



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

Bali, Indonesia
23–24 November 2023



Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

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

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**THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or the 26FCG/ASSP was organized in Bali, Indonesia from 23 to 24 November 2023, and was co-chaired by the representative from Lao PDR as the Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC to take note of the programs of activities implemented in 2023 and endorse the programs proposed for 2024 under the FCG/ASSP mechanism that had been reviewed by the Forty-sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (46PCM). The 26FCG/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 26FCG/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 26FCG/ASSP took note of the “Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Fifty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership.” The 26FCG/ASSP made a specific recommendation as follow:

- In following up on the Regional Workshop for Asia on the 2022 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment which was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on 23–27 October 2023, Cambodia inquired about the plan for the development of regional guidelines to facilitate capacity building and support national implementation of the FAO Guidelines. In response, the 26FCG/ASSP was informed that as the regional guidelines is expected to be developed by FAO, once it is available, SEAFDEC will work with FAO and other partners to support the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) by conducting appropriate capacity-building activities.

3. On the “Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given by the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries during 2023,” the 26FCG/ASSP noted the outcomes of the ASEAN relevant to fisheries cooperation, including: i) the 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (31st ASWGF_i) held virtually on 26–27 July 2023; ii) the Special Senior Official Meeting of the 44th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM-44th AMAF) held virtually on 22 August 2023; iii) the 45th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (45th AMAF) held virtually on 4 October 2023; and iv) the 42nd and 43rd ASEAN Summit held on 10–11 May 2023 and 5–7 September 2023, respectively. The 26FCG/ASSP made discussions which could be summarized as follows:

- Noting the efforts of SEAFDEC in capacity building related to combating IUU fishing through regional technical consultations as well as the willingness of SEAFDEC to collaborate closely with ASEAN on combating IUU fishing activities, the ASEAN Secretariat will coordinate with the Chair of the AN-IUU when organizing the meeting to issue an invitation letter to SEAFDEC.
- Several initiatives of Indonesia were noted, including the internal discussion on the ASEAN-Australia Workshop on the Use of Technology for Sustainable Aquaculture, the online workshops to discuss and finalize the Regional Strategies to Encourage the Implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, as well as a series of national workshops to discuss and develop documents on Common Understanding and Initiative on Sustainable Small-Scale Aquaculture.
- Considering that Viet Nam recently started introduction of the circular economy in the fisheries sector and is now seeking a model to promote this approach, SEAFDEC was requested to explore how to support the promotion of circular economy and nature-based solution initiative in the region. In this connection, the ASEAN Secretariat welcomed initiative on circular economy and requested that the proposal be sent to the ASEAN Secretariat for possible support from ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

4. On the “FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2023–2024,” the 26FCG/ASSP noted the progress and achievements of the projects implemented by SEAFDEC in 2023, and endorsed the proposed projects and activities for 2024. These include 22 ongoing projects which would be continued in 2024. The 26FCG/ASSP provided recommendations as follows:

- With regards to the development of the Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products, Thailand suggested incorporating a case study or a critical process in GMP and GHP for the manufacturing of formulated feed for aquatic animals.
- Indonesia requested SEAFDEC to consider conducting capacity-building programs for fisheries extension officers, focusing on inland fisheries, enhancing the capacity of officers to assist fishers and fish farmers in improving their livelihoods aligning with the program activities of IFRDMD.

5. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the “Progress of SEAFDEC-Related Activities/Proposals Under the ASEAN-Related Bodies” including the relevant recommendations:

- Progress of activities under the ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security, particularly the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security held via videoconference on 14 August 2023:
 - SEAFDEC and the AMSs were requested to explore additional initiatives and foster collaborations in addressing the intersection of climate change and food security, particularly in adapting to rising sea levels, as outlined in the FAO Blue Transformation Roadmap 2022–2030.
- Results of the 15th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) held via videoconference on 25 July 2023:
 - Myanmar requested Indonesia to share information, once the final official version is available, on the program undertaken by Indonesia to protect marine mammals, especially on mitigation and filling in the gap in the comparability findings process of the United States Marine Mammal Protection Act (U.S. MMPA).
 - The plan of SEAFDEC to undertake activities that address the issue of the U.S. MMPA in 2024 was noted.
- Progress of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025.
- Progress of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.
 - Malaysia looked forward for SEAFDEC to continue supporting Malaysia in the implementation of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme in the future
- Outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing held via videoconference on 13 June 2023.
- Progress of activities carried out by the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), including the results of the 13th Meeting of the ASA which was held online on 24 July 2023:
 - Thailand is revising two project proposals “Regional Collaboration for Long-term Genetic Improvement of Growth, Robustness, and Resistance to Early Mortality Syndrome in White Shrimp” and “ASEAN Awareness Building on Implementing Traceability System and Aquaculture Certification.”; Once the proposals are finalized, Thailand will update the ASEAN Secretariat.
 - Thailand will conduct a 5-day training on broodstock management, including breeding and artificial dissemination techniques, for aquaculture species mainly cultured in the AMSs.

6. With regards to the “Policy Consideration on Important Issues,” the 26FCG/ASSP took note of the implementation of relevant initiatives and provided the following recommendations:

- Combating IUU Fishing
 - Noting that FAO is planning to develop the regional guidelines for the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (VGT), SEAFDEC was requested to organize a regional technical consultation to discuss on the draft regional guidelines.

- Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region
 - The results of the genetic population study and age composition analysis for *Euthynnus affinis*, and the plan of MFRDMD to conduct the Fifth Regional Practical Workshop on the Stock and Risk Assessment of Two Seerfish Species in December 2023 were noted; while the AMSs were encouraged to consider bringing important findings and submit them to relevant management authority in the future.
 - The approach to mixed-stock fisheries management, including the plan of SEAFDEC for organizing the Regional Capacity Building Network Program (RECAB) focusing on stock assessment in 2024, was noted.
 - The status of the development of the Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices (GMP&GHP) for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products was noted. It is expected that the final draft Guidelines will be submitted to the 57th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2025 for approval.

- Fish Trade-related issues
 - On CITES related-issues, the updated information on CITES-related meetings and ongoing regional initiatives implemented by SEAFDEC in 2023 were noted.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to explore possibilities to support the AMSs in building capacity in species identification, especially for parts of commercially exploited aquatic species (CEAS). Moreover, SEAFDEC was requested to establish a regional platform to facilitate the development of non-detriment findings (NDF) for sharks and rays, as needed to gather data and assist the AMSs in future management.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to continue submitting the common position on CITES through the ASWGFi mechanism as well as consider inviting the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement Focal Points when conducting technical consultations to familiarize themselves with the issues.
 - The summary of the discussion at the 19th session of the Committee on Fisheries Subcommittee on Fish Trade of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (19COFI:FT) which was organized from 11 to 15 September 2023 was noted.

- Others/Emerging Issues
 - The newly established international marine biodiversity policies, particularly the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty, were noted.
 - On the ongoing international negotiations addressing plastic pollution under UNEP framework to formulate a legally binding instrument, the AMSs were requested to consider involving experts from the fisheries sector in the upcoming the 4th Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Meeting in April 2024, Canada.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to assist the AMSs in obtaining updated information and understanding on the GBF and BBNJ Treaty; and support the integration of relevant provisions in regional policies and later on in national policies of the AMSs.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to provide technical assistance and support to the AMSs in carrying out activities on Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR), *e.g.* data entry and validation into AquaGRIS, usage of AquaGRIS, capacity-building programs to ensure data accuracy and smooth running of the system.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to propose to ASEAN the development of the AqGR plan in which SEAFDEC could provide technical assistance and support to the AMSs.
 - The establishment of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management, the First Session of which is scheduled on 15–18 January 2024, was noted.

7. Under Other Matters, the 26FCG/ASSP took note of the information and the progress of related activities:

- 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 Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information) was approved by the 55th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, and endorsed by the 31st ASWGF Meeting and subsequently approved by the SOM-AMAF and AMAF in 2023.
- Thailand is planning to utilize the information in the Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information), particularly the gaps and challenges, to develop a questionnaire to assess the training needs of the AMSs as part of the activity under the SPA-Fisheries on “Training Needs Assessment to Identify the Current Demand for Knowledge and Skill Needed for Sustainable Fisheries Development.”
- The 26FCG/ASSP noted the progress of updating the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia developed since 2008 which came up with the draft Revised Regional Framework (2024 Edition).

8. The Report of the 26FCG/ASSP was adopted on 24 November 2023.

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

23–24 November 2023
Bali, Indonesia

INTRODUCTION

1. The 26th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or the 26FCG/ASSP was organized in Bali, Indonesia from 23 to 24 November 2023 to take note of the programs of activities implemented in 2023 and endorse the programs proposed for 2024 under the FCG/ASSP mechanism that had been reviewed by the recently concluded Forty-sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (46PCM). The 26FCG/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 26FCG/ASSP was attended by representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam with their delegations, representative from ASEAN Secretariat, as well as the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and 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). The List of Participants appears in **Annex 1**.

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The Head of Marine and Fisheries of Bali Province, *Mr. Putu Sumardiana*, welcomed all participants to the 26FCG/ASSP and expressed the hope for all participants to enjoy staying in Bali, Indonesia. He informed the 26FCG/ASSP of the potential of the Bali Province possessing diverse marine and fishery resources. Nevertheless, such resources are still underutilized to provide welfare for the business community especially the marine and fisheries sector due to limited human capacity. He then expressed the reaffirmation of the Bali Provincial Maritime and Fisheries Service toward the optimal utilization of marine resources with quota-based policy, sustainable aquaculture, plastic waste management at sea, and blue economy program. The Bali Provincial Government therefore fully supports the organization of a series of meetings including this 26FCG/ASSP in Bali toward development policy and technical guidance in the maritime and fisheries sector of the region and wished for the realization of the goal of the Meeting. His Welcome Remarks appear in **Annex 2**.

3. The Secretary of the Agency for Extension and Human Resources Development of Marine Fisheries of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia (MMAF), *Dr. Rudi Alek Wahyudin*, warmly welcomed the delegates to the Meeting. He expressed his gratitude to the organizing committee and to everyone involved in the preparations for hosting this ASEAN-SEAFDEC annual meeting. He also expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for undertaking activities and efforts on food safety, fisheries sustainability, trade, habitat management, and climate change. He conveyed the commitment of Indonesia to supporting the ongoing activities and maintaining the collaboration with SEAFDEC. His Welcome Remarks appear in **Annex 3**.

4. The 26FCG/ASSP was co-chaired by the Director General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Lao PDR, and SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR, *Dr. Kaviphone Phouthavong*, in his capacity as Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) as well as by the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn*.

5. The Co-chairperson for SEAFDEC, *Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn*, welcomed the participants to the 26FCG/ASSP. She pointed out that ASEAN and SEAFDEC have been working together for over 20 years to strengthen sustainable fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. While highlighting that the region



has experienced economic growth and prioritized fisheries for the ASEAN Community, she informed the 26FCG/ASSP of emerging issues faced by countries in the region that require attention, for instance, environmental sustainability, overfishing, climate change impacts, and responsible aquaculture practices. She then reiterated the importance of the FCG/ASSP mechanism in addressing these issues through in-depth discussions and collaboration among the countries to ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. She then thanked the MMAF and IFRDMD for their gracious hospitality to this important 26FCG/ASSP back-to-back with the Forty-sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee. Her Welcome Remarks appear in **Annex 4**.

6. The Co- chairperson for the ASEAN, *Dr. Kaviphone Phouthavong*, reiterated the agenda of this 26FCG/ASSP to discuss programs and activities implemented under the FCG/ASSP mechanism in 2023 and 2024, and also provide policy recommendations for future actions to address regional issues impacting fisheries and aquaculture sustainability. He highlighted that fisheries and aquaculture play a crucial role in food security, nutrition, and poverty alleviation in the Southeast Asian region and Lao PDR is pleased with the results of regional programs implemented by SEAFDEC as the technical arm of ASEAN on fisheries development. After underlining the importance of the FCG/ASSP Meeting in providing recommendations toward achieving long-term goals for sustainable fisheries management, he declared the 26FCG/ASSP open. His Opening Remarks appear in **Annex 5**.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The 26FCG/ASSP adopted the Agenda which appear in **Annex 6**.

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

8. The 26FCG/ASSP was informed of the follow-up actions undertaken by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council during its 55th Meeting organized on 9 and 11 May 2023 through the online platform and the 25th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) organized on 8–9 December 2022 in Iloilo City, Philippines, which appear in **Annex 7** and **Annex 8**, respectively.

9. The representative from Cambodia informed the 26FCG/ASSP that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recently organized the Regional Workshop for Asia on the 2022 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment on 23–27 October 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand, which was participated by 15 countries from Asia. During the Workshop, the discussion was made on the requirements for concerted actions as specified in the provision of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (VGT), and how to adopt the implementation at the national and regional levels. Furthermore, he inquired about the plan of FAO for the development of regional guidelines to facilitate capacity building and support national implementation of the FAO Guidelines.

10. In response, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the 26FCG/ASSP that as a follow-up of the Workshop, the regional guidelines are expected to be developed by FAO and available in 2024. In this connection, the SEAFDEC Secretariat will follow up with FAO, and once the regional guidelines are available, SEAFDEC will work with FAO and other partners to support the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) by conducting appropriate capacity-building activities.

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

11. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the presentation from the ASEAN Secretariat highlighting the outcomes of the ASEAN relevant to fisheries cooperation, including: i) the 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (31st ASWGF Meeting) held virtually on 26–27 July 2023; ii) Special Senior Official Meeting of the 44th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM-44th

AMAF) held virtually on 22 August 2023; iii) 45th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (45th AMAF) held virtually on 4 October 2023; and iv) 42nd and 43rd ASEAN Summit held on 10–11 May 2023 and 5–7 September 2023, respectively. The summary of the discussions appears in **Annex 9**.

12. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the 26FCG/ASSP about the efforts of SEAFDEC in capacity building related to combating IUU fishing through regional technical consultations. He expressed the willingness of SEAFDEC to collaborate closely with ASEAN on combating IUU fishing activities. In response, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the 26FCG/ASSP that the ASEAN Secretariat will coordinate with the Chair of AN-IUU when organizing the meeting to issue an invitation letter to SEAFDEC.

