

REPORT OF REGIONAL TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES-RELATED ISSUES

20-22 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries-related Issues was organized by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) on 20-22 June 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Also in attendance were the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, as well as senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department (TD), Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), Aquaculture Department (AQD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD). Expert from Japan NUS Co.Ltd. serving as resource person, and representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) also took part in the RTC. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 1**.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Kom Silapajarn* welcomed the participants to the RTC and stated that the RTC is organized with the main objective of discussing the concerns of the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) on the international fisheries-related issues that tend to create impact on the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. He added that the RTC would also discuss the updates of relevant global issues in order to come up with the corresponding regional approach as well as regional recommendations and common positions of SEAFDEC and the Member Countries to be raised at the relevant international fora, especially to the forthcoming 33rd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in Rome, Italy on 9-13 July 2018. He then expressed his wish for the RTC to come up with fruitful results and declared the RTC open.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

3. The representative from Viet Nam, *Mrs. Nguyen Thi Trang Nhung*, was elected as the Chairperson of the RTC.

AGENDA 1. Introduction of the RTC and Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Assistant Policy and Program Coordinator of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Worawit Wanchana* introduced the agenda and the expected outputs of the RTC, especially the development of inputs for the 33rd Session of the COFI. He added that most of the issues discussed during the RTC would need inputs from the AMSs in order to come up with the regional approach. After the deliberation, the Agenda of the RTC which appears as **Annex 2** was adopted.

AGENDA 2. Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

2.1 Port State Measures

5. Facilitated by the Policy and Program Coordinator of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon*, this Session discussed the actions of the AMSs with regards to the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), as well as the relevant international and regional events as presented by *Dr. Worawit Wanchana*, and the progress of the regional cooperation on port State measures (PSM) in Southeast Asia which was subsequently presented by the representative from TD, *Mr. Kongpathai Sarapaivanich*.

6. At the outset, the RTC was informed that the PSMA was entered into force on 5 June 2016, and that five ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries have so far ratified or acceded to the PSMA, namely; Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand, while Viet Nam and Cambodia are still in the process of preparing the necessary documentation for accession to the PSMA. Furthermore, the RTC was informed that TD has facilitated the implementation of PSM in the region through its project on “Promotion of Countermeasures to Combat IUU Fishing,” which focuses on enhancing the understanding of the AMSs on PSM, and capacity development on vessel inspection at ports. TD also organized in 2016 the “Workshop on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of PSM to Improve Fisheries Management and Reduce IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia” where the AMSs identified the constraints and problems as well as the challenges and priority activities to support the implementation of PSM.

7. The representative from Thailand informed the RTC of the country’s experience in the implementation of the PSMA starting with the conduct of the gap analysis to identify the legal frameworks of fisheries and other relevant agencies that need to be amended. This was followed by the necessary capacity building, *e.g.* on vessel inspection. It was emphasized that political will is a crucial factor for the implementation of initiatives in combating IUU fishing including the adoption of the PSMA. However, one of the most important constraints that hinder the effective implementation of PSMA is efficient communication with other States in obtaining and/or verifying the required information in a timely manner; Thailand therefore established Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with several other States to facilitate the sharing of such information.

8. The RTC also noted that the issues faced by countries in the implementation of PSMA should be raised at the international level through the “PSMA Part 6 Working Group on Requirements of Developing States” to be organized by FAO on 5-6 July 2018 in Rome, Italy, prior to the 33rd Session of COFI.

9. During the deliberations, the RTC came up with recommendations for future action, as follows:

Actions at national level

- AMSs that have not yet ratified or acceded to the PSMA to consider reviewing their respective national legislations, not only those concerning the fisheries agencies but also of other relevant agencies (*e.g.* transportation, port, customs, enforcement agencies) to enable relevant agencies to implement port control with a view to combating IUU fishing
- AMSs to enhance the awareness of their respective policy makers on the support required for the implementation of PSM, *e.g.* financial and human resources

Actions at regional level

- SEAFDEC to conduct capacity building required by the Member Countries by mobilizing external resource persons, *e.g.* from FAO, NOAA, IOTC, and SEAFDEC Member Countries that have already put the PSMA into practice

Actions at international level

- FAO to support the requesting countries (not only those who are Parties to the PSMA) in the conduct of their respective gap analyses that would assess their legal frameworks and align these with the PSMA requirements

Views to be reflected at the 33rd COFI

- One of the major constraints of the AMSs to become Parties to the PSMA is lack of legal frameworks that would enable their relevant national agencies to implement the provisions stipulated in the PSMA. FAO is therefore requested to support the countries in conducting gap analysis, particularly in identifying the legal frameworks that need to be amended, either those that concern fisheries-related agencies or those of other agencies relevant to the PSMA to enable a country to become Party to the PSMA, or to effectively implement port control
- One of the difficulties faced by countries in the implementation of the PSMA is related to the communication system of the concerned States (*e.g.* flag States and coastal States) that would enable them to obtain/verify information about questionable fishing vessels and other relevant information in a timely manner. FAO should facilitate the identification of focal persons from the respective States to take charge of communication and verification of information required by port States. The list of focal persons should be shared among the Parties to facilitate PSMA implementation
- FAO is also requested to support regional organizations including SEAFDEC in the conduct of capacity building for countries to implement the PSMA or port control, particularly in providing the necessary resource persons

2. Global Record of Fishing Vessels

10. With this Session facilitated by the SEAFDEC Special Advisor, *Mr. Masanami Isumi*, the RTC took note of the status of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (GR) presented by the SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon*, and also the presentation on the status of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for vessels more than 24 meters in length and over, which was subsequently made by the representative from TD, *Ms. Namfon Imsamran*.

