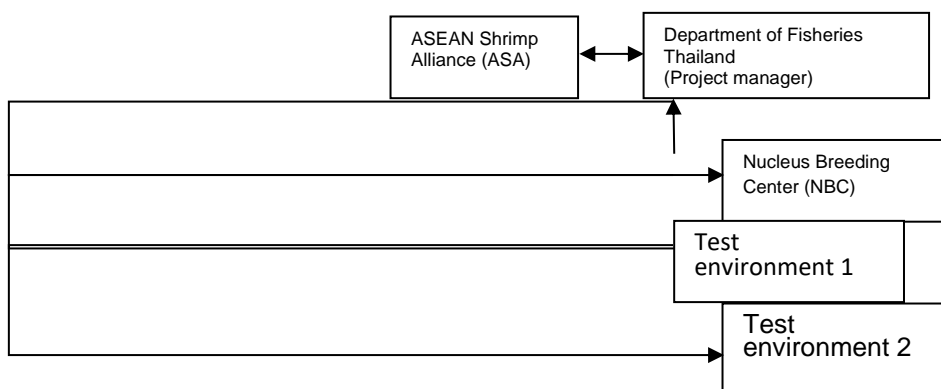
Activity 5-5: Selection and mating: selected 200 M: 400F as selected parents.
 (1) Selection based on selection index with relative weighting factors
 (2) Mating decision based on minimizing inbreeding

Activity 5-6: Dissemination lines:
 (1) genetic determination of high performance parents with control inbreeding level. Different lines with emphasis on specific traits, i.e., growth line, EMS resistance line, salinity tolerance line, or temperature tolerance line may be created as requested if sufficient NBC facilities.

4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS – 600 words max

(a) Management Arrangements
 As the proponent, Department of Fisheries (Thailand) will manage and implement the overall project activities. As the proponent, Department of Fisheries (Thailand) will regularly report the progress and achievement of the project to ASEAN Shrimp Alliance and ASIAN secretariat.

Organization Management Arrangement



(b) Human Resource Inputs
 AMS

(c) Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements
 Department of Fisheries Thailand in close cooperation with Government staff in charge of this project in each AMS will periodically monitor and evaluate the project progress before the completion of the Project. As the proponent, Department of Fisheries Thailand will regularly report the progress and achievement of the project to ASEAN Shrimp Alliance. All reports including the final report and financial reports are to be submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat, and the final report and other relevant documents or guidelines are to be published through ASEAN Shrimp Alliance Homepage.

5. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY – 300 words max

Through the implementation of project activities, communications and cooperation will be strengthened among relevant stakeholders (e.g. international/regional organizations, national governments, research institutions, universities related to genetic improvement, EMS/APHND challenge test, benchmarking, etc.). Also, through the capacity development activities (e.g. regional symposium, workshops and trainings) throughout the project, knowledge and technical & practical skills of officers and researchers in AMSs involved in this project will be developed regional collaboration in establishing a long-term genetic improvement of white shrimp for growth, robustness to climates and rearing conditions, and resistance to EMS for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance, leading to new genetic resources that will promote sustainable development of shrimp farming in ASEAN and ultimately globally.

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

(a) Gender
 All the activities of this project require no gender specific skills and knowledge. This project will however regularly keep track of gender balance in the activities during the entire period, inter alia, to ensure equal opportunities for men and women to participate in regional symposium, workshops, trainings and other activities in the project, as well as to provide trainings for young officers and researchers on the basis of equal opportunities.

(b) Other Cross Cutting Issues	
7. POTENTIAL RISKS	
Risk / threat	Mitigation strategy
-	-
-	-
-	-
Appendix 1 – Budget Proposal	
Appendix 2 – Indicative Work Plan	
Appendix 3 – Notation on Additional Supporting Documents	

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES FOR COMBATING IUU FISHING

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, SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) made the 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 achieving sustainable utilization and 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.

Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR Database)

The RFVR database, an online system, adopted by SEAFDEC and ASEAN mechanism, is one of regional management tools 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. From 1 November 2021, the AMSs can update information in the RFVR Database by themselves.

In 2022, SEAFDEC/TD monitored the updated information on the RFVR Database as made by AMSs. The updated information and total number of fishing vessels in the database as of 30 September 2022, is shown as follows.

Country	Last update	Fishing vessels	Fish carriers and reefers	Processing vessels	Support vessels	Total
Brunei Darussalam	1 Dec 2021	8	1	-	-	9
Cambodia	3 May 2022	6	-	-	-	6
Indonesia	1 Nov 2021	866	-	-	-	866
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	16 Feb 2022	159	-	-	-	159
Myanmar	12 May 2022	1,156	187	-	-	1,343
Philippines	1 Nov 2021	67	93	-	7	167
Singapore	1 Nov 2021	-	1	-	-	1
Thailand	1 Aug 2022	329	18	-	-	347
Viet Nam	1 Nov 2021	2,144	492	-	-	2,636

Remarks: Information from the Database of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record updated in 2022

Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of Port State Measures

Since 2016, SEAFDEC/TD has conducted a series of capacity-building activities on the implementation of Port State Measures with different focuses and target participants through regional cooperation to support the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM) with AMSs and other organizations as partners. Following the request from the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (44PCM) to support and capacity building on inspection of fish and fisheries product importation using such other modes of transportation, *i.e.* sea in container vessels, land, and air transportation. Therefore, “The Regional Training Course on Port State Measures Inspection in Focus of Shipping Container for Fish and Fisheries Product” was organized in collaboration with partners, namely the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and USAID from 13 to 15 September 2022, at SEAFDEC/TD, Samut Prakan, Thailand. The target participants were fisheries officers who have been engaged in the implementation of port control and inspection of fish and fisheries product importation via sea in container vessels, land, and air transportation attending this training. The Training aims to build up the understanding and capacity of the participants on inspection of fish and fisheries product importation via sea in container vessels, and enhance the knowledge, skills, and experience of the participants on inspection of fish and fisheries product importation. The training focused on lectures and practice on how to inspect containers. In the end, the participants are expected to Increase their knowledge, skills, and experience in the inspection of fish and fisheries product importation via sea in container vessels.

Regional Coordination on the Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

SEAFDEC strengthened the regional cooperation to combat IUU fishing through the organization of “The Regional Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia” from 23 to 24 August 2022 in Chonburi Province, Thailand. The aims of the Workshop were to share updated information on MCS implementation activities to combat IUU fishing, enhance and promote fisheries management tools for combating IUU fishing, and identify the needs for MCS capacity building for combating IUU fishing. The current MCS activities were presented by the respective AMSs and international organizations including FAO, AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU, International MCS Network (IMCS), Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), and Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).

During the Workshop, SEAFDEC initiatives to combating IUU fishing were presented. In addition, the Workshop identified the significant obstacles and challenges of MCS Implementation includes limit number of staff, lack of knowledge and experience as well as appropriate management tools to combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia. In addition, the meeting updated the specific requirements to enhance the MCS capacity of the countries in combating IUU fishing such as technical assistance on NPOA capacity; capacity building on the electronic traceability; training on risk analysis of the pattern of fishing operation in each fishing gear by using VMS and AIS; technical assistance on data collection, stock assessment, and research survey of marine resources; training on inspection for foreign flag vessels (PSMA); sharing information on port inspection; and fisheries intelligence/technology/application with notification such as VMS, AIS, and other new technology for surveillance and MCS integration as *Appendix 1*.

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.

The module on promotion and implementation of the eACDS in the participating countries is conducted to five (5) process activities, as follows:

1. *Introduction activities.* The countries were introduced to eACDS, and the scheme's structure and function were demonstrated.
2. *Baseline survey and situation analysis.* A baseline survey with relevant authorities on the process of issuing CDs, MDs, and CCs in each country was conducted and analyzed. KDEs were discussed with the representative from each country and cooperation for implementing the eACDS was requested.
3. *Prototype development.* The eACDS prototype was developed and modified to the context of each implementing country.
4. *Training, Testing, and improving the system.* The eACDS was piloted with relevant users. Problems identified were solved and the system was further tailored to each country context. Relevant authorities, master fisherman, fishing vessel owners, buyers, and processors were trained on using the application.
5. *IT transfer.* During the testing phase, all data were stored on the SEAFDEC cloud server. When testing was completed, the database was transferred to each country to be maintained.

In 2022, the eACDS activities implementation were conducted to participating countries as follows:

Myanmar

The Online Training on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) in the part of Movement Document (MD), Statement of Catch (SC) and Catch Certification (CC) for Myanmar was organized from 26 to 28 January 2022 via zoom platform. The aim is to strengthen and enhance understanding on the use of eACDS application for Myanmar officers. In the end, the online training came up with understanding on the use of eACDS application through capacity building for Myanmar officers to be trainers for relevant stakeholder in supply chain for the use of eACDS application in the future.

Brunei Darussalam

The Online Training on Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server was organized from 26 to 27 May 2022 for Brunei Darussalam via Zoom platform. The Training aims to strengthen and enhance understanding on preparation and installation of eACDS application to server through transferring of eACDS application as a prototype for traceability of fish and fishery product to the country.

Malaysia

The Online Training on Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server was organized from 9 to 10 June 2022 for Malaysia via Zoom platform. The Training aims to strengthen and enhance understanding on preparation and installation of eACDS application to server through transferring of eACDS application as a prototype for traceability of fish and fishery product to the country.

Viet Nam

The Online Training on Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server was organized from 16 to 17 August 2022 for Viet Nam via Zoom platform. The Training aims to strengthen and enhance understanding on preparation and installation of eACDS application to server through transferring of eACDS application as a prototype for traceability of fish and fishery product to the country.

Cambodia

The discussion between TD and FiA, Cambodia on eACDS implementation in the part of CD and confirmation of project site at Koh Kong was conducted on 11 May 2022. The Key Data Elements (KDEs) form was sent to Cambodia for collection information. The input KDEs in the form is ongoing by Cambodia.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To take note on the updated information on RFVR Database which is responsible by AMSs
- To take note of the progress of on-going regional initiatives promoted by SEAFDEC to support combating IUU fishing of AMS
- To provide further directions on new areas of work for SEAFDEC to pursue in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia.

**The Results from a Discussion on Obstacles and Challenges of MCS Implementation and Identification Needs of MCS Capacity Building
in the Regional Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
23–24 August 2022**

● *Obstacles and Challenges of MCS Implementation*

MCS Implementation/ activities	Obstacles and Challenges	Support activities	Requested by country
Budget/Finance to conduct MCS activities such as E-logbook, in each AMS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited budget - Budget Adjustment due to COVID-19 pandemic 	Find some donors (Australia, USA, Norway) to support the PSMA implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovation Fund from SEA IUU Fishing program supported by Australia - EU delegation for support MCS or combating IUU fishing - Norway (Norad) - USAID - Japanese Trust Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMSs
A sufficient number of MCS staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited the number of MCS staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government should recruit MCS staff - AMS request FAO, SEAFDEC, NGO, and other agencies gap analysis and recommendation to your country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMSs
The skill of human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of understanding of the overview of MCS - Lack of the MCS skills - Limitations of information on MCS activities on Inland Fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage countries to join regional organizations such as RPOA-IUU or some regional organizations to engage and seek potential funding - Improve the skill of staff via training and workshop by SEAFDEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMSs Potential Inputs: Training of Trainers for each AMS.
Technology/Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of appropriate equipment such as VMS - Limited skill of fishermen to understand/use the mobile device 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for fishermen - Government assistant and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AMSs

MCS Implementation/ activities	Obstacles and Challenges	Support activities	Requested by country
	- High cost for fishermen and government		
Law and regulation	- Lack of enforcing the law and regulation - Lack of collaboration with several agencies - Lack of harmonized SOP between inter-agencies	- MOU and MOA among inter-agencies	- AMSs

• *Identification Needs of MCS Capacity Building*

No.	Capacity Needs	Timeframe (Immediately, Long term)	Responsible Agency	Requested by country
1	Technical assistance on NPOA capacity	Immediately	SEAFDEC etc.	PH
2	Capacity building on the e-traceability such as e-logbook, eACDS, etc.	Immediately	SEAFDEC, CCALMR, IOTC, Brunei Darussalam, Development Partner	PH, ID, MY, MM, VN
3	Training on risk analysis of the pattern of fishing operation in each fishing gear by using VMS and AIS	Long term	SEAFDEC, CAPFISH Project, IMCS, MRC	AMSs
4	Technical assistance with scientific data collection, stock assessment, and research survey for marine resources	Long term	SEAFDEC, CCALMR, DA-NFRDI (Department of Agriculture - National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (PH)), Biofish Center, WWF	MM, LA
5	- Sharing information on port inspection - Training on Inspection for foreign flag vessels (PSMA)	Immediately	SEAFDEC, CAPFISH Project, IOTC, NOAA, WCPFC	AMSs
6	Fisheries intelligence/technology/application with notification such as VMS, AIS, other new technology, etc. for surveillance and MCS integration	Immediately	SEAFDEC, NOAA, DOF-TH, etc.	ID, MM, VN, PH, BN, CM, MY

FAO VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR TRANSSHIPMENT

Transshipment plays a vital role in the commercial fishing industry which can be essential to reduce operating costs and maximizing fishing opportunities. Generally, transshipment each year accounts for a thousand fishing vessels offloading of fresh-caught onto refrigerated cargo vessels called carriers which then take it to shore for processing. This allows fishers to avoid a costly and time-consuming trip back to port and increases the freshness and value of their catches. However, transshipment can also be used to hide illegally-caught of fish, undermining national, regional, and global efforts to combat IUU fishing. Without effective regulatory management, transshipment will remain an obstacle to ensuring legal fishing/activity.

On the basis of the discussion held by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) since 2016, together with studies conducted by FAO, the Thirty-fourth session of COFI in 2021, which meets virtually in February, FAO Members agreed on the need for international guidelines on transshipment in fisheries. Subsequently, it called upon FAO to convene an Expert Consultation to develop a draft voluntary guidelines for regulation, monitoring, and control of transshipment, followed by a member-led negotiation process through the convening of a Technical Consultation (*Appendix I*) to finalize and adopt the voluntary guidelines for endorsement by the Thirty-fifth session of COFI in 2022 and subsequently reporting to the FAO Conference.

The Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment adopted by the Technical Consultation address the regulation, monitoring, and control of the transshipment of fish, which have not been previously landed, whether processed or not. The Voluntary Guidelines' objective is to assist states, RFMO/As, regional economic integration organizations, and other intergovernmental organizations when developing new transshipment regulations, revising existing regulations, and integrating these within the border regulatory framework for sustainable fisheries management. For the purpose of the voluntary guidelines, “fish” refers to all species of living marine resources that have not been previously landed, whether processed or not”; and transshipment involves the direct transfer of any quantity of fish onboard from one vessel to another, regardless of its location. According to FAO, this guidelines can be a powerful tool with the potential to make a meaningful contribution to combat IUU fishing.

States and relevant international organizations are encouraged to apply alternative measures, comparable in effectiveness to the provisions of this guidelines, to the transshipment between vessels entitled to fly its flag that occur in areas under its national jurisdiction, taking into account different national realities and capacities.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment as this supplement to other measures in combating IUU fishing in particular port State measures.



July 2022

COFI/2022/INF/10



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

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Alimentación y la Agricultura

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للزراعة

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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Thirty-fifth Session

5–9 September 2022

**REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON
VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR TRANSSHIPMENT
ROME, 30 MAY–3 JUNE AND 7 JULY 2022**

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Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

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**FAO
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Aquaculture Report**

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Report of the

**TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR
TRANSSHIPMENT**

Rome, 30 May–3 June and 7 July 2022

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Report of the
TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR TRANSSHIPMENT
Rome, 30 May–3 June and 7 July 2022

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2022



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PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

Following up on discussions at the Thirty-second session of COFI in relation to transshipment, FAO embarked on an initial study, which included a global survey with responses from 90 States and the European Union. In view of the conclusions of this study, the Thirty-third session of COFI in 2018 expressed concern about the risks of inadequately regulated, controlled and monitored transshipment which may support illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. A follow-up in depth study conducted by FAO and published in 2020, further corroborated such risks. Considering this, the Thirty-fourth session of COFI in 2021 called upon FAO to convene an Expert Consultation to develop draft voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment, followed by a member-led negotiation process through the convening of a Technical Consultation to finalize and adopt the voluntary guidelines for endorsement by the Thirty-fifth session of COFI and subsequent reporting to the FAO Conference.

This document contains the report of the Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (30 May to 3 June 2022, and 7 July 2022), together with the adopted Voluntary Guidelines.

ABSTRACT

The Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment was held in person and virtually from 30 May to 3 June 2022, and resumed in virtual mode on 7 July 2022. It was attended by 63 FAO Members and by 18 FAO Observers. The Technical Consultation considered the draft voluntary guidelines for transshipment, as concluded by an Expert Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (virtual mode, 11-15 October and 3 November 2021), as a good basis for the discussions. The Technical Consultation successfully completed the review of the draft and adopted the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment which address the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment of fish, which have not been previously landed, whether processed or not. The objective of the Voluntary Guidelines is to provide assistance to States, RFMO/As, regional economic integration organizations and other intergovernmental organizations when developing new transshipment regulations, revising existing regulations and integrating these within the broader regulatory framework.



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OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Mr Dongyu Qu, convened a Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (the Technical Consultation). The Technical Consultation was held in person and virtually from 30 May to 3 June 2022, and resumed in virtual mode on 7 July 2022, to develop and adopt voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment. The Technical Consultation was convened with the funding support of the European Union and the Government of Germany.

2. Mr Matthew Camilleri, Technical Secretary to the Technical Consultation, welcomed all participants to the Technical Consultation and invited Mr Manuel Barange, Director of FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, to deliver an opening statement on behalf of Mr Dongyu Qu, Director General of FAO. Mr Barange referred to the decision of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) that met virtually in February 2021 requesting FAO to convene a technical consultation to develop voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment. Mr Barange recalled that the outcome of the Technical Consultation is to be forwarded to the Thirty-fifth Session of COFI in September 2022 for endorsement. Mr Barange's statement is attached as Appendix D.

3. The Technical Consultation was attended by 63 FAO Members and by 18 FAO Observers. A total of 188 participants attended of whom 40 were in person and 148 virtually. The list of participants is attached as Appendix B. The documents placed before the Technical Consultation are listed in Appendix C.

4. The Technical Secretary recalled that the Thirty-second session of COFI in 2016 encouraged FAO to initiate work on transshipment. FAO produced an initial study, which includes responses from 90 States and the European Union indicating that transshipment should be adequately regulated, monitored and controlled. The Thirty-third session of COFI in 2018 expressed concern about the risks of inadequately regulated, controlled and monitored transshipment which may support illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. It welcomed the initial FAO study and requested an in-depth follow up study which was published by FAO in 2020. This study concluded that transshipments need to be sufficiently regulated, monitored and controlled to mitigate the risks of facilitating IUU fishing operations. In view of the study's conclusions, the Thirty-fourth session of COFI in 2021 called upon FAO to convene an Expert Consultation to develop draft voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment, followed by a member-led negotiation process through the convening of a Technical Consultation to finalize and adopt the voluntary guidelines for endorsement by the Thirty-fifth session of COFI and subsequent reporting to the FAO Conference.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

5. Ms Faranise C. Kinivuwai (Fiji) was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the Technical Consultation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS

6. The FAO Secretariat presented the arrangements for the Technical Consultation. The agenda, which was adopted without any changes, is attached as Appendix A.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND DESIGNATION OF RAPPORTEUR

7. Mr Jacques Datte Yao (Côte d'Ivoire) was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairperson. The FAO Secretariat was entrusted as Rapporteur of the meeting.

CONSIDERATION AND REVIEW OF THE DRAFT VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR THE REGULATION, MONITORING, AND CONTROL OF TRANSSHIPMENT

8. A summary of the outcome of the Expert Consultation was presented by its Chair Mr Osvaldo Urrutia. The draft voluntary guidelines for transshipment included in the Report of the Expert Consultation was considered by delegations as a good basis for the discussions.

9. The Technical Consultation, under the guidance of the Chairperson, discussed and reviewed the draft voluntary guidelines for transshipment. During the discussions, most delegations expressed the view that the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment needed to remain broad in scope noting its non-binding nature.