13. The representative from Indonesia updated the 26FCG/ASSP on several initiatives of Indonesia, including the internal discussion on the ASEAN-Australia Workshop on the Use of Technology for Sustainable Aquaculture scheduled on 14–15 May 2024 in Bali, Indonesia. Furthermore, online workshops to discuss and finalize the Regional Strategies to Encourage the Implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication are under process for scheduling in early 2024. He also informed the 26FCG/ASSP that Indonesia will organize a series of national workshops in December 2023 to discuss and develop documents on Common Understanding and Initiative on Sustainable Small-Scale Aquaculture.

14. The representative from Viet Nam informed the 26FCG/ASSP that Viet Nam has recently started the introduction of the circular economy in the fisheries sector and now seeking a model to promote this approach. She then requested SEAFDEC to explore how to support the promotion of the circular economy and nature-based solution initiative in the region.

15. Responding to the concerns of Viet Nam, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat welcomed the proposed initiative on circular economy and requested that the proposal be sent to the ASEAN Secretariat for possible support from ASEAN Dialogue Partners. He informed the 26FCG/ASSP that the ASEAN Secretariat is developing an action plan to support the implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Aquaculture Guidelines, which could incorporate new initiatives from the AMSs that could be scaled up at the regional level.

16. Regarding the concerns raised by the Chief of AQD on supporting the implementation of key priorities in the region and the challenge in finding financial support for the AMSs, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat clarified that ASEAN has several funding mechanisms from its Dialogue Partners, including international/regional organizations that could be explored to support the implementation of priority initiatives of the AMSs.

IV. ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2023–2024

4.1 Summary Report on the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2023–2024

17. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the collaborative programs under the FCG/ASSP mechanism for 2023–2024 which were reviewed by the 46PCM as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General. The summary of the program review and recommendations from the 46PCM appears in **Annex 10**.

18. The 26FCG/ASSP endorsed the progress and achievements of the programs implemented under the FCG/ASSP mechanism in 2023 and the programs proposed for 2024, including 22 ongoing projects that were discussed and endorsed by the 46PCM.

19. Considering the project “Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products,” the representative from Thailand suggested incorporating a case study or a critical process in good manufacturing practices (GMP) and good hygiene practices (GHP) for the manufacturing of formulated feed for aquatic animals into the development of the Guidelines on GMP and GHP for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish



and Fishery Products. In response, the representative from MFRD indicated that MFRD would consider the suggestion of the representative from Thailand.

20. While acknowledging the Summary Report on the FCG/ASSP programs, the representative from Indonesia requested SEAFDEC to consider conducting capacity-building programs for fisheries extension officers in the future. The training could focus on inland fisheries, enhancing the capacity of officers to assist fishers and fish farmers in improving their livelihoods aligning with the program activities of IFRDMD.

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

5.1 ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security

21. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the ASEAN Secretariat's Information Paper on the progress of activities under the ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security, particularly the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security (12th ASCCC-FS) held via videoconference on 14 August 2023, which appear as (**Annex 11**).

22. While recognizing the outcomes of the 12th ASCCC-FS, the representative from Malaysia expressed support for initiatives addressing the intersection of climate change and food security, particularly in adapting to rising sea levels, as outlined in the FAO Blue Transformation - Roadmap 2022–2030. Furthermore, he encouraged SEAFDEC and the AMSs to explore additional initiatives and foster collaborations in addressing these critical issues.

5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum

23. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the ASEAN Secretariat's Information Paper highlighting the outcomes of the 15th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum held via videoconference on 25 July 2023, which appears as (**Annex 12**).

24. The representative from Myanmar noted the program undertaken by the AMSs to protect marine mammals, especially by Indonesia on mitigation and filling in the gap in the comparability finding process of the United States Marine Mammal Protection Act (U.S. MMPA), notably the formulation of a regulatory program, data collection, and desk studies on gap analysis. Considering that the U.S. Government decided to extend the exemption period for the implementation of the U.S. MMPA for two more years, he requested Indonesia to share information on the program undertaken by Indonesia.

25. In response, the representative from Indonesia explained that the document on comparability findings of Indonesia is currently under review by the U.S. NOAA Fisheries, the result of which is not yet available, therefore, Indonesia could not share such information until the final official version is available.

26. The representative from Myanmar clarified his request that as Indonesia is familiar with the subject, sharing such information would be very useful for the other AMSs that need to align their programs with the U.S. MMPA requirements. He added that SEAFDEC could also support the AMSs to align with the U.S. MMPA on technical requirements such as fishing gear.

27. While noting the request from Myanmar, the Co-chairperson for SEAFDEC informed the 26FCG/ASSP that the activities to be undertaken by SEAFDEC in 2024 will address the issue of the U.S. MMPA.

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

28. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the ASEAN Secretariat's Information Paper on the progress of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025 (**Annex 13**), wherein from 59 activities and sub-activities, 17 activities have been implemented, 14

activities are ongoing, five (5) activities are pending or under project appraisal and approval process, and 23 activities requiring further action from ASWGFi.

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

29. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the ASEAN Secretariat’s Information Paper on the progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2021–2025) (**Annex 14**), wherein from 24 activities, three (3) activities have been completed, six (6) activities are ongoing, six (6) activities are pending, and nine (9) activities require further actions from ASWGFi.

30. The representative from Thailand took note of the progress of the implementation of the Roadmap and expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for exploring support for the activities proposed by Thailand.

31. While taking note of the progress in the implementation of the Roadmap, the representative from Malaysia expressed appreciation to TD for extending technical assistance through training on the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) in Malaysia. He looked forward to SEAFDEC to continue supporting Malaysia in the implementation of eACDS in the future.

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

32. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the ASEAN Secretariat’s Information Paper highlighting the outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of the ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing held via videoconference on 13 June 2023, which appears as **Annex 15**.

5.6 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)

33. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the progress of activities carried out by the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), including the results of the 13th Meeting of the ASA which was held online on 24 July 2023 (**Annex 16**).

34. Regarding the request made to the ASEAN Secretariat during the 13th ASA Meeting for additional support in implementing the revised project proposal “Regional Collaboration for Long-Term Genetic Improvement of Growth, Robustness, and Resistance to Early Mortality Syndrome in White Shrimp” and “ASEAN Awareness Building on Implementing Traceability System and Aquaculture Certification” for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance, the representative from Viet Nam urged the ASEAN Secretariat to provide updated information on these initiatives and progress in seeking dialogue partners.

35. The representative from the ASEAN Secretariat informed the 26FCG/ASSP that the project proposal “Regional Collaboration for Long-term Genetic Improvement of Growth, Robustness, and Resistance to Early Mortality Syndrome in White Shrimp” is under revision by Thailand. The 26FCG/ASSP was further informed that the project proposal “ASEAN Awareness Building on Implementing Traceability System and Aquaculture Certification” is under revision by Thailand taking into account the results of the preliminary assessment by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). In addition, the 26FCG/ASSP was informed that Thailand will conduct a 5-day training on broodstock management, including breeding and artificial dissemination techniques, for aquaculture species mainly cultured in the AMSs.

36. Regarding the revisions of both proposals, the representative from Thailand assured the 26FCG/ASSP that the DOF Thailand would promptly provide updates to the ASEAN Secretariat as soon as the proposals become available.



VI. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES-RELATED ISSUES

6.1 Combating IUU Fishing

37. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the implementation of regional tools/policy frameworks toward combating IUU fishing in the region, *i.e.* the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS), Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database, and regional platforms to support the implementation of port State measures including FAO VGT (**Annex 17**), as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

38. While noting the updated information on these initiatives, the representative from Malaysia also noted the plan of the FAO to develop the regional guidelines for the implementation of the FAO VGT and anticipated its completion.

39. The representative from Thailand supported the planned development of the regional guidelines for the implementation of the FAO VGT. He then suggested cooperation among the AMSs under the section on Stakeholder Engagement. Additionally, he proposed that SEAFDEC organize a regional technical consultation to discuss the FAO draft regional guidelines for the implementation of the FAO VGT.

40. While acknowledging the updated information on regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing, the representative from Indonesia highlighted the development of the AN-IUU plan of action as a foundational framework for combating IUU fishing. Emphasizing cooperation among the AMSs, including SEAFDEC, he stressed the need for support to enhance effective collaboration in combating IUU fishing. He looked forward to participating in the activities of SEAFDEC in 2024.

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*

41. The 26FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region (**Annex 18**) as presented by the representative from MFRDMD. Specifically, the 26FCG/ASSP noted the results of the genetic population study and age composition analysis for *Euthynnus affinis*, and the plan of MFRDMD to conduct the Fifth Regional Practical Workshop on the Stock and Risk Assessment of Two Seerfish Species, *i.e.* *Scomberomorus commerson* and *S. guttatus*, in the region in December 2023.

42. The representative from Thailand supported the planned conduct of the Fifth Regional Practical Workshop on Stock and Risk Assessment of Two Seerfish Species by MFRDMD. He informed the 26FCG/ASSP that Thailand would designate representatives to attend this Workshop.

43. While congratulating MFRDMD for coming up with useful research findings that *E. affinis* is one single stock in the region, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat expressed concern on how the findings from these researches could be submitted to the agency that has the mandate to manage these migratory species. He informed the 26FCG/ASSP that in the past, the results of the stock and risk assessments undertaken by SEAFDEC were submitted to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) by an officer of Thailand attending the IOTC Meeting. He therefore encouraged the AMSs to consider bringing important findings and submit them to the relevant management authority in the future.

44. The Co-chairperson for ASEAN shared his experience that the Mekong River Commission in the past had to hire competent staff to validate the results of its work and improve the documents before publication in scientific journals and dissemination to a wider audience. He then stressed that this approach could be also considered by SEAFDEC.

6.2.2 *Mixed-stock Fisheries Management*

45. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the recently introduced approach to mixed-stock fisheries management (**Annex 19**) as reported by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. This approach could be applied by the AMSs in order to obtain better information on the status of their fishery resources that are multispecies. Moreover, the 26FCG/ASSP also noted the relevant activities undertaken by SEAFDEC and activities planned for 2024.

46. While appreciating the efforts of SEAFDEC in providing information on mixed-stock fisheries management and undertaking relevant activities, the representative from Myanmar informed the 26FCG/ASSP that Myanmar established a three-month closed fishing season every year. He underscored that this approach would be beneficial for the country. He also expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for planning to conduct a series of workshops in 2024 to build the capacity of the AMSs.

47. The representative from Thailand took note of the updated information on mixed-stock fisheries management and supported the Regional Capacity Building Network Program (RECAB) on stock assessment to be organized by MFRDMD in 2024.

48. The representative from Indonesia expressed gratitude to SEAFDEC for facilitating and assisting the AMSs to improve human resources capacity on stock assessment. He encouraged the AMSs to implement effective assessment and management measures in their respective waters to ensure that the stock is sustainable. He also expressed the willingness of Indonesia to participate in the upcoming training and workshops of SEAFDEC.

49. The representative from Viet Nam welcomed the upcoming training and workshops focusing on multispecies stock assessment to be organized by SEAFDEC in 2024. She then requested SEAFDEC to share information on success stories on the multispecies stock assessment and management in the AMSs.

50. In response, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the 26FCG/ASSP of examples of successful implementation in two AMSs, *i.e.* Thailand established a quota system for harvesting mixed-stocks fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea to manage pelagic and demersal fish species while Indonesia has good data to support the fishery resources assessment and management in their specific management areas. He then suggested that these experiences be shared among the AMSs.

51. The representative from Viet Nam requested Thailand and Indonesia to share the information with Viet Nam on their successful implementation where appropriate. In response, the representative from Thailand suggested Viet Nam to collaborate through a bilateral arrangement.

52. While supporting the program undertaken by SEAFDEC, the representative from Lao PDR sought clarification on whether the scope of the RECAB on stock assessment will focus only on marine fish stock assessment or will also include inland fish stock assessment. In response, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the 26FCG/ASSP that the concepts of stock assessment to be introduced at RECAB in 2024 will be applicable to both marine and inland fisheries.

6.2.3 *Development of the Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products*

53. The 26FCG/ASSP took note of the Development of the Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices (GMP&GHP) for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products (**Annex 20**) as presented by the representative from MFRD. The 26FCG/ASSP also noted the status of the development and timeline until the submission of the final draft Guidelines to the 57th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2025 for approval.

54. While noting the importance of the Regional Guidelines, the Co-chairperson for ASEAN commented that the Regional Guidelines should be applicable not only to raw marine fish and fishery products but also to raw freshwater fish and fishery products.



55. The representative from Malaysia shared the view that the Regional Guidelines should serve as reference material, especially for stakeholders in the fish processing industry.

6.3 Fish Trade-related Issues

6.3.1 CITES-related Issues

56. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the updated information on CITES-related meetings and ongoing regional initiatives implemented by SEAFDEC in 2023 to enhance the capacities of the AMSs on CITES-related issues (**Annex 21**).

57. While taking note of the updated information on CITES-related meetings in 2023 and ongoing projects, the representative from Malaysia expressed gratitude to MFRDMD for their continuous effort in organizing training on the taxonomy, biology, and stock assessment of sharks and rays. He encouraged MFRDMD to explore possibilities to support the AMSs in building capacity in species identification, especially for parts of commercially exploited aquatic species (CEAS) as the AMSs are still lacking expertise in this area.

58. The representative from Thailand emphasized the importance of the Regional Workshop on Implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) for Seahorses in Asia. He highlighted the significance of creating non-detriment findings (NDF) and suggested that organizing the workshop again would be beneficial for the AMSs. He also addressed challenges in implementing the four NDF components that would lead to resolving other issues in the region. He then proposed that SEAFDEC establish a regional platform to facilitate the development of NDF for sharks and rays, as needed to gather data and assist the AMSs in future management.

59. Regarding CITES CoP19 discussions on the listing of sharks and rays, the representative from Japan expressed concern about listing numerous species with poor scientific information using the “look-alike species” provision. He highlighted the potential acceleration of discussions on the listing of sharks and rays at relevant CITES meetings and emphasized the need for a stronger collective statement from Asia to address this situation. He also emphasized the importance of continuing close attention to this matter and insisted on decisions being made based on scientific evidence. Nevertheless, he conveyed the commitment of Japan to collaborative efforts with the AMSs and recognized the importance of efforts of SEAFDEC in fishery resources conservation and management, and to also continue to support the activities of SEAFDEC.

60. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat mentioned the ongoing efforts to compile scientific proof to support species proposed for listing but acknowledged challenges in influencing individual country decisions. He consulted with the ASEAN Secretariat to explore the establishment of an effective mechanism through the ASEAN Working Group on CITES and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG CITES & WE). In response, the ASEAN Secretariat informed the 26FCG/ASSP that there is already an existing mechanism for ASWGFi and AWG CITES & WE to coordinate fisheries-related common positions to CITES. The fisheries representatives were also shared with AWG-CITES & WE for them to participate in the annual meeting of the working group. In addition, the common position on CITES is consulted with ASWGFi and AWG-CITES & WE before seeking the endorsement of SOM-AMAF.