11. The RTC was informed that the GR would be implemented in phased approach starting with Phase I: All vessels over 100 GT or 100 GRT or 24 meters; and that the IMO number would serve as the Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) for Phase I implementation. The GR requires only five (5) data fields: UVI (IMO Number), current flag state, vessel name, length overall (LOA), gross tonnage (or other units as used by the country). The pilot Southeast Asian countries that provide data to the GR are Indonesia and the Philippines.

12. The RTC also noted that for the Southeast Asian region, SEAFDEC initiated the development of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over. However, the IMO number, which is one of the 28 key data elements shared with the RFVR Database, is not mandatory as the RFVR covers the vessels that operate within and outside the countries' EEZs, while the IMO number is required only for vessels operating outside the EEZs.

13. During the discussion, it was clarified that as the GR is voluntary in nature, vessels not listed in the GR are not necessarily considered as IUU fishing vessels. The global and regional records of fishing vessels are considered as instruments to provide data to be used in conducting risk assessments, especially when vessels enter into the ports. The countries were therefore encouraged to provide data into the GR. Furthermore, the RTC also made the following recommendations for future action:

Actions at national level

- AMSs to support the GR initiative by providing data into the GR in order to test the applicability of the system in combating IUU fishing
- AMSs are encouraged to communicate with IMO on the process of obtaining the IMO Number for fishing vessels less than 24 meters in length that operate outside EEZs

Actions at regional level

- SEAFDEC to continue compiling data from the AMSs for RFVR 24 meters in length and over, at least until the GR is fully implemented
- SEAFDEC to consider expanding the RFVR to cover vessels smaller than 24 meters (*e.g.* 18-24 meters in length) in order that this could support the emerging trade-related requirements (*e.g.* of EU)
- SEAFDEC to review the definitions of the key data requirements in the RFVR to ensure that not only vessels operating in the high seas but also those operating in EEZs of the AMSs are included
- FAO to organize regional technical consultation in the region to enhance the understanding of the AMSs on the GR, based on the experience of the pilot project on GR implemented in Indonesia and Philippines

Views to be reflected at the 33rd COFI

- As the GR data is expected to support other tools particularly the PSMA in combating IUU fishing, FAO should develop clear procedures of obtaining inputs for the GR to ensure the reliability (accuracy and real time updating) of data. In the case of the RFVR, although vessel information is updated based on the data submitted by the AMSs periodically, *e.g.* twice a year, this is still not sufficient to ensure data reliability
- FAO should organize regional technical consultation in the region to enhance the understanding of the AMSs on the GR, based on experiences of the pilot projects on GR implemented in Indonesia and Philippines

AGENDA 3. Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries Governance

3.1 Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (Status and International Approaches)

14. With the SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator, *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* facilitating the Session, the RTC noted the status and international approaches on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) presented by the SEAFDEC Special Advisor *Mr. Masanami Isumi*, and the regional approaches to support the AMSs in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines as presented by SEAFDEC Senior Advisor *Dr. Magnus Torell*.

15. The RTC was informed that after the SSF Guidelines was endorsed at the 31st Session of COFI in 2014, and in order to support the AMSs in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, SEAFDEC initiated the development of the Policy Brief “Applying Human Rights-Based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia,” which was adopted by the SEAFDEC Council in 2018.

16. The RTC also took note of the upcoming events on small-scale fisheries, which are the Third World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress to be organized by SEAFDEC and Too Big to Ignore (TBTI) on 22-26 October 2018 in Chiang Mai, Thailand; and the Seventh Global Symposium on Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF7) on 18-20 October 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

17. During the discussion, the RTC made the following recommendations for future action:

Actions at national level

- AMSs to integrate small-scale fisheries (SSF) into their respective national policies relevant to food security and poverty eradication, taking into consideration the Policy Brief developed by SEAFDEC
- AMSs to incorporate fisheries points of view into their national conservation frameworks, particularly the needs of small-scale fisheries in utilizing the resources for their food security and poverty alleviation
- AMSs to continue promoting community-based fisheries management as one of the approaches to support SSF; and to develop, package and promote applicable interventions and technologies, *e.g.* aquaculture technologies, to reduce pressure from coastal communities and small-scale fisheries on the natural resources

Actions at regional level

- SEAFDEC to continue its activities that support information gathering to monitor the status of small-scale fisheries (inland and coastal) in the region, possibly with disaggregated information on gender in order to get a better picture of the roles, responsibilities and rights of gender in small-scale fisheries
- SEAFDEC in collaboration with FAO to develop a regional program to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and the Policy Brief

Views to be reflected at the 33rd COFI

- Considering that food security and poverty eradication are cross-cutting issues, the SSF Guidelines should be referred to in relevant international instruments, *e.g.* the Convention on Biological Diversity, GEF Strategy, where applicable
- FAO should support the development of targets and indicators to facilitate monitoring by the countries, of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines that are supportive to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as in measuring the resilience level of small-scale fisheries
- Considering that the majority of Southeast Asian fisheries is small-scale in nature, FAO was requested to provide support to SEAFDEC to develop joint regional program to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines
- SEAFDEC should inform the COFI about its regional initiative in developing a Policy Brief to enhance the understanding and support of AMSs in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, as well as the support of the SEAFDEC Council in developing the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy that would provide a framework to facilitate the efforts of SEAFDEC in integrating gender in its future programs and projects

3.2 Labor and Working Conditions and Social Sustainability in Fisheries Value Chains in Fisheries Sectors

18. The RTC took note of the international and regional approaches that address the issues on labor and working conditions, and social sustainability in fisheries value chains presented by SEAFDEC Senior Advisor *Dr. Magnus Torell*. Specifically, considering that issues on social sustainability in fisheries value chains are not only relevant to small-scale fisheries but also to commercial fisheries, these should be assessed separately.