10. The Technical Consultation adopted the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, as attached in Appendix E, and recommended their consideration and endorsement by the Thirty-fifth Session of COFI.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

11. Up to 3 June 2022, the Technical Consultation covered agenda items 1 to 6, completing and agreeing on the text of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment. However, due to insufficient time, agenda item 7 (Adoption of the Report) could not be covered, and upon the suggestion of the Chairperson, delegations unanimously agreed to resume the Technical Consultation in virtual mode on 7 July 2022 to adopt its report and bring the Technical Consultation to a close.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

12. The Technical Consultation adopted its report on 7 July 2022 at 13:23h Rome time.



APPENDIX A

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Monday, 30 May

Morning, 9.30-12.00

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of Chairperson
3. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Technical Consultation
4. Election of Vice-Chairpersons and designation of Rapporteur
5. Consideration and review of the draft Voluntary Guidelines for the Regulation, Monitoring and Control of Transshipment

Afternoon, 14.00-16.30

Item 5 (cont'd)

Tuesday, 31 May

(9.30-12.00 and 14.00-16.30)

Item 5 (cont'd)

Wednesday, 1 June

(9.30-12.00 and 14.00-16.30)

Item 5 (cont'd)

Thursday, 2 June

(9.30-12.00 and 14.00-16.30)

Item 5 (cont'd)

6. Any other matters

Friday, 3 June

Morning free

Afternoon 14.00-16.30

7. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B

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APPENDIX C

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TC-VGT/2022/2	Draft voluntary guidelines for transshipment
TC-VGT/2022/Inf.1	Provisional list of documents
TC-VGT/2022/Inf.2	List of participants
TC-VGT/2022/Inf.3	Report of the Expert Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, 11–15 October 2021
TC-VGT/2022/Inf.4	Report of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, 1-5 February 2021
TC-VGT/2022/Inf.5	Transshipment: a closer look – An in-depth study in support of the development of international guidelines. (Available only in English)
TC-VGT/2022/Inf.6	Declaration of competences and voting rights submitted by the European Union and its Members States

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APPENDIX D

**OPENING STATEMENT OF
MANUEL BARANGE
DIRECTOR, FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DIVISION**

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the FAO Director-General, Mr QU Dongyu, it gives me great pleasure to welcome those present here at the FAO headquarters in Rome, together with those who are joining virtually from around the world, to participate in this Technical Consultation to develop FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.

Unfortunately, travelling to Rome has not been possible for many of you due to stringent exit and re-entry requirements connected with the persisting COVID-19 pandemic. However, we also have to realize that the pandemic has brought about change in the way we convene meetings and organize processes. FAO, along with others, is adapting to these changes, and able to run these sort of meetings in hybrid mode. We are adapting to this new 'normal' in order to continue to deliver on our mandate as directed by our Members.

Colleagues,

Widespread discussions around transshipment have taken place over recent years, and the importance of developing internationally agreed standards for the regulation, monitoring, control of transshipment has frequently been raised. As you all know, transshipment, the direct transfer of catch from one vessel directly to another vessel, is a widely practiced activity all across the world and in various fisheries, be it to another fishing vessel or to a transport vessel, and takes place in various locations, including ports, coastal waters and the high seas. For certain fisheries, transshipment can be essential to reduce operating costs and to maximize sustainable fishing opportunities.

However, transshipment could at times increase the risk of fish derived from illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing entering the supply chain. There is also evidence that certain criminal activities can be facilitated through irregular transshipment practices.

Furthermore, with containerization on the rise worldwide, practices have emerged of fish being directly transferred into containers without proper monitoring and control. These practices create a giant loophole through which fish enter the market without any documentation and they can, in fact, be deliberately chosen by illicit operators to circumvent port State measures, which are recognized as a cost-effective and potent tool to combat IUU fishing.

Concerns that certain transshipment activities were supporting IUU fishing were raised by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its thirty third session in 2018, when the results of a global study undertaken by FAO on transshipment practices were presented. FAO followed up with additional in-depth studies, which further established that a lack of regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment increases the risk of fish derived from IUU fishing being laundered into the supply chain.

At its last session in 2021, COFI agreed to proceed with the development of voluntary guidelines for transshipment and, in response to the Committee's request, FAO prepared a draft of the guidelines which was reviewed and finalized by an Expert Consultation in October 2021. In the FAO procedures an Expert Consultation precedes a Technical Consultation, where the text is negotiated and agreed by member representatives. I trust that this Technical Consultation will find the draft in front of you to be of a sound basis for Members to engage in discussions and negotiations, with a view to adopting the voluntary guidelines, which COFI is expecting to receive for its endorsement at its upcoming session in September this year.



Ladies and gentlemen,

We acknowledge that meetings conducted in hybrid mode could pose challenges of different natures for all concerned. However, I feel that joint efforts to adapt to these challenges and conclude the work expected by this Technical Consultation would be crucial and invaluable.

In June 2022 the UN will convene the 2nd Ocean Conference. The signal that would be given to the world, should the Guidelines be adopted this week, pending COFIs endorsement in September, will be very significant. This new international instrument within the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries would also be a critical addition to the suite of international tools available to achieve sustainable fisheries.

In 2022 FAO endorsed a new Blue Transformation initiative as part of our Strategic Framework, to maximize the contributions of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to food security, nutrition and livelihood outcomes. Regulating the very technical issue of transshipments is an intrinsic part of the transformation we call for in aquatic food systems.

Distinguished delegates, I wish you fruitful and successful deliberations this week. For those who have been able to travel to Rome I hope that you can also find time to enjoy spring in this beautiful city.

Thank you.

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APPENDIX E

VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR TRANSSHIPMENT

Scope and objective

1. These Guidelines are voluntary and address the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment of fish, which have not been previously landed, whether processed or not. They are elaborated to complement and support existing and new efforts and policies recognizing that all available means in accordance with international law and other international instruments, should be used to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing. They build on the primary responsibility of the flag States of donors and receiving vessels to implement transshipment regulations and prevent the use of transshipment that support IUU fishing and IUU fishing products from entering the seafood supply chain. They also recognize the role and responsibilities of the coastal States, port States and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements (RFMO/As), and constitute a valuable supplement to conservation and management measures in particular to port State measures and traceability schemes and provide support for addressing other issues of concern.
2. The objective of these Guidelines is to provide assistance to States, RFMO/As, regional economic integration organizations and other intergovernmental organizations when developing new transshipment regulations, revising existing regulations and integrating these within the broader regulatory framework.
3. These Guidelines are to be interpreted and applied in conformity with the relevant rules of international law. Nothing in these Guidelines prejudices the rights, jurisdiction or duties of States under international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982. In particular, nothing in these Guidelines is to be construed to affect the right of States to adopt and implement more stringent requirements for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment than those provided for in these Guidelines, including any measures adopted pursuant to a decision of an RFMO/A.

Definitions

4. For the purpose of these Guidelines:
 - (a) “donor vessel” means any vessel engaged in a transshipment operation, that transfers any quantity of fish onboard to another vessel;
 - (b) “fish” means all species of living marine resources that have not been previously landed, whether processed or not;
 - (c) “fishing related activities” means any operation in support of, or in preparation for, fishing, including the landing, packaging, processing, transshipping or transporting of fish that has not been previously been landed at a port, as well as the provisioning of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea;
 - (d) “landing” means all transfers of any quantity of fish onboard from a vessel, other than transshipment, including transfers of fish to a port facility, transfers of fish from one vessel to another through a port facility or other means of transportation, and transfers of fish from a vessel to a container, truck, train, aircraft, or another means of transportation;
 - (e) “receiving vessel” means any vessel engaged in a transshipment operation, that receives any quantity of fish from another vessel;



- (f) “regional fisheries management organization or arrangement” means an intergovernmental fisheries organization or arrangement, as appropriate, that has the competence to establish conservation and management measures, including measures concerning transshipment;
- (g) “Transshipment” means the direct transfer of any quantity of fish onboard from one vessel to another vessel regardless of the location of the event, without the fish being recorded as landed;
- (h) “vessel” means any vessel, ship of another type or boat, or any floating platform used for, or intended to be used for, fishing or fishing related activities, including transshipment of fish.

Principles

5. These Guidelines are based on the principles that in order to prevent IUU fishing the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment should:

- (a) be in conformity with the relevant rules of international law;
- (b) ensure that all relevant movement of fish as transshipment and other related activities indicated in these Guidelines are sufficiently documented;
- (c) ensure that donor and receiving vessels are appropriately authorized to engage in transshipment operations;
- (d) include transparent reporting procedures to facilitate pre-event and post-event verification of authorizations and transshipment data;
- (e) ensure a risk-based approach so that measures are prioritized and proportional with identified risks, and are designed to reduce and mitigate those risks effectively;
- (f) require electronic reporting and encourage electronic monitoring, where feasible; and
- (g) ensure that transshipment events are adequately regulated, authorized, monitored, and complemented by port State and coastal State measures or flag State actions related to landing of transshipped fish, and support traceability, where possible.

Application

- 6. These Guidelines apply to transshipment, as defined in paragraph 4.
- 7. A State may choose to apply alternative measures, comparable in effectiveness to the provisions of these guidelines, to the transshipment between vessels entitled to fly its flag that occur in areas under its national jurisdiction, taking into account different national realities and capacities.
- 8. States and relevant international organizations are encouraged to consider measures as appropriate, informed by these guidelines, for the monitoring of other transfers that may occur in the context of transshipment related to fishing related activities, such as transfers of supplies, crew and other materials.
- 9. Port entries, including for landing and transshipment, are subject to port state measures as well as applicable flag and coastal State requirements and measures established by RFMO/As.
- 10. These guidelines are not intended to apply to products of aquaculture.

Authorizations

- 11. The flag State should not authorize vessels entitled to fly its flag to act as both donor and receiving vessels for any given period beginning with a port exit and ending with the next port entry.

12. Nothing in these guidelines prevents a donor and receiving vessel from transshipping in cases of force majeure or distress. Both the donor and receiving vessel should report the transshipment activities using the declaration containing information on vessels, catches and activities including relevant elements listed in Annex 1 including circumstances giving rise to the force majeure or distress within a suitable and published timeframe to relevant States and RFMO/As.
13. The flag State should only authorize vessels entitled to fly its flag to engage in transshipment if they have an approved functional vessel monitoring system (VMS) on board.
14. Donor and receiving vessels should be included in all vessel authorization records of relevant RFMO/As and, where applicable, the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels.
15. Only donor and receiving vessels entitled to fly the flag of a contracting party or a cooperating non-contracting party of a specific RFMO/A should be authorized to conduct transshipment activities subject to the regulatory competence of that RFMO/A. The authorization of donor and receiving vessels should comply with the rules established by that RFMO/A.
16. The flag State should require vessels entitled to fly its flag to obtain authorizations prior to carrying out transshipment in areas beyond its national jurisdiction.
17. The flag State should require vessels entitled to fly its flag to obtain authorizations from the relevant coastal State before engaging in transshipment if such transshipment is intended to take place in areas under national jurisdiction of that coastal State or the relevant port State if the transshipment is intended to take place in a port of a State other than the flag State.
18. Transshipment activities subject to the regulatory competence of an RFMO/A should only be authorized where both the donor and receiving vessels have been included on the relevant authorized vessel lists by their respective flag States.
19. Transshipment should not take place if any of the vessels involved are included in IUU fishing vessel lists established by relevant RFMO/As.
20. All donor and receiving vessels eligible to receive an IMO number should be required to have one in order to be authorized by their flag State to transship, regardless of the location of the event. The number should be made readily available to all relevant States and relevant international organizations.
21. Measures controlling transshipment should be implemented to include specific criteria for how vessels receive authorizations to transship, including:
 - (a) the conditions under which a flag State authorizes vessels entitled to fly its flag to transship;
 - (b) the conditions under which a coastal State or port State authorizes vessels to transship in areas under its national jurisdiction;
 - (c) the monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures that must be in place for transshipment to occur;
 - (d) data collection and reporting requirements; and
 - (e) ensuring that transshipment is conducted consistent with the management regime of the relevant RFMO/A and the flag State, relevant coastal State and port State.
22. The flag State should only authorize vessels entitled to fly its flag to be involved in transshipment when its competent MCS authorities have the capacity to monitor and control the transshipment, including by applying risk assessments separately for transshipments in port and at sea.

23. Where fish is to be landed or transshipped in port, flag States should encourage vessels entitled to fly their flag to use designated ports of States that are acting in accordance with or in a manner consistent with the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter or Eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA).

Standard notification and reporting

24. Information relating to transshipment events such as notifications and authorizations, transshipment and landing declarations and observer reports, should be reported in an agreed format.

25. States and RFMO/As are encouraged to streamline notification and reporting requirements in a manner that does not undermine the effectiveness of measures indicated in these guidelines.

Pre-event notification and verification

26. States should ensure that all vessels intending to carry out transshipments, as either a donor or receiving vessel, provide advance notifications of the intent to proceed with a specific transshipment event to the relevant competent authorities and the relevant RFMO/A as soon as possible, and on a timeline that will support effective MCS.

27. The donor vessel should report quantities of fish on board prior to the transshipment event, as well as quantities to be transshipped, including regulated and unregulated species, and any bycatch. The receiving vessel should report the quantities of fish on board prior to the transshipment event, including regulated and unregulated species, and any bycatch. Quantities of transshipped fish should be reported by species and product form and catch area.

28. The advance notification from donor and receiving vessels should also include the date, time and location of the planned transshipment event.

29. Upon receipt of an advance notification of transshipment from a donor vessel and prior to acknowledging and confirming that the operation could proceed, the flag State should verify the vessel's compliance with relevant conservation and management measures and MCS measures, including near real-time VMS reporting, and other applicable electronic monitoring and observer coverage requirements.

30. The flag State of the donor vessel should verify that such vessel has provided regular reporting about fishing since its last port exit, including catch and effort data for the specific transshipment event to proceed.

31. All donor and receiving vessels intending to conduct transshipment subject to the regulatory competence of an RFMO/A should be required to notify that particular RFMO/A when they enter and exit the RFMO/A area of competence based on the respective RFMO/A measures.

32. Nothing in this section supersedes port State responsibility in instances where transshipment is carried out in port.

Post-event reporting

33. All donor and receiving vessels involved in transshipment should be required to log the event and provide a transshipment declaration, containing information on vessels, catches and activities, including relevant elements listed in Annex 1, which should be submitted to all relevant competent authorities and the relevant RFMO/A, as soon as possible and on a timeline that will support effective MCS, and before any landing or subsequent transshipment is authorized. Vessels should maintain onboard record that includes each transshipment declaration, and a copy of the declaration should also accompany the transshipped fish on the receiving vessel.

34. Where transshipment is independently monitored by an observer, the observer should be required to provide a report for all transshipment events, regardless of location of the event to all relevant competent authorities and the relevant RFMO/A as soon as possible and on a timeline that will support effective MCS.

35. Observer reports should be examined by relevant competent authorities and should trigger appropriate control measures when the observer reports discrepancies on the data reported by the masters of the donor and receiving vessels or possible non-compliance with applicable rules.

36. Both the donor and the receiving vessel should report, as part of their transshipment declaration, the quantities of fish transshipped as well as the quantities of fish on board following the transshipment using information on vessels, catches and activities, including relevant elements listed in Annex 1. Quantities of fish should be reported by species, product form and catch area. Date, time and location of the transshipment should also be reported.

37. Information on landings and transshipments of fish harvested subject to the regulatory competence of a relevant RFMO/A should be reported to that specific RFMO/A in accordance with its rules.

38. The pre-notification and post-event reporting procedures for transshipment should be electronic where feasible. The notifications, declarations, reports and registers in general should be available to support the monitoring, regulation and reporting, which should be made available in case of inspection or by requirement of the port of landing.

Follow-up procedures

39. Procedures should be established to cross reference all reported transshipment data from vessels, flag States, coastal States, port States, RFMO/As, inspectors and observers. This process may be completed in accordance with the laws of a flag State, a coastal State or a port State for transshipments that occur in areas under its national jurisdiction and relevant RFMO/As, as appropriate, giving due consideration to confidentiality.

40. Landings, as defined in paragraph 4, should be accompanied by declarations containing information on vessels, catches and activities, including relevant elements listed in Annex II. Such declarations should be required for the exemption referred to in Article 3(1) (b) of the PSMA.

41. Specific reporting procedures should be established to collect and cross-reference data and information on the quantity of fish landed, by species, product form, area, country of origin for processed fish, against the corresponding transshipment data and information.

42. Procedures should be established to follow-up on enforcement against infractions by vessels involved in transshipment, including prosecution and the levying of effective and deterrent penalties or other sanctions, and where appropriate vessels should be placed on lists of vessels involved in IUU fishing. Such follow-up should be reported to the relevant competent authorities and relevant RFMO/As.

43. Compliance review processes of RFMO/As should assess all obligations related to transshipments, including vessel authorizations, transshipment notifications, reporting and cross-referencing of transshipment data.

Monitoring

44. The flag State should require vessels entitled to fly its flag that receive fish from more than one donor vessel to store the fish and related documentation from each donor vessel separately and such documentation should be provided to the relevant port and coastal State authorities when required. The separate stowage should allow distinguishing from which donor vessel each part of the fish on board comes from (e.g. using canvas or nets to separate the fish on board and/or appropriate labeling for boxes). The flag State should also require that the receiving vessel



maintains an up to date stowage plan and other documents showing the location and the quantities of species received from each donor vessel. This documentation should be made available to the relevant competent authorities and retained on board until the vessel has been unloaded completely.

45. All donor and receiving vessels authorized to conduct transshipment should be required to maintain an approved VMS on board which is fully functional at all times and transmitting VMS information from port exit to port entry. The flag State should monitor the data transmitted to allow effective MCS.

46. Procedures should be developed to allow VMS data to be reported to relevant competent authorities and if applicable to RFMO/A(s) in near real time in particular when the vessel is engaged in activities subject to the regulatory competence of such RFMO/A(s).

47. Notwithstanding the requirements in paragraph 45, vessel reporting requirements and procedures in case of VMS malfunction or failure should be established. Should the VMS malfunction or fail, no further transshipment should be initiated until reporting requirements and procedures described in this paragraph are established and complied with.

48. Mechanisms for independent verification of transshipment such as human observers or electronic monitoring or equivalent sensor technologies, or a combination of these, should be implemented for vessels engaged in transshipment activities, with a one hundred percent coverage rate required for receiving vessels. An alternate approach may be adopted only where the relevant State or RFMO/A has adopted a comprehensive set of risk-based integrated monitoring measures at sea and in port, consistent with the PSMA, sufficient to achieve a comparable degree of control.

49. Information and data that is independently collected by observers on transshipment events should be authorized for use for both scientific and compliance purposes.

50. The flag State of a vessel engaged in transshipment as a donor vessel should confirm within a reasonable period of time, if requested by the port State or coastal State or RFMO/A, that the donated fish was taken in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of a relevant coastal State or a relevant RFMO/A.

51. Port State measures should be in place and implemented consistent with the PSMA for ports where receiving vessels land their transshipped fish, including donor vessels arriving from fishing grounds for direct landing or transshipment, including by collected data being cross-referenced against available catch and transshipment information and by inspections and follow up actions being carried out pursuant to part 4 of the PSMA.

52. The flag State should ensure that, for vessels entitled to fly its flag and ineligible for IMO numbers under the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme¹, any conduct of transshipment should be regulated, monitored and controlled in a manner as effective as the relevant provisions of these Guidelines.

Data exchange and information-sharing

53. Procedures for sharing transshipment data such as authorized vessel lists, transshipment notifications, authorizations and declarations, reported fish, landing declarations, observer reports, inspection reports, infractions and sanctions should be established among all relevant States and RFMO/As. Transshipment data should be shared or exchanged electronically, where possible and in a sufficiently timely manner to support effective MCS of transshipment subject to applicable data confidentiality provisions adopted by the relevant States and RFMO/As.

54. Formal procedures for sharing transshipment data between RFMO/As should be established, especially between RFMO/As with overlapping areas of competence, and where the same receiving vessels are authorized to be involved in transshipment in more than one RFMO/A area of competence.

¹ Resolution A.1117(30), as may be amended.

55. Information related to transshipment subject to the regulatory competence of an RFMO/A such as number of events, locations, quantities of fish (by species, product form and catch area) transhipped and landed, should be made publicly available on an annual basis with due regard for appropriate confidentiality requirements. States are also invited to apply the same practice.

56. The flag State and the relevant RFMO/A should make publicly available updated lists with detailed information of all donor and receiving vessels authorized to transship, through vessel authorization records of RFMO/As, the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels and/or other appropriate means.

Recognition of the special requirements of developing States

57. States should give full recognition to the special requirements of developing States, in particular the least developed among them and small island developing States, to ensure that they have the capacity to implement these Guidelines.

