

SEAFDEC

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

*“To develop the fisheries potential
of the region by rational utilization of the
resources for providing food security and safety
to the people and alleviating poverty through
transfer of new technologies, research and
information dissemination activities”*



Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

About SEAFDEC

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was established in 1967 to promote sustainable fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region. SEAFDEC currently comprises 11 Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

SEAFDEC structure comprises the Secretariat and five Technical Departments:

The SEAFDEC Secretariat

coordinates and oversees the general policy and planning of the Center, and acts as focal point for channeling and implementing the decisions and resolutions of the SEAFDEC Council of Directors. In addition, the Secretariat also organizes regular SEAFDEC meetings to obtain directives and guidance from the Member Countries on the operation of the organization, as well as regional technical consultations and meetings to address emerging issues as recommended by the Member Countries.



The Training Department (TD)



was established in Thailand in 1968, and has been focusing its efforts on the development of modern fishery techniques to aid regional fisheries in a more sustainable approach through the promotion of responsible fishing technologies and practices and exploration of resources. With the current fishery situation, the activities of TD have been broadened to also cover the promotion of coastal fisheries management to ensure responsible resource utilization and sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities, and energy optimization in fishing operations.

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ACTIVITIES IN FOCUS

Exploration of Marine Fishery Resources and Its Utilization

Through the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 granted by the Government of Japan, SEAFDEC undertakes collaborative research surveys in the respective national waters of the Member Countries covering the important fishing grounds of the



region, e.g. the Andaman Sea, the Gulf of Thailand and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, to explore the fishery resources and complementary oceanographic parameters. Results from these research surveys have been used as basis for further studies, and for other research and development activities to ensure the sustainable utilization of the fishery resources.

Promoting Management for Sustainable Fisheries



SEAFDEC supports the implementation of activities related to management for sustainable fisheries, including management of fishing capacity and combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing through the development of various tools, e.g. the

Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for vessels 24 meters in length and over, Regional Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain, and the Guidelines for Managing Fishing Capacity for the ASEAN Region. SEAFDEC also promotes the implementation of management concepts, such as co-management, fisheries refugia, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and sub-regional cooperation for fisheries management, among others. In addition, activities that aim to enhance the collection and use of fishery statistics and information to support management for sustainable fisheries are also being emphasized.

The Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD)

was established in Singapore in 1969 and is responsible for promoting, undertaking, and coordinating research in fisheries post-harvest technology and furthering the development of fish processing industry in the



region. Its tasks include research and development on fisheries post-harvest technology and practices, such as fish processing technology to optimize the utilization of harvested fish and enhance the quality and safety of fish and fishery products. MFRD also develops technology-based analytical methods to assess seafood safety and quality, and publishes several manuals as reference materials for the Member Countries. Since 2007, the Post-Harvest Technology Centre of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore has been appointed to be a Collaborating Center of SEAFDEC to undertake the activities of MFRD under the SEAFDEC regional programs.

The Aquaculture Department (AQD)



was established in the Philippines in 1973, and has been carrying out research, technology verification, training and information dissemination on a wide range of aquaculture disciplines, including

broodstock management and seed quality improvement, promotion of responsible and environment-friendly aquaculture, diagnosis and control of aquatic diseases, aquaculture for stock enhancement, and culture of aquatic species under international concern. The aquaculture commodities covered by AQD include fishes, shrimps, crabs, mollusks, and seaweeds. In addition, AQD also promotes good aquaculture practices and effective management of aquatic resources to support rural development and alleviate poverty.

The Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD)

was established in Malaysia in 1992 to conduct activities on marine fishery resources focusing on biological studies of commercially important fish species, resource assessment and management, and conservation and management of aquatic species under international concern, *e.g.* sharks and marine turtles. MFRDMD also implements activities that support the Member Countries including collection of information on small pelagic species, and development of indicators that could be used for the sustainable development and management of fisheries.

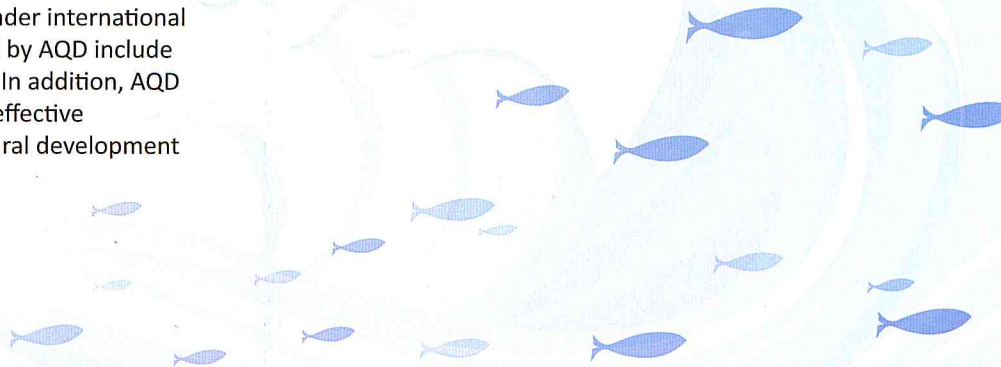


The Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)



was recently established in 2014 in Indonesia to carry out activities that support the sustainable development and management of inland capture fisheries. Specifically, the activities

of IFRDMD cover development of methodologies for data collection, as well as monitoring and assessment of inland fishery resources to provide scientific basis for sustainable development and management of inland fisheries in the Southeast Asian region.



Conservation and Management of Aquatic Species Under International Concern

In response to emerging concerns over the exploitation of aquatic species, particularly those that migrate across the EEZs of countries in the region and requiring regional cooperation, SEAFDEC undertakes activities aiming at the conservation and



management of these transboundary species, *e.g.* tunas, mackerels, sea turtles, sharks, catadromous eels, and so on. Management measures are therefore being developed to ensure the sustainable utilization of these species, *e.g.* the Action Plan for Managing Foraging Habitats of Sea Turtles, Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region, and the Regional Policy Recommendations on Conservation and Management of Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Eel Aquaculture.

Sustainable Aquaculture Development



SEAFDEC undertakes activities that contribute to the development of science-based aquaculture technologies covering the aspects on broodstock management, hatchery management, larval rearing, grow-out culture, feed development and management, diseases

diagnosis, prevention and control, as well as genetic improvement of various marine and freshwater aquaculture species. Focus is also made on the use of alternative ingredients to substitute the use of fish-based ingredients in aquaculture feed. In addition to economic development, aquaculture is also being promoted as means of enhancing its contribution to food security and improved livelihoods in the Southeast Asian region.

Fisheries Post-harvest and Safety of Fish and Fishery Products



SEAFDEC undertakes research and development on fisheries post-harvest and processing technologies to enhance the utilization of fish for human consumption. The activities include improvement of the quality and safety of fish and fishery products by

monitoring the chemical, antibiotic and biotoxin residues, promoting the application of quality control and assurance systems such as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), among others. In addition, activities are also being implemented towards the establishment of Traceability Systems for the aquaculture products of the region and Cold Chain Management for the regional seafood industry.

Addressing Emerging International Fisheries-related Issues

SEAFDEC monitors and reviews the potential fisheries-related issues that arise in the international arena, which could impact on the sustainable development of fisheries in the region. Issues that have been given particular attention include the need for fish and fishery products from the region to comply with the requirements specified in established measures to combat IUU fishing, conservation and management of species under international concern, traceability and certification of fishery/aquaculture products. Thus, SEAFDEC provides the forum to facilitate the development of regional approach and common position to address these arising issues in order to safeguard the economic benefit of the countries in the region.

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