19. The RTC was also informed that there are different kinds of support provided by the governments to ensure social sustainability in fisheries value chains, *e.g.* subsidies, insurance. However, there could also be complexities with regards to such provisions considering that the majority of fisheries especially in inland areas are small-scale, and fisheries could be part-time and seasonal.

20. In the discussion, the RTC then made the following recommendations for future action:

Actions at national level

- AMSs to review and align the national legislations of relevant agencies, *e.g.* on safety and working condition at sea, processing plans and migrant workers, with relevant international laws

Actions at international level

- FAO and International Labour Organization (ILO) to continue to take the leading role in furthering the development of a framework to enhance social sustainability along the value chain

Views to be reflected at the 33rd COFI

- FAO should collaborate with ILO in developing standards and criteria to ensure decent labor and working conditions, and social sustainability at various stages of the fisheries value chain

AGENDA 4. Fish Trade-related Issues

4.1 Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS)

21. The RTC took note of the introductory presentation on Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) with particular focus on the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Scheme developed by FAO, and the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme developed by SEAFDEC as presented by the SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon*. The RTC was also informed that the FAO Conference in 2017 adopted the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Scheme. Although the Guidelines is voluntary in nature, but for best results that ensure the traceability of fish and fishery products from capture fisheries, CDS should be implemented by all States.

22. The RTC also noted that SEAFDEC developed and promoted the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) for marine capture fisheries, the concept of which was adopted by the ASWGFi in 2017. The ACDS aims to facilitate intra-regional and international trade of fish and fishery products without creating much burden to the countries. While taking into consideration the specificity of fisheries in the region that are small-scale and multi-species, the system is aligned with major importers' requirements and RFMO catch documentation schemes. The electronic system was also developed to facilitate the implementation of the ACDS in the Southeast Asian region. Meanwhile, the RTC was also informed that few countries in the Southeast Asian region are in the process of developing their respective national CDS, *e.g.* Thailand and Indonesia. In the case of Indonesia, the country has already established its CDS for exporting fishery products to the EU, and is now in the process of expanding its CDS for exportation of fishery products to other markets.

23. During the discussion, the RTC came up with the following recommendations for future action:

Actions at national level

- AMSs to make commitments in the implementation of CDS. Although some countries have already established their respective national systems of traceability, countries that are yet to establish the system are encouraged to make use of the ACDS developed by SEAFDEC

Actions at regional level

- SEAFDEC to continue extending support to countries that request to make use of the electronic ACDS

Views to be reflected at the 33rd COFI

- As CDS is one of the tools for combating IUU fishing, integrating this with other global relevant initiatives, *e.g.* GR and PSMA would ensure the effectiveness in combating IUU fishing. FAO was therefore requested to conduct capacity building for countries that need to enhance their understanding on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on CDS
- As the Southeast Asian region has developed the electronic system for ACDS which is consistent with the requirements of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for CDS, FAO could also consider supporting the region in the application of the ACDS
- FAO should seek the possibility of convincing major importing markets to harmonize their requirements for CDS with a view to enhancing the cost-effectiveness of the implementation of CDS

4.2 Biodiversity and CITES-related Matter

24. The RTC took note of the presentation made by the SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon* on biodiversity and CITES-related matters, specifically on the objective of CITES which is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It was also noted that since 1997 onwards, approximately 100 aquatic species have been listed into the Appendices of CITES.

25. The RTC was also informed that FAO has been negotiating to review and improve the CITES criteria for listing of commercially exploited aquatic species. In 2003, FAO established the TOR for the Expert Advisory Panel to assess the proposal to amend the CITES Appendices; and in 2006, FAO and CITES signed the MOU to strengthen their cooperation on issues related to commercially-exploited aquatic species listed in CITES Appendices. At the regional level, SEAFDEC has been undertaking technical activities on the conservation and management as well as sustainable utilization of aquatic species, *e.g.* sharks and rays, seahorses, sea cucumbers, sea turtles, catadromous eels; and providing the platform for regional discussion and development of coordinated positions on listing of aquatic species into the CITES Appendices.

26. The RTC also noted that when species are listed under Appendix 2 of CITES, international trade of the species without NDFs is prohibited. When a species is listed in the Appendix 2 and for better protection of the species, countries also list such species as protected species resulting in prohibitions of the utilization of such species including their domestic trade. However, this has also some drawbacks as it results in the cessation of recording the catch of the species, making it impossible to know the stock status of such species afterwards.

27. During the discussion, the RTC came up with the following recommendations for future action:

Actions at national level

- AMSs to reflect the concerns and priority fisheries consideration of the countries including problems arising from listing of aquatic species into the CITES Appendices, to be acknowledged at relevant international fora, *e.g.* CBD, UNFCCC, etc.
- AMSs to continue monitoring the status of the species that has been declared as under international concern including those listed in the Appendices of CITES

Actions at regional level

- SEAFDEC to align the process of developing common/coordinated position on species proposed for listing in the CITES Appendices with relevant regional/international fora, *e.g.* AEG CITES-WEN, ASWGFi, CITES-related fora, etc.