58. In this regard, States may, either directly or through international organizations, including RFMO/As, provide assistance to developing States in order for them to enhance their ability to, inter alia:

- (a) develop an adequate legal and regulatory framework for transshipments and landings;
- (b) strengthen the institutional organization and infrastructure needed to ensure effective implementation of transshipment regulations;
- (c) build institutional and human resource and capacity including for MCS purposes and for training, at the national and regional levels;
- (d) strengthen the development and implementation of their port State measures; and
- (e) participate in any international organizations that support and promote the effective development and implementation of transshipment regulations.

59. Where fish is to be landed or transhipped, flag States, to the extent practicable, should encourage vessels entitled to fly their flag to use ports of developing States consistent with paragraph 23 of these Guidelines, in order to increase their capacity and opportunity to undertake inspections and foster economic development. States that have not yet become party to the PSMA are encouraged to do so.

60. States may, either directly or through FAO, assess the special requirements of developing States concerning the implementation of these Guidelines including the needs for assistance identified in paragraph 58.

61. States may cooperate to establish appropriate mechanisms in order to assist developing States in the implementation of these Guidelines, including through the reinforcement of the monitoring programmes so the coastal state can have a general overview of the transshipment happening within its waters, for all the vessels, regardless of the flag, size or gear.

62. Cooperation with and among developing States for the purposes set out in these Guidelines may include the provision of technical and financial assistance through bilateral, multilateral and regional channels, including South-South cooperation.

63. In this regard, States may establish an ad hoc working group to periodically report and make recommendations on the establishment of funding mechanisms, including a scheme for contributions, identifications and implementations of funding arrangements.

ANNEX I
**Information to be included in a transshipment declaration
Unique identifier:**

Element	Donor vessel	Receiving vessel
1. Vessel name		
2. Flag State		
3. Vessel type (ISSCFV)		
4. IMO number, required if eligible		
5. External ID, if available		
6. Registration ID if different to 5		
7. International radio call sign, if available		
8. MMSI number, if available		
9. Vessel owner/company information		
<i>Name</i>		
<i>Address</i>		
<i>Contact information (email and phone number)</i>		
10. Vessel contact information		
<i>Name of master</i>		
<i>Nationality</i>		
<i>Phone number</i>		
<i>E-mail</i>		
11. Transshipment authorization identifier, if any		
12. Transshipment authorization issued by		
13. Transshipment authorization period of validity		
14. Time and date of the transshipment		
<i>Start (hour/day/month/year)</i>		
<i>End (hour/day/month/year)</i>		
15. Transshipment location <i>Port/position at sea (lat./long.)</i>		
16. VMS tracking		
17. *Quantities onboard prior to transshipment	Donor vessel	Receiving vessel
<i>Catch area(s)</i>		
<i>RFMO/As/geographical location</i>		
<i>FAO Statistical area</i>		
<i>Species (FAO/ASFIS codes)</i>		
<i>Product form (preservation and presentation type)</i>		
<i>Estimated Quantity (weight)</i>		

18.* Transshipped fish	Donor vessel	Receiving vessel
<i>Catch area(s)</i>		
<i>RFMO/As/geographical location</i>		
<i>FAO Statistical area</i>		
<i>Species (FAO/ASFIS codes)</i>		
<i>Product form (preservation and presentation type)</i>		
<i>Estimated Quantity (weight)</i>		
19. *Fish remaining on board after transshipment		
<i>Catch area(s)</i>		
<i>RFMO/As/geographical location</i>		
<i>FAO statistical area</i>		
<i>Species (FAO/ASFIS codes)</i>		
<i>Product form (preservation and presentation type)</i>		
<i>Estimated Quantity (weight)</i>		
	Donor vessel	Receiving vessel
20. Observer's name and signature on board, if present		
21. Signature	Donor vessel	Receiving vessel
<i>Master's signature</i>		
<i>Master's Stamp and full name</i>		

Note: International codes as per PSMA Annex D, (d), as applicable.

*Rules should be established by relevant authorities and RFMO/As to ensure consistency in how weight is reported by both donor and receiving vessels.

ANNEX II
Information to be included in a landing declaration
Unique identifier:

1. Vessel name	
2. Flag State	
3. Vessel type (ISSCFV)	
4. IMO number required, if eligible	
5. External ID, if available	
6. Registration ID if different to 5	
7. International radio call sign, if available	
8. VMS tracking	
9. MMSI number, if available	
10. Vessel contact information	
<i>Master or vessel's representative</i>	
<i>Phone number</i>	
<i>Email</i>	
11. Vessel master name & nationality	
12. Vessel owner/company information	
<i>Name</i>	
<i>Address</i>	
<i>Contact information (email and phone number)</i>	
13. Port State	
14. Port of landing	
15. Date and time of landing	
16. * Landed fish	
<i>Catch area(s)</i>	
<i>Species (FAO/ASFIS Codes)</i>	
<i>Product form (presentation and preservation type)</i>	
<i>Quantity (weight)</i>	
<i>Next destination, if applicable/available</i>	
<i>Next mode of transport and transport ID, if applicable/available</i>	
17.* Fish retained onboard (not landed)	
<i>Catch area(s)</i>	
<i>Species (FAO/ASFIS Codes)</i>	
<i>Product form (presentation and preservation type)</i>	
<i>Quantity (weight)</i>	

18. Competent port authority	
19. Date of inspection if any	
20. Signature	
<i>Signature vessel master</i>	
<i>Master's Stamp and full name</i>	

Note: International codes as per PSMA Annex D, (d), as applicable.

*Rules should be established by relevant authorities and RFMO/As to ensure consistency in how weight is reported by both donor and receiving vessels.

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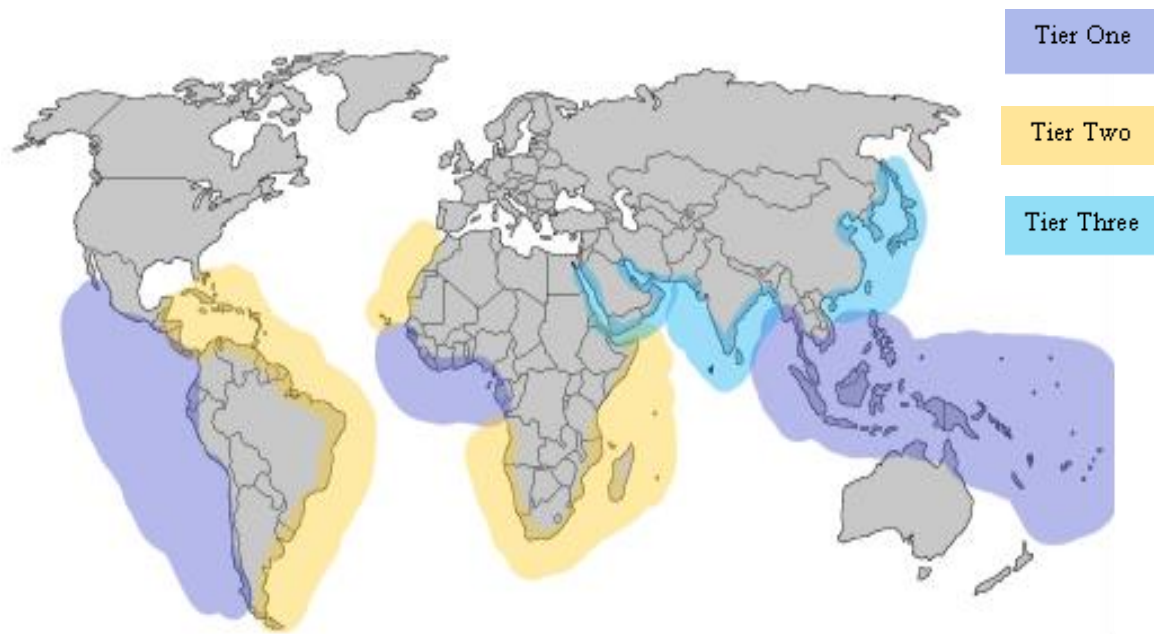
On the basis of discussions held by the FAO Committee on Fisheries since 2016, together with studies conducted by FAO, the Thirty-fourth session of COFI in 2021 called upon FAO to convene an Expert Consultation to develop draft voluntary guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment, followed by a member-led negotiation process through the convening of a Technical Consultation to finalize and adopt the voluntary guidelines for endorsement by the Thirty-fifth session of COFI and subsequent reporting to the FAO Conference.

The Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment was held in person and virtually from 30 May to 3 June 2022, and resumed in virtual mode on 7 July 2022. The Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment adopted by the Technical Consultation address the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment of fish, which have not been previously landed, whether processed or not. The objective of the Voluntary Guidelines is to provide assistance to States, RFMO/As, regional economic integration organizations and other intergovernmental organizations when developing new transshipment regulations, revising existing regulations and integrating these within the broader regulatory framework.

U.S. MEASURES TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING AND RELATED HARMFUL FISHING PRACTICES, SO CALLED “MARITIME SECURITY AND FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT ACT” OR THE “MARITIME SAFE ACT”

The Maritime SAFE Act was passed in 2019 by the United States (U.S.) particularly Part II of this Act calls for the formation of a cooperative interagency working group to boost marine security and combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. It also outlines the Working Group's duties, its chair, and the agency membership. The Maritime SAFE Act Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing is tasked by Section 3552(b) of the Act with compiling a list of priority areas at risk for IUU fishing (**Fig. 1**). In addition to a wide range of activities by all of the Working Group agencies and the equities they represent, the work is intended to help focus and prioritize work through the Department of State (DOS)'s overseas missions to support capacity building, training, and information-sharing to combat IUU fishing. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) currently chairs the Working Group, with DOS and United States Coast Guard as deputy chairs, until June 2023 (NOAA, 2022).

Fig. 1 Priority regions at high risk for IUU fishing identified by the Interagency Working Group (source: NOAA, 2021)



In priority regions, U.S. may offer training and technical assistance a higher priority in order to support sustainable fisheries management, improve Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance systems, and bolster capabilities to combat IUU fishing and the trafficking of IUU fish and fishery products. This includes evaluating legal authorities and promoting transparency in the sectors responsible for enforcing fisheries laws. Ideally, this assistance should stop IUU fish and fish products from ever reaching the United States by helping other countries identify and stop IUU fish and fishery products before they enter the global supply chain.

The working group is coordinating government-wide efforts to combat IUU fishing. A working group that works with partner governments to coordinate inter-agency coordination of seafood imports and to handle enforcement and other tasks. This includes Monitoring, Management and Surveillance (MCS) efforts and the support of fisheries enforcement networks such as the International MCS Network. This network brings together MCS experts and fisheries inspectors/enforcers to share and harmonize fishing practices to combat IUU across the region (NOAA, 2022).

In relation to Southeast Asia, NOAA, on behalf of the United States, is an observer at the 13th Coordination Committee Meeting for the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices



including Combating IUU Fishing in the region. NOAA plans to continue the collaboration with Southeast Asian countries through the organizing workshops and training focused on practical, operational and in line with the criteria of the Port State Measure Agreement. NOAA has made a commitment to enhance law enforcement effort and will conduct regional fisheries inspector training in Southeast Asia (RPOA-IUU, 2020).

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the efforts to combat IUU fishing under the U.S. Maritime SAFE Act including the technical assistance for Southeast Asia.

References:

- NOAA, 2021. Maritime SAFE Act Interagency Working Group on IUU Fishing: Priority Regions. Info Sheet. Available at <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/202107/Maritime%20SAFE%20Act%20Priority%20Regions%20Info%20Sheet.pdf?null>.
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REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF NERITIC TUNAS IN THE ASEAN REGION

Introduction

The regional cooperation between SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member States to promote the sustainable utilization of neritic tunas was initially made since 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 the 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.

The SWG also conducted a series of 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 (*Scomberomorus commerson*) and Indo-Pacific king mackerel (*S. guttatus*), the results of which were reported to Council meetings. Based on earlier discussions and recommendations, many ASEAN Member Countries had started improving their statistical system to comply with data requirements for better data analyses on neritic tuna resources.

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD organized the 7th Meeting of the SWG-Neritic tunas in August 2022. The SWG-Neritic tunas agreed to continue conducting the stock and risk assessments for neritic tuna and tuna-like species using the ASPIC-Kobe plot analysis. As mentioned during the meeting, the stock and risk assessments of these species should be done at least once in every three (3) years or once in every two (2) years if the stocks are worsened.

Status of the development

In 2022, this project continued the data compilations using questionnaires since last year and conducted the analysis approached by genetics and age compositions for selected major neritic tuna species.

As the project outreach, a training course of stock and risk assessments applying the ASPIC model for two tuna-like species (*Scomberomorus commerson* and *Scomberomorus guttatus*) was successfully organized in the last quarter of 2021, in collaboration with the DoF Malaysia. And as the outcome of this activity, MFRDMD published the technical report of stock and risk assessment of Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel and Indo-Pacific king mackerel resources based on the ASPIC model.

Moreover, to exchange the stock status information with AMSs, MFRDMD conducted the seventh meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessments in the Southeast Asian Waters from 23 to 24 August 2022. This meeting took place with a physical-video hybrid conference because of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. During this scientific meeting, the report of the training course on seerfish stock and risk assessments using ASPIC was shared. Furthermore, during this scientific meeting, the status of the stock level of seerfish and the future work plan of the meeting were confirmed with AMS representatives.

MFRDMD proceeded with the DNA analysis for “Clarification of the stock Structure for one Neritic Tuna species (*E. affinis*)” in the Southeast Asian region. A total of 710 *E. affinis* samples were collected in 15 different locations in Southeast Asia since the past project term. As the output of this activity, a total of 430 DNA samples were successfully sequenced, which were analyzed using the mitochondrial DNA d-loop region. Besides, the number of 100 of all samples stored in RIMF Indonesia were analyzed in its laboratory. As the outcome of this project, MFRDMD presented the resultant study at the poster session of “the 46th Annual Conference of the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 2022” held on 24-25 August 2022, in which the study suggested that *E. affinis* is a single population stock in the Southeast Asian region.



MFRDMD collected otoliths of neritic tuna: Kawakawa (*E. affinis*) for “Life history study for major neritic tuna species in Southeast Asian region” since January 2020, and a total of 360 samples were evaluated to determine the age composition. The analysis identified that the age of samples collected on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia were distributed between 3 and 6 years old, while the age of the samples between 4 and 5 years old had an average length of 423 millimeters. This sampling and analysis continue until December 2022.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the activities that had been done by MFRDMD.

CITES-RELATED ISSUES

Introduction

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an internationally legally binding agreement between governments (also known as Parties). It was signed on 3 March 1973 and entered into force on 1 July 1975, aiming at ensuring the international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild. Almost all countries in the world are Parties to the Convention. As of November 2019, CITES regulates international trade in over 38,700 species of animals and plants, including their products and derivatives, ensuring their survival in the wild with benefits for the livelihoods of local people and the global environment. The species are grouped in the Appendices (I, II, and III) according to how threatened they are by international trade. CITES regularly organizes the Conference of the Parties meets to review the implementation of the Convention (CoPs) every two to three years.

Southeast Asian countries supply fish and fish products to the global markets. The listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) in the CITES Appendices is one crucial issue faced by the fisheries sector of Southeast Asia as it could impact not only on the management of fisheries but also the economies of the countries in the region. Such impacts are anticipated not only as a result of regulation in trade of the species being listed in the CITES Appendices, but also in the trade of look-a-like species, as well as trade in parts or processed forms of the species. Furthermore, difficulties could also be anticipated in delisting or down-listing of the species once these are listed in the CITES Appendices.

In facilitation and preparation of SEAFDEC Member Countries attending CoPs, SEAFDEC provides regional platforms, funded by the Government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund, for SEAFDEC Member Countries to obtain technical information of the proposed listing of the CEA species into the CITES Appendices at CITES CoPs and to discuss towards development of common/coordinated positions to reflect the regional interest. The outcomes of the regional deliberations and recommendations provide significant inputs to CITES-CoPs and other relevant international meetings that demonstrating the countries' seriousness in promoting sustainable fisheries including responsible fish trade.

Update Information on Regional Initiatives in Relation to CITES

- **Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at the CITES CoP19**

In 2022, the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP19) was organized on 14–25 November 2022, by CITES Secretariat with the kind invitation of the government of Republic of Panama, in Panama City. At the CoP19, there were also considered (and where appropriate adopt) proposals to amend the lists of species in Appendices I and II that also included Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS).

In order to facilitate the discussion of the proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices at CoP19, SEAFDEC with funding support by the Japanese Trust Fund convened the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices on 30 August–1 September 2022, in Bangkok, Thailand. The RTC was attended by fisheries experts and National Coordinators from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam as well as officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, namely TD, AQD, MFRDMD and IFRDMD, and with Resource Persons from FAO Rome and academia. There are seven proposals made by CITES Proponents on the inclusion of commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEAS) were discussed during the RTC.

- Proposal no. 37: Include *Carcharhinidae* spp. in Appendix II;
- Proposal no. 38: Include *Sphyrnidae* spp. in Appendix II; and
- Proposal no. 39: Include *Potamotrygon albimaculata*, *P. henlei*, *P. jabuti*, *P. leopoldi*, *P. marquesi*, *P. signata*, and *P. wallacei* in Appendix II;
- Proposal no. 40: Include *Rhinobatidae* spp. in Appendix II;
- Proposal no. 42: Include *Thelenota* spp. in Appendix II;
- Proposal no. 41: Include *Hypancistrus zebra* in Appendix I; and
- Proposal no. 13: Downlisting of *Crocodylus siamensis* (Siamese crocodile) (captive breeding population of Thailand) from Appendix I to Appendix II with zero quota export for wild specimens. Note: The species is under the purview of fisheries authority only in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The RTC came up with technical information and the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Countries' Positions on the proposals for the possible inclusion of the aforesaid CEAS into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19. Singapore provided their positions through email communication. The Positions were reported to the SEAFDEC Council *ad referendum* in September 2022, the Positions appear as **Appendix 1**.

- **Outcomes of the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP19)**

The 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP19) was held on 14-25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama. The CoP19 was hosted by the CITES Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of Panama. The CoP19 was attended by the country delegates from 143 Parties, international organizations such as FAO, UNEP, IUCN, and SEAFDEC among others as well as non-governmental organizations. The objective of the Convention is all international trade in all CITES-listed species is legal, traceable, and sustainable and that CITES plays its part in the global conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. For the CoP19, 52 proposals were submitted by the proponents and considered at the CoP19, of which the proposals of CEAS were discussed among others.

Regarding concerned proposals as mentioned above, as resulted from the CoP19, it can be concluded as follows:

Proposals	Results of Voting* at CoP19
# 37 to include <i>Carcharhinidae</i> spp. in Appendix II	Adopted
# 38 to include <i>Sphyrnidae</i> spp. in Appendix II	Adopted
# 39 to include <i>Potamotrygon albimaculata</i> , <i>P. henlei</i> , <i>P. jabuti</i> , <i>P. leopoldi</i> , <i>P. marquesi</i> , <i>P. signata</i> , and <i>P. wallacei</i> in Appendix II	Adopted
# 40 to include <i>Rhinobatidae</i> spp. in Appendix II	Adopted
# 42 to include <i>Thelenota</i> spp. in Appendix II	Adopted
# 41 to include <i>Hypancistrus zebra</i> in Appendix II (original proposal, Brazil proposed to includes in Appendix I)	Adopted
# 13 to downlist <i>Crocodylus siamensis</i> (Siamese crocodile) (captive breeding population of Thailand) from Appendix I to Appendix II with zero quota export for wild specimens	Rejected

Remarks: *decisions shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of voting

Reference: <https://cites.org/eng/cop/19/summary-records>

More detailed results of the voting of the proposals of CEAS to amend the Appendices of CITES at the CITES CoP19, appear in **Appendix 2**.

In addition, during the CoP19, SEAFDEC convened the side event titled, “Resource Utilization of Commercially–exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) in Southeast Asia: Regional Cooperation to Support National Actions” on 18 November 2022. The objective of this side event is to share the experiences of SEAFDEC regional initiatives and lessons learned in supporting ASEAN Member States with regards to

conservation and management of CEAS *e.g.* sharks and rays in Southeast Asia, and to disseminate the outcomes from discussions made among SEAFDEC Member Countries through the regional technical consultation on ASEAN-SEAFDEC common positions the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices at the CoP19 which was organized in September 2022.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries Positions on Inclusion of the Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) to the CITES Appendices at the CoP19, and the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices on 30 August–1 September 2022, which were informed to the SEAFDEC Council by *ad referendum*.
- To take note of the results of the CITES CoP19 particularly on proposals related to CEAS during the CoP19.
- To provide policy directives to SEAFDEC and Member Countries on the implementation of regional/national initiatives related to CITES-listed CEA species.

Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19

(Adopted at the Regional Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices on 30 August–1 September 2022)

I. Introduction

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in collaboration with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, with funding support from the Government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund, convened the “Regional Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices” on 30 August–1 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) was attended by fisheries experts and National Coordinators from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam; technical officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, namely: TD, AQD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD; as well as resource persons from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), academes, and relevant agencies of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

The RTC was informed of the proposals to be discussed at the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Aquatic Animals and Plants (CITES-CoP19) which will be organized on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama for inclusion of commercially exploited aquatic species (CEAS) in CITES Appendices I and II as follows:

CoP19 Proposal 37

Inclusion of the grey reef shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*), dusky shark (*C. obscurus*), smalltail shark (*C. porosus*), Ganges shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*), sandbar shark (*C. plumbeus*), Borneo shark (*C. borneensis*), Pondicherry shark (*C. hemiodon*), smoothtooth blacktip shark (*C. leiodon*), sharptooth lemon shark (*Negaprion acutidens*), Caribbean reef shark (*C. perezi*), daggernose shark (*Isogomphodon oxyrinchus*), night shark (*C. signatus*), whitenose shark (*Nasolamia velox*), blacknose shark (*C. acronotus*), whitecheek shark (*C. dussumieri*), lost shark (*C. obsoletus*), Pacific smalltail shark (*C. cerdale*), Borneo broadfin shark (*Lamiopsis tephrodes*) and the broadfin shark (*Lamiopsis temminckii*) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A and B in Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

Inclusion of all other species in the family Carcharhinidae (requiem sharks): Genus *Carcharhinus*, Genus *Isogomphodon*, Genus *Loxodon*, Genus *Nasolamia*, Genus *Lamiopsis*, Genus *Negaprion*, Genus *Prionace*, Genus *Rhizoprionodon*, Genus *Scoliodon*, Genus *Triaenodon* and any other putative species of family Carcharhinidae in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A in Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Proposal 38

Inclusion of *Sphyrna tiburo*, commonly referred to as the bonnethead shark, in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A and B in Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

Inclusion of all remaining species in the Family Sphyrnidae (hammerhead sharks) which are not already listed in CITES Appendix II, including: *S. media*, *S. tudes*, *S. corona*, *S. gilberti*, and *Eusphyrna blochii*, as well as any other yet to be identified species of the Family Sphyrnidae, in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A in Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

CoP19 Proposal 39

Inclusion of *Potamotrygon wallacei* and *P. leopoldi* in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II of the Convention and satisfying criteria A and B in Annex 2a of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)

Inclusion of look-alikes endemic freshwater stingray species that are on the ornamental fish trade legally as *P. henlei* and illegally as *P. albimaculata*, *P. jabuti* from the black stingray group. The illegally exported species such as *P. marquesi* and *P. signata* of the brown stingray group such as *P. wallacei* in accordance with Criteria A of Annex 2b (Conf. 9.24, Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Proposal 40

Inclusion of the six species of guitarfish (*Acroteriobatus variegatus*; *Pseudobatos horkelii*; *Rhinobatos albomaculatus*; *R. irvinei*; *R. rhinobatos* and *R. schlegelii*) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2(a) of the Convention, and satisfying criteria A and B in Annex 2a of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). In addition, to add another 37 species as “look-alikes” in the list.

CoP19 Proposal 42

Inclusion of all species in the genus *Thelenota*, which includes the three species *T. ananas*, *T. anax*, and *T. rubralineata* in Appendix II, in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention.

CoP19 Proposal 41¹

Inclusion of *Hypancistrus zebra* in Appendix I in accordance with Article II, paragraph 1 of CITES Convention, and satisfying criterion in Annex 1 B (iii; iv) and Annex 1 C (i; ii) of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Proposal 13²

Downlisting of *Crocodylus siamensis* (Siamese crocodile) (captive breeding population of Thailand) from Appendix I to Appendix II with zero quota export for wild specimens.

During the RTC, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries provided information on the proposed CEAS including abundance, utilization, and conservation measures applied by the respective species.

- This document compiles the technical information as well as views and positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of CEAS into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19. It is expected that the positions derived from the RTC and subsequently approved by the SEAFDEC Council and higher authorities of ASEAN would serve as basis for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to communicate with the authorities responsible for CITES of the respective countries and be reflected by the countries during the CITES-CoP19. It is envisaged that this would help safeguard the fisheries sector in region especially ensuring that the CEAS could be utilized in sustainable manner and would contribute to the people’s livelihood and food security of the region.

¹ The proposal was raised at the RTC.

² The proposal was raised at the RTC; crocodiles are under the purview of fisheries authorities in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam only.

II. Technical Information and Views and Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Proposed Listing of CEAS into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
37	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approximately 39 species under the family Carcharhinidae are found in the region. The species are mostly bycatch from commercial or artisanal fisheries, and are fully utilized. - Nineteen (19) species of family Carcharhinidae have a range of distinctly different sizes, morphological appearances, productivity, fishery and trade profiles, thus, making evaluation as a group difficult. - The most traded species in the region are “look-alike.” Many species can be differentiable from one another, although some look very similar. In certain cases, it is difficult to quickly identify commodities to species level, but there are marked differences in the trade profiles of these species, and for traders the commodities can be differentiated. Identification to species level is more difficult in the case of meat, cartilage, skin, and oil products. <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three (3) species (<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>; <i>C. porosus</i>; and <i>Glyphis gangeticus</i>) meet the CITES criteria; 12 species 	<p>Cambodia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some species can be found in Cambodian waters as bycatch from small-scale fisheries and traded in local markets. <p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carcharhinidae caught both as target and bycatch. Several species that are commonly traded such as: <i>P. glauca</i>, <i>C. limbatus</i>, <i>C. sorrah</i>, <i>C. tjtjtjt</i>. Listing may pose resistance from traders/communities and likely complex in the implementation and management given many species are look-alike. <p>Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of the species in the Appendix II should not be supported because of many concerns, in particular, the inappropriate use of the “look alike” criteria. Given the listing of many species in block and the various concerns expressed by the ASEAN Member States (AMSs). The countries may further consider the 		Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Thailand Viet Nam	Singapore*

¹ At the 7th FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially-Exploited Aquatic Species (Expert Panel), held at FAO Headquarters from 18 to 22 July 2022.

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>do not meet; and 4 species have insufficient information.</p> <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II Two species, <i>i.e.</i> <i>C. longimanus</i> and <i>C. falciformis</i>, are already in Appendix II of CITES. It is anticipated that the listing of all remaining species under the family Carcharhinidae including look-alike species would create difficulty in the implementation and management, and would require a lot of resource investment, <i>e.g.</i> capacity building on species identification, inspection of specimens, development of non-detriment finding (NDF) documents, etc.</p>	<p>appropriate approach to deal with such the listing in proposal.</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of the species in the Appendix II should not cover the whole family Carcharhinidae. - Considering that there are several look-alike species to be included in the Appendix II, this listing creates difficulty in implementation and management. 			
38	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sphyrna</i> spp. are caught as bycatch in countries of the Southeast Asian region from inshore and offshore areas and utilized for livelihood and food security. <p>View of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i> meets the CITES criteria. 	<p>Brunei Darussalam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - banned all types of trade on shark, which includes their body parts, as well as catching, and collection of sharks since 2014. <p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Of all hammerhead species found in Indonesia, only <i>Eusphyrna blochii</i> that yet to be included in Appendix II and the species is for local use. 	<p>Indonesia Malaysia Myanmar Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Viet Nam</p>	<p>Lao PDR Thailand Philippines</p>	<p>Japan Singapore*</p>

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although <i>S. tiburo</i> is not found in the Southeast Asian region, it is anticipated that inclusion of all species in the family as “look-alike” species would impact the export of other shark commodities from the region. - It is anticipated that the listing of species into the Appendix II would result in not reporting and recording of catch and trade of the species creating difficulty and burden for authorities to collect scientific data to support management of the species. 	<p>Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In general, sharks should be managed under the national laws and regulations of the respective countries. - Sufficient evidence was not given to demonstrate that the international trade is the key driver of its stock decline. - It is still unclear whether the other species meet the "look alike" criteria. <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hammerhead sharks are protected under the national laws. The implementation of shark conservation and management measures should be enhanced to become effective. <p>Myanmar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hammerhead Sharks are commonly found in inshore and offshore waters, caught by various fishing gears, and domestically traded. Catch of sharks should be legally recorded, while data collection and management of the species should be at the regional level. <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Except for <i>Eusphyra blochii</i>, the Philippines is not a range state of the rest of species of hammerhead sharks proposed to be listed. FAO Expert Advisory Panel finds the proposal inadequate to meet the criteria for listing Appendix II 			

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
		<p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharks and rays are managed under the NPOA-Sharks with data collection program in place in the country. <p>Viet Nam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many species of sharks are protected in Viet Nam, which include three hammerhead shark species listed into Appendix II. 			
39	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No species of the family Potamotrygonidae occurs in the natural habitats of the Southeast Asian region. - Potamotrygons are cultured for ornamental purposes (mostly as hybrids) and traded by countries in the region, <i>e.g.</i> Thailand and Malaysia. Breeders that were generally domesticated and imported from other countries were not sourced from the wild. Countries trading (importing/exporting) the species are applying regulations for traders to obtain permit from fisheries authorities. - Trade of wild caught stingrays has been regulated in Brazil since 1998, including the export numbers of each species and numbers per species plus maximum size that were in place since 2003. In addition, all the Potamotrygonins in this proposal have already been listed since January 2017 under Appendix III. 	<p>Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In general, the stock of freshwater aquatic species should be managed by respective countries, and deemed necessary, the countries should consider listing under the Appendix III. <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listing of the species would create difficulty for trading of hybrid specimens from aquaculture industry, while the development of NDF is complicated as there are no wild broodstock in Malaysia. <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freshwater stingrays are not endemic to the Philippines and no record of captive breeding. Listing under CITES would affect non-range countries that engage in aquaculture or captive breeding of these species. Listing under Appendix III would be more appropriate. 		<p>Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Thailand Viet Nam</p>	Singapore*

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production of Potamotrygonins in aquaculture sector is a positive as it removes pressure on the wild stock. <p>View of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of <i>P. wallacei</i> meets CITES criteria; while listing of <i>P. leopoldi</i> does not meet CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that the listing of the species into the Appendix II would pose hurdles in trade of aquaculture bred and reared stingrays, e.g. documentation requirement to certify facilities and sources of breeders, packaging requirements, export checks of live product in transit, which could impact the growth of the industry. In addition, the breeding facilities are developing market-favored hybrids species that are difficult to identify/record. 	<p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed listing of the species in Appendix II could pose difficulties in trading in particular with the captive-bred hybrid species. <p>Viet Nam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aquaculture production of species provide an alternative livelihood opportunity for local communities. - Management of indigenous species should be under the management of the country where the species belong. 			
40	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 7 species of guitarfish (family Rhinobatidae) are commonly found in the Southeast Asian region. The small-sized guitarfish species are caught as bycatch mainly from inshore areas and utilized for people's livelihood and food security. - Large-sized guitarfish species are already listed in the Appendix II. This proposal will add small-sized species that are primarily utilized as food as well as commodities that have lower export value. - Different species under the same family are difficult to identify/differentiate, especially by parts and in product forms and derivatives. 	<p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species found in Indonesia are <i>R. jimbaranensis</i> and <i>R. penggali</i>. Both of them are considered as local commodities. <p>Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International trade is not the key driver of exploitation. <p>Myanmar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Myanmar has NPOA-Sharks in place, and listing of the species into Appendix II would make the collection of data on 		Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Thailand Viet Nam	Singapore*

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The international trade information on these species is limited. <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of the six species of guitarfish does not meet the CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that the listing of species into Appendix II would <i>result</i> in not reporting and recording of catch and trade of the species creating difficulty and burden for authorities to collect scientific data to support management of the species. 	<p>catch and trade on the species more difficult.</p> <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Philippines is not a range state of the 7 species of guitarfishes proposed for listing. The proposal does not meet the listing criteria as reviewed by FAO Expert Advisory Panel <p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thailand implements national laws to control the import and export of all species under the family Rhinobatidae, and some species are subject to conservation measures. 			
42	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Theleonota ananas</i> and <i>T. anax</i> are harvested by countries in the Southeast Asian region and traded both domestically and internationally; while <i>T. rubralineata</i> is rare in natural habitats and not considered a traded species. However, <i>Theleonota</i> spp. are considered as low-value species compared to other market-preferred sea cucumber species, e.g. <i>Holothuria</i> spp. - Identification/differentiation of <i>Theleonota</i> species in live and dried form is relatively simple; however, countries, e.g. Malaysia is also producing sea cucumber oil (minyak gamat) from other sea cucumber species, which is harder to identify to species level. - As a result of the long debate, CITES Commission I in COP 16 agreed that sea cucumber should be managed by respective countries rather than CITES regulations. 	<p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally, does not support the inclusion of all three species into Appendix II. However, species with high utilization (e.g. <i>T. ananas</i>) may be considered to be listed into Appendix. <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of the three species does not meet the CITES criteria. <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Philippines is a range state of these 3 species of sea cucumbers guitarfishes proposed for listing. The proposal does not meet the listing criteria as reviewed by FAO Expert Advisory Panel 		<p>Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan, Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Viet Nam Thailand</p>	Singapore*

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of the three species in the genus <i>Thelenota</i> does not meet the CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <p>It is anticipated that the listing of species into Appendix II would create difficulties to trade concerning identification of species as raw materials for products <i>e.g.</i> sea cucumber oil, balm.</p>				
41	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The habitat of this species is negatively affected by hydroelectric dam in Brazil. - Brazil has issued several national legal instruments including banning of collection, transportation and exportation of the species since 2005, and listed the species in Appendix III of CITES since 2017. - The species produced from ornamental fish farms are being traded in some AMSs, <i>e.g.</i> in Malaysia and Thailand. Listing of the species in Appendix I would mean that trade in the species (including from captive breeding of ornamental fish farms) would also be prohibited that will result in the loss of sustainable production and livelihoods in the ornamental aquaculture sector. - Production of Zebra catfish in aquaculture sector is a positive as it removes pressure on the wild stock. <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed listing of Zebra catfish in CITES Appendix I does not meet the CITES criteria. 	<p>Cambodia, Malaysia, and Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The captive breeding production of this species by the countries in the region contributed to high-valued aquarium species. The listing of this species will threaten the trade and ornamental fish industry of this species. <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Philippines is not a range state of zebra catfish. Cannot support the proposal as we share the view of FAO Expert Advisory Panel that does not meet the listing criteria for Appendix I. 		<p>Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Thailand Japan Viet Nam</p>	Singapore*

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>Impacts of listing in Appendix I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is anticipated that the listing of the species in Appendix I would make trading of the species produce from captive breeding no longer possible. 				
<p>13 (Note: The species is under the purview of fisheries authority only in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam)</p>	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thailand has national laws and regulations protecting the <i>Crocodylus siamensis</i> population as a protected species. There are six protected areas for wild populations in Thailand including national parks, protected areas, and non-hunting areas. - All specimens of <i>C. siamensis</i> traded by Thailand are from registered captive breeding farms for commercial production. There is no illegal trade of the species in Thailand. - For other countries in the region, e.g. Cambodia and Viet Nam, crocodile farming also contributes to the livelihood of farmers. <p>Impacts of downlisting from Appendix I to Appendix II</p> <p>It is envisaged that the downlisting of <i>C. siamensis</i> would facilitate the trade of farmed specimens from Thailand and other countries in the region. The zero-trade quota from the wild would not create adverse impacts on the wild population of the species.</p>	<p>Cambodia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downlisting of <i>C. siamensis</i> from Appendix I to Appendix II will enable the trade of farmed specimens and contribute to the livelihood of crocodile farmers in Cambodia. <p>Viet Nam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viet Nam has crocodile farms. The specimens are exported, and downlisting of <i>C. siamensis</i> will create favorable condition for trading of farmed crocodiles. 	<p>Cambodia Myanmar Thailand Lao PDR</p>		<p>Viet Nam**</p>

Remarks:

*Positions of Singapore was informed to SEAFDEC Secretariat through email communication on 27 September 2022.

**Position of Viet Nam on Siamese crocodiles are under the management of the Directorate of Forestry. Country's position would be communicated with the SEAFDEC Secretariat upon Consultation

**Results of the Proposal Adoption for CEAS at the CoP19
14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama**

Results of the Proposal Adoption for CEAS at the CoP19 Proposals	Proponents	Adoption	Remarks
<p>Proposal 37 Inclusion of the grey reef shark (<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>), dusky shark (<i>C. obscurus</i>), smalltail shark (<i>C. porosus</i>), Ganges shark (<i>Glyphis gangeticus</i>), sandbar shark (<i>C. plumbeus</i>), Borneo shark (<i>C. borneensis</i>), Pondicherry shark (<i>C. hemiodon</i>), smoothtooth blacktip shark (<i>C. leiodon</i>), sharptooth lemon shark (<i>Negaprion acutidens</i>), Caribbean reef shark (<i>C. perezi</i>), daggernose shark (<i>Isogomphodon oxyrhynchus</i>), night shark (<i>C. signatus</i>), whitenose shark (<i>Nasolamia velox</i>), blacknose shark (<i>C. acronotus</i>), whitecheek shark (<i>C. dussumieri</i>), lost shark (<i>C. obsoletus</i>), Pacific smalltail shark (<i>C. cerdale</i>), Borneo broadfin shark (<i>Lamiopsis tephrodes</i>) and the broadfin shark (<i>Lamiopsis temminckii</i>) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A and B in Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).</p> <p>Inclusion of all other species in the family Carcharhinidae (requiem sharks): Genus <i>Carcharhinus</i>, Genus <i>Isogomphodon</i>, Genus <i>Loxodon</i>, Genus <i>Nasolamia</i>, Genus <i>Lamiopsis</i>, Genus <i>Negaprion</i>, Genus <i>Prionace</i>,</p>	<p>Bangladesh, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union, Gabon, Israel, Maldives, Panama, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*</p>	<p>Accepted Yes: 88 (75.21%) No: 29 (24.79) Abstentions: 17 Total=134</p>	<p>entry into effect of the inclusion in Appendix II delayed by 12 months</p>

Results of the Proposal Adoption for CEAS at the CoP19 Proposals	Proponents	Adoption	Remarks
Genus <i>Rhizoprionodon</i> , Genus <i>Scoliodon</i> , Genus <i>Triaenodon</i> and any other putative species of family Carcharhinidae in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A in Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).			
<p>Proposal 38 Inclusion of <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>, commonly referred to as the bonnethead shark, in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A and B in Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).</p> <p>Inclusion of all remaining species in the Family Sphyrnidae (hammerhead sharks) which are not already listed in CITES Appendix II, including: <i>S. media</i>, <i>S. tudes</i>, <i>S. corona</i>, <i>S. gilberti</i>, and <i>Eusphyrna blochii</i>, as well as any other yet to be identified species of the Family Sphyrnidae, in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A in Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)</p>	Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, the European Union, and Panama*.	Accepted by Consensus	
<p>Proposal 39 Inclusion of <i>Potamotrygon wallacei</i> and <i>P. leopoldi</i> in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II of the Convention and satisfying criteria A and B in Annex 2a of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)</p>	Brazil	Accepted by Consensus	

Results of the Proposal Adoption for CEAS at the CoP19 Proposals	Proponents	Adoption	Remarks
Inclusion of look-alikes endemic freshwater stingray species that are on the ornamental fish trade legally as <i>P. henlei</i> and illegally as <i>P. albimaculata</i> , <i>P. jabuti</i> from the black stingray group. The illegally exported species such as <i>P. marquesi</i> and <i>P. signata</i> of the brown stingray group such as <i>P. wallacei</i> in accordance with Criteria A of Annex 2b (Conf. 9.24, Rev. CoP17).			
Proposal 40 Inclusion of the six species of guitarfish (<i>Acroteriobatus variegatus</i> ; <i>Pseudobatos horkelii</i> ; <i>Rhinobatos albomaculatus</i> ; <i>R. irvinei</i> ; <i>R. rhinobatos</i> and <i>R. schlegelii</i>) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2(a) of the Convention, and satisfying criteria A and B in Annex 2a of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). In addition, to add another 37 species as “look-alikes” in the list.	Israel, Kenya, Panama and Senegal	Accepted Yes:101 (87.83%) No:14 (12.17%) Abstentions: 13 (%) Total 128	
Proposal 42 Inclusion of all species in the genus <i>Thelenota</i> , which includes the three species <i>T. ananas</i> , <i>T. anax</i> , and <i>T. rubralineata</i> in Appendix II, in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention.	European Union, Seychelles and United States of America	Accepted Yes: 97 (85.54%) No:16 (14.16%) Abstentions:16 Total:129	entry into effect of the inclusion in Appendix II delayed by 18 months
Proposal 41 Inclusion of <i>Hypancistrus zebra</i> in Appendix I in accordance with Article II, paragraph 1 of CITES Convention, and satisfying criterion in Annex 1 B (iii; iv) and Annex 1 C (i; ii) of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).	Brazil	Original proposal was Rejected Yes: 62 (54.39%) No: 52 (45.61%) Abstentions: 15 Total: 129 <i>At the end of the Meeting, the Committee reopened for voting and</i>	Not meet 2/3 majority of vote

Results of the Proposal Adoption for CEAS at the CoP19 Proposals	Proponents	Adoption	Remarks
		Adopted consensus to move <i>Hypancistrus zebra</i> , to Appendix II with a zero quota for wild specimens.	
Proposal 13 <i>Downlisting of <i>Crocodylus siamensis</i> (Siamese crocodile) (captive breeding population of Thailand) from Appendix I to Appendix II with zero quota export for wild specimens.</i>	Thailand	Rejected Yes: 27 (26.21%) No: 76 (73.79%) Abstentions: 20 Total: 123	

FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

Background

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,*”

After more than two decades, the negotiations on the fisheries subsidies finally ended with the final decision made at 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) on 17 June 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. The WTO Ministers adopted a binding multilateral Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, to meet the SDG 14.6. The full text of the Agreement. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/MIN22/33.pdf&Open=True>.