61. The 26FCG/ASSP requested that SEAFDEC continue submitting the common position on CITES through the ASWGFi mechanism, leveraging successful negotiations achieved in previous common positions on CITES proposals. The 26FCG/ASSP also requested SEAFDEC to consider inviting the AWG CITES & WE Focal Points when conducting technical consultations to familiarize themselves with the issues.

6.3.2 Summary of the Nineteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade

62. The 26FCG/ASSP took note of the summary of the discussion at the Nineteenth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (19COFI:FT) which was organized on 11 to 15 September 2023 as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat (**Annex 22**).

6.4 Others/Emerging Issues

6.4.1 *Marine Biodiversity Policies for Sustainable Fisheries*

63. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the newly established international marine biodiversity policies, particularly the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty (**Annex 23**).

64. Regarding the BBNJ Treaty, the representative from Japan highlighted the provisions related to fisheries, specifically the establishment and use of Area-Based Management Tools, including marine protected areas in the high seas. Although the specific management measures to be taken through the BBNJ Treaty are unclear at this stage, the management measures should contribute to the stable supply of food and the development of local economies in accordance with the objectives of the tools as stipulated in Article of the BBNJ Treaty. He emphasized that it will be necessary for RFMOs, national fisheries authorities, and intergovernmental organizations to cooperate while drawing on their knowledge and experience in fishery resource management.

65. Moreover, the representative from Japan also commented on the ongoing international negotiations addressing plastic pollution, currently conducted through the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) under the UNEP framework to formulate a legally binding instrument. While discussions encompass a comprehensive approach to plastic products throughout their life cycle, the current draft instrument singles out fishing gear as the only plastic product subject to regulation. He informed the 26FCG/ASSP that during the 3rd INC Meeting, only a limited number of participants from the fisheries sector were present. Additionally, Japan also expressed concern about the potential establishment of uniform and impractical regulations for fishing gear without considering the reality and diversity of fisheries. To ensure practical and reasonable provision on fishing gear, he requested the AMSs to consider involving experts from the fisheries sector in the upcoming INC4 Meeting in April 2024 in Canada.

66. The representative from Viet Nam expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for providing updated information on two new international agreements, the GBF and BBNJ Treaty. Recognizing the potential impact of these agreements on fisheries, she highlighted the limited participants from the fisheries sector in such events. In this connection, she requested SEAFDEC to play a crucial role in participating in these events to assist the AMSs in obtaining updated information and understanding on these provisions; and support integration in regional policies and later on in national policies.

6.4.2 *FAO Global Initiative on Aquatic Genetic Resources*

67. The 26FCG/ASSP took note of the FAO Global Initiative on Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR) (**Annex 24**), which provides a framework for promoting improved and effective protection, sustainable use, and utilization of these significant resources, as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

68. The representative from Malaysia thanked SEAFDEC for organizing the Webinar on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 2023. With regard to the activity on data entry and validation for the aquatic genetic resources information system (AquaGRIS), he suggested close cooperation among national focal points of AqGR within the AMSs. He also looked forward to the regional initiative on the usage of the AquaGRIS, which includes capacity-building programs to ensure data accuracy and smooth running of the system.

69. The representative from Thailand requested SEAFDEC to propose to ASEAN the development of the AqGR plan, in which SEAFDEC could provide technical assistance and support to the AMSs in carrying out activities such as collecting and exchanging information, selecting important aquatic animals, joint development of aquatic animal genetics among the AMSs, and organizing a consultation meeting to discuss the AqGR.



6.4.3 Establishment of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM)

70. The 26FCG/ASSP took note of the establishment of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (**Annex 25**). It was recalled that the establishment of this Sub-Committee was first raised at the 33rd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2018 and the proposal for the establishment of the Sub-Committee including its Terms of Reference was finally endorsed at the 35th Session of the COFI in 2022. Furthermore, the 26FCG/ASSP was informed that the First Session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (COFI:FM) will be held virtually on 15–18 January 2024.

71. The representative from Japan appreciated the leadership of the Government of Malaysia in coordinating the 1st COFI:FM in 2024 as a COFI Bureau Member from Asia. He looked forward for Japan to working with the AMSs on this Sub-Committee.

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

72. The 26FCG/ASSP took note of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Toward 2030 (**Annex 26**) as presented by the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat. The 26FCG/ASSP also noted that the Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information) was approved by the 55th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, and endorsed by the 31st ASWGFi and subsequently approved by the SOM-AMAF and AMAF in 2023.

73. The representative from Thailand congratulated and appreciated SEAFDEC for the report on the monitoring and evaluation of the RES&POA-2030 in 2021. He informed the 26FCG/ASSP that Thailand is planning to utilize the information in the Report, particularly the gaps and challenges, to develop a questionnaire to assess the training needs of the AMSs as part of the activity under the SPA-Fisheries on “Training Needs Assessment to Identify the Current Demand for Knowledge and Skill Needed for Sustainable Fisheries Development.”

7.2 Revision of the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics in Southeast Asia

74. The 26FCG/ASSP noted the progress of updating the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia developed since 2008 which came up with the draft Revised Regional Framework (2024 Edition) (**Annex 27**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

75. The representative from Thailand agreed with the revision of the Regional Framework on Fisheries Statistics of Southeast Asia. Furthermore, he supported the initiative of data sharing between SEAFDEC and FAO to alleviate the burden associated with the multiple submissions of statistical data from the AMSs.

76. The representative from Malaysia informed the 26FCG/ASSP that Malaysia would provide comments on the revised Regional Framework to SEAFDEC after discussion with relevant agencies of Malaysia to ensure that the Regional Framework adheres to the mandate of SEAFDEC.

VIII. ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT OF THE MEETING

77. The 26FCG/ASSP adopted the Report of the 26th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) held on 24 November 2023 in Bali, Indonesia.

78. The results of the 26FCG/ASSP will be submitted to the higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC for consideration and appropriate action.

IX. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

79. The Co-chairperson for ASEAN expressed his gratitude to the participants for their active participation and contribution during the 26FCG/ASSP. He then encouraged the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to maintain this collaborative environment to foster regional cooperation. He thanked the Co-chairperson for SEAFDEC, SEAFDEC Secretariat, and ASEAN Secretariat for their support to make this Meeting a success.

80. While expressing her gratitude to the Co-chairperson for ASEAN and representative from the ASEAN Secretariat for their support and guidance, the Co-chairperson for SEAFDEC thanked the participants for their cooperation and support during deliberations and for providing significant recommendations. Furthermore, she encouraged the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to remain committed to addressing the emerging challenges in fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia for a sustainable future as well as to carry forward the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that defines the ASEAN-SEAFDEC partnership. Finally, she thanked the MMAF, IFRDMD, and SEAFDEC Secretariat for the support and excellent arrangement of the Meetings. With that note, she declared the 26FCG/ASSP closed (**Annex 28**).

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WELCOME REMARKS

By *Mr. Putu Sumardiana*,
Head of Marine and Fisheries of Bali Province, Indonesia

The Honourable:

Secretary of the Agency for Marine & Fisheries Human Resources Development and Extension, *Dr. Rudi Alek Wahyudin*,

SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn*,

Co-chairperson for ASEAN, Chairperson of the ASWGFi, Director General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Lao PDR, *Dr. Kaviphone Phouthavong*,

Representatives from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Om Swastyastu

Assalamualaikum Warahmatulahi Wabarakatuh,

Salam sejahtera untuk kita semua

Namo Buddhaya.

First of all, I invite all of us to always offer puja pangastuti and angayu bagia, puja and puji to Ida Hyang Widhi Wasa / God Almighty because of His asung kertha wara nugraha; today, we can attend and carry out activities together in good health and prosperity.

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Government of Bali Province welcome all participants of the Twenty-sixth Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) which will be held on 23–24 November 2023 at Padma Legian Hotel, Bali Province. I believe that all of you enjoy staying in Bali. At the same time, let me express my gratitude and highest appreciation to the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia and their staff for choosing Bali Province as the venue for the meeting this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bali Province has the potential diversity of marine and fisheries resources with a marine area of 9,634.35 km² and a terrestrial area of 5,636.66 km² with potential marine and fisheries resources, including:

- 1 Aquaculture potential:
 - a. Sea Aquaculture Potential of 9,122.5 Ha;
 - b. Brackish Water Aquaculture Potential of 1,501 Ha;
 - c. Potential Freshwater Aquaculture covering an area of 15,968 Ha.
- 2 Capture Fisheries Potential:
 - a. Marine sustainable potential of 147,278.75 tonnes/year
 - b. Potential inland waters of 1,500 tonnes/year
- 3 Conservation potential of marine and fisheries resources:
 - a. Coral reef ecosystem conservation covering an area of 6,803.7 Ha
 - b. Mangrove ecosystem conservation covers an area of 2,102.8 ha
 - c. Conservation of lamun ecosystem covering an area of 1,307.2 Ha

The potential of marine and fisheries resources has not been optimally utilized to improve the welfare of the business community, especially the marine and fisheries sector, due to the limited capacity of human resources and environmentally friendly productive technology.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Bali Provincial Maritime and Fisheries Service is firmly committed to the optimal management of marine conservation areas, developing quota-based measured fishing policies, sustainable aquaculture management, management and supervision of coastal regions and small islands, and cleaning up plastic waste at sea through the fisher's participation movement as an implementation of the blue economy program



through the use of environmentally sound marine and fisheries resources to support economic growth, The capacity of human resources (HR) that are superior, resilient, dynamic and globally talented and have the commitment to restore ocean health and accelerate a sustainable marine and fisheries sector economy, provide an appropriate basis for maintaining ocean health and resilience in the long term, create jobs and attract environmentally friendly business investment to improve community welfare.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In connection with this, the Bali Provincial Government, through the Bali Provincial Marine and Fisheries Service, fully supports the organizing the series of meetings in Bali Province as an implementation of marine and fisheries cooperation in the Southeast Asia region. This is a very strategic vehicle to be able to formulate a policy and technical guidance in the marine and fisheries sector at the regional level in order to realize the implementation of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through the implementation of human resource capacity building and fisheries research.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I need to convey that once again, I congratulate you on holding the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) in Bali Province. Hopefully, our common goal and hope can be realized.

Finally, may we all always be given physical and mental strength and health.

That's all, thank you.

Om Santhi Santhi Santhi Om.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatulahi Wabarakatuh.

WELCOME REMARKS

By *Dr. Rudi Alek Wahyudin*

Secretary of the Agency for Marine & Fisheries Human Resources Development and Extension,
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia

Good morning and best wishes to all of us,
Excellency *Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn*, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC,
Dr. Tomoko Nakazato, Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC,
Bapak I Putu Sumardiana, Head of Bali Province Marine and Fisheries Board,
Dr. Kaviphone Phouthavong, Director General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Lao PDR, as
Chairperson of the ASWGFi,
Honorable Members of the SEAFDEC Member Countries,
SEAFDEC Chief Departments, Deputy Chief Departments and Senior Officials,
Representatives from ASEAN, Collaborating Partners and International Organizations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, let us praise the Lord Almighty for granting us the opportunity to be here today to attend our annual SEAFDEC Meetings. It is my great pleasure to welcome you here in the Island of Paradise, my ancestral home-town, Bali.

I would like to apologize on behalf of the Secretary-General of the MMAF, our Council Director - *Mr. Antam Novambar* for not being able to be with us this morning due to other official appointments. He conveys his warmest regards to all of you.

Also, I would like to thank the organizing committee and all of you whom I cannot mention one by one for your hard work in preparing Indonesia hosting this year's meeting and for making all the necessary arrangement to make our stay in Bali comfortable and memorable.

Madam Secretary General, Ladies and gentlemen.

Allow me to congratulate you on the successful organization of the 46th (Forty Sixth) SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting over the past three days. I am sure that good discussions and interactions between member countries have produced output to become our guideline in managing fisheries resources sustainably in the Southeast Asia region to help fishery communities prosper while ensuring that our marine environment remains sustainable.

Distinguished Delegates,

I really appreciate the way SEAFDEC organized and carried out activities, which were increasingly detailed and harmonious with each other. We are aware that SEAFDEC together with all Member States supported by partner organizations and donors have made efforts to assist the region in improving food safety and food security; fisheries sustainability; international and intra-regional trade; habitat management and climate change issues.

A lot of work has been done even though there is still homework to be done. Therefore, I hope that the results of the PCM discussions over the last three days can be continued and utilized in the SEAFDEC - ASEAN strategic cooperation which we will discuss further in the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group-Strategic Partnership Meeting for the next two days.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As alluded by our Council Director's message earlier at the opening of the PCM, the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework that creates value-added and value-chain of resources from oceans, seas, and fresh water in inclusive and sustainable ways is the new engine for ASEAN's future economic growth.



Therefore, I encourage FCG - ASSP to actively follow up on blue economy principles in the implementation of every ASEAN-SEAFDEC strategic program.

In Indonesia, one of the practical activities for implementing the blue economy that directly provides benefits to the community is the Smart Fisheries Village program which places the community as the main actor to achieve economic independence through fisheries sector. What we do in SFV is integrated and cross-stakeholder approach in increasing the technical capacity of the community in using technology for fisheries production, processing of fishery products and knowledge of modern and digital marketing. In Indonesia, we built SFVs in 22 locations, each with different commodities, depending on the characteristics of the fisheries resources in each location. In this way, we hope that fisheries production to support this community-based economy will continue independently in the future.

Once again with a shared commitment to advancing fisheries in the ASEAN Region, I invite all of us to integrate the ASEAN Blue Economy Framework in every ASSP fisheries program.

Madam Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude my speech, I hope you all enjoy your short visit to Indonesia. Please take the time to see more about Bali, so you can see for yourself the way of life, culture and aspirations of the various ethnicities that make up our country. I hope that when you leave Bali, you will bring back many beautiful memories of your stay in this country.

To the secretariat, I would like to thank and congratulate you on holding this meeting. I wish all of you a fruitful and rewarding deliberation.

Thank you.