Actions at international level

- FAO to package and disseminate the scientific knowledge and information on species proposed for listing in the CITES Appendices compiled by countries and regional organizations (including SEAFDEC) at CITES fora in order that such information could be considered during discussions on the proposed listing of the species in CITES Appendices
- AMSs to address at the CITES fora, the concern on the importance of data record after the species had already been listed in the Appendices of CITES

Views to be reflected at the 33rd COFI

- FAO should continue to be engaged in international conventions and agencies that determine the status of threatened fisheries species, *e.g.* the CITES, and CBD, in order that the fisheries considerations are appropriately accommodated.

4.3 The Impact of Marine Protected Areas on Livelihoods

28. The RTC took note of the presentation made by the Chief of MFRDMD, *Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan* on the Impact of Marine Protected Areas on Livelihoods. He explained that the Sustainable Development Goal 14.5 indicated that “*By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.*” He added that the Marine Protected Areas established by AMSs have in one way or another created positive impacts, *e.g.* enhancing resources and biodiversity. However, negative impacts of MPAs on fisheries have also been noted, *e.g.* fisheries are displaced and resulted in increased fishing cost (fishers have to go farther) and less revenue; loss of fishing rights and areas; loss of traditional livelihoods among others.

29. The RTC was of the view that although the IUCN Protected Areas include “*Category VI: Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources, where low-level non-industrial use of natural resources compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims of the area,*” but the involvement of fisheries in utilizing the Protected Areas is usually restricted as MPA is under the Ministries responsible for environment and natural resources. Thus, considering that the concept of MPA does not result in strong reduction of fishing capacity (only moving the fishing area from one place to another); the concept of fisheries *refugia* has been promoted in the region to integrate habitat and fisheries management.

30. The RTC also made the following recommendations for future action:

Actions at national level

- AMSs to seek support from relevant organizations including SEAFDEC in the implementation of activities to assess and come up with scientific evidence on the impacts of MPA (or Marine Fisheries Management Area (MFMA) in the case of Cambodia) on the fishery resources and livelihood.

Views to be reflected at the 33rd COFI

- Considering that the concept of MPA without fisheries management tends to limit fishing activities and does not lead to reduced fishing capacity; FAO should consider promoting the concept of integrating habitat and fisheries management (*e.g.* fisheries *refugia*).

4.4 Food Safety and Quality, and Market Access

31. With the Chief of MFRD, *Ms. Khoo Gek Hoon* facilitating the Session, the RTC took note of the status of Food Safety and Quality, and Market Access as presented by the SEAFDEC Assistant Policy and Program Coordinator *Dr. Worawit Wanchana*. Specifically, the RTC was informed that food safety is a basic requirement for market accessibility. Recently however, there are emerging market access requirements for establishing the equivalence between importing and exporting countries, including those on traceability and certification schemes, and social responsibility among others. For example, the U.S. would soon impose its Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) for shrimps and abalone. Some countries in the region, *e.g.* Myanmar, had also encountered some problems on their exportation of marine shrimps to the U.S. due to issues on the bycatch of sea turtles and would need information from the other AMSs on how to address this issue. It is hoped that the SEAFDEC effort on PSMA, global record and Catch Certification Scheme would be able to address the new traceability requirements from the U.S. and EU markets for capture fishery products.

32. While informing the RTC that MFRD has been addressing the food safety and quality requirements of the markets, the Chief of MFRD explained that there are several important emerging issues on food safety that need to be addressed. These particularly include: marine biotoxins, microplastics in aquatic organisms and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), antimicrobial use (AMU); and the AMSs would need capacity building to be able to address these emerging issues. In this connection, MFRD informed the RTC that it has existing program to address the Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) issues in the region. The representative from TD also informed the RTC that SEAFDEC will soon undertake a study on microplastics in aquatic organisms in collaboration with the academes and the Department of Fisheries of Thailand, and the cooperation of the AMSs during the implementation of the study would be sought.

33. In the ensuing discussion, the RTC made the following recommendations:

Actions at national level

- AMSs to cooperate with SEAFDEC in undertaking the study on microplastics in aquatic organisms

Actions at regional level

- SEAFDEC to provide updated information that would enhance the understanding of AMSs on emerging requirements for fish and fishery products to access the international market
- SEAFDEC to consider undertaking regular analysis of fish trade and market, *e.g.* every 6 months, and provide the information to the Member Countries

Actions at international level

- FAO to provide continual technical support such as capacity building and advices on emerging food safety and quality, and market access issues to AMSs.

4.5 Fishery Subsidies

34. Facilitated by the SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon*, the Session focused on the progress of the discussions and negotiations on fishery subsidies as presented by the Technical Associate Director of Japan NUS Co. Ltd., *Mr. Hajime Kawamura*. The RTC was informed that in 2001, the Doha Ministerial Conference agreed to improve WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies, taking into account the importance of the fisheries sector to developing countries. In 2015, the United Nations adopted the SDG 14 with Target 6 stating that *“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.”* In 2017, the Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference discussed and agreed to continue the discussion on fisheries subsidies; and it was agreed that in order to achieve the Target 6 of the SDG14, the discussion on fishery subsidies should be concluded by 2019. In 2018, discussion on fishery subsidies was on-going until the present with recent proposals for the text on *“Prohibited subsidies relating to IUU fishing, overfished stocks, overcapacity, capacity-enhancing subsidies and overfishing”* and *“Special and Differential Treatment.”* Nevertheless, there are issues that need particular consideration, *e.g.* on overfished discipline, the proposal stating that *“In the absence of sufficient data to make such determination (on overfished stock), the stock shall be presumed to be in an overfished condition.”*

35. Moreover, the RTC was informed that discussion on fisheries subsidies should take into consideration the fact that large portion of catch in the region is multi-species. Fisheries subsidy should therefore be considered by types of fishing gear, and not by species. Furthermore, fisheries subsidies should not be considered as standalone issue, as it has close linkage with other initiatives *e.g.* sustainability of the fish stocks.