The WTO also disseminated the Report on “Implementing the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies: Challenges and Opportunities for Developing and Least-Developed Country Members”, which provides information on existing bilateral and multilateral assistance in support of sustainable fisheries, including how this may help countries meet obligations under the new Agreement. It is available for download at the WTO website. https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/implementfishagreement22_e.pdf

Updated Information on Regional Initiatives in Responses to WTO on Fisheries Subsidies

Since 2021, the request was made by the SEAFDEC Council, 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), in collaboration with FAO co-organized two (2) Training Workshops on Stock Assessment in Support the Implementation of the International Commitments for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia, on 13–17 December 2021 and 29 August–6 September 2022 through hybrid format. Attended by twenty national officers from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam and instructors from FAO and USA and Mexico. The participants gained knowledge on a wide range of stock assessment tools and methods for determination of current population size and level of fishing in Southeast Asian fisheries compared to the levels expected to result in Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) such as length-based stock production ratio (LBSPR), surplus production model, yield per recruit, productivity susceptibility analysis. At the end of the Workshop, the participants were asked to analyze the available datasets of each individual country. During the training, the participants learned how to interpret the results of the assessment and developed science-based management advice for management plans towards sustainable utilization of fisheries resources.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the SEAFDEC activities on the organization of the SEAFDEC Training Workshops 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 and 29 August–6 September 2022 through hybrid modality.

U.S. MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT

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.

In 2017, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced the updated 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. The Import Provisions established a 5-year exemption period to allow foreign harvesting nations time to develop, as appropriate, regulatory programs comparable in effectiveness to U.S. programs. The foreign nations were requested to submit the application for a comparability finding for its fisheries by 1 November 2021. The comparability findings ensure that foreign nations' bycatch programs meet U.S. standards as a condition to allow import of the fish and fish products from these fisheries. Originally, NOAA expected to approve each country's regulatory program by November 2022.

Nevertheless, according to the Federal Register/Vol. 87, No. 203, dated 21 October 2022¹, announced by NOAA on Modification of Deadlines Under the Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. NMFS issued the final rule to revise the regulations implementing the import provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), to provide an additional one-year extension to foreign nations to receive a Comparability Finding for their commercial fishing operations to export fish and fish products to the United States. This allows NOAA to have time to review and evaluate these applications, correspond with nations, make its final determination, and notify nations of its findings. **The new exemption period ends 31 December 2023.**

In order to follow-up the results from the comparability finding and implementation of the MMPA, SEAFDEC is planning to organize the Regional Technical Consultation for sharing the lessons learned and experiences among the SEAFDEC Member countries on the implementation of the MMPA. Tentatively in the second quarter of 2023. The Concept Note is shown in *Appendix 1*.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the plan to conduct the Regional Technical Consultation for sharing the lesson learned and experiences among the SEAFDEC Member countries on the implementation of the MMPA
- To provide comments and suggestions on the proposed Concept Note of the said Consultation.

¹ <http://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-10-21/pdf/2022-22965.pdf>

**Concept Note of
Regional Technical Consultation on the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act
Import Provisions to Reduce Marine Mammal Bycatch**

I. Background

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) was enacted since 1972 by the United States. It prohibits to take 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. 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. The exemption period would end by 31 December 2023. Effective from 1 January 2024, 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.

In November 2021, SEAFDEC organized the Webinar on Regional Responses to U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act” by inviting NOAA to provide information regarding the MMPA and its requirements. During the Webinar, the countries updated the current status of the countries in preparation and response to the U.S. MMPA. In addition, the issues and concerns were identified during the Webinar. Later on, SEAFDEC reported the results of the Webinar at the 24th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in November 2021. The Meeting was requested SEAFDEC to provide a regional platform for sharing of information on comparability findings and experiences among the countries on regulations and management measures applied for the specific fisheries *e.g.* trawl, gillnet, purse seine, handline, longline

SEAFDEC also reported to the outcomes of the webinar to SEAFDEC Council during its 54th Meeting in May 2022, the Council also supported SEAFDEC to provide the platform for sharing information among the countries and needs on the capacity building to improving the knowledge of fisheries officers of determining the cause of death of marine mammals to improve the compliance of the AMSs with the U.S. MMPA and mitigation measures to reduce bycatch of marine mammals from capture fisheries

II. Objectives

1. To learn MMPA roadmap of US (over 10 years effective implementation of MMPA in US)
2. To share experience in responding to the MMPA's requirements among AMSs.
3. To share experiences among the countries on (U.S.) regulations and management measures applied for the specific fisheries.
4. To share information on comparability findings among the countries.

III. Expected Outputs

1. Information on the MMPA roadmap of US (over 10 years effective implementation of MMPA in US)
2. Experience in responding to the MMPA's requirements among AMSs.
3. Experiences among the countries on (U.S.) regulations and management measures applied for the specific fisheries.
4. Information on comparability findings among the countries and their needs.

IV. Dates and Venue

The Regional Consultation will be held in the second Quarter 2023.

V. Provisional Agenda

- Agenda 1 Opening of the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC)
- Agenda 2 Background, Objectives and Agenda of the RTC
- Agenda 3 Current update on U.S. MMPA and roadmap/ways forward of US (over 10 years effective implementation of MMPA in US) (NOAA)
- Agenda 4 Country update on progress on responses to U.S. MMPA regulations and management measures applied for the specific fisheries
Sign-in
- Agenda 5 Sharing information on comparability findings among the countries
- Agenda 6 Q&A and Conclusion
- Agenda 7 Closing of RTC

VI. Expected Target Participants (totally about 35-45 participants)

1. Representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries who worked on fisheries regulations and management of marine mammal protection acts and from officers from the relevant agencies such as marine and Coastal Resources Management Agencies in SEAFDEC Member Countries
2. Resource persons from NOAA
3. SEAFDEC: Secretariat (5 persons), TD (2 persons) and MFRDMD (2 persons)

JAPAN'S CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME

Rationale

During the 54th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in May 2022, Japan proposed SEAFDEC to organize a webinar in July 2022 in order to facilitate the understanding of the Japan Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) among the SEAFDEC Member Countries.

As the implementation of Japan CDS will start in December this year, Japan has been active in providing relevant countries with the information on the Japan CDS in order to fulfill Japan's responsibility as one of the world's largest importers of fishery products, Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants was established in Japan in December 2020 and is scheduled to enter into force on 1 December 2022. The new Act stipulates two separate regulations including of (i) Regulation on Japanese Domestic Market, and (ii) Regulation on Importation of Fishery Products

The first regulation does not require foreign governments to take any additional procedures. The second regulation is Japan's new Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) for four species (Squid and cuttlefish, Pacific Saury, Mackerel, and Sardine). The Japan CDS, which has been developed based on the EU catch certification scheme, requires that the four species be imported with a catch certificate into Japan. The catch certificate shall be issued by the competent authority of flag State of the vessel catching the four species to certify that they were caught legally.

Outcomes of SEAFDEC Webinar on Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)

The Webinar on Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Under Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants was organized on 26 July 2022. The Webinar was co-hosted by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Fisheries Agency of Japan. The Webinar was attended by resource persons from the Fisheries Agency of Japan, the representatives from the SEAFDEC Member Countries as well as SEAFDEC Departments. During the Webinar, Japan explained and clarified the questions raised by the Member Countries on the implementation and requirements of the Catch Documentation Scheme of Japan. The Japan CDS would require catch certificates for the four species (*i.e.* squid and cuttlefish, pacific saury, mackerel, and sardine) imported to Japan which should be issued by the competent authority of flag State of the vessel to certify that they were caught legally. The report of this Webinar can be download from the website: <http://www.seafdec.org/webinar-jp-cds-2022/>. and the video is available on SEAFDEC YouTube via this link <https://youtu.be/9uAwoNfWBSY>

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the Report of the Webinar on Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Under Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants.

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

I. Background

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030) was adopted by the ASEAN Senior Officials and Ministers to serve as a policy framework and direction for the region's fisheries development towards sustainability in the coming decade. Specifically, the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (POA-2030) has six Components, 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. These Components had a total of 88 actions for the implementation by SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member States (AMSs) at the regional, sub-regional, and/or national levels through programs, projects, and activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC mechanism.

To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RES&POA-2030, SEAFDEC proposed the Concept Note for organizing 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). 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.

SEAFDEC therefore organized the “RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Development of Key Indicators and Detailed Roadmap” on 23–24 March 2022 through a virtual platform to discuss the key indicators and detailed roadmap including the scale for monitoring and evaluation, baseline data and information, targets, reporting and timeframe for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. The Workshop came up with the key indicators and timeframe for monitoring implementation of the RES&POA-2030. During the Workshop, the participants proposed to conduct the trial exercise in providing inputs to the reporting template before the key indicators is finalized at the second Regional Workshop in June 2022.

Subsequently, 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 aimed at discussing the results of the trial exercise and finalizing the key indicators, reporting template, and timeframe for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. Based on trial exercise, to gather comments and recommendations from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) to revision of the key indicators and how to rating the score and the revision of the draft reporting template, the countries provided feedbacks and comments and made the adjustment of some key indicators and finally, the Workshop agreed on the key indicators of POA-2030. During the discussion, the AMSs agreed on the timelines of the submission of country inputs for the baseline information 2021. The results of this Workshop and results of baseline evaluation 2021 would be reported to the upcoming meetings of the SEAFDEC Program Committee, Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership, the SEAFDEC Council and through the ASEAN mechanism, respectively. The series of Workshops were supported by the Japanese Trust Fund under the project “Assistance for Capacity Building Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues.”

II. Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information)

The aims of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 are to assess, identify gaps, and provide recommendations to enhance the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. The survey template was circulated to all AMSs for the 2021 Baseline Information to be submitted to SEAFDEC Secretariat on 14 October 2022. Among the 10 AMSs, six AMSs *i.e.* Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand submitted the inputs to SEAFDEC. The information was analyzed using descriptive statistics, *i.e.* frequency and mode.

The analyzed information showed that the regional implementation of all 88 POAs was at a good level. Under Components A–E, all AMSs implemented the POAs at a good level, while the POA under Component E was implemented at an excellent level. At the national level, more than 14 percent of 88 POAs were implemented at an excellent level, about 43 percent at a good level, 17 percent at a fair level, 16 percent at a limited level, and 8 percent were not implemented at all; while, around two percent were not applicable for the AMSs.

The gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs by AMSs can be identified such as fisheries development planning process still depend on collaboration with international organizations and development partners; systems and mechanisms for collection of statistics and data disaggregated at the species level depend on budget allocation which is still limited; need for the establishment of reference points for the management of fish stocks and aquatic species including harvest control rules; request for technical and awareness support on application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears, fishing vessels and fishing operations; implementation of the requirements of port State measures and flag State responsibility; conduct research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods; need for studies on wild fisheries, migration patterns, spawning grounds and seasons, nursery grounds, and environmental issues/impacts are also conducted to understand the stock populations; monitoring and assessment of the impacts of the construction/operations of man-made structures that could alter the water ways and affect migration and spawning of aquatic animals; development and implementation of ASEAN guidelines and measures for environment-friendly and responsible aquaculture and good aquaculture practices; national competent authority's monitoring system/mechanism on warning of emerging/existing diseases in the country is not yet in place; the official list of national concerned diseases of aquatic animals is not yet available; there is a guideline regarding Good Fish Handling Practices, however the practices still needs improvement related to implementation and monitoring in the field; and implementation of the regional/ASEAN standards on the international trading of fishery and aquaculture products.

The recommendations to enhance the implementation of POA-2030 include establishment of centralized data, statistics, and information system on fisheries; conduct of national stock assessment program including capacity building of local staff to collect fishery statistics data; development of reference points, harvest control rules, and fishing grounds for major commercially important species; development of guidelines for identification and monitoring of species under international concern; execution of research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods; implementation of approaches to sustainable management of major critical coastal habitats; conduct of fisheries vulnerability assessment to climate change and development of climate adaption and resilience plan; develop guidelines on hygiene onboard fishing vessel; conduct of regular artificial reef, habitat restoration, and restocking programs; adoption of the Regional Technical Guidelines on an Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies; establishment of accredited laboratories according to ISO/OIE standards; provision on responsible use of antibiotics in aquaculture; R&D on local ingredients for alternative protein sources; cooperation in various platforms which involves trade at regional level such as ASEAN in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and ASEAN +1; and alignment of national standards with the ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP. These recommendations could be seen as enhancing the way POAs carried out and should be applied according to the national contexts.

The draft report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information) appears in *Appendix 1*.

III. Timeline 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 and two Regional Workshops, the timeline to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 appears in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Timeline for 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)

Date	Activities	Responsibility
Dec 2022	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and analysis of results of baseline evaluation 2021 to the 45 th Meeting of the Program Committee and 25 th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership	SEAFDEC SEC
Jan 2023	AMSs that have not yet submitted the baseline information to provide the inputs to SEAFDEC	Relevant AMSs
2023	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and analysis of results of baseline evaluation 2021 to the 55 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN mechanism	SEAFDEC SEC
2025	Accomplish the Template for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (Mid-term Review 2025)	AMSs
2025	Regional Workshop on the Mid-term Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030	SEAFDEC and ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
2025	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and mid-term evaluation to the 48 th Meeting of the Program Committee	SEAFDEC SEC
2026	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and mid-term evaluation to the 58 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC SEC
2029	Accomplish the Template for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (Final Evaluation 2029)	AMSs
2029	Regional Workshop on the Final Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030	SEAFDEC and ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
2029	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and final evaluation to the 52 nd Meeting of the Program Committee	SEAFDEC SEC
2030	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and final evaluation to the 62 nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC SEC

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- Take note of the draft Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information)
- Provide comments on the inputs of the AMSs and to improve analysis of the 2021 Baseline Information
- Request the AMSs that have not yet submitted to submit their inputs to SEAFDEC by the end of January 2023

Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information)

1. Introduction

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030) was adopted by the ASEAN Senior Officials and Ministers to serve as a policy framework and direction for the region's fisheries development towards sustainability in the coming decade. To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RES&POA-2030, SEAFDEC proposed the Concept Note for organizing 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. The Council supported such ideas and 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 inputs.

During a series of online Regional Workshops organized by SEAFDEC in March and June 2022, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, developed and adopted the key indicators and template for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 for the three periods (*i.e.* in 2021 for baseline information, 2025 for midterm evaluation, and 2029 for final evaluation). Moreover, the SEAFDEC National Coordinators were designated as the focal persons to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030.

The objectives of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 are to: 1) assess the level of regional and national implementation of the RES&POA-2030; 2) identify the gaps, challenges, and lessons learned from the implementation of the RES&POA-2030; and 3) provide recommendations to the ASEAN Member States to enhance the implementation of the RES&POA-2030.

2. Material and Methods

2.1. Information compilation

The survey template (*Appendix 1*) for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 was developed through a series of online Regional Workshops organized by SEAFDEC in March and June 2022, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. All AMSs adopted this survey template including the key indicators to be used for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 for the three periods (*i.e.* in 2021 for baseline information, 2025 for midterm evaluation, and 2029 for final evaluation).

The survey template was composed of a table with four columns *i.e.* column 1: POA-2030 no., column 2: Key indicators, column 3: Rating, and column 4: Criteria used for rating. Each Plan of Action (POA) was designated with 1–2 key indicators. The AMSs were requested to rate each key indicator of all POAs using common criteria (*e.g.* policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others). Each key indicator was rated as 1 = not at all, 2 = at a limited level, 3 = at a fair level, 4 = at a good level, and 5 = at an excellent level. If the key indicator is not applicable to the country, it was indicated as N/A.

In addition, the SEAFDEC National Coordinators were designated as the focal persons to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030. They were also requested to coordinate with the relevant agencies/institutions in their respective countries to gather and compile the relevant information as inputs to the survey template. The survey template was circulated to all AMSs for the 2021 Baseline Information to be submitted to SEAFDEC Secretariat on 14 October 2022.

2.2. Analysis

The average rating was calculated for actions of POA-2030 with more than one key indicator. Then, the ratings of all actions of the POA-2030 were analyzed using descriptive statistics, *i.e.* frequency and mode.

The best and good practices of the countries were identified from each component of RES&POA-2030 with the POAs rated with 4 (good level) or 5 (excellent level). On the other hand, the gaps and challenges in the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 were identified from each component of RES&POA-2030 with the POAs rated with equal to or less than 3 (fair level). Based on the identified gaps and challenges of specific POA, recommendations would be provided by SEAFDEC and AMSs to enhance the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 at the regional and national levels.

3. Results and Discussion

Among the 10 AMSs, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand submitted the inputs to SEAFDEC. The level of regional and national implementation of the RES&POA-2030 was analyzed for the six AMSs which are discussed below.

3.1. Level of regional and national implementation of the RES&POA-2030

At the regional level, the implementation of all POAs was at a good level. All AMSs implemented the POAs under Components A–E at a good level, while the POA under Component E at an excellent level (**Figure 1**).

For Cambodia, all POAs were implemented at a limited level. The POAs under Component A were implemented at a good level, while POAs under Component B were not been implemented at all. In addition, the POAs under Components B1 and B2 were implemented at a fair level. Moreover, the country implemented the POAs under Components C, D, and E at a limited level while the POA under Component F was implemented at an excellent level.

For Indonesia, all POAs were implemented at a good level. The POAs under Components A–C were implemented at a good level, while POAs under Component E were implemented at a fair level. In addition, the POAs under Components D and F were implemented at an excellent level.

For Malaysia, all POAs were implemented at a good level. The POAs under Components A–E were implemented at a good level, while POA under Component F was implemented at an excellent level.

For Myanmar, all POAs were implemented at limited level. The POAs under Components A–C were implemented at a fair level, while POAs under Components E and F were implemented at an excellent level. In addition, the POAs under Component D were not applicable for the country.

For the Philippines, all POAs were implemented at good level. The POAs under Component A–C were implemented at a good level, while POAs under Components D and E were implemented at a fair level. In addition, the POAs under Components F were implemented at a good level.

For Thailand, all POAs were implemented at a good level. The POAs under Component A were implemented at a fair level, while POAs under Components B, B2, C, and D were implemented at a good level. In addition, the POAs under Components B1, E, and F were implemented at an excellent level.