WELCOME REMARKS

By *Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn*
SEAFDEC Secretary-General

Head of Marine and Fisheries of Bali Province, *Mr. Putu Sumardiana*,
Secretary of the Agency for Marine & Fisheries Human Resources Development and Extension, *Dr. Rudi Alek Wahyudin*,
My Co-chair for ASEAN, Director General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Lao PDR, and the SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR, *Dr. Kaviphone Phouthavong*,

Distinguished representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, *Mr. Joseph Arbiol*,

Distinguished Deputy Secretary-General, SEAFDEC Department Chiefs, Department Deputy Chiefs, and senior officials of SEAFDEC, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning!

It is indeed a special privilege and a pleasure to welcome you all to this Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership or FCG/ASSP and to the beautiful city of Bali, the Island of the Gods.

For more than 20 years, ASEAN and SEAFDEC have been working together to strengthen sustainable fisheries for the benefit of the people in our region. A number of comprehensive programs covering responsible fisheries and aquaculture technologies and practices, post-harvest technologies and practices, fisheries management concepts and approaches, policy, and advisory services, and issues related to international fisheries trade were carried out in the region by SEAFDEC through the Secretariat and technical Departments. Using this forum, ASEAN and SEAFDEC have also assisted countries in the region, particularly in developing policies on issues of common concern to safeguard our interests.

The Southeast Asian region had remarkable economic growth over the past two decades while moving towards the ASEAN Community. We are all aware that fisheries had been identified as one of the priority sectors in building the ASEAN Community, and the development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector necessitated improving the livelihoods of the people in the region dependent on the harvesting, farming, processing, and marketing of fish and fishery products.

As we gather for the Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP), it is essential to acknowledge the evolving challenges in the fisheries and aquaculture sector of the Southeast Asian region. However, alongside the economic growth in the region, we are witnessing emerging issues that demand our attention, which include environmental sustainability, overfishing, impacts of climate change, and the need for responsible aquaculture practices. Additionally, the region is facing challenges related to governance, trade, and international regulations in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have been looking into the ways and means of addressing existing issues and emerging concerns in fisheries. The FCG/ASSP serves as a platform for in-depth discussions on these pressing concerns and offers an opportunity for relevant stakeholders to collaborate in finding effective solutions. We are thankful to all of you for coming and taking part in this Meeting. Your full cooperation as well as your active participation in the discussions are crucial for us to achieve the objectives of this FCG/ASSP to tackle these existing and emerging issues. We must work collectively to address these challenges and ensure the long-term sustainability of our fisheries and aquaculture industries in Southeast Asia. I look forward to hearing your contributions to advance our collective cause.

As I conclude, let me thank the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia and SEAFDEC/IFRDMD for hosting this important meeting back-to-back with the Forty-sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee.

Thank you very much and good day!

OPENING REMARKS

By *Dr. Kaviphone Phouthavong*
Chair of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries

Head of Marine and Fisheries of Bali Province, *Mr. Putu Sumardiana*,
Secretary of the Agency for Marine & Fisheries Human Resources Development and Extension, *Dr. Rudi Alek Wahyudin*,
My Co-chair for SEAFDEC, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn*,
Distinguished representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, *Mr. Joseph Arbiol*,
Distinguished representatives from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Distinguished Deputy Secretary-General, SEAFDEC Department Chiefs, Deputy Department Chiefs, and senior officials of SEAFDEC,

Ladies and gentlemen. Good morning!

It is indeed my great pleasure to deliver the Opening Remarks at this Twenty-sixth Meeting of the FCG/ASSP in this beautiful city, Bali, Indonesia.

I believe our presence here this morning and the considerable distances we have traveled to be here will not be in vain, as we pursue a common agenda to discuss the programs and activities implemented under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism in 2023 and those planned for 2024 and beyond.

As usual practices, we also need to provide policy recommendations on the future directions and actions that should be undertaken to address vital issues that have emerged in our region which could impact the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture sector of the region.

In this connection, the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Lao PDR actively participated in several projects and activities organized by SEAFDEC such as promoting the concepts of community-based fisheries management, co-management, and ecosystem approach to fisheries management through human resources and institutional capacity building activities. The sustainable management of reservoir and river fisheries would benefit the fisherfolk in rural areas. Moreover, the implementation of regional policies in the country would continue to affect the lives of people in the rural areas.

We recognize the significant contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security, nutrition, and poverty alleviation in the Southeast Asian region. As food systems around the world face growing pressures from environmental degradation, climate change, and trade barriers, fisheries and aquaculture are sustainable food sources.

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

We are also pleased to learn that several projects will be commenced in the coming years, the FCG/ASSP Meeting is therefore crucial to give us the opportunity to provide recommendations to support the related activities in our region as well as to achieve the long-term common goals towards the sustainable development and management of fisheries as guided by the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030. I therefore hope that we are all prepared to deliberate this aspect during our Meeting sessions.



At this juncture, I would like to thank the Government of Indonesia, and the SEAFDEC Secretariat for arranging this FCG/ASSP Meeting.

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

AGENDA

Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda 2: Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda 3: Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at SEAFDEC Meetings and ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries

- 3.1 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the 55th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council and 25th 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 2023

Agenda 4: ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) and Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2023–2024

- 4.1 Summary report on the FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2023–2024

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 (2021–2025)
- 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 SEAFDEC Combating IUU Fishing: Progress on the Regional Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing
- 6.2 Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region
 - 6.2.1 Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region
 - 6.2.2 Mixed-stock Fisheries Management
 - 6.2.3 Development of the Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices (GMP&GHP) for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products
- 6.3 Fish Trade-related Issues
 - 6.3.1 CITES-related Issues
 - 6.3.2 Summary of the Nineteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade
- 6.4 Others/Emerging Issues
 - 6.4.1 Marine Biodiversity Policies for Sustainable Fisheries
 - 6.4.2 FAO Global Initiatives on Aquatic Genetic Resources
 - 6.4.3 Establishment of the FAO Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM)



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 Revision of the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics in Southeast Asia
- 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 55th MEETING OF SEAFDEC COUNCIL 2023

Para graph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL				
7	<u>Thailand:</u> AQD and TD to consider organize a training program on broodstock management for the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) in the year 2023 as a part of the ASA project proposal on regional collaboration for long-term genetic improvement of growth, robustness, and resistance to early mortality syndrome (EMS) in white shrimp.	AQD, SEC	AQD and SEC held internal discussions in response to Thailand's request. Consequently, SEAFDEC is unable to offer the requested support at this time due to the lack of technical and financial resources. Consequently, on 2 June 2023, SEC formally communicated this decision to the SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand.	Completed
8	<u>Indonesia:</u> SEAFDEC to conduct all activities in 2023 in an in-person manner.	AQD, IFRDMD, MFRD, MFRDMD, TD, SEC	SEAFDEC acknowledged the suggestion.	Completed
10	<u>Malaysia:</u> AQD to consider conducting more capacity-building activities on broodstock and seed quality improvement as well as relevant research and development programs.	AQD	AQD conducts regular training courses each year, many of which cover broodstock management and seed production of economically significant species. Additionally, in collaboration with JTF, AQD offers fellowships for free training to SEAFDEC Member Countries and issues new invitations annually.	Completed
10	<u>Malaysia:</u> TD to include a session for the AMSs to share their respective current status of fishing gear marking, experiences, and best practices to improve the effectiveness of fishing gear marking.	TD	TD will organize the Regional Technical Meeting on Responsible Fishing: the Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) and Marking of Fishing Gear on 15-17 November 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand. During the training, the agenda includes sharing information on current status of fishing gear marking, experiences, and best practices to improve the effectiveness of fishing gear marking.	70% (to be completed in Nov 2023)
11	<u>Philippines:</u> SEAFDEC to continue extending capacity-building activities to the AMSs to enhance their readiness to comply with the international obligations and commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.1 and Port State Measures Agreement	TD	SEAFDEC has consistently organized various events and activities within the scope of these subjects through its ongoing projects. In the near future, TD plans to conduct capacity-building activities on PSM in 2024. Additionally, TD will actively engage in the activities pertaining to SDG 14.1 which aims to reduce marine pollution, land-based activities, including	Completed

Para graph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
12 (also 71, and 73)	<p>Myanmar: SEAFDEC to consider reactivating the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) program and allocating sustainable financial resources for this program in the future.</p>	SEC	<p>marine debris and nutrient pollution, within both the ongoing projects and upcoming projects such as BOBLME Phase 2.</p> <p>SEAFDEC was requested to reactivate the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) program and allocate for other sources of funds in the future including the cumulative unspent budget of the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC).</p> <p>In response to the request by the SEAFDEC Council, the SEAFDEC Secretariat made views and concerns on the working paper outlook of RFPN from 2025 onwards presented during the 46PCM. After incorporating the comments from PCM, the Secretariat will present the document at the 56CM in 2024. (updated as 16 Nov 2023)</p>	ongoing
III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING				
15	<p>Thailand: TD to consider adding a more detailed activity in the regional workshop on the implementation PSM to include the sharing of information among the AMSs on the national legislations, procedures related to the implementation of PSM for foreign fishing vessels at designated ports, and gap analysis of current legal and technical frameworks.</p>	TD	To fulfillment of this request is contingent upon consulting with potential donors or securing funding support from existing programs. SEAFDEC will promptly notify the Council accordingly.	To be updated next Q4/2023
16	<p>Indonesia: encouraged SEAFDEC to establish partnerships with relevant universities in Southeast Asian countries which could help facilitate and promote sustainable fisheries practices in the region.</p>	AQD, IFRDMD, MFRD, MFRDMD, TD, SEC	SEC and all Departments have established partnership with universities, schools and colleges by inviting them to contribute as resource persons and interns in SEAFDEC projects.	Completed
17	<p>Myanmar: AQD to extend technical assistance to Myanmar, either online or in-person mode, on the fattening technology of anguillid eels.</p>	AQD	AQD is willing to provide assistance upon request from Myanmar.	Completed
IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING				
21	<p>Brunei Darussalam: SEAFDEC to provide technical support on the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF)</p>	SEC	<p>Indonesia has successfully concluded the development phase and shared this update with SEAFDEC.</p> <p>During the 31st ASWGF meeting (26-27 July 2023), Indonesia reported on the progress made in developing regional strategies</p>	Completed

Para graph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
21	Guidelines), particularly developing regional strategies and common understanding of sustainable small-scale aquaculture	AQD	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 Small-scale Aquaculture (SSA). Indonesia also mentioned that they have conducted a national consultation and may involve relevant organizations for follow-up activities as the situation requires.	Completed
V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES				
5.1 Efforts to Combating IUU Fishing				
5.1.1 Implementation of the SEAFDEC's Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing				
26	<u>Viet Nam</u> : SEAFDEC to support Viet Nam by conducting capacity-building activities on the inspection of shipping containers based on the experiences of other countries and reviewing the existing legal frameworks to enable the AMSs in the inspection of shipping containers.	TD	Considering that the inspection of shipping containers may not fall within the scope of PSM requirements, TD will collaborate with experts from international organizations to design suitable capacity-building activities related to this matter.	Noted
26	<u>Viet Nam</u> : SEAFDEC to collaborate with other donors and develop the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the port inspection of shipping containers.	TD	As for the SOP, its adoption is currently under consideration by the respective countries. TD organized the regional training course on port state measures inspection in focus of shipping container for fish and fisheries product in 2022. The Training materials can be accessed via the link: www.seafdec.or.th/psm/psm-container-2022/index.html	Completed
30	<u>Malaysia</u> : TD to organize training courses for stakeholders in Malaysia to harmonize the eACDS with the existing system in the country.	TD	TD was invited by DOF Malaysia to serve as resource persons to provide technical support for eACDS during the training courses organized by DOF Malaysia.	Completed
31	<u>Indonesia</u> : ...encouraged SEAFDEC to invite the FAO to participate in regional activities to provide more information on the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment	SEC, TD	The FAO/HQ organized the Regional Workshop on VG for Transshipment for Asia on 23-27 October 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. Following this Workshop, SEAFDEC will continue to assist AMSs in implementing the guidelines.	Completed

Para graph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
32	and FAO Global Information Exchange System. Myanmar: TD to follow up and review the possible activities that could be undertaken by TD in line with recommendations from the Regional Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia organized by TD on 23–24 August 2022.	TD	TD is currently reviewing the requested activities, and any suitable ones will be incorporated into future programs as appropriate.	Completed
5.1.2 Intergovernmental Collaboration to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia: AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU, and RFVR				
36	Myanmar: since Myanmar is not a member of RPOA-IUU but wish to cooperate as an observer. He then requested SEAFDEC to provide the appropriate channel to obtain information from the RPOA-IUU.	TD	TD will communicate with Myanmar or RPOA-IUU (if appropriate) to gather additional detailed information regarding Myanmar.	0%
5.1.3 Global Initiatives to Combat IUU Fishing: FAO Global Information Exchange System and Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment				
38	Malaysia: SEAFDEC to promote the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment and consider providing technical support to the AMSs through training and capacity-building programs including vessel tracking by using the common guidelines as a basis for the region as well as seeking funding from potential donors until 2030.	TD	TD has accommodated the activity concerning the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment in the workplan of project workplan for 2023. Moreover, concerning training and capacity-building programs, which are found on common guidelines for the regional and include vessel tracking, TD intends to offer technical support through its existing programs.	Completed
39	Viet Nam: SEAFDEC to provide capacity-building activities in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment and suggested SEAFDEC seek technical support from FAO.	TD	Same as para 38.	
40	Thailand: SEAFDEC to explore ways to help the AMSs actively and effectively use and provide information to the GIES system and provide training courses to promote the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.	TD	For the GIES system, TD is actively exploring options to provide assistance to AMSs as per their requests. For FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, same as para 38.	
5.2 Progress on the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region				
44	Indonesia: MFRDMD to involve experts including those from relevant universities in the regional workshop on tuna-like species scheduled	MFRDMD	Noted.	