36. In this regard, the RTC came up with the following recommendations for action:

Actions at national level

- AMSs to consider the possibility of sending delegates, especially fisheries officers, to attend in different clusters of fishery subsidies negotiations, with each cluster having three sessions: Technical, Thematic, Streamlining

Actions at regional level

- SEAFDEC to facilitate the identification of focal point of each AMS as well as the development of the ASEAN common position on fishery subsidies for adoption by AMAF to be reflected at the WTO forum upon consideration by the SEAFDEC Council

Actions at international level

- FAO to continue providing inputs to the WTO discussions on fishery subsidies

Views to be reflected at the 33rd COFI

- FAO should consider sending its officer to represent the fisheries sector and provide inputs during the discussion on fisheries subsidies at WTO fora. The inputs of FAO should also take into consideration the aspect on fisheries management that aims to conserve and ensure the sustainable utilization of marine resources.

AGENDA 5. Inland Fishery

37. With the Session facilitated by the Chief of IFRDMD *Dr. Arif Wibowo*, the RTC took note of status of inland fisheries development as presented by the SEAFDEC Senior Advisor *Dr. Magnus Torell*. Specifically, the RTC was informed that in 2017, FAO adopted the Rome Declaration on “Ten Steps to Responsible Inland Fisheries” that include improving information, communication, and governance relating to inland aquatic ecosystems and the fisheries and people they support. Of the world’s total fisheries production, 20% is derived from inland capture fisheries; while 90% of inland fisheries catch comes from the developing countries. At least 60 million people are directly involved and are benefiting from in small-scale inland fisheries, considering that 20 grams of small river fish contains the daily iron and zinc needs for a child, thus, serving as important source of trace elements for humans. However, inland fisheries is undervalued considering that large portion of the catch is for household consumption, which does not appear in national records.

38. The RTC was also informed that IFRDMD is undertaking a project, one objective of which is to improve data collection on inland capture fisheries; and that IFRDMD is planning to organize the Technical Workshop on Stock Assessment for Inland Capture Fisheries in November 2018 in collaboration with the Indonesian Government. Moreover, TD is also undertaking an activity on the sustainable management of inland capture fisheries in Nam Oon Dam, Sakon Nakhon Province, Thailand, with stock assessment being undertaken using the Yield Per Recruit (Y/R) model. Furthermore, Cambodia had also implemented an MRC assisted project that explores the methodology using “catch assessment” instead of “stock assessment” in the Mekong River areas considering that stock assessment requires large amount of budget. Nevertheless, the RTC noted that in order to obtain better valuation of inland fisheries, not only stock assessment should be considered, but also the biological production of the water bodies as a whole.

39. The RTC then came up with the following recommendations for future action:

Actions at national level

- AMSs to explore other approaches to obtain information on the value of inland capture fisheries (not only from statistics or stock assessment) as such information would be useful to facilitate the discussion on tradeoffs between ecosystem conservation and development projects

Actions at international/regional level

- FAO to provide experts during the regional discussion to be organized by IFRDMD for the development of methodology for stock assessment of inland fisheries
- FAO and SEAFDEC to develop a practical methodology and the indicators for valuation of inland fisheries (including biological production from the ecosystems), taking into consideration the complexity of inland fisheries including the seasonal variation, etc.

Views to be reflected at the 33rd COFI

- Considering the difficulties faced by the Southeast Asian region in collecting statistics on inland capture fisheries making inland fisheries very much under-valued, FAO should collaborate with countries and regional organizations (including SEAFDEC) to develop practical methodology and indicators for the valuation of inland fisheries, *i.e.* determining the economic, social and biological values of inland capture fisheries

AGENDA 6. Sustainable Aquaculture

40. The RTC took note of the presentation on Sustainable Aquaculture: aquaculture certification, nutrition and biosecurity measures, and aquatic genetic resources for aquaculture development made by the AQD Chief, *Mr. Dan Baliao*. The RTC also noted the various aquaculture certification schemes and the biosecurity in farms including MyGap of Malaysia where the challenge is raising the awareness among the farmers.

41. In the ensuing discussion, the RTC viewed that although SEAFDEC has recently focused its works on emerging challenges in aquaculture, particularly on alternative protein sources as substitute to fishmeal, and on emerging aquatic animal diseases; it should be considered that the development of feed including fishmeal substitutes could be undertaken by the private sector, while addressing disease issues should be the task mainly of the government sector. In addition, since aquaculture diseases impact on the competitiveness of aquaculture products, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) should be tapped to assist in the management of the free disease zone.

42. The RTC also noted the expansion of aquaculture in inland water bodies, *e.g.* lakes and reservoirs, resulting in massive mortality of fish, which requires that the carrying capacity of water bodies should be determined. However, the carrying capacity of water bodies is also subject to the culture systems (extensive, semi-intensive and intensive), and methods (*e.g.* use of life support systems). Furthermore, the development of aquaculture technologies for aquatic species under international concern, *e.g.* Banggai cardinal fish, could help in reducing pressure to wild capture of the species, although seeds of *Anguilla* spp. used for aquaculture are still dependent on the wild. Therefore, aquaculture should be able to support the restocking of species that are under international concern. However, there are challenges in providing evidence that production of aquatic species under international concern is derived from aquaculture in order to obtain certification.