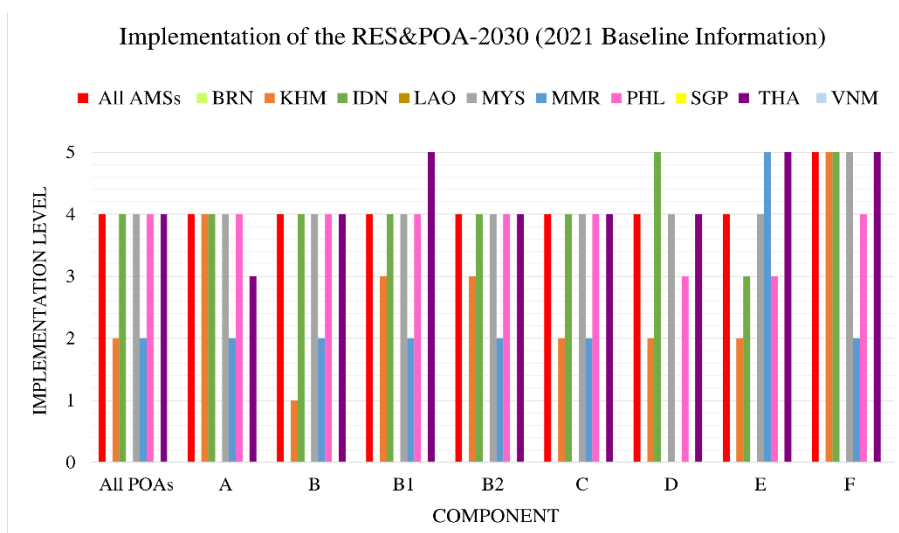


Figure 1. Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by the ASEAN Member States in 2021 (Implementation level: 0 = N/A, 1 = Not at all, 2 = Limited level, 3 = Fair level, 4 = Good level, 5 = Excellent level; Component: A = Planning and Information, B = Fisheries Management, B1 = Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries), B2 = Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries), C = Aquaculture, D = Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, E = Fish Trade, F = Regional and International Policy Formulation)

3.2. Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030

Figure 2 shows that of 88 POAs, all AMSs implemented more than 14 percent at an excellent level, about 43 percent at a good level, 17 percent at a fair level, 16 percent at a limited level, and eight percent were not implemented at all. Around two percent of POAs were not applicable for all AMSs.

At the national level, the implementation of all POAs at an excellent level ranged from one percent to 31 percent. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between two percent and 73 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 6–30 percent, while at a limited level were 1–56 percent. Moreover, 15–25 percent of all POAs were not implemented at all and 2–14 percent were not applicable.

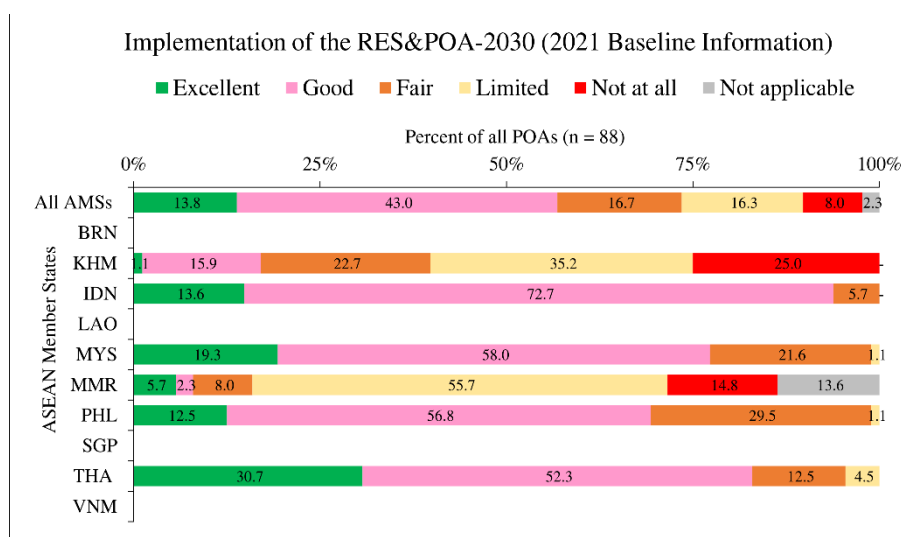


Figure 2. Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

3.2.1. Component A. Planning and Information

As shown in **Figure 3**, the nine POAs under Component A. Planning and Information, all AMSs implemented 11 percent of the POAs at an excellent level while 52 percent of the POAs were implemented at a good level. All AMSs implemented at a fair level for 13 percent of POAs and at a limited level for 20 percent of POAs. Around four percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs.

For the national level, 11–33 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between 33 percent and 100 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 11–44 percent and at a limited level were 11–78 percent, while 22 percent of POAs were not implemented.

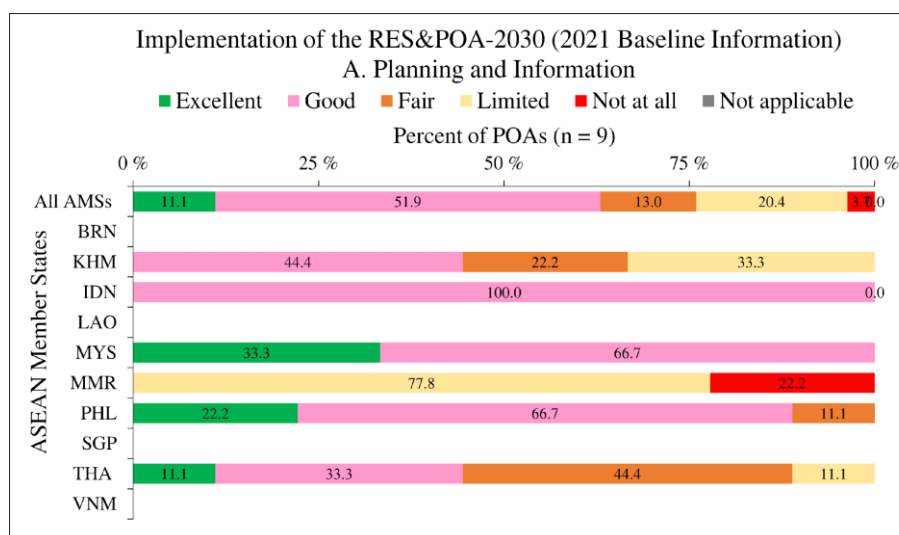


Figure 3. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component A. Planning and Information of the ASEAN Member States in 2021

Under Component A, the AMSs encountered several gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs which are listed below;

- Fisheries development planning process still depend on collaboration with international organizations and development partners,
- Systems and mechanisms for collection of statistics and data disaggregated at the species level depend on budget allocation which is still limited,
- Collections of statistics on catch quantities of overall marine species under the international concerns have been done as a whole, but cannot classify into particular species such as sharks. The quantity is recorded in logbook when rare marine aquatic animals/marine mammals are found by fishing vessels as a preliminary estimation of their quantities. There is no concrete survey and data collection has been carried out,
- Though establishing a framework for standardizing regional data and supported the exchange of information with regional and international organizations, there is still lack of concrete linkage mechanisms including information is not up-to-date, and
- Need for the establishment of reference points for the management of fish stocks and aquatic species including harvest control rules.

To address the abovementioned gaps and challenges, AMSs may consider the following programs, projects, and/or activities that have been implemented by other AMSs at good and excellent levels.

- Establishment of management board to develop strategic plans for fisheries management, policy to promote and solve fishing problem on offshore sea, aquaculture development plan, inland fisheries

management plan, coastal resource management plan, related fisheries industries development policy etc.,

- Management of fisheries is implemented in accordance with relevant domestic laws and regulations,
- Designated areas for fisheries management through a consultative process and scientific advisory group,
- Assessment of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and determination of total allowable catch (TAC),
- Issuance of fishing license based on the TAC,
- Preparation of annual fishery statistics and regularly prepare forecast data (marine fisheries, freshwater and aquaculture),
- Programs on enhancement of fish stock,
- Provide regular inputs and reports for RVFR, FAO Global Records, FAO Statistics and SEASOFIA,
- National fisheries statistics are available online,
- Establishment of systematic data collection and development of centralized data, statistics and information in fisheries in coordination with relevant authorities,
- Conduct of national stock assessment program including capacity building of local staff to collect fishery statistics data,
- Development of guidelines for monitoring population of species under international concern
- Conduct of fisheries observer program on species of special interest, and
- Actively participating in knowledge sharing and exchange of research findings, good practices and experience at regional forums.

3.2.2. Component B. Fisheries Management

As shown in **Figure 4**, the eighteen under Component B. Fisheries Management, all AMSs implemented 9 percent of the POAs at an excellent level while 44 percent of the POAs were implement at a good level. All AMSs implemented at a fair level for 19 percent of POAs and at a limited level for 16 percent of POAs. Around 9 percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while 3 percent were not applicable.

For the national level, 5–28 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between 22 percent and 94 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 11–33 percent and at a limited level were 6–22 percent. Moreover, 22–33 percent of POAs were not implemented and 17 percent were not applicable.

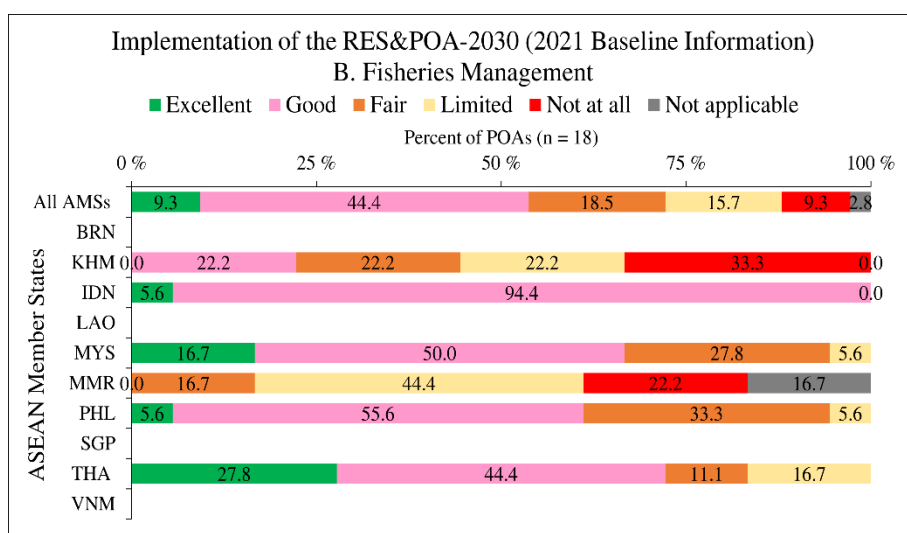


Figure 4. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component B. Fisheries Management by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

In Component B, the AMSs faced various gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs as listed below;

- Fisheries law is under process of amendment,

- Since the microcredit offered has restrictions, criteria, and specifications, not all sorts of fishing and agricultural are covered,
- Adoption of energy-efficient technologies on fishing vessels are still low,
- Request for technical and awareness support on application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears, fishing vessels and fishing operations,
- In the process of surveying the area for aquaculture and exploring the marine fishery resources in the offshore area, and
- Implementation of climate adaptation and resilience along the coastal areas.

Under Component B, the POAs implemented by the AMSs at good and excellent levels were carried through the following programs, projects, and/or activities:

- Regular conducts reviews of fisheries management policies through public consultative process and dissemination to various stakeholders,
- Establishment of comprehensive mechanisms of regional policies (*e.g.* RPOA-IUU, AN-IUU) and national regulations/policies (*e.g.* NPOA-IUU) on prevention (such as electronic vessel monitoring, vessel inspections at sea, fisheries observer program, and surveillance at fishing ports), as well as prosecution (*e.g.* inter-agencies enforcement cooperation, employ smart-application for suppression of illegal fishing activities) to combat IUU fishing,
- Conduct of national fisheries reform and management of fisheries in accordance with relevant domestic laws,
- Establishment of local fisheries organizations along with budget support and adoption of fisheries management approaches (*e.g.* co-management, EAFM, refugia) to engage them if fisheries resource management,
- Synergy between regional and central governments through top-down and bottom-up approaches,
- Establishment of fisheries cooperative for fishers to access financial resources and support for micro loans with low interest rates,
- R&D on environment-friendly fishing gear and fishing vessel design,
- Adoption of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) as this is a binding treaty that set the minimum training requirements for safety of life at sea of crews of seagoing fishing vessels,
- Introduction and installation of modernized mechanisms onboard *e.g.* net hauler, telescopic crane and power block to optimize the number of crew,
- Setting up the requirements (temporary employment) for foreign crews, and issuance of fisher identity for local fishers,
- Development of guidelines and criteria for accommodation of crew on local fishing vessel,
- Exploration of deep-sea fisheries,
- Sharing information for fishers *e.g.* fish prices for each species,
- Include small-scale fishery products in national and international trade shows,
- Development of marketing channel(s) for fishery products produced by small-scale fishers
- Program to raise awareness of youth who lives in coastal area on the importance of sustainable management of coastal area, and impacts of climate change to their environment,
- Conduct of fisheries vulnerability assessment to climate change and development of climate adaption and resilience plan,
- Issuance of regulations and programs to address marine litter, and marking of fishing gears, and
- Actively involves in international platform to assess and manage transboundary fishery resources (*e.g.* IOTC, WCPFC, GoTFish Project).

3.2.3. Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

As shown in **Figure 5**, the twelve POAs under Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries), all AMSs implemented 18 percent of the POAs at an excellent level while 44 percent of the POAs were implement at a good level. All AMSs implemented at a fair level for 15 percent of POAs and at a limited level for 13 percent of POAs. Around 7 percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while 3 percent were not applicable.

For the national level, 8–50 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between 25 percent and 83 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 8–33 percent and at a limited level were 17–58 percent, while 17–25 percent of POAs were not implemented. Moreover, 17 percent of POAs were not applicable.

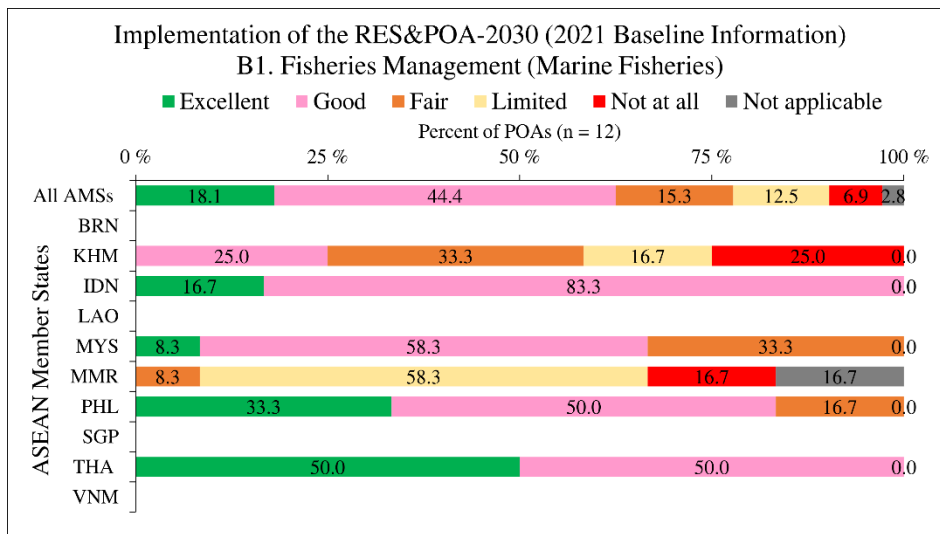


Figure 5. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries) by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

In Component B1, the gaps can be identified on the implementation of POAs by AMSs on several aspects as follows;

- Implementation of the requirements of port State measures and flag State responsibility,
- Conduct research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods,
- Implementation of approaches to sustainable management of major critical coastal habitats,
- Compliance with international standards on safety at sea, decent working conditions, and onboard fishing vessels sanitation.

To address abovementioned challenges, the recommendations are taken from actions by AMSs that implemented POAs at good and excellent level as follow;

- Development of guidelines and SOP of Port State Measures and designated port for foreign fishing vessels,
- Actively involvement in consultative dialogues to address issues in fisheries management at regional/sub-regional levels to share and exchange information on updated legal and regulatory frameworks *e.g.* bilateral meetings between neighboring countries, ASEAN Regional Forum workshop on law of the sea and fisheries, AN-IUU etc.,
- Application of Turtle Excluder Device and mesh size rules for trawlers,
- Report of bycatch and discard in the logbook for endangered species on deep sea and tuna fishing vessel,
- Development of fishing gear specification and value-added on used-nets for other products,
- Conduct of capacity building activities for fishers on the use of biodiesel, motorized sailing boats, solar cells, and wind power,
- Establishment of conservation areas and restoration of fishery resources in critical habitats,
- Conduct of training on safety at sea; ratification of STCW-F and C-188 – Work in Fishing Convention,
- Application of FAO manual on safety at sea for small-scale fishers; and develop guidelines on hygiene onboard fishing vessel,
- Conduct of regular artificial reef, habitat restoration, and restocking programs, and
- Collaboration with local community along the coastal area to conduct conservation and management of coastal habitat.

3.2.4. Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

Figure 6 showed that the eight POAs under Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries), all AMSs implemented 13 percent of the POAs at an excellent level while 48 percent of the POAs were implemented at a good level. All AMSs implemented at a fair level for 15 percent of POAs and at a limited level for 13 percent of POAs. Around 10 percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while 2 percent were not applicable.

For the national level, 38 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between 38 percent and 75 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 13–50 percent and at a limited level were 13–63 percent. Moreover, 25–38 percent of POAs were not implemented and 13 percent were not applicable.

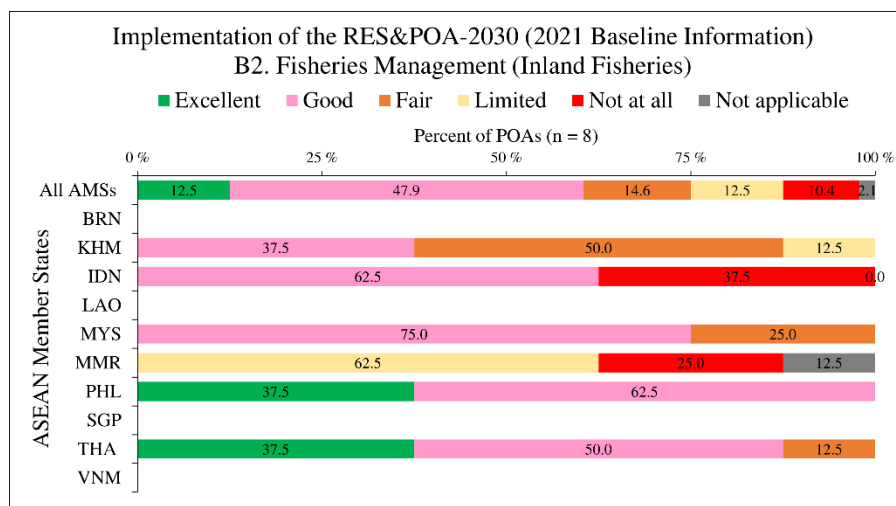


Figure 6. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries) by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

Under Component B2, the AMSs encountered several gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs which are listed below;

- Collection of catch data and target indicators for supporting inland fisheries management,
- Regulations governing inland fishing in lakes and inland waters,
- Conduct activities to involve stakeholders to restore, raise awareness and conserve important inland habitats,
- Integrated collaboration among the following national agencies and a clear mechanism for their actions at both national and regional levels,
- There is a cooperation between countries involved in sub-regional transboundary mechanism, however, there has not been a concrete solution to the management of cross-border freshwater fisheries.
- Studies on wild fisheries, migration patterns, spawning grounds and seasons, nursery grounds, and environmental issues/impacts are also conducted to understand the stock populations,
- Monitoring and mitigation of the negative impacts of invasive/alien species on the inland ecosystem and biodiversity,
- Monitoring and assessment of the impacts of the construction/operations of man-made structures that could alter the water ways and affect migration and spawning of aquatic animals including capacity to implement the mitigation measures, and
- There is a need to develop knowledge of the staff on the assessment and management of inland fishery resources.

For Component B2, the POAs implemented by the AMSs at good and excellent levels were carried through the following programs, projects, and/or activities;

- Prevention and control of fisheries in critical aquatic animal habitats,
- Importation control of invasive/alien species, and
- Establishment of fish passage and monitor the impacts of man-made structures on fish migration and ecological health or under EIA procedures.

3.2.5. Component C. Aquaculture

Figure 7 showed that the twenty-two POAs under Component C. Aquaculture, all AMSs implemented 8 percent of the POAs at an excellent level while 43 percent of the POAs were implement at a good level. All AMSs implemented at a fair level for 17 percent of POAs and at a limited level for 22 percent of POAs. Around 10 percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while 1 percent was not applicable.