Para graph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
in the fourth quarter of 2023				
5.3 CITES-related Issues				
49	<u>Thailand:</u> SEAFDEC to invite more participants from the AMSs in future regional technical consultations on CITES issues to develop common positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.	SEC	Noted.	
53	<u>Cambodia:</u> SEAFDEC to engage not only FAO but also other organizations in its future activities.	SEC	Noted.	
5.4 Combating Marine Debris and ALDFG in Southeast Asia: Policy Frameworks and Collaborative Projects by SEAFDEC				
55	<u>Malaysia:</u> SEAFDEC to follow up on the discussion at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) platform relevant to reporting of ALDFG and emphasized that fishing gear marking could be mandatory in the future... and SEAFDEC to participate and obtain relevant information from this platform to be able to provide advice to the AMSs.	TD	TD is currently conducting research to determine whether ALDFG and fishing gear marking mandatory in the future is feasible. TD will provide prompt updates.	Completed
56, 58	<u>Thailand:</u> SEAFDEC to provide technical support and conduct training courses to build the capacity of the AMSs on the implementation of FAO Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gears <u>Philippines:</u> SEAFDEC to make an effort to provide capacity-building activities to the Member Countries in line with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear	TD	SEAFDEC disseminated FAO Publications to fishing technologists of MCs, including: 1. FAO (2019) Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear. 2. Einarsson, H., He, P. & Lansley, J. 2023. Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear - Manual for the marking of fishing gear. Suppl. 2. In addition, TD will organize an in-person Regional Technical Meeting on Responsible Fishing: Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear and Marking of Fishing Gear, on 15 -17 November 2023. The meeting agenda incorporate a session dedicated to introducing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear and, and Manual for the Marking of Fishing Gear. Suppl. 2.	70% (to be completed in Nov 2023)
VI. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS				
No specific action was requested				
VII. OTHER MATTERS				

Para graph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
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: Results of the 2021 Baseline Information				
63	<u>Viet Nam</u> : the current evaluation is subjective and urged SEAFDEC to come up with clearer and more comprehensive indicators for the respective Plan of Action (POA) in order to obtain an in-depth and better picture of the implementation.	SEC	Noted.	
66	When submitting the Report to the ASEAN Mechanism, Viet Nam requested SEAFDEC reflect that the Report was approved by the majority of the Council as well as include the comments of the Council as supporting dossiers.	SEC		Completed
68	<u>Thailand</u> : SEAFDEC to add more key indicators for some POA as proposed by the Council Director for Viet Nam to be incorporated in the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (Mid-term Evaluation) in 2025.	SEC	Noted.	
70	SEAFDEC submission of the Report to the ASWGF and higher authorities of the ASEAN through the FCG/ASSP <i>ad referendum</i>	SEC	Same as para 66.	Completed
7.2 Others				
71	<u>Thailand</u> : SEAFDEC consider reactivating the RFPN program which could provide an excellent opportunity for fisheries officers from the AMSs to develop a professional network and gain international working experience	SEC	Same as Para 12	Completed
71	<u>Thailand</u> : SEAFDEC to conduct research and share with the AMSs the best practices to mitigate the impacts of fishing gear on marine mammals.	TD	TD distributed publications to fishing technologists of SEAFDEC Member Countries. TD has successfully drafted a research proposal to investigate best practices in mitigating the impacts of fishing gears on marine mammals. The research activities on this topic are scheduled for 2024. Moreover, TD is actively maintaining communication with relevant organizations on this topic.	20%
73	<u>Philippines</u> : SEAFDEC to reactivate the RFPN program by looking into other sources of funds in	SEC	Same as Para 12	Completed

Para graph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION OF SEAFDEC				
No specific action was requested				
IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER				
9.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels				
76	Philippines: TD to put on hold the proposal on the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2023 until further notice.	TD	Noted.	Noted
77	Thailand: to postpone the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 from 2023 to 2024	TD following up with Thailand	Noted	Noted
78	Malaysia and Philippines: SEAFDEC to consider their request to join the training courses onboard M.V. SEAFDEC 2 on the operation of the scientific echosounder SIMRAD EK-80.	TD	Two SIMRAD EK-80 capacity-building workshops were concluded, covering the following areas: (1) Principles and Methods of Quantitative Echosounder EK-80 (2) Capacity Building of researchers in Using Research Equipment, EK-80 from Calibration, Data Collection to Analysis A total of four participants from SEAFDEC Member Countries attended, including one from Thailand, one from Indonesia, and two from Malaysia.	Completed
79	Brunei Darussalam: confirmed the request of the country to utilize the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and would further discuss with TD the survey cruise plan in 2023.	TD	SEAFDEC and Brunei Darussalam have mutually agreed to reschedule the cruise to March 2024, with plans to sign the MOA for utilizing M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in November 2023.	80%
80	Japan: suggested that the SEAFDEC Secretariat consider conducting a study on the future use of M.V. SEAFDEC.	SEC	SEAFDEC will include this study in the relevant program if applicable.	Completed
9.2 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations				
81	SEAFDEC to proceed to the signing process of the new collaborative arrangement between SEAFDEC and US-DOI concerning Supporting Participation in Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFIA).	SEC, TD	The MOU between U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and SEAFDEC regarding “Supporting Participation in Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFIA)” has been successfully signed.	Completed
9.3 Updates on JTF budget request process in Japan and needs of SEAFDEC Member Countries Cooperation				
80	Member Countries to express their recognition of	SEC to	Noted.	

Para graph No.	Recommendations made by the Council	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
9.4 SEAFDEC IMCS Network Membership				
100	The Council requested SEAFDEC to seek prior approval of the Council in accordance with Article 6 and Article 12 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC when establishing cooperation with other organizations and governments in the future.	SEC	Noted.	
X. FINANCIAL MATTERS				
10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2021				
No specific action was requested				
10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2022, and Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2023				
103	<u>Indonesia</u> : SEAFDEC to explore alternative sources of funding and donors to ensure a sufficient budget to support the planned activities of SEAFDEC for the year 2023 which would be conducted in person and could be more expensive compared to virtual activities due to the associated travel and accommodation costs as well as other logistical expenses.	AQD, IFRDMD, MFRD, MFRDMD, TD, SEC	Noted	
104	Lao PDR informed the 55CM that Lao PDR would send the MRC to SEAFDEC as soon as possible.	SEC	SEC is a waiting for MRC from Lao PDR.	
10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2024				
No specific action was requested				
XI. CONCLUDING MATTERS				
11.1 Adoption of the Report and Press Statement				
No specific action was requested				
11.2 Date and Venue of the 56th Meeting of the Council				
108	Government of the Philippines accepted the responsibility of hosting the next Council Meeting in the Philippines in 2024	SEC		

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVES GIVEN AT THE 25th MEETING OF THE FCG/ASSP

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	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-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)				
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.	7	SEC, AQD	Indonesia provided an update during the 31 st ASW/GFI meeting held on 26-27 July 2023 on the progress of the development of 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).	Completed
Indonesia sought collaboration with SEAFDEC in the conduct of the workshop (March 2023) and Indonesia would further communicate with SEAFDEC on this matter				
3.2 Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries during 2022				
IV. ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) AND FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR 2022-2023				
4.1 Summary report on the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Collaborative Programs for the Year 2022-2023				
SEAFDEC to organize a workshop as soon as possible to discuss on sharing data and information on IUU fishing inviting RPOA-IUU and AN-IUU and to discuss a suitable mechanism to identify the common grounds of work and cooperation to avoid duplication of their initiatives	24, 26	TD	During the 55 th Council Meeting (55CM), SEAFDEC presented the working paper that conducted a comparative review of AN-IUU, RFVR and RPOA-IUU. SEAFDEC sought advice from the Council, highlighting that these three platforms serve distinct functions and complement each other. Following deliberations, Thailand proposed the data in the RFVR	Completed

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
V. PROGRESS OF SEAFDEC-RELATED ACTIVITIES/PROPOSALS UNDER TO THE ASEAN RELATED BODIES				
5.1 ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security			No follow-up action required	
5.2 ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)			No follow-up action required	
5.3 Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021-2025			No follow-up action required	
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.	35	SEC	The 2021 baseline information report for monitoring and evaluation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 was approved by 55 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in May 2023. It was subsequently endorsed through ASEAN mechanism at the 31 st Meeting of ASW/GFI in July 2023 and the 45 th AMAF in October 2023. The outcomes of this report can be utilized by AMSs for their consideration as needed.	Completed
5.4 ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing			No follow-up action required	
5.5 ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU)			No follow-up action required	
5.6 ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)				
AQD to provide assistance in organizing a training program on broodstock management as one component 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	40	AQD	Following internal discussions at AQD about the specifics of the request, it was determined that AQD could not fulfill the requested assistance from DOF Thailand in organizing a training program on white shrimp broodstock management. SEC subsequently sent an official communication to inform DOF Thailand about this decision.	Completed

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
AQD would further discuss with ASA Secretariat on this matter.				
VI. POLICY CONSIDERATION 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			No follow-up action required	
6.1.2 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment				
SEAFDEC to consider supporting the activities on enhancing the capacity of the AMSs for effective implementation of the Guidelines	43	SEC, TD	The FAO/HQ organized the Regional Workshop on VG for Transshipment for Asia on 23-27 October 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. After this Workshop, SEAFDEC will maintain support for the implementation of the guidelines in AMSs.	Completed
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”			No follow-up action required	
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			No follow-up action required	
6.3 Fish Trade-related Issues				
6.3.1 CITES-related Issues				
SEAFDEC to increase the number of invited participants from the respective Member Countries since different CEAS are under the responsibility of different departments	51	SEC	SEC is prepared to support the participation of various departments, subject to the availability of funds.	Noted
SEAFDEC to continue to support the AMSs including capacity building for species identification and taxonomy	54	MFRDMD	MFRDMD organized a series of capacity-building activities focused on the identification of priority key shark species. These activities were aimed at enhancing data collection and stock assessment capabilities in the Member Countries, including: On-site training on Chondrichthyan taxonomy and biology, 14-17 February 2023 in Sihanoukville, Cambodia. On-Site Training on Chondrichthyan Taxonomy, Biology and Data Collection in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia on 3-6 October 2023.	Completed

Issues	Para	Responsible Department	Actions made by SEAFDEC (as of 15 October 2023)	Status
			Survey on Fishers' Dependencies, Marketing, and Trade of Sharks and Rays in Sabah from 5 until 12 October 2023 in Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia. MFRDMD will also conduct the Training on Shark and Ray Stock Assessment Using Yield Per Recruit (YPR) Model on 5-8 December 2023.	
6.3.2 Fisheries Subsidies			No follow-up action required	
6.3.3 U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act			No follow-up action required	
6.3.4 Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme			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 Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries			No follow-up action required	
7.3 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAF) 2022			No follow-up action required	

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE DIRECTIVE GIVEN AT ASEAN BODIES
RELATED TO FISHERIES DURING 2023**

31st ASWGF Meeting (Virtual), 26-27 July 2023, Lao PDR

Key Outcomes:

The Meeting:

1. **WELCOMED** the adoption of the: i) ASEAN Standard on ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices for Food Fish; ii) Guidelines for Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-Related Information for the AN-IUU Interactive Platform; iii) ASEAN Leaders Declaration on One Health Initiative; and iv) ASEAN Declaration on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers.
2. **NOTED** the draft Regional Guidelines on Indicators for Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture to Facilitate the Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change and **REQUESTED** the Philippines and Viet Nam to convene a workshop to discuss and finalize the guidelines.
3. **NOTED** Indonesia's draft Regional Strategy for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSSF) and the draft outline of the Common Understanding and Initiatives on Sustainable Small-scale Aquaculture.
4. **WAS INFORMED** that Thailand will utilize the baseline results in the Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2030 as well as conduct a regional survey to determine the training needs of AMS for knowledge and skills on sustainable fisheries development.
5. **WAS INFORMED** that the Philippines will conduct regional activities to support the implementation of the Plan of Action on Combating AMR in Aquaculture (2021-2025), among others: develop a regional monitoring and evaluation framework to measure the impact of awareness and advocacy campaigns, and communication plan.
6. **NOTED** that Singapore is working towards the organisation of regional ATLASS assessor training in 2025; and **WELCOMED** Singapore's initiative to develop a Regional Guideline for Monitoring and Surveillance of AMR in Bacterial Pathogens in Aquaculture
7. **AGREED** on the priority deliverables of EWG-ASEAN GAqP for 2023-2024, which include the development of Regional Guidelines for the ASEAN GAqP Certification Scheme and the review of the ASEAN GAP Official Control Manual.
8. **TASKED** the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance to convene a consultative workshop to further develop the draft TOR of the ASEAN Seafood Alliance, including the deliberation on the inclusion of capture fisheries to the proposed ASEAN Seafood Alliance.
9. **ADOPTED** the report of the 25th FCG/ASSP Meeting; and **AGREED** to submit the Report on 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) (Results of the 2021 Baseline Information)
10. **NOTED** Malaysia's expression of interest to be the Lead Country for the project on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity upon receipt of funding support from JAIF.
11. **LOOKED FORWARD** to the implementation of the following projects: i) ASEAN-Bangladesh Cooperation on Aquaculture and Fisheries; ii) Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia; and iii) ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project.



12. **NOTED** that ASEAN and Italy are developing a new project proposal focusing on good aquaculture practices, small-scale fisheries, and addressing abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear.
13. **WELCOMED** the endorsement of the Partnership Cooperation Plan Between the USAID and AMS through the implementation of Sustainable Fisheries Asia Technical Support; and **NOTED** the activities for 2023 will focus on capacity-building activities on the US Marine Mammal Protection Act and combating IUU fishing.
14. **NOTED** that the ASEAN Network of Aquatic Animal Health Centres (ANAAHC), with support from FAO, will organise an In-Person Training Course on Risk Analysis in the Aquaculture Value Chain on 3-5 September 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Special SOM-44th AMAF Meeting (Virtual), 22 August 2023, Lao PDR

Key Outcomes:

The Meeting:

15. **AGREED** on the proposed Priority Economic Deliverables (PED) for Lao PDR's ASEAN Chairmanship for 2024, which include the development of an ASEAN Action Plan for the Implementation of ASEAN Regional Guidelines on Sustainable Agriculture and Strategy or guideline for crop burning reduction to support the implementation of the ASEAN Carbon Neutrality Strategy.
16. **AGREED** on the annual priority deliverables of the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Cooperation for 2024, which include among others: the development of a Regional Guideline for Monitoring and Surveillance of AMR in Bacterial Pathogens in Aquaculture (*ASWGF_i: Singapore*).
17. **NOTED** that the Concept Note on ASEAN-Australia Workshop on the Use of Technology for Sustainable Aquaculture is a joint initiative between Indonesia and Australia held under the framework of ASEAN-Australia cooperation to implement the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The participants from the workshop will include representatives from the ASEAN Member States, the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC), the South Pacific Commission, and the Pacific Islands Forum.
18. **WAS INFORMED** that Indonesia will organise online workshops to discuss and finalise 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 Common Understanding and Initiatives on Sustainable Small-Scale Aquaculture in the 4th Quarter of 2023.
19. **NOTED** the streamlining process of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance by transforming it into an ASEAN Seafood Alliance to cover the other seafood industries besides shrimp and subsuming the ASEAN Public-Private Taskforce for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture to avoid duplication in the area of private and public sector engagement within the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
20. **AGREED** on the proposal to establish a Task Force to steer the development of the Post 2025 Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Cooperation on Food, Agriculture and Forestry, and **TASKED** the ASEAN Secretariat to coordinate with partners for possible support for the conduct of this initiative

45th AMAF Meeting, 4 October 2023, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Key Outcomes:

The Meeting:

21. **ADOPTED** 16 documents and noted 6 documents related to Food, Agriculture and Forestry Cooperation. The documents relevant to the fisheries cooperation are as follows:

- i) Guidance Manual on the Alignment of National Good Aquaculture Practices with ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices, and the Alignment Assessment Tool
 - ii) Report on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (Results of the 2021 Baseline Information).
 - iii) 3-Year Workplan of the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU-Fishing
 - iv) Concept Note on ASEAN-Australia Indo-Pacific Workshop on the Use of Technology for Sustainable Aquaculture.
 - v) Statement of ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry to reduce the Use of Harmful Agrochemicals to ensure Food Safety, Public Health, Occupational Safety and Environmental Protection
22. **ENCOURAGED** all ASEAN Sectoral Working Groups (ASWGs) to continue with the implementation of key priority areas of FAF, among others, but not limited to promoting sustainable and circular agriculture, reducing harmful agrochemicals and crop burning, promoting Nature-based Solutions, decarbonising FAF sectors, combating antimicrobial resistance, ensuring sustainable soil and water resources for agriculture, and promoting the use of digital technologies for FAF sectors.
23. **REQUESTED** the ASEAN Secretariat to commission a study that will equip AMS to better understand the impacts of climate change on agri-food systems. Singapore will prepare and submit to AMS, through the ASEAN Secretariat, the Concept Note for the study.
24. **REQUESTED** relevant ASWGs to redouble their efforts to harmonize standards in the food, agriculture, and forestry sectors.