43. During the discussion, the RTC came up with the following recommendations:

Actions at regional/international levels

- SEAFDEC and FAO to provide capacity building for countries to deal with alternative protein substitutes for fishmeal and emerging diseases in aquaculture

AGENDA 7. Climate Change and Other Environment-related Issues

44. During the discussion of the issues on climate change and environment-related issues which are cross-cutting issues as presented by the SEAFDEC Special Advisor, *Dr. Magnus Torell*, the RTC was informed that it would be necessary for the fisheries-related agencies to continue monitoring the impacts of these issues to fisheries and aquaculture sector, particularly with a view to enhancing the adaptation and resilience of the sector. Although there are increasing concerns on the impacts of climate change, these could be minimal compared with other man-made impacts. The respective governments should therefore balance the efforts in dealing with these impacts, and specially for aquaculture, increasing the efficiency of aquaculture production systems would mitigate the impacts of climate change. On the other hand, the RTC also noted that FAO through various fora has developed several key recommendations at the global level on environmental-related issues that have possible impacts on fisheries, and FAO expressed the willingness to provide support to the AMSs in terms of capacity building and development of policy frameworks.

45. The RTC then came up with the following recommendations for future action:

Actions at national level

- Fisheries-related agencies of AMSs to work with other national agencies that have mandates in relation to climate change and environmental-related issues; and to keep track of the ASEAN dialogues on climate change and environmental-related issues in order to enhance the integration between the issues
- AMSs should make reference to the relevant global instruments, *e.g.* the SSF Guidelines, in enhancing the resilience of community to adapt with the climate change
- AMSs to refer to international conventions to mitigate the impacts of fisheries to the environment, *e.g.* MARPOL Annex 5 that seeks to eliminate and reduce the amount of garbage being discharged into the sea from ships

Actions at international level

- FAO to represent the fisheries sector in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) forum including its inter-sessional work to reflect the fisheries concerns, and share the results of the discussion with the fisheries-related agencies of the AMSs

AGENDA 8. Other Matters

8.1 Global and Regional Ocean Process

46. The RTC took note of the presentation on the major global and regional processes related to fisheries and aquaculture that are implemented with the involvement and support of FAO, where FAO plays the role as a key stakeholder and as the specialized UN entity working on fisheries and aquaculture issues.

47. The RTC also noted that there are approximately 50 Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) that are gaining importance in international fora that discuss issues related to fisheries management and shared living marine and inland resources.

48. The RTC then made the following recommendations for future action:

Actions at regional level

- SEAFDEC to explore the possibility of expanding its roles to also cover the mandate of fisheries management. Upon the consideration and support of the SEAFDEC Council, this shall be subsequently communicated with FAO through the Regional Secretariat Network (RSN) Meetings on the appropriate protocols

Actions at international level

- FAO to coordinate with RFBs and RFMOs with a view to strengthening their roles for sustainability of target species and bycatch, and to facilitate sharing of their good practices and lessons learnt to support the implementation of tools, *e.g.* PSM, in the Southeast Asian region
- FAO to continue its involvement in fora concerning the oceans process to reflect the fisheries-related concerns. Update of the negotiations in relation to fisheries, *e.g.* on substance and legal basis and roles of RFMOs in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), should be shared with the fisheries sector of AMSs to keep track of the results of the discussions considering that the relevant national agencies, *e.g.* Foreign Affairs would consult with fisheries experts to provide views on the issues

Views to be reflected at the 33rd COFI

- Considering that the support from FAO to the Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC) has recently been scaled down, FAO should consider providing more support and collaboration with regional fisheries and aquaculture RFBs, *e.g.* SEAFDEC, MRC, NACA, CTI-CFF

8.2 Marking of Fishing Gear to Reduce Abandoned and Lost Gears

49. Facilitated by the SEAFDEC Policy and Program Coordinator *Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon*, the Session introduced the issues on marking of fishing gears to reduce abandoned and lost gears, based on the presentation made by the Research and Development Division Head (RDDH) of TD *Mr. Isara Chanrachkij*.

50. The RTC specifically noted that there are several types of fishing gears, particularly gillnets, pots, traps, and so on, that could become abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gears (ALDFG) and perform ghost fishing. Fishing gear marking would therefore help in ensuring that fishing gears are marked, and, if lost or discarded, could be recovered from the aquatic environment and traced back to their original owners.

51. The RTC was also informed that the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear was adopted at the FAO Technical Consultation on the Marking of Fishing Gear (5-9 February 2018), and it is expected that this would be subsequently reviewed and endorsed by the 33rd Session of COFI.

52. While noting the Guidelines on Marking Fishing Gear, the RTC as of the view that if the fishing gears could be marked when these are manufactured, this would ensure that ownership of gears could be better traced through appropriate licensing procedures.

53. In the ensuing discussion, the RTC made the following recommendations for future action:

Actions at national level

- AMSs to consider piloting the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear, including the measures to prevent and mitigate impacts of ALDFG, and enhancing the awareness of fishers on marking of fishing gear
- AMSs to consider whether ALDFG should be their priority for GEF-7, which deals with the major drivers of environmental degradation including marine debris which has been identified as one of the global environmental problems

Actions at regional level

- SEAFDEC to consider translating the Voluntary Guidelines into user friendly manual particularly Annex B to facilitate its implementation by the AMSs
- SEAFDEC to revitalize and strengthen the role of the Network of the Impacts of Fishing on Coastal Marine Environment in Southeast Asia (IFCOME) which comprises fishing gear experts around the world as members to address the issues on ALDFG
- SEAFDEC to promote the “anti-ghost fishing” campaigns in order to mitigate the impacts of the abandoned or lost gear on the environment

Views to be reflected at 33rd COFI

- FAO should consider prioritizing the implementation of fishing gear marking, *e.g.* to initially focus on gears used in national waters, transboundary areas between countries, or in high seas, in order to reduce burden of the countries.