For the national level, 5–23 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between 59 percent and 73 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 5–32 percent and at a limited level were 41–91 percent. About 18–41 percent of the POAs were not implemented while 5 percent of the POAs were not applicable.

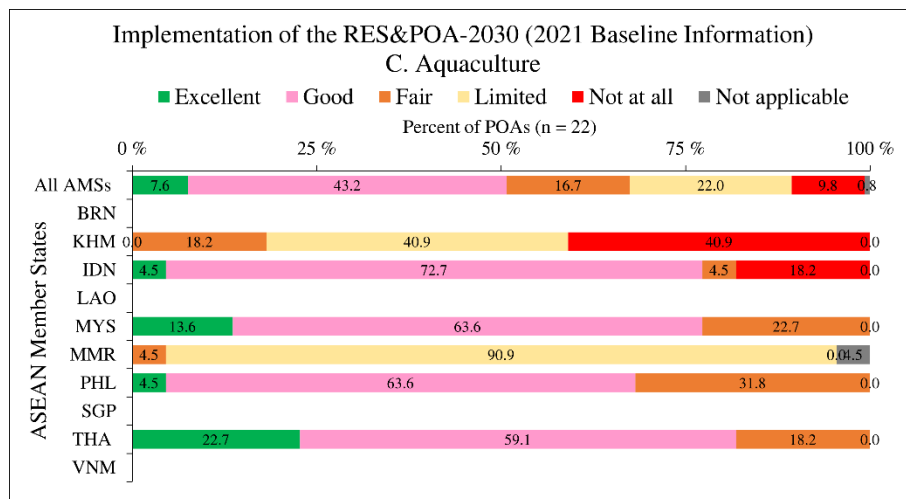


Figure 7. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component C. Aquaculture by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

In Component C, the AMSs faced various gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs as listed below;

- Development and implementation of ASEAN guidelines and measures for environment-friendly and responsible aquaculture and good aquaculture practices,
- Implementation of aquatic biosecurity measures,
- National competent authority's monitoring system/mechanism on warning of emerging/ existing diseases in the country is not yet in place,
- The official list of national concerned diseases of aquatic animals is not yet available
- Capability to diagnose and control aquatic animal diseases,
- Implementation of regional warning systems on aquatic animal health and diseases,
- Promotion of the prudent use of legal antibiotics in aquaculture and monitoring of the impacts of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on aquatic animals,
- Conduct risk assessments of the culture of exotic aquatic species and prevent the escape of high-risk species,
- Since the microcredit offered has restrictions, criteria, and specifications, not all sorts of agriculture and fisheries are covered,
- Adoption of measures to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change in aquaculture sector,

- Application of the precautionary approach to safeguarding the environment from the over-intensification and expansion of inland, coastal, and offshore aquaculture, and
- Conduct of risk assessment and R&D related to the use of GMO products in aquaculture.

Under Component C, the POAs implemented by the AMSs at good and excellent levels were carried through the following programs, projects, and/or activities:

- Formulation and implementation of ASEAN standards and measures for responsible and environment-friendly aquaculture and good aquaculture practices,
- Implementation of regional warning systems on aquatic animal health and diseases, and application of the precautionary approach to safeguarding the environment from the over-intensification and expansion of inland, coastal, and offshore aquaculture.
- Capacity building on biosecurity system and establishment of quarantine measures before importing aquatic species into the country,
- Adoption of the Regional Technical Guidelines on an Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies,
- Annual budget for aquaculture development, yearly grant and microcredit for farmers,
- Establishment of accredited laboratories according to ISO/OIE standards,
- Provision on responsible use of antibiotics in aquaculture,
- R&D on local ingredients for alternative protein sources,
- Review mitigation measure from time to time to overcome the potential impacts of climate change,
- Application of geographic information system in identification of appropriate areas and carry capacity for aquaculture as well as managing under national regulations, and
- Provision on aquaculture activities related with GMO species.

3.2.6. Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

As shown in **Figure 8**, the twelve POAs under Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, all AMSs implemented 23 percent of the POAs at an excellent level while 35 percent of the POAs were implement at a good level. All AMSs implemented at a fair level for 17 percent of POAs and at a limited level for 15 percent of POAs. Around 2 percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while 8 percent were not applicable.

For the national level, 13–63 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between 13 percent and 88 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 25–63 percent and at a limited level were 88 percent, while 13 percent of POAs were not implemented. Moreover, 50 percent of POAs were not applicable.

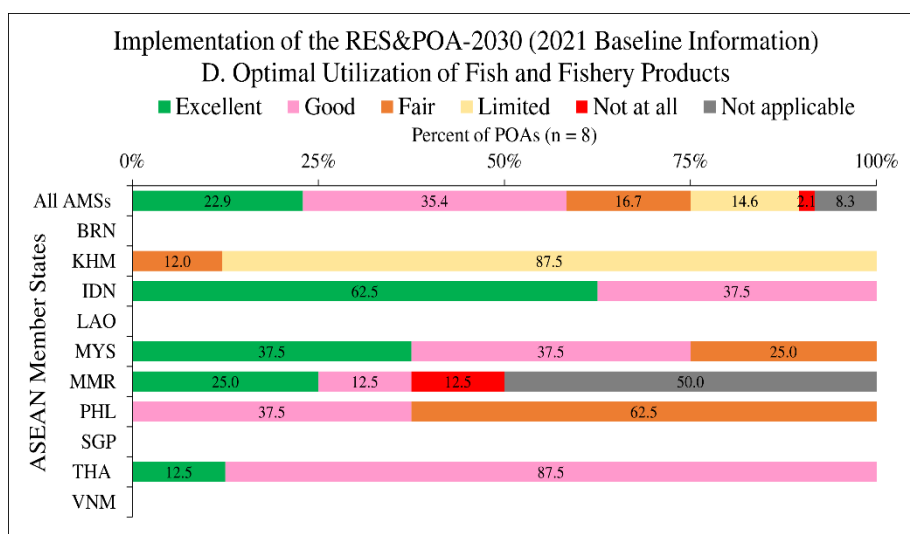


Figure 8. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

Under Component D, the gaps can be identified on the implementation of POAs by AMSs as follows;

- Applicability of technologies to optimize the utilization of catches/farmed products,
- Promotion of the production of and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products, and legislation, and coordinated mechanisms/activities with relevant control agencies throughout the fish value chain
- There is a guideline regarding Good Fish Handling Practices, however the practices still needs improvement related to implementation and monitoring in the field.

To address the abovementioned gaps and challenges, AMSs may consider the following programs, projects, and/or activities that have been implemented by other AMSs at good and excellent levels.

- National program to improve competitiveness and diversification of local food products,
- Improvement of quality assurance systems for small and medium-sized, traditional fishery product processing establishments,
- Facilitation of the facilities and infrastructure of the cold chain system, handling, and processing which aims to stimulate micro and small-scale fish processors to increase business productivity and the quality and quality of processed products,
- Certification system of quality seal for fish and fishery products was established to promote market competitiveness,
- Application of the “Manual of Good Hygiene Practices for Fishing Boats and Fish Landing Sites in Small Scale Fisheries” as a possible guidance for good hygienic practices on fishing boats and landing sites in small scale fisheries,
- Introduction of mechanized harvesting technologies *e.g.* power block to reduce fish loss,
- Use of fish waste to produce aquatic feeds,
- Capacity building for development of local fishery products,
- Improved access to credit and other government financial institutions, and
- Establishment of fishery product traceability and food safety regulations.

3.2.7. Component E. Fish Trade

Figure 9 showed that the ten POAs under Component E. Fish Trade, all AMSs implemented 22 percent of the POAs at an excellent level while 35 percent of the POAs were implement at a good level. All AMSs implemented at a fair level for 22 percent of POAs. Around 10 percent of POAs were implemented at a limited level as well as were not implemented at all. Moreover, 2 percent of POAs were not applicable.

For the national level, 20–50 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between 10 percent and 60 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 20–50 percent and at a limited level were 10–50 percent. Moreover, 20–40 percent of POAs were not implemented and 10 percent were not applicable.

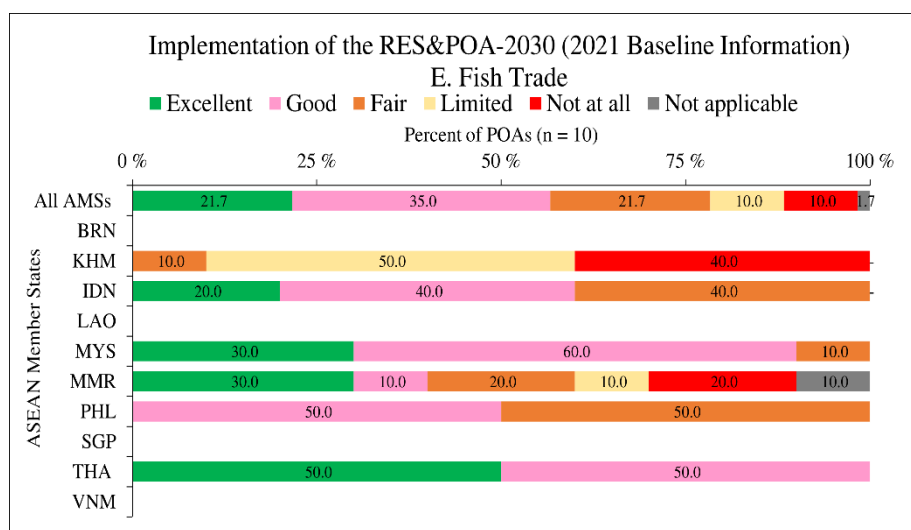


Figure 9. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component E. Fish Trade by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

In Component E, the gaps can be identified on the implementation of POAs by AMSs as follows;

- Implementation of international standards on the trading of fish and fishery products within the region,
- Implementation of the regional/ASEAN standards on the international trading of fishery and aquaculture products,
- Cooperation with other AMSs towards common positions that could be reflected in international fish trade-related fora,
- Implementation of support programs to assist and build the capacity of small-scale producers to comply with standards on safety and quality of fish and fishery products,
- Development/improvement of branding or eco-labeling of fish and fishery products.

For Component E, the POAs implemented by the AMSs at good and excellent levels were carried through the following programs, projects, and/or activities;

- Cooperation in various platforms which involves trade at regional level such as ASEAN in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and ASEAN +1,
- Alignment of national standards with the ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP,
- Actively participation in relevant discussion platforms *e.g.* consultation to develop common position on the listing of aquatic species in the CITES Appendices,
- Development of safety guideline and capacity building of small-scale business actors,
- Development of certification of national eco-labels for fishery products.

3.2.8. Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

Figure 10 showed that the one POA under Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation, all AMSs implemented 67 percent of the POAs at an excellent level while 17 percent of the POAs were implemented at both good and limited levels. There is no gap in the implementation of POA in this component.

For the national level, Cambodia Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand implemented 100 percent of the POA at an excellent level while Myanmar implemented 100 percent of the POA at limited level and Philippines implemented 100 of the POA at a good level.

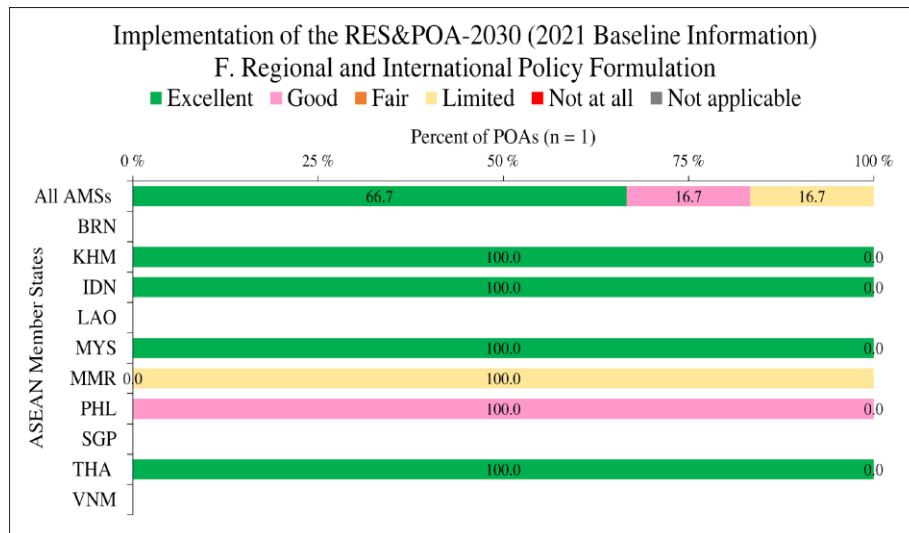


Figure 10. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component Regional and International Policy Formulation by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

4. Summary and Recommendations

Based on the implementation of all POAs at the regional level, the AMSs implemented all POAs at a good level. All AMSs implemented the POAs under Components A–E at a good level, while the POA under Component E at an excellent level. At national level, there were two countries implemented all POAs at a limited level *i.e.* Cambodia and Myanmar while four countries implemented all POAs at a good level *i.e.* Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand. For the 88 POAs, all AMSs implemented more than 14 percent at an excellent level, about 43 percent at a good level, 17 percent at a fair level, 16 percent at a limited level, and 8 percent were not implemented at all. Around 2 percent of POAs were not applicable for the AMSs.

The constraints on the implementation of POAs under Component A. Planning and Information were the capacity and mechanism for collection of statistics and establishment of reference points for the management of fish stock as well as for aquatic species under international concern. On these concerns, the centralized data, statistics, and information system on fisheries should be established to support decision making, conduct of national stock assessment program including capacity building to local staff to collect fishery statistics data, and develop reference points, harvest control rules, and fishing grounds for major commercially important species, development of guidelines for identification and monitoring of species under international concern, and participate in knowledge sharing and exchange of research findings, good practices and experience at regional forums.

The issues of on the implementation of POAs under the Component B. Fisheries Management were the timeliness in which national policies are reviewed and updated, the adoption of fisheries management approaches, restriction to access microcredits, application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gear, fishing vessels, and fishing operations, the sufficiency of the country's capable fishing crew and appropriate technologies to optimize the number of crew onboard fishing vessels, the implementation of good and appropriate employment practices, the exploration and sustainable exploitation of potentially underutilized fishery resources, and monitoring and assessment of the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture.

With the abovementioned concerns, several recommendations were identified such as AMSs may regularly conduct reviews of fish stock assessment including public consultation to engage relevant stakeholders and disseminate the significant information; establishment of comprehensive mechanisms of regional policies and national regulations/policies on prevention and prosecution to combat IUU fishing, management of fisheries in accordance with relevant domestic laws, establishment of local fisheries organizations along with budget support; adoption of ecosystem approach to fisheries management; synergy between regional and central governments through top-down and bottom-up approaches; R&D on environmental friendly fishing gear and fishing vessel design; adoption of the International Convention on Standards of Training,

Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) as this is a binding treaty that set the minimum training requirements for safety of life at sea of crews of seagoing fishing vessels; introduction and installation of modernized mechanisms onboard *e.g.* net hauler, telescopic crane and power block to optimize the number of crew; setting up the requirements (temporary employment) for foreign crews; exploration of deep-sea fisheries; conduct of fisheries vulnerability assessment to climate change and development of climate adaptation and resilience plan; issuance of regulations and programs to address marine litter, and marking of fishing gears; and actively participate in international platform to assess and manage transboundary fishery resources.

The implementation of POAs under Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries) had been constrained to the implementation of requirements of port State measures and flag State responsibilities, execution of research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods, implementation of approaches to sustainable management of major critical coastal habitats, and country's compliance with international standards on safety at sea, decent working conditions, and onboard fishing vessels sanitation. The recommendations are for example; development of guidelines and SOP of Port State Measures and designated port for foreign fishing vessels; development of fishing gear specification and value-added on used-nets for other products; application of Turtle Excluder Device and mesh size rules; establishment of conservation areas and restoration of fishery resources in critical habitats; conduct of training on safety at sea; ratification of STCW-F and C-188 – Work in Fishing Convention; application of FAO manual on safety at sea for small-scale fishers; develop guidelines on hygiene onboard fishing vessel; conduct of regular artificial reef, habitat restoration, and restocking programs, and collaboration with local community along the coastal area to conduct conservation and management of coastal habitat.

The constraints of the implementation of POAs under Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries) were collection of catch data and target indicators for supporting inland fisheries management; regulations governing inland fishing in lakes and inland waters; conduct activities to involve stakeholders to restore, raise awareness and conserve important inland habitats; integrated collaboration among the following national agencies and a clear mechanism for their actions at both national and regional levels; there has not been a concrete solution to the management of cross-border freshwater fisheries; monitoring and mitigation of the negative impacts of invasive/alien species on the inland ecosystem and biodiversity, as well as monitoring and assessment of the impacts of the construction/operations of man-made structures that may alter waterways and affect aquatic animal migration and spawning, including the capacity to implement mitigation measures. With these concerns, the recommendations included importation control of invasive/alien species; establishment of fish passage and monitor the impacts of man-made structures on fish migration and ecological health or under EIA procedures; and There is a need to develop knowledge of the staff on the assessment and management of inland fishery resources.

The issues of on the implementation of POAs under the Component C. Aquaculture such as the formulation and implementation of ASEAN standards and measures for responsible and environment-friendly aquaculture and good aquaculture practices; national warning systems on aquatic animal health and diseases is not yet in place; official list of national concerned diseases of aquatic animals is not yet available; capability to diagnose and control aquatic animal diseases; application of the precautionary approach to safeguarding the environment from the over-intensification and expansion of inland, coastal, and offshore aquaculture. With these concerns, several recommendations were identified; promoting national good aquaculture practices in line with the ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices; capacity building on biosecurity system and establishment of quarantine measures before importing aquatic species into the country; adoption of the Regional Technical Guidelines on an Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies; establishment of accredited laboratories according to ISO/OIE standards; provision on responsible use of antibiotics in aquaculture; R&D on local ingredients for alternative protein sources; application of geographic information system in identification of appropriate areas and carry capacity for aquaculture as well as managing under national regulations; and provision on aquaculture activities related with GMO species.

For Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products had the constraints on applicability of technologies to optimize the utilization of catches/farmed products, promotion of the production of and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products, and legislation, and coordinated mechanisms/activities with relevant control agencies throughout the fish value chain. With these concerns, AMSs may consider the



“Manual of Good Hygiene Practices for Fishing Boats and Fish Landing Sites in Small Scale Fisheries” as a possible guidance for good hygienic practices on fishing boats and landing sites in small scale fisheries; introduction of mechanized harvesting technologies *e.g.* power block to reduce fish loss; use of fish waste to produce aquatic feeds; capacity building for development of local fishery products; establishment of fishery product traceability and food safety regulations.

Under Component E. Fish Trade had several issues on the implementation of POAs such as on cooperation with other AMSs to implement international standards on the trading of fish and fishery products; cooperation with other AMSs towards common positions that could be reflected in international fish trade-related for a; implementation of support programs to assist and build the capacity of small-scale producers to comply with standards on safety and quality of fish and fishery products; development/improvement of branding or eco-labeling of fish and fishery products. In this regard, AMSs should cooperate in various platforms which involves trade at regional level such as ASEAN in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and ASEAN +1; alignment of national standards with the ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP; actively participate in relevant discussion platforms *e.g.* consultation to develop common position on the listing of aquatic species in the CITES Appendices; development of safety guideline and capacity building of small-scale business actors; and development of certification of national eco-labels for fishery products.

In summary, AMSs have implemented the RES&POA-2030 actively. However, there are many gaps and challenges in the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (the Baseline Information). There is possibility to improve such implementation at national level to ensure that existing regional policies are implemented and translated into national policy, program, and legislation (where appropriate). As many countries had a certain level of implementation of the RES&POA-2030 and reported various good practices to be used as guide and applied in each local context. The recommendations were shared among AMSs for improving such implementation. Upon the implementation in the coming years, these gaps would be expected to decrease, hence, enhancing the sustainable fisheries of the region.



Template for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030

Following the adoption of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030) in 2020, the Concept Note for organizing 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 (RES&POA-2030) was endorsed during the 53rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2021. The objectives of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 are to 1) assess the level of regional and national implementation of the RES&POA-2030; 2) identify the gaps, challenges, and lesson learned from the implementation of the RES&POA-2030; and 3) provide recommendations to the ASEAN Member States to enhance the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. The results of the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 would support the AMSs in enhancing the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 at the national and regional levels through evidence-based development and implementation of policies, programs, and projects for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region.