42nd ASEAN Summit, 10-11 May 2023, Labuan Bajo, Indonesia

43rd ASEAN Summit, 5-7 September 2023, Jakarta, Indonesia

Key Outcomes:

The ASEAN Summits:

25. **ADOPTED** the following documents relevant to food, agriculture and forestry cooperation:
- i) ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises
 - ii) ASEAN Declaration on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers
 - iii) ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative
 - iv) Leaders' Statement on the Development of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA).
 - v) ASEAN Blue Economy Framework

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- Note the outcomes of various ASEAN meetings, including the adoption of various documents that are relevant to fisheries cooperation.
- Encourage AMS and SEAFDEC to support the implementation of key priorities of the ASEAN food, agriculture and forestry (FAF) cooperation, including but not limited to promoting sustainable and circular agriculture, reducing harmful agrochemicals, promoting Nature-based Solutions, decarbonising the FAF sectors, combating antimicrobial resistance, and promoting the use of digital technologies.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMS UNDER THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (FCG/ASSP) MECHANISM FOR THE YEAR 2023–2024

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The programs of activities under the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Mechanism for the year 2023–2024 were reviewed by the Forty-sixth Meeting of the Program Committee (46PCM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) hosted by Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) on 23–24 November 2023 in Bali, Indonesia. Results of the program scrutiny and the adopted recommendations are summarized and submitted to the Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (26FCG/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 2023–2024 AND RECOMMENDATIONS RAISED DURING THE FORTY-SIXTH MEETING OF SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

2. The 46PCM reviewed the progress of 22 ongoing projects in 2023 and approved the proposed activities in 2024 as well as one pipeline project and provided recommendations for improving the projects. The results of the review process as well as the recommendations of the 46PCM will be submitted to the 32nd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (32nd ASWGFi) through the 26FCG/ASSP for endorsement and also to the 56th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2024 for consideration and approval. The list of programs under the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) Mechanism appears in *Appendix 1*. The recommendations of the 46PCM are summarized below.

On-going Projects

Strategy I: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region

- (1) Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia**
- TD to consider incorporating the conduct of capacity-building activities related to climate change in the Project activities
 - TD to organize a training course on the R statistical program, especially for advanced users in Thailand in order to enhance the abilities of fisheries officers to modify the software code for specific fishery resources unique to each country in Southeast Asia
 - TD to provide technical assistance to Cambodia under the national program on resource enhancement by bringing back samples of juvenile blood cockles and snails to TD for identification
 - TD to explore the possibility of including MFRDMD in Activity 5.2 Participation in national/regional/international meetings to disseminate fisheries geographic information system (FGIS) and remote sensing (RS)
 - TD to consider including Myanmar in regional meetings on the utilization of geographic information system (GIS) and RS for effective fisheries management
 - TD to organize training or seminars on the use of software for fisheries stock assessment and fisheries management
- (2) Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region**
- MFRDMD to continue conducting the activities on stock assessment of pelagic species after the completion of the Project in 2024
 - TD to organize a training on neritic tuna stock assessment which would include sharing fishery resource data



- (3) Management Scheme for Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**
 - IFRDMD to organize training sessions on the utilization of scientific echo sounders for inland fisheries and consider Thailand as a pilot area for the exploration of freshwater fishery resources
 - IFRDMD to organize a workshop on inland fisheries management, specifically incorporating SPECTRA

- (4) Harmonization and Enhancing Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information**
 - SEAFDEC to continue providing regional platforms that facilitate the Member Countries to meet international requirements on fishery statistics as well as to harmonize and standardize data among the Member Countries
 - SEAFDEC to follow up with Malaysia and Viet Nam on maps of marine sub-fishing areas and finalize the revised Regional Framework on Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia for submission to SEAFDEC Council and ASWGFi

- (5) Strengthening a Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia**
 - TD to include Cambodia in the proposed activities in 2024 and send technical staff to support national activities including national training on eACDS for researchers
 - TD to continue supporting Myanmar and Malaysia in the implementation of eACDS
 - TD to provide technical support to Myanmar to strengthen coordination with international organizations with regard to the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

- (6) ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia**
 - 46PCM took note of the status of the project in 2023
 - TD to consider including the Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam in the training courses to be conducted under the project

- (7) Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources**
 - TD to consider carrying out the activity to facilitate the exchange of knowledge of the management of small-scale fisheries among the Member Countries, *e.g.* national standards of capture fisheries and fish processing
 - TD to carry out activities related to the promotion of the equity of vulnerable groups in the fishing sector, *e.g.* occupational safety, innovations to improve fishing gear for disadvantaged groups
 - TD to continue implementing the activity on the fish processing group in Cambodia and the activities in community fisheries which should cover fish processing and the integration of gender equality and equity
 - TD to provide technical assistance to the Philippines in the country's ongoing development of the national plan of action for small-scale fisheries with assistance from FAO
 - TD to invite an expert from Japan to share lessons and key successes/challenges of the fishing rights system of Japan during the regional workshop on the compilation of lessons learned and key successes/challenges of EAFM implementation under Project Activity 1.1

- (8) Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice**
 - TD to consider monitoring the greenhouse gas emissions not only during fishing operations but also at fishing ports
 - TD to include Thailand in the training to disseminate knowledge on the use of the sherbet ice system to preserve catches from small-scale fisheries activities

- (9) Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia**
 - SEAFDEC to incorporate in the Project a study to investigate the primary source of microplastics in order to prove whether or not the abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gears (ALDFG) is the main source of microplastics in aquatic animals and fishery products in the region
 - SEAFDEC to organize activities to facilitate the exchange of ideas on the promotion of effective techniques for collecting data on the marine debris generated by fishing vessels, and to explore methods to collect marine debris data by the competent authorities without the engagement of fishers

- (10) **Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region**
 - Member Countries to continue monitoring the progress of the discussion on listing shark and ray species in the CITES Appendices
- (11) **Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region**
 - 46PCM took note of the progress of the project in 2023 and proposed activities in 2024
- (12) **Development of Stock Assessment Method for Strengthening of Resources Management Measures of Tropical Anguillid Eels in AMS**
 - SEAFDEC to include Thailand to take part in the regional meeting which will be organized at the end of the Project in 2025 to share among the Member Countries the catch and biological data, resource assessment methods, and information on tropical anguillid eels
 - SEAFDEC to include Malaysia in Project Activities 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 in 2024
- (13) **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 to conduct a comprehensive review of the activities and indicators of the Project to ensure their alignment with the current situations of the participating countries, noting that the indicator will be submitted to the Project Steering Committee for final review and approval
- (14) **Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)**
 - 46PCM took note the updated information of the project in 2023

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 to communicate with Malaysia and provide the progress of Activity 1.4 focusing on developing the breeding and seed production industry for Kawakawa, chopping scad, slipper lobster, and seahorse
 - AQD to consider inviting participants from Myanmar for Activity on disease control in crustaceans and fishes, and development of husbandry techniques
 - AQD to consider inviting participants from Lao PDR to join Activity 3.1 Community-based freshwater aquaculture in remote rural areas
- (16) **Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture**
 - 46PCM took note of the updated information of the project in 2023
- (17) **ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreak Southeast Asia (Phase 2)**
 - 46PCM took note of the updated information of the project in 2023

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

- (18) **Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products**
 - MFRD to consider including either a case study or a critical process in GMP and GHP as annex in the Regional Guidelines on GMP and GHP
 - MFRD to translate the Handbook on High Pressure Processing (HPP) of Fish and Fishery Products into the Thai and Vietnamese languages



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

(19) ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to consider promoting eco-labeling as this could help add value to fishery products from artisanal fishers
- SEAFDEC Secretariat to discuss with Thailand to avoid possible duplication of the Project with the task of Thailand under the ASWGFi to develop Regional Guidelines for the ASEAN GAqP Certification Scheme

Strategy V: Addressing Cross-cutting Issues, such as Labor, Gender and Climate Change, where Related to International Fisheries

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

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to consider providing a regional platform(s) for technical discussion to address fisheries-related issues in other platforms such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

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

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

- SEAFDEC and Member Countries to consider enhancing the future utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2
- TD to consider the future utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC and what SEAFDEC needs to do with the vessel considering that maintenance of the vessel could be a burden to TD
- TD to communicate with the donor regarding the planned marine debris survey cruise in 2024 whether the Member Countries can participate, and to extend the invitation to the Member Countries accordingly

Special Project

(22) USAID Southeast Asia Fisheries Partnership Activity

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to consider extending a study visit to the institutions that are working on effective implementation of the U.S. Marine Mammals Protection Act (MMPA) for relevant staff from the Member Countries in addition to the SEAFDEC staff

Pipeline Project

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

- The 46PCM took note of the project status in 2023

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- Take note of the achievements of the projects implemented by SEAFDEC under FCG/ASSP Mechanism in 2023, and endorse the proposed project activities for implementation in 2024 for submission to the higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC
- Take note of the status of the Pipeline Project "Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity"
- 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 2023–2024**

On-going Projects

Strategy/Project Title		Lead Department	2023	2024
Strategy I: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region				
1	Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
2	Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
3	Management Scheme for Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	Y	Y
4	Harmonization and Enhancing Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information	SEC	Y	Y
5	Strengthening a Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
6	ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
7	Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources	TD	Y	Y
8	Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice	TD	Y	Y
9	Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
10	Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
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	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	Y	Y
14	Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)	TD	Y	Y
Strategy II: Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region				
15	Sustainable Aquaculture through Cost-Effective Culture Systems, and Prompt and Effective Aquatic Animal Health Management	AQD	Y	Y
16	Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
17	ASEAN Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems for Effective Management of Transboundary Disease Outbreaks in Southeast Asia (Phase 2)	AQD	Y	Y
Strategy III: Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region				
18	Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products	MFRD	Y	Y
Strategy IV: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements				
19	ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project	SEC	Y	Y
Strategy V: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries				
20	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				
21	Fisheries Resource Survey & Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	Y	Y



Special Project				
22	USAID Southeast Asia Fisheries Partnership Activity	SEC and Departments	Y	Y

Y = Program implemented during the year

N = Program not implemented during the year

Pipeline Projects

No.	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)**

12th ASCCC-FS Meeting (Virtual), 14 August 2023, Lao PDR

Key Outcomes:

The Meeting:

1. **NOTED** the progress of sectoral initiatives related to climate change and food security, which include:
 - Climate Smart Agriculture
 - ASEAN Guidelines for Customary Forest Tenure Recognition
 - Study on Nature-based Solutions (NbS)
 - Regional Guidelines on Indicators for Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture to Facilitate the Adaption to the Impact of Climate Change
 - ASEAN Leaders' Joint Statement on the Establishment of the ASEAN Villages Network Framework
 - ASEAN-ADB project on Strengthening Cooperation in Disaster Risk Management and Strengthening
 - ASEAN Energy Resilience Assessment Guidelines
 - Capacity Building on Energy Resilience Assessment
 - ASEAN Climate Outlook Forum
 - Regional Climate Data, Analysis and Projections (ARCDAP)
 - ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC).
2. **DISCUSSED** potential collaboration and initiatives/regional policies from different sectors in addressing the adverse impact of climate change among others:
 - Social Forestry Contribution to the adaption and mitigation of climate change
 - Development of Regional Guidelines on Indicators for Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture to Facilitate the Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change
 - Ha Long Ministerial Statement on Strengthening Anticipator Action in Disaster Management
 - Strengthening ASEAN Multi-Hazard End-to-End Early Warning System for Natural Disasters.
3. **DISCUSSED** synergy matrix/mapping areas for potential cross-sectoral collaboration on climate change and **VIEWED** that projects on nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches, decarbonization and other activities that can contribute to the ASEAN Carbon Neutrality Strategy could also be developed.
4. **DISCUSSED** potential areas of collaboration with international partners such as:
 - Workshop on forest fire, biodiversity and forest carbon assessment
 - Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in ASEAN and ASEAN German Climate Action Programme (CAP)
 - Investment in Haze-Free ASEAN
 - Mainstreaming biodiversity in the agriculture sector:
 - promote awareness and capacity building related to climate change adaptation and mitigation:
 - ecosystem-based approach initiatives related to climate action, biodiversity and protection of natural resources;
 - study on carbon farming initiative
 - systematic management of forest-related disasters.



REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

The 26FCG/ASSP Meeting is requested to note the outcomes of the 12th ASCCC-FS Meeting.

ASEAN FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE FORUM

15th AFCF Meeting (Virtual), 25 July 2023, Lao PDR

Key Outcomes:

The Meeting:

1. **SUPPORTED** Malaysia's project proposal on the Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity; and **NOTED** Indonesia's suggestion for the project to consider the management of fishing capacity for fishing vessels targeting *Thunnus tonggol* and *Rastreliger kanagurta* in the region.
2. **NOTED** the draft Regional Strategy for the Implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSSF Guidelines) and the draft outline on Common Understanding and Initiative on Sustainable Small-Scale Aquaculture. Indonesia will organise a workshop to discuss and finalise these two documents.
3. **NOTED** the progress of implementation of SEAFDEC projects on Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources, Management Scheme of Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region, and Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources, and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities.
4. **NOTED** the Draft Regional Guidelines on Indicators for Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture to Facilitate the Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change; and **REQUESTED** Viet Nam and the Philippines to organise an online workshop to discuss the draft guidelines and facilitate the exchange of information on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the fisheries and aquaculture sector
5. **NOTED** the progress of various initiatives implemented by AMS and SEAFDEC to increase the resiliency and adaptability of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to climate change impacts, among others: i) Roadmap on the Acceleration of Mitigation Action on Climate Change in the Marine Sector 2021-2050 (Indonesia); ii) Online Training Course on Energy Audits for Fishing Vessels (SEAFDEC); and iii) Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture (SEAFDEC).
6. **NOTED** the progress of regional efforts to combat IUU fishing under RPOA-IUU, among others: i) imposing of administrative and criminal sanctions; ii) diplomatic representation, enforcement and monitoring and educational outreach programme; iii) and capacity building on Flag State, Coastal State and Port State's responsibilities; and v) developing Community-Based IUU Reporting System and Accident Reporting System.
7. **NOTED** that RPOA-IUU will revise its work plan and rules of procedure; and **SUGGESTED** that the role of RPOA-IUU should be complemented with other regional initiatives such as SEAFDEC and AN-IUU to improve AMS capacity in combating IUU Fishing.
8. **NOTED** the ongoing initiatives of AMS to promote the traceability system in fisheries and aquaculture, among others: i) Fish Quality Certification and Malaysian Good Aquaculture Practice (MyGap) certification scheme; ii) installation of VMS devices for fishing vessels with a length of 15m and over, and developing software for eCDT (Viet Nam); and iii) implementation of National Fish Traceability and Logistics System (Indonesia).
9. **WAS INFORMED** that Indonesia will organize an ASEAN-AUSTRALIA Indo-Pacific Workshop on the Use of Technology for Sustainable Aquaculture.



10. **NOTED** the updates from the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) Secretariat on the proposal to establish an ASEAN Seafood Alliance, which will be a platform to promote private and public engagement in the fisheries sector; and **PROPOSED** to ASWGFi that the ASEAN Public-Private Task Force on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture be subsumed under the proposed ASEAN Seafood Alliance to avoid duplication on the scope of work.

11. **NOTED** AMS's initiative to protect marine mammals, among others:
 - i) Changing the colour of fishing ropes attached to pots and traps to improve the visibility of marine mammals seeing the fishing gear and to prevent them from approaching the fishing gear (Thailand)
 - ii) Programme on Mitigation and Filling in the gap in the Comparability Finding process of the MMPA, notably: formulation of a regulatory programme, data collection, and desk study on Gap Analysis (Indonesia)
 - iii) Policy framework prohibiting the catching and selling of dolphins, whale sharks and other marine mammals (Philippines).

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

The 26FCG/ASSP Meeting is requested to note the outcomes of the 15th AFCF Meeting.

STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR ASEAN COOPERATION ON FISHERIES (2021–2025)

1. 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 seventeen (17) activities have been implemented, fourteen (14) activities are ongoing, five (5) activities are pending or under project appraisal and approval process, and twenty-three (23) activities requiring further action from ASWGFi (*Appendix 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. The report of the Overview Study: COVID-19 Pandemic Implications on Food and Agriculture Trade in ASEAN
3. Development of the ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practice for Food Fish: Trainer’s Guide, including the Training Workshop to pilot-test the Trainer’s Guide.
4. 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.
 - Conduct a regional virtual workshop on Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of AMS in Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to Support Access to Markets
5. Promote cluster farming for small-scale producers to meet regional/international standards.
 - Conduct a regional virtual workshop on Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of AMS in Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to Support Access to Markets
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)
 - Conduct a 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. 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 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 Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquaculture
12. Stocktaking on the Use of Agro-Chemicals in ASEAN
13. Development of the recommendations on the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility Study Report.
14. Development of ASEAN Guideline on the Utilisation of Digital Technologies for ASEAN Food and Agricultural Sector.
 - 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
 - 2nd Knowledge sharing workshop was held on 26 April 2021.
 - 1st Knowledge sharing workshop was held on 22 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
- 16. Regional Workshop regarding the Implementation of the Regional Guidelines on the Prudent Use of Antimicrobial and its Resistance in Aquaculture held on 22 November 2022 through videoconference (hosted by Indonesia)
- 17. 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 was organised on 2 February 2023. Discussion focused on sustainable fisheries management and fisheries subsidies.

The following activities are ongoing:

1. Mutual recognition (MRA) and conformity assessment arrangements, in alignment with international standards and practices, for products and services to facilitate integration into a single market and production base.
 - Establishment of Mutual Recognition of Agri-food Standards and Conformity Assessment (MAMRASCA)
2. Project on Establishing Cooperation on Combating IUU Fishing under EREADi
3. Conduct pilot testing of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries (ACDS) in selected AMS.
4. Implement the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fisheries Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.
5. Development of regional guidelines on indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries to facilitate the adaptation to the impacts of climate change;
6. Stocktake on climate risk and mitigation and adaptation options across the ASEAN fisheries and aquaculture sector
7. 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.
8. 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
9. Development of common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture
10. Organise a workshop on sharing information and best practices on the management of Marine debris in the AMS 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
11. Develop ASEAN guidelines on the management of marine debris in the AMS Fisheries sector (focusing on Abandoned, Lost and Disregarded Fishing Gears)
 - Project proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia
12. ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia
13. Collaborate with relevant regional and international partners to build capacity on international trade-related issues (e.g. Marine Mammal Protection Act)
 - The Partnership Cooperation Plan between USAID and the ASEAN Member States through the Implementation of Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFiA) Technical Support was endorsed by SOM-AMAF on 23 November 2022 and support initiatives on combating IUU Fishing and capacity building on marine mammals protection Act.
14. Conduct Training Needs Assessment to identify the current demand for knowledge and skills needed for sustainable fisheries development.

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

1. Enhance regional Fishery Information Systems (FIS) and mechanisms to facilitate the 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. Project proposal on Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia
4. Organise 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.
 - Project Proposal on 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. Conduct regional technical consultation to review existing FIS and relevant statistics, identify gaps, and standardise the definition, classification and data analysis.
5. Develop simple and practical indicators in supporting the planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries.
6. Implement ASEAN guidelines on the management of marine debris in the AMS Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)
7. Information sharing on NTMs in fisheries that have the potential to be a trade barrier.
8. Strengthen fish quality and safety management systems that support the competitive position of ASEAN fish products in the world markets.
9. Report existing capacities of national reference laboratories to address fish quality and safety management issues and perform risk analyses.
10. Harmonise the accreditation and certification system for Good Aquaculture Practices in AMS, in alignment with international standards, to enable the recognition of ASEAN-wide, equivalent requirements.
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. Involve the private sector in identifying priority products for the development of standards on aquaculture commodities and priority fisheries products with high value-add
15. Organise regional consultation to increase understanding of standards for aquaculture commodities and priority fisheries products.
16. Develop regional networking with fisheries cooperatives and fishers organization to support the implementation of ASEAN fisheries standards, guidelines and best practices.
17. 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.
18. Information exchange on existing national policy on food safety and quality standards of fisheries products.

19. Develop regional food safety and quality standards on fisheries products aligned with international standards.
20. Provide input as requested by relevant ASEAN bodies on the development of the ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework (AFSRF)
21. 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.
22. Conduct training for small-scale producers to understand and familiarize themselves with the safety and quality standards of fish and fishery products.
23. Develop and present ASEAN common positions on issues affecting the fisheries sector in the region in various regional fora.

2. STATUS OF PRIORITY DELIVERABLES FOR 2023-2024

No	Priority Deliverables	Output	Status/Progress
1	Development of Alignment Assessment Tool for GAqP Food Fish (Philippines)	Adoption of the Guidance Manual on the Alignment of National Good Aquaculture Practices with ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices and the Alignment Assessment Tool by AMAF	Completed The Guidance Manual on the Alignment of National Good Aquaculture Practices with ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices and the Alignment Assessment Tool were adopted by the 45 th AMAF Meeting on 4 October 2023.
2	Training Needs Assessment to identify the current demand for knowledge and skills needed for sustainable fisheries development (Thailand and SEAFDEC)	Adoption of the Training Need Assessment by AMAF	On-going The 31 st ASWGF _i was informed that Thailand will utilize the baseline results in the Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2030 as well as conduct a regional survey to determine the training needs of AMSs. The training needs assessment report will be submitted at the 32 nd ASWGF _i Meeting in 2024 for endorsement
3	Development of regional guidelines on indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries to facilitate the adaptation to the impacts of climate change; and Organise a virtual consultative workshop on Climate change, Fisheries and Aquaculture (Viet Nam and the Philippines)	Adoption of the Guidelines by AMAF	On-going The 31 st ASWGF _i noted the draft Regional Guidelines on Indicators for Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture to Facilitate the Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change and requested the Philippines and Viet Nam to convene a workshop to discuss and finalise the guidelines.
4	Regional Workshop on the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Aquaculture (Indonesia)	Workshop is organised.	Completed Indonesia organised a Regional Workshop on the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials in Aquaculture (AMR) on 22 October 2022. The workshop discussed and shared AMS experience and policy on

			AMR use, including the progress of works under regional and international cooperation related to AMR and the needs of AMS in implementing guidelines on the prudent use of AMS
5	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) .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pool of information knowledge on the importance of SSA ● Formulation of indicators to define SSA ● Technical assistant which contributes to SSA's understanding and protection or development. 	<p>On-going</p> <p>The 31st ASWGFi noted the draft Regional Strategy 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 developed by Indonesia. The Meeting requested Indonesia to include indicators that will measure and assess the progress of the proposed activities of the regional strategies</p> <p>Indonesia will convene a regional workshop to discuss and finalise the Regional Strategy to Implement the SSSF Guidelines, including Common Understanding and Initiatives on Sustainable Small-scale Aquaculture after the 45th AMAF Meeting in October 2023.</p>
6	Development of common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture (Indonesia)	Adoption of the regional strategy by AMAF.	<p>On-going</p> <p>The 31st ASWGFi noted the draft outline of the Common Understanding and Initiatives on Sustainable Small-scale Aquaculture developed by Indonesia. The Meeting requested Indonesia to include the definition of small-scale aquaculture in the document.</p> <p>Indonesia will convene a regional workshop to discuss and finalise the Regional Strategy to Implement the SSSF Guidelines, including Common Understanding and Initiatives on Sustainable Small-scale Aquaculture after the 45th AMAF Meeting in October 2023.</p>
7	Development of a Regional Guideline for Monitoring and Surveillance of AMR in Bacterial Pathogens in Aquaculture (Singapore)	Adoption of the regional guideline by AMAF	Priority deliverable for 2024



REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

The 26FCG/ASSP Meeting may wish to note the progress of implementation of the SPA Fisheries (2021–2025) and the status of the priority deliverables for 2023–2024.

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

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

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

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
<i>Action Programme 1.1 Identify infrastructure investment and technology requirements to increase production and, promote technology adoption and capacity building programme to reduce post-production losses, and address investment needs.</i>				
1.1.1 Stock take on the infrastructure investment and technology requirements of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.	ASWGFi AFCF	2021–2025	List of infrastructure investment and technology requirements for fisheries and aquaculture sectors.	Completed Conduct of a regional workshop Marine and Fisheries Business and Investment Forum with a theme of ASEAN Public-Private Partnership (PPP): Opportunities and Challenges.
1.1.1.1 Consultation with relevant stakeholders to identify and address investment needs (e.g. invite private sectors and small farmers to present investment needs in fisheries to the AFCF meeting)				
1.1.2 Conduct regional assessment on the efficient utilization of fisheries resources and in reducing post-harvest losses.	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Assessment report is completed.	
1.1.3 Promote the implementation of the Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management for Seafood	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Number of workshops conducted and number of personnel trained	
<i>Action Programme 1.2 Develop new and appropriate technologies, best practices and management systems to ensure food safety and address health/disease and environmental issues, particularly in the fast growing aquaculture sectors.</i>				
1.2.1 Review and revise (if necessary) the ASEAN Guidelines for the Use of Chemical in Aquaculture and Measures to Eliminate the Use of Harmful Chemical.	ASWGFi	2021–2025	Revised Guideline is endorsed by SOM-AMAF	Completed Stocktaking on the Use of Agro-Chemicals in ASEAN adopted by the 44 th AMAF Meeting in 2022.

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
1.2.2 Pilot testing of the ASEAN Guidelines for Standard Operating Procedures for Responsible Movement of the Live Aquatic Animals in selected AMS.	ASWGF Thailand	2021–2025	SOP is pilot tested in three (3) selected AMS.	Completed Assessment on the Implementation of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Responsible Movement of Live Aquatic Animals for ASEAN
1.2.3 Promote the implementation of the regional technical guidelines on early warning system for aquatic animal health emergencies.	ASWGF	2021–2025	No of workshop conducted	On-going Project Proposal from SEAFDEC-AQD on <i>Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia</i> under preliminary review of JAIF
1.2.4 Conduct Regional Study on the Outlook of COVID-19 impacts on fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asian Countries.	ASWGF	2021	Report on the regional outlook.	Completed The report of the Overview Study: COVID-19 Pandemic Implications on Food and Agriculture Trade in ASEAN Member States was circulated to ASWGF on 21 April 2021. The report was conducted Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada in collaboration with SOM-AMAF.
<i>Action Programme 1.3 Development adequate capacity of AMS in implementing specific measures to support more sustainable fisheries.</i>				
1.3.1 Conduct Training Needs Assessment to identify current demand for knowledge and skills needed for a sustainable fisheries development.	ASWGF FCG/ASSP	2021–2025	Training Needs Assessment is completed.	
1.3.2 Organise capacity building for AMSs in implementing the specific measures to support more sustainable fisheries.	ASWGF FCG/ASSP	2021–2025	Number training/workshop completed.	The OECD-ASEAN Workshop on Food Security: Sharing Evidence and Policy Experiences was organised on 2 February 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion focused on fisheries management and fisheries subsidies
1.3.2.1 Conduct regional training/workshop on the application of GIS and Remote Sensing				Completed The project completion and financial report have been submitted to ASEC

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
Technology in the management of inland fisheries and aquaculture.				for review.
<i>Action Programme 1.4. Examine and improve policy settings as necessary to ensure that they do not distort incentives for output increases and new technology adoption while ensuring that they incorporate fully the value of environmental assets and costs of resource depletion.</i>				
1.4.1 Develop recommendations on the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy Feasibility Study Report.	ASWGF Ad-Hoc Task Force AGFP	2021–2025	Policy Recommendation is endorsed by SOM-AMAF	<p>Completed The Recommendations on AGFP were endorsed by the 43rd AMAF on 27 October 2022.</p> <p>The 2nd AdHoc Task Force Meeting held on 24 November 2020 agreed to recommend to ASWGF Option 1, which is not to develop an AGFP but to focus on the full implementation of the existing twelve (12) policy frameworks with the inclusion of marine debris.</p>
1.4.2 Enhance regional Fishery Information Systems (FIS) and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information that are required at the sub-regional and regional level.	ASWGF FCG/ASSP	2021–2025	Report outlining the gaps and recommendations to enhance FIS. List of indicators on sustainable fisheries is developed.	<p>Pending The activity is included in the project proposal on assessing the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity. The project proposal is under preliminary review of JAIF.</p>
1.4.2.1 Conduct regional technical consultation to review existing FIS and relevant statistics, identify gaps, and standardise the definition and classification and data analysis.				
1.4.2.2 Develop simple and practical indicators in supporting planning and monitoring of sustainable fisheries.				

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
1.4.3 Strengthen the knowledge and management of Marine debris in ASEAN Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)	ASWGF	2021–2025		
1.4.3.1 Organise workshop on sharing information and best practices on the management of Marine debris in AMSs Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)			Regional workshop is organised.	On-going The project proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia was approved by ASEAN and JAIF.
1.4.3.2 Develop ASEAN guidelines on management of Marine debris in AMS Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)			Regional guidelines is endorsed by SOM-AMAF	On-going The project proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia was approved by ASEAN and JAIF.
1.4.3.3 Implement ASEAN guidelines on management of Marine debris in the AMS Fisheries sector (Capture fisheries and aquaculture)			Country report on the implementation of the guideline.	

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

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
<i>Action Programme 2.1 Identify and eliminate non-tariff measures (NTMs) that have no economic or scientific rationale and reinforce efforts to improve trade facilitation and revise, as appropriate, trade-imposing regulatory barriers to minimise adverse effects.</i>				
2.1.1 Information sharing on NTMs in fisheries that have potential to be trade barrier.	ASWGF	2021–2025	List of NTMs developed.	
<i>Action Programme 2.2 Certification, inspection, accreditation and traceability.</i>				
2.2.1 Strengthen fish quality and safety management systems that support the	ASWGF	2021–2025		

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
<p>competitive position of ASEAN fish products in the world markets.</p> <p>2.2.1.1 Develop regional guideline on performing risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in aquaculture.</p>	Singapore		Regional guideline is endorsed by SOM-AMAF.	<p>Completed The following guidelines were endorsed by the 43rd AMAF Meeting on 27 October 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Guideline on Performing Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance Arising from the Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquaculture <p>Singapore organised an Introductory Training Course on Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance Arising from Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Aquaculture virtually on 1–3 February 2021</p>
2.2.1.2 Develop regional guidelines for prudent use of antimicrobials in aquaculture			Regional guidelines is endorsed by SOM-AMF	<p>Completed The guidelines were endorsed by the 43rd AMAF Meeting 27 October 2021</p> <p>The guideline was developed with the support from JAIF under the project AMR in Aquaculture – Laboratory Capacity Building, Risk Analysis, and the Way Forward .</p>
2.2.1.3 Develop Regional Plan of Action on AMR in Aquaculture			Regional Plan of Action endorsed by SOM-AMAF.	<p>Completed The Regional Plan of Action on AMR in Aquaculture was endorsed by 43rd AMAF meeting held on 27 October 2021.</p> <p>The POA has been developed and submitted to ASWGF for consideration.</p>

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
				The POA was developed with the support from JAIF under the project AMR in Aquaculture – Laboratory Capacity Building, Risk Analysis, and the Way Forward,
2.2.1.4 Conduct Regional Workshop on the implementation of the regional guidelines on the prudent use of antimicrobial and its resistance in aquaculture.	Indonesia	2022	Input to 2.2.1.2	Completed Regional Workshop regarding the Implementation of the Regional Guidelines on the Prudent Use of Antimicrobial and its Resistance in Aquaculture held on 22 November 2022 through videoconference (hosted by Indonesia)
2.2.1.5 Report existing capacities of national reference laboratories to address fish quality and safety management issues and perform risks analyses.	ASWGFI	2021–2025	Existing capacities of national reference laboratories are reported.	
2.2.2 Harmonise the accreditation and certification system for Good Aquaculture Practices in AMS, in alignment with international standards, to enable the recognition of ASEAN-wide, equivalent requirements.	ASWGFi, EWG-ASEAN GAqP	2021–2022	Guideline is endorsed by SOM-AMAF	
2.2.2.1 Develop guidelines/manual for ASEAN GAqP for Food Fish and ASEAN Shrimp GAP certification and accreditation system.				
2.2.2.2 Develop common training programme and materials on GAqP for trainers.			Common training programme and materials is endorsed by SOM-AMAF	Completed Training-workshop held on 3-6 February 2020 in Penang, Malaysia to discuss and pilot-test the draft ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practice

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
<p>2.2.3 Mutual recognition (MRA) and conformity assessment arrangements, in alignment with international standards and practices, for product and services to facilitate integration into a single market and production base.</p> <p>2.2.3.1 Promote the implementation of the template on arrangement on the equivalence of fishery products inspection and certification systems.</p> <p>2.2.3.2 Establish MRA for endorsed ASEAN aquaculture good practices.</p>	<p>ASWGF, EWG-ASEAN GAqP</p>	<p>2021–2025</p>	<p>Number of AMS who have referenced/ used the template when discussing bilateral arrangements with another AMS for trade in fishery products</p>	<p>for Food Fish: Trainer’s Guide, including the conduct of a The Trainer’s Guide was adopted by the 42nd AMAF Meeting on 21 October 2020.</p>
<p>2.2.3.1 Promote the implementation of the template on arrangement on the equivalence of fishery products inspection and certification systems.</p> <p>2.2.3.2 Establish MRA for endorsed ASEAN aquaculture good practices.</p>	<p>ASWGF, EWG-GAqP</p>	<p>2021–2025</p>	<p>MRA is established.</p>	<p>On-going Discussion on Mutual Recognition of Agri-food Standards and Conformity Assessment (MAMRASCA) is still on-going.</p>
<p><i>Action Programme 2.3 Streamline and improve quarantine systems and procedures, and harmonize standards and regulations to facilitate trade.</i></p>				
<p>2.3.1 Strengthen the quarantine and inspection/ sampling procedure and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and bio- security measures for aquaculture products to secure food safety.</p>	<p>ASWGF, Thailand</p>	<p>2021–2025</p>	<p>Regional workshop is organised.</p>	<p>Pending Concept Note Development of ASEAN Guidelines on Inspection and Quarantine for Imported Aquaculture Fish and Fisheries Products was noted by the 43rd AMAF Meeting on 27 October 2021.</p>
<p>2.3.1.1 Organise workshop on sharing information and best practices on fisheries quarantine and inspection procedures.</p>				<p>The activity is included under the ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project. The project proposal is endorsed by ASEAN and under consideration by Japan.</p>

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
2.3.1.2 Develop the ASEAN guidelines on inspection mechanism for aquaculture fish and fisheries products.			Regional guidelines is endorsed by SOM-AMAF.	Pending Concept Note Development of ASEAN Guidelines on Inspection and Quarantine for Imported Aquaculture Fish and Fisheries Products was noted by the 43 rd AMAF Meeting on 27 October 2021. The activity is included under the ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project. The project proposal is endorsed by ASEAN and under consideration by Japan.
2.3.1.3 Harmonise aquatic animal quarantine and health certification for exportation and importation in alignment with international standards and practices	ASWGF <i>i</i>	2021–2025	Number of AMS with aquatic animal quarantine and health certification harmonised to international standards and practices	
2.3.2 Involve the private sector in identifying priority products for the development of standards on aquaculture commodities and priority fisheries products with high value-add.	ASWGF <i>i</i> , EWG-GAqP FCG/ASSP	2021–2025	Number of capacity building training/ workshops on standards for aquaculture commodities and priority fisheries product	
2.3.2.1 Organise regional consultation to increase understanding of standards for aquaculture commodities and priority fisheries products.				
<i>Action Programme 2.4 Enhance regional and international cooperation to ensure that all major ASEAN food market are integrated, and the food trading system is strengthened and utilised to provide stable food supplies.</i>				
2.4.1 Develop regional networking with fisheries cooperatives and fishers organization to support the implementation of ASEAN fisheries standards, guidelines and best practices.	ASWGF <i>i</i> AFCF	2021–2025	Number of private sectors involved in the promotion of ASEAN fisheries standards, guidelines and best practices.	

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

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

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

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
<i>Action Programme 4.1 Increase investment in R&D for technologies and management systems with a focus on resilience to facilitate climate smart/friendly agriculture, land use, and fishery in cooperation with research programmes and networks on the basis of best practices.</i>				
4.1 Information sharing on climate change impact and adaptation strategies for fisheries and aquaculture, early warning systems/indicators of climate impacts, and climate resilient aquaculture/ fisheries technologies and	ASWGFi AFCF	2021–2025	Climate change related information on fisheries and aquaculture is compiled.	Ongoing Information sharing and exchange are conducted regularly at the the annual meeting of AFCF

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
<p>approaches.</p> <p>4.2 Stock take on climate risk and mitigation and adaptation options across ASEAN fisheries and aquaculture sector.</p>	<p>ASWGF AFCF</p>	<p>2021–2025</p>	<p>Stocktaking report.</p>	<p>On-going Information sharing and exchange are conducted regularly at the the annual meeting of AFCF</p> <p>The project proposal on Consultative Workshop on Climate Change, Fisheries and Aquaculture is being consulted to Dialogue Partners for possible support.</p>
<p>4.3 Develop regional guideline on indicators for aquaculture and capture fisheries to facilitate ecosystem-based adaptation to the impact of climate change.</p>	<p>ASWGF AFCF Philippines & Viet Nam</p>	<p>2021–2025</p>	<p>Regional guideline is endorsed by SOM-AMAF.</p>	<p>On-going Draft guideline was submitted to Viet Nam and Philippines for further improvement.</p> <p>Completed The ASEAN Guideline on the Utilisation of Digital Technologies for ASEAN Food and Agricultural Sector was adopted by the 43rd AMAF Meeting on 27 October 2021.</p>
<p>4.4 Identify and promote green technologies for adoption, such as low greenhouse gas emission, carbon sequestration from marine waters technology for aquaculture, and Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture (IMTA).</p>	<p>ASWGF AFCF</p>	<p>2021–2025</p>	<p>List of green technologies identified and promoted.</p>	<p>Completed The ASEAN Guideline on the Utilisation of Digital Technologies for ASEAN Food and Agricultural Sector was adopted by the 43rd AMAF Meeting on 27 October 2021.</p> <p>-2nd Knowledge sharing workshop was held on 26 April 2021. -1st Knowledge sharing workshop was held on 22 February 2021.</p>
<p>4.5 Establish regional data and information on critical habitats such as mangrove, seagrass and coral reef as well as linkage between relevant institutions in AMS.</p>	<p>ASWGF</p>	<p>2021–2025</p>	<p>Regional information on critical habitats and linkage with institutions in AMS is established.</p>	

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

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
<i>Action Programme: 5.1. Assist small scale producers and SMEs in the FAF sector to become viable and competitive enterprises by provision of better technology, inputs, finance and extension services, access to higher value markets, and by facilitating integration into modern value chains</i>				
5.1.1 Assist small-scale producers from both capture fishery and aquaculture to meet with standards on safety and quality of fish and fishery products for securing and maintaining access to markets at the national, regional and international level.	ASWGFfi	2021–2025	Number of training organised.	Completed Indonesia organised a regional virtual workshop on Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of AMS in Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to Support Access to Markets on 16–17 September 2020
5.1.1.1 Conduct of training for small-scale producers to understand and familiarize with safety and quality standards of fish and fishery products.	ASWGFfi	2021–2025		
<i>Action Programme 5.2 Encourage larger scale enterprises to perform a mentoring role by linking with small-scale producers and SMEs through mechanisms such as contract farming to foster adoption of innovations and participation in high value markets.</i>				
5.2.1 Promote Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in extending technology from large enterprises to small-scale farmers.	ASWGFfi	2021–2025	Country report on the promotion of PPP activities.	On-going Concept Note on 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 under discussion by ASWGFfi. Concept note on the Development of

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
5.2.2 Promote cluster farming for small-scale producers to meet with regional/international standards.	ASWGF	2021–2025	Country report on the promotion of cluster farming.	<p>common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture under discussion by ASWGF.</p> <p>Completed Indonesia organised a regional virtual workshop on Regional Workshop on Assessing the Needs of AMS in Implementing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) to Support Access to Markets on 16–17 September 2020</p>

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

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
<p><i>Action Programme: 6.1 Enhance coordination and develop joint approaches through consultations among AMS and related ASEAN bodies in regional and international fora in order to gain a better hearing for its views and proposals, and obtain more favourable outcomes in negotiations and agreements affecting FAF sector.</i></p> <p>6.1.1 Collaborate with relevant regional and international partners to build capacity on international trade-related issues (e.g. Marine Mammal Protection Act)</p>	ASWGF FCG/ASSP AFCF	2021–2025	Training/Workshop is organised.	<p>On-going The 28th ASWGF Meeting agreed to include the discussion on the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the purview of AFCF.</p> <p>The Partnership Cooperation Plan between USAID and the ASEAN Member States through the Implementation of Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFiA) Technical Support was endorsed by SOM-AMAF on 23 November 2022 and support initiatives on combating IUU Fishing</p>

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
6.1.2 Develop and present ASEAN common positions on issues affecting the fisheries sector the region in various regional fora (e.g. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, RPOA-IUU, Coral Triangle Initiatives on Coral Reef, Fisheries and Food Security, Codex Alimentarius Commission, and World Trade Organization).	ASWGFfi	2021–2025	Common positions are developed and presented in regional fora.	and capacity building on marine mammals protection Act.
<i>Action Programme 