AGENDA 9. Conclusion and Recommendations

54. The RTC adopted the Conclusion and Recommendations as shown in this Report of the RTC. Specifically, the RTC agreed on the views of the AMSs on various international fisheries-related issues that should be reflected by the Member Countries and SEAFDEC at the 33rd COFI, shown in **Annex 3**.

(Note: The text on “views to be reflected at 33rd COFI” as adopted at the RTC would be separately compiled into Annex 3.)

55. The representatives from FAO congratulated SEAFDEC and the Member Countries for conducting this RTC to support the development of the views of the AMSs toward several international fisheries-related issues, which would make FAO aware of the priorities and concerns of the countries. It was also suggested that the conduct of this RTC by SEAFDEC should also be relayed during the 33rd COFI for appropriate acknowledgement.

AGENDA 10. Closing of the Regional Technical Consultation

56. In his Closing Remarks, the Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Mr. Akito Sato* commended the participants of the RTC for coming up with the region’s position on the relevant issues and concerns to be raised to the forthcoming Thirty-third Session of COFI. He also thanked the Resource Person and the representatives from the international organizations attending the RTC for their insights and clarifications on the various aspects discussed. After expressing his impression that the discussions during the RTC clearly proved and demonstrated the region’s efforts and interest in promoting sustainable fisheries development, especially small-scale and inland fisheries, he declared the RTC closed.

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AGENDA

Registration

Opening of the Meeting

Selection of Chairperson

Agenda 1 Agenda 1: Introduction of the RTC, Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda 2 Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

2.1) Port State Measures

- Port State Measure Agreement
- Regional Cooperation on PSM in Southeast Asia
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

2.2) Global Record of Fishing Vessels

- Status of the Global Records
- Regional Fishing Vessels Record in Southeast Asia
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

Agenda 3 Small-scale and artisanal fisheries governance

3.1) Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (Status and International Approaches)

- Status and International Approaches on SSF Guidelines
- Regional Approaches on SSF Guidelines
- Policy Brief Applying Human Rights-Based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

3.2) Labor and Working Conditions and Social Sustainability in Fisheries Value Chains in Fisheries Sectors

- Status and International Approaches
- Regional Approaches
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

Agenda 4 Fish Trade-related Issues

4.1) Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS)

- Status of the FAO Catch Documentation Schemes
- ASEAN Catch Documentation Schemes and eACDS Software to Support Implementation of ACDS
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

4.2) The CITES

- Status of the listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species to the CITES Appendix
- Regional Cooperation and Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Positions on CEAS to Address at CITES Forum
- Identify the Issues and Solution on Inter-agency Cooperation within ASEAN Member States
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

4.3) The Impact of Marine Protected Areas on Livelihoods

- Recommendations for future actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

4.4) Food Quality Safety and Market Access

- Introducing Current Issues on Food Quality Safety and Market Access
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

4.5) Fishery Subsidies

- Introduction of Fisheries Subsidies in WTO
- Negotiations on fisheries subsidies and progress of "Agreement of Fisheries Subsidies"
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

Agenda 5

Inland Fishery

- Inland Fisheries: Issues, Developments and Needs
- Regional Approaches & Long-term Strategy in Southeast Asia
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

Agenda 6

Sustainable Aquaculture

- Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification
- Nutrition and Biosecurity Measures on Aquaculture
- Aquatic Genetic Resources for Aquaculture Development
- Others matter
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

Agenda 7

Climate Change and Other Environment-related Issues

- FAO Works on Climate Change
- Other Environment-related Issues (will be identified)
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSS and SEAFDEC

Agenda 8

Other Matters

8.1) Global and Regional Ocean Process

- UN Sustainable Development Goal
- Regional approaches on Ocean Process and Others
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

8.2) Marking of Fishing Gear to Reduce Abandon Lost

- Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear to Reduce Abandon Lost
- Appropriate Regional Approaches on Gear Marking
- Recommendations for Future Actions
- Response to the International Fora by AMSs and SEAFDEC

Agenda 9 Conclusions and Recommendations

Closing of the Meeting

Summary of Gaps and Issues to be Raised at the Thirty-third Session of COFI
Adopted at the Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries Related Issues
20-22 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

The Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on International Fisheries-related Issues was organized by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) on 20-22 June 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Also in attendance were the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, as well as senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department (TD), Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), Aquaculture Department (AQD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD). Expert from Japan NUS Co. Ltd. serving as Resource Person, and representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) also took part in the RTC. During the discussion, the RTC identified the major gaps related to international fisheries-related concerns that need to be addressed and thus, agreed to raise the corresponding issues at the 33rd Session of COFI on 9-13 July 2018.

Keywords: catch documentation, CITES, fishing gear, fish trade, fishing vessels, food safety, inland fisheries, labor, market access, MPA, port State, small-scale fisheries, social sustainability, subsidies.