During a series of online Regional Workshops organized by SEAFDEC in March and June 2022, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, developed and adopted the key indicators and template for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 for the three periods (*i.e.* in 2021 for baseline information, 2025 for midterm evaluation, and 2029 for final evaluation). Moreover, the SEAFDEC National Coordinators were designated as the focal persons to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030.

Instruction

1. This Template is a tool for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the POA-2030 through the self-assessment of the key indicators by the respective AMSs. The Template should be accomplished by the AMSs in each period, *i.e.* 2021 for baseline information, 2025 for midterm evaluation, and 2029 for final evaluation.
2. The Template is composed of a table with four columns *i.e.* column 1: POA-2030 no., column 2: Key indicators, column 3: Rating, and column 4: Criteria used for rating.
3. For column 1, please refer to the RES&POA-2030 to see the details of the POA-2030. The document is accessible at <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12066/6583>.
4. For column 2, the key indicators are categorized into six components of the POA-2030, namely: A) Planning and Information, B) Fisheries Management, C) Aquaculture, D) Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, E) Fish Trade, and F) Regional and International Policy Formulation. Please note that each POA-2030 has either one or two key indicators.
5. For column 3, the AMSs are requested to rate each key indicator using common criteria (*e.g.* policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others). Each key indicator should be rated as 1 = not at all, 2 = at a limited level, 3 = at a fair level, 4 = at a good level, and 5 = at an excellent level. If the key indicator is not applicable for the country, please indicate N/A.
6. The criteria used for rating each key indicator should be specified in column 4. These criteria should be maintained during each period of the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the POA-2030 (*i.e.* in 2021 for baseline information, in 2025 for midterm evaluation, and in 2029 for final evaluation). For key indicators that are N/A, please provide the explanation also in column 4.

7. The AMSs are requested to provide all the required inputs in columns 3 and 4 so that SEAFDEC will be able to facilitate the efficient analysis of data and information. The SEAFDEC Secretariat will coordinate with the respective AMSs to verify the information, as needed.
8. The SEAFDEC National Coordinators are requested to coordinate with the relevant agencies/institutions in their respective countries to gather and compile the relevant data and information as inputs to this Template.
9. The accomplished Template should be submitted by the SEAFDEC National Coordinators to the SEAFDEC Secretariat no later than **14 October 2022**.

Country: _____

Period: 2021 Baseline Information 2025 Midterm Evaluation 2029 Final Evaluation

A. Planning and Information

POA-2030 No.	Key indicators	Rating (1–5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
1	Level of integration of planning of marine capture fisheries, inland capture fisheries, and aquaculture sub-sectors for sustainable fisheries (e.g. availability of fisheries management/master plan that integrated all fisheries sub-sectors, multi-stakeholder participation in the planning process)		
2	Level of the country's capacity to develop a plan towards sustainable fisheries		
3	Level of sufficiency of the country's systems and mechanisms for collection of statistics and data disaggregated at the species level to support fisheries valuation including monitoring of their performance (e.g. existing programs on data collection)		
4	Level of the country's capacity to establish reference points for the management of fish stocks (e.g. biomass, MSY, ABC, TAE, spawning potential ratio (SPR), minimum length (especially for blue swimming crab)		
5a	Level of the country's capacity to collect data and information on aquatic species under international concern (e.g. sharks, rays, sea turtles, catadromous eels, aquatic mammals)		Please specify all species 1) _____ 2) _____
5b	Level of the country's application of SOPs to harmonize/standardize data collection methods for species under international concern		
6	Level of applicability of regional fishery information systems and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange, and compilation of statistics and information that are harmonized with international statistical standards to the country's fishery information systems and mechanisms (e.g. data and information digitization programs)		

POA-2030 No.	Key indicators	Rating (1–5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
7	Level of sharing of relevant statistics and fisheries-related data and information between the country's fisheries agency and other authorities (e.g. in-country coordination)		
8	Level of the country's application of simple and practical indicators for planning, monitoring, and evaluation of fisheries		
9	Level of the country's sharing/exchanging of information on research findings, good practices, and experiences among countries and regional institutions		

B. Fisheries Management

POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
10	Level of timeliness of the country's reviewing and updating of national fisheries policies, legal and institutional frameworks in consultation with stakeholders		
11	Level of the country's acceleration of the development of fisheries management plans for conservation and management		
12	Level of the country's implementation of measures to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate illegal fishing practices		
13	Level of the country's implementation of comprehensive policies for fisheries management		
14	Level of the country's application of fisheries management approaches (e.g. co-management, EAFM, among others)		
15	Level of capacity of the country's fisheries communities and capability of fisheries-related organizations to implement necessary actions to address issues on the well-being of fishers		
16	Level of participation of the country's local communities and fisheries-related organizations in fisheries management		
17	Level of the country's awareness/perception of the need to develop financial incentives (e.g. micro-credit) for small-scale stakeholders and cooperatives for the responsible development of fisheries enterprises		

POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
	and developmental activities that optimize economic returns		
18	Level of the country's application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears fishing vessels, and fishing operations		
19a	Level of sufficiency of the country's capable fishing crew and workers in the fishing industry (e.g. enough number of competent fishing crew and workers, programs for new crew members and workers)		
19b	Level of the country's application of appropriate technologies to optimize the number of crew onboard fishing vessels		
20	Level of the country's implementation of good and appropriate employment practices in accordance with domestic laws and regulations or relevant international instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - relevant provisions of ILO Conventions (e.g. C-188) 		
21	Level of capacity of the country's relevant authorities and communities to collaboratively resolve conflicts on resources utilization (e.g. establishment of an authorized multi-stakeholder committee at local level)		
22	Level of the country's exploration and sustainable exploitation of potential underutilized fishery resources through comprehensive fishery resources surveys in a precautionary manner (e.g. exploitation of deep-sea resources)		
23a	Level of the country's implementation of the SSF Guidelines		
23b	Level of the country's effort to collect sex-disaggregated statistics on fishers and fish workers in the fisheries value chain		
24	Level of the country's effort to promote fair distribution of benefits from the intra-regional and international trade of fish and fishery products among small-scale actors along the value chain (e.g. national policy for trading of fish and fishery products from small-scale fisheries to international markets, sharing of information on market prices)		
25a	Level of the country's monitoring and assessment of the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture		

POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
25b	Level of country's adjustment of existing programs taking into consideration the effects of climate change and natural disasters		
26	Level of the country's assessment and management of the impacts of aquatic pollution (e.g. marine debris, ALDFG, microplastics) on fisheries and aquaculture		
27	Level of the country's cooperation with other countries to assess and manage straddling, transboundary, and highly migratory fishery resources, as appropriate (e.g. country's participation in BOBLME, GOT-Fish, RFMOs, bilateral arrangements)		
Marine Fisheries			
28	Level of the country's implementation of measures and activities to combat IUU fishing activities (e.g. NPOA-IUU, IUU-related information sharing, fishing vessel record database, VMS, port-in & port-out controls, conservation and management measures of relevant RFMOs of which SEAFDEC Member Countries are a member, MCS infrastructure and equipment ^{1*})		
29	Level of the country's involvement and participation at regional, sub-regional, and bilateral levels on fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, and MCS network through inter-agency coordination and information sharing (e.g. country's cooperation/coordination with AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU, among others)		
30	Level of the country's utilization of existing regional frameworks and tools for combating IUU fishing activities (e.g. RFVR, ACDS, and innovative technologies)		
31	Level of involvement of the country's legal officers in consultative dialogues at regional/sub-regional level to share and exchange information on updated legal and regulatory frameworks to address issues in fisheries management, as applicable		
32a	Level of capacity of the country's relevant authorities to implement the requirements of port State measures		

^{1*} FAO. (2003). *Recent Trends in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Systems for Capture Fisheries*. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper 415. Rome, FAO.



POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
32b	Level of capacity of the country's relevant authorities to implement the requirements of flag State responsibilities		
33a	Level of the country's effort to conduct research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods on aquatic ecosystems and animal populations		
33b	Level of country's development and promotion of environment-friendly fishing practices (e.g. low impact and fuel-efficient (LIFE) fishing gears/methods)		
34	Level of the country's implementation of regional and international guidelines to mitigate bycatch and discard		
35	Level of the country's promotion of adoption of resource enhancement approaches with appropriate monitoring and evaluation programs (e.g. artificial reefs, restocking programs, mobile hatcheries, habitat restoration)		
36	Level of the country's application of the fisheries <i>refugia</i> concept		
37	Level of the country's implementation of approaches to sustainable management of major critical coastal habitats (e.g. mangroves, coral reefs, seagrasses)		
38	Level of the country's compliance with international standards on safety at sea, decent working conditions, and onboard fishing vessels sanitation		
39	Level of the country's effort to assess the possible impacts of subsidies on fisheries, particularly on the special requirements and the needs of small-scale fisheries in the region		
Inland Fisheries			
40	Level of the country's implementation of comprehensive policies and provision of support to legal and institutional frameworks for inland fisheries (e.g. co-management, rights-based fisheries, ecosystem approach to inland fisheries management)		
41	Level of awareness of the country's relevant stakeholders of the importance of inland fisheries and of the need to rehabilitate/restore habitats and aquatic species for local food security		

POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
42	Level of the country's effort to monitor and mitigate the negative impacts of invasive/alien species on the inland ecosystem and biodiversity		
43a	Level of coordination among the country's national agencies on multiple utilization of inland water resources to mitigate conflicts among users		
43b	Level of the country's involvement in sub-regional mechanisms to address transboundary inland fisheries management issues, where applicable		
44a	Level of the country's effort to promote R&D to understand the migration patterns, spawning grounds and seasons, and nursery grounds of important inland aquatic animals		
44b	Level of the country's effort to sustain inland fisheries ecosystem health, habitat inter-connectivity, and dry season management		
45a	Level of the country's effort to monitor and assess the impacts of construction/operations of man-made structures on inland waterways		
45b	Level of the country's capacity to implement the mitigation measures and appropriate conservation and management measures for such impacts		
46a	Level of the country's effort to undertake coordinated planning and management on the use of inland water bodies (e.g. closed and open season regulations, leasable or auction fisheries, special area for conservation and fish <i>refugia</i> (SPECTRA))		
46b	Level of capacity of the country's human resources and institutions to implement the plan and manage the use of inland water bodies		
47	Level of the country's effort to develop/implement the guidelines to promote the use of practical and simple indicators for inland/floodplain fisheries within the national inland fisheries management framework (provincial/ community notifications for inland fisheries measures based on indicators e.g. succession of species, amount of rainfall and water inflow, level and duration of flood, abundance of macro-invertebrates)		

C. Aquaculture

POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
48	Level of the country's implementation of programs and policies on aquaculture to address social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable aquaculture to improve food security, livelihoods, and employment, and alleviate poverty (e.g. rural aquaculture program)		
49	Level of the country's implementation of the ASEAN guidelines for environment-friendly and responsible aquaculture and good aquaculture practices		
50	Level of coordination among the country's national agencies to integrate aquaculture into rural development activities within the context of multiple-use of land and water resources		
51	Level of the country's utilization of advanced technologies for marine and inland aquaculture such as full-cycle breeding and culture of high-value species		
52	Level of the country's implementation of measures or strategies for responsible, environment-friendly, and sustainable aquaculture		
53	Level of the country's support for R&D on aquaculture (e.g. genetic resources, impacts of climate change, feed, aquatic animal health management)		
54	Level of the country's promotion of production and distribution of good quality broodstock and seeds (e.g. specific pathogen-free (SPF), specific pathogen resistant (SPR))		
55	Level of the country's implementation of aquatic biosecurity measures		
56	Level of the country's implementation of policies that complement and support fish farmers, hatchery operators, and other stakeholders		
57	Level of the country's implementation of good and appropriate employment practices in accordance with domestic laws and regulations or relevant international instruments		
58	Level of the country's awareness/perception of the need to develop financial incentives and micro-credit systems for the responsible development of aquaculture enterprises and developmental activities that optimize economic returns		

POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
59	Level of the country's implementation of programs/efforts to regulate the introduction and movement of aquatic organisms in accordance with regional and international guidelines (e.g. national measures or SOPs including quarantine measures on the importation of aquatic species)		
60	Level of the country's implementation of programs/efforts to prevent and control serious disease outbreaks (e.g. R&D, OIE standards, other initiatives following standard procedures)		
61	Level of the country's capability to diagnose and control aquatic animal diseases (e.g. human resources, assessment and development plan, harmonized diagnostic methods/protocols, laboratories)		
62	Level of the country's involvement in the implementation of regional warning systems on aquatic animal health and diseases (e.g. compliance with the Regional Technical Guidelines on Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies)		
63	Level of the country's effort to promote the prudent use of legal antibiotics in aquaculture and monitoring of the impacts of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on aquatic animals		
64	Level of the country's efficient usage of aquafeeds including the use of alternative protein sources to reduce fish meal and other fish-based products (e.g. utilization of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture)		
65	Level of the country's effort to conduct risk assessments of the culture of exotic aquatic species and prevent the escape of high-risk species		
66	Level of the country's implementation of programs to improve human resource capabilities for responsible aquaculture		
67	Level of the country's implementation of policies and strategies that enable the aquaculture sector to adopt measures to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change and environmental stressors		
68	Level of the country's application of the precautionary approach to safeguarding the environment from the over-intensification and expansion of inland, coastal, and offshore aquaculture (e.g.		

POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
	utilization of tools such as software program to measure carrying capacity)		
69	Level of the country's effort to conduct risk assessment and R&D related to the use of GMO products in aquaculture		

D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
70	Level of country's applicability of technologies to optimize the utilization of catches/farmed products		
71	Level of the country's effort to promote the production of and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products		
72a	Level of the country's effort to implement quality and safety management systems that support the competitive position of ASEAN fish and fishery products in the global markets		
72b	Level of the country's effort to promote the implementation of the quality and safety management systems among small and medium enterprises		
73	Level of the country's legislation, and coordinated mechanisms/activities with relevant control agencies throughout the fish value chain (e.g. product traceability or certification)		
74	Level of country's effort to promote and conduct training programs and develop training materials to upgrade the technical skills and competencies of relevant personnel in the public and private sectors on fisheries post-harvest technologies, and food quality and safety management systems		
75	Level of the country's awareness/perception of the need to develop financial incentives and micro-credit systems for the responsible development of fisheries and aquaculture enterprises and developmental activities that optimize economic returns, specifically for the post-harvest fisheries sub-sector		
76	Level of the country's implementation of good and appropriate employment practices in accordance with domestic laws and regulations or relevant international instruments		

77	Level of the country's capability to adopt standards and guidelines for handling fish and fishery products, and implement hygienic fish handling onboard fishing vessels and market places		
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E. Fish Trade

POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
78	Level of the country's cooperation with other AMSs to implement international standards on the trading of fish and fishery products within the region (e.g. development of regional guidelines relevant to international standards on trading of fish and fishery products, harmonization and standardization of fish trade system including farm/hatchery certification through bilateral agreements or mutual recognition agreement)		
79	Level of the country's effort to implement the regional/ASEAN standards (e.g. ASEAN GAqP, ASEAN Shrimp GAP, others) on the international trading of fishery and aquaculture products		
80	Level of the country's implementation of fish trade-related standards (e.g. SPS/TBT measures)		
81	Level of country's development and implementation of national laws, rules, and regulations on trading of species in accordance with international laws		
82	Level of the country's cooperation with other AMSs towards common positions that could be reflected in international fish trade-related fora		
83	Level of the country's engagement of private sector to address trade-related issues and promote/sustain regional and international trade		
84	Level of the country's implementation of support programs to assist and build the capacity of small-scale producers to comply with standards on safety and quality of fish and fishery products		
85	Level of the country's effort to assist small-scale producers from both capture fisheries and aquaculture in securing and maintaining access to markets at national, regional, and international levels		
86	Level of the country's application of traceability systems to certify or validate		



	the information for the whole supply chain		
87	Level of country's effort to develop/improve branding or eco-labeling of fish and fishery products that demonstrate the eco-friendly and socially acceptable nature of ASEAN products		

F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

POA-2030 No.	Key Indicators	Rating (1-5 or N/A)	Criteria used for rating (e.g. policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others)
88	Level of the country's participation and involvement in fisheries-related international fora and technical committees to promote the ASEAN interests at the global level		

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

SEAFDEC proposed to conduct the 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 during the 43rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee which held on 17–18 November 2020. 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 which would be analyzed for a long-term implications towards sustainable food security and livelihood.

SEAFDEC then organized the virtual Regional Workshop on the Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on 21 February 2021, to explain and discuss on the questionnaire and the instruction to obtain data and information by the national focal points (NFPs) were explained to the 53rd Meeting of the Council, 27–28 April 2021 and 11 May 2021. After that, the Member Countries submitted the questionnaires to SEAFDEC Secretariat for data analysis and reporting. The Study Report covered during 2020-May 2021. The preliminary Report was presented at the 44th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee held on 15–17 November 2021, and the 24th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) on 24–25 November 2021, respectively, while SEAFDEC informed the challenge for the respective countries faced on the compilation and submission of the data and information and adjusted timelines for completion of the Study Report.

After receiving the feedbacks on the questionnaires from SEAFDEC National Focal Points of the Study, SEAFDEC analyzed the available data and information, which covered the period from 2020 until May 2021 and developed the draft Study Report. SEAFDEC organized the Regional Workshop for the Finalization of the Report on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries was organized on 20 April 2022 aiming at validating and confirming with the MCs, After consolidating the inputs and feedback from the MCs, the Study Report on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries was finalized and reported to SEAFDEC Council during its 54th Meeting in May 2022.

The Study Report is available on <https://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/6952>.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

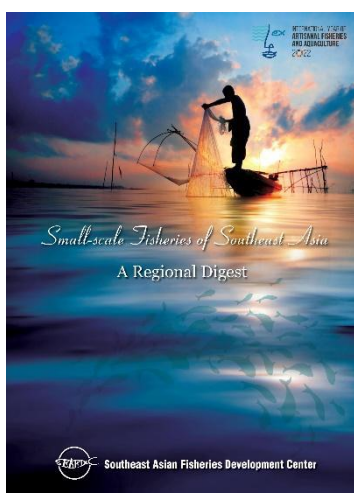
- To take note of the Study Report on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE 2022

As FAO is leading the advocacy to commemorate the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFQA) 2022, SEAFDEC joins with this celebration paying tribute to the millions of small-scale fishers, fish farmers, and fish workers who provide fresh and nutritious food to billions of people. SEAFDEC joins this celebration as proposed during the 24th FCG/ASSP. In this regard, the Secretariat in collaboration with the technical departments and relevant partners as well as the support from JTF Project on “Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues” developed a publication by compiling all major outputs and outcomes of SEAFDEC projects/activities related to the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture (SSF) since 1960’s. The aim of the publication is to highlight key achievements activities that SEAFDEC has initiated in the past and provided strategic outlook and actions to be undertaken in the region toward sustainable development of small-scale fisheries in the region as guided by the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030.

SEAFDEC, in collaboration with all technical departments, Member Countries, relevant international and regional agencies, published the ‘Small-scale Fisheries of Southeast Asia: A Regional Digest’ in September 2022. This publication serves as lessons learnt and knowledge gained from several regional project activities implemented by SEAFDEC and its Technical Departments in the Southeast Asian, and region demonstration of SEAFDEC’s jointly with FAO celebrating the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022.

The publication highlights the key accomplishments of SEAFDEC projects and initiatives pertaining to small-scale fisheries and aquaculture since the 1960s. The hard copies were produced and distributed to all technical departments and the electronic version is also available on the SEAFDEC repository <https://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/6947>.



REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 25FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the SEAFDEC publication on ‘Small-scale Fisheries of Southeast Asia: A Regional Digest’.

CLOSING REMARKS

By *Mr. Ari Prabowo*
Chair of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries

Honorable Secretary-General of SEAFDEC,
Honorable representative of ASEAN Secretariat,
Head of Delegations of SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to chair and facilitate the 25th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership during these two days meeting.

I would like to thank to *Madam Malinee Smithrithee* as SEAFDEC Sec General and *Mr. Joseph Arbiol* from ASEAN Secretariat for kind assistance and guidance.

And also I would like to thank to all delegates for your active participation during the discussion all of the agenda items. I believe we have also agreed on the list of activities as our follow up action for a year to come and hopefully those activities will be implemented in time.

Thank you AQD Team for the support and excellent arrangement.

I hereby declare the 25th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership in Iloilo City, The Philippines, 8–9 December 2022, officially closed.

Thank you and have a good rest of the week in Iloilo City.

Stay safe and healthy...

Thank you.....See you