Port State Measures	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate legal frameworks in many ASEAN Member States (AMSs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the major constraints of the AMSs to become Parties to the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) is lack of legal frameworks that would enable their relevant national agencies to implement the provisions stipulated in the PSMA. FAO is therefore requested to support the countries in conducting gap analysis, particularly in identifying the legal frameworks that need to be amended, either those that concern fisheries-related agencies or those of other agencies relevant to the PSMA to enable a country to become Party to the PSMA, or to effectively implement port control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to compile the list of focal persons for verifying information on fishing vessels that are entering into ports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the difficulties faced by countries in the implementation of the PSMA is related to the communication system of concerned States (<i>e.g.</i> flag States and coastal States) that would enable them to obtain/verify information about questionable fishing vessels and other relevant information in a timely manner. FAO should facilitate the identification of focal persons from the respective States to take charge of communication and verification of information required by port States. The list of focal persons should be shared among the Parties to facilitate PSMA implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for national capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO is requested to support regional organizations including SEAFDEC in the conduct of capacity building for countries to implement the PSMA or port control, particularly in providing the necessary resource persons

Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for clear procedures of obtaining inputs for the GT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (GR) data is expected to support other tools particularly the PSMA in combating IUU fishing, FAO should develop clear procedures of obtaining inputs for the GR to ensure the reliability (accuracy and real time updating) of data. In the case of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for vessels more than 24 meters in length and over, although vessel information is updated based on the data submitted by the AMSs periodically, <i>e.g.</i> twice a year, this is still not sufficient to ensure data reliability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance understanding of AMSs on GR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO should organize regional technical consultation in the region to enhance the understanding of the AMSs on the GR, based on experiences of the pilot projects on GR implemented in Indonesia and Philippines

Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries Governance	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking the issues with other environmental related initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering that food security and poverty eradication are cross-cutting issues, the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) should be referred to in relevant international instruments, <i>e.g.</i> the Convention on Biological Diversity, GEF Strategy, where applicable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for clear targets and indicators to facilitate implementation of SSF Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO should support the development of targets and indicators to facilitate monitoring by the countries, of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines that are supportive to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as in measuring the resilience level of small-scale fisheries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a joint regional program of SEAFDEC-FAO to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering that the majority of Southeast Asian fisheries is small-scale in nature, FAO was requested to provide support to SEAFDEC to develop joint regional program to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of the Policy Brief developed by SEAFDEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC should inform the COFI about its regional initiative in developing the Policy Brief “Applying Human Rights-Based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-Scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia” to enhance the understanding and support of AMSs in the implementation of the SSF Guidelines, as well as the support of the SEAFDEC Council in developing the SEAFDEC Gender Strategy that would provide a framework to facilitate the efforts of SEAFDEC in integrating gender in its future programs and projects

Labor and Working Conditions and Social Sustainability in Fisheries Value Chains in Fisheries Sectors	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for standards and criteria for decent labor and working conditions, and social sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO should collaborate with ILO in developing standards and criteria to ensure decent labor and working conditions, and social sustainability at various stages of the fisheries value chains

Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS)	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for capacity building program for AMS to implement Guidelines on CDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) is one of the tools for combating IUU fishing, integrating this with other global relevant initiatives, <i>e.g.</i> GR and PSMA would ensure the effectiveness in combating IUU fishing. FAO was therefore requested to conduct capacity building for countries that need to enhance their understanding on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on CDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the Southeast Asian region in the application of the ACDS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the Southeast Asian region has developed the electronic system for the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) which is consistent with the requirements of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for CDS, FAO could also consider supporting the region in the application of the ACDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for the harmonization of various CDS requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO should seek the possibility of convincing major importing markets to harmonize their requirements for CDS with a view to enhancing the cost-effectiveness of the implementation of CDS

Biodiversity and CITES-related Matters	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address fisheries issues at international conventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO should continue to be engaged in international conventions and agencies that determine the status of threatened fisheries species, <i>e.g.</i> the CITES, and CBD, in order that the fisheries considerations are appropriately accommodated

Impact of Marine Protected Areas on Livelihoods	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the integration of fisheries and habitat management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering that the concept of MPA (or Marine Fisheries Management Area (MFMA) in the case of Cambodia) without fisheries management tends to limit fishing activities and does not lead to reduced fishing capacity; FAO should consider promoting the concept of integrating habitat and fisheries management (<i>e.g.</i> fisheries <i>refugia</i>)

Fisheries Subsidies	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of FAO in the WTO fora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO should consider sending its officer(s) to represent the fisheries sector and provide inputs during the discussion on fisheries subsidies at WTO fora. The inputs of FAO should also take into consideration the aspect on fisheries management that aims to conserve and ensure the sustainable utilization of marine resources

Inland Fisheries	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of practical methodology and indicators for the valuation of inland fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering the difficulties faced by the Southeast Asian region in collecting statistics on inland capture fisheries making inland fisheries very much under-valued, FAO should collaborate with countries and regional organizations (including SEAFDEC) to develop practical methodology and indicators for the valuation of inland fisheries, <i>i.e.</i> determining the economic, social and biological values of inland capture fisheries

Global and Regional Ocean Processes	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More support from FAO to the regional fisheries bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering that the support from FAO to the Asia Pacific Fisheries Commission (APFIC) has recently been scaled down, FAO should consider providing more support and collaboration with regional fisheries and aquaculture bodies (RFBs), <i>e.g.</i> SEAFDEC, Mekong River Commission (MRC), NACA, Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF), etc.

Marking of Fishing Gear to Reduce Abandoned and Lost Gears	
Major Gaps	Issues to be Raised at the 33rd COFI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritization of issues on fishing gear marking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO should consider prioritizing the implementation of fishing gear marking, <i>e.g.</i> to initially focus on gears used in national waters, transboundary areas between countries, or in high seas, in order to reduce burden of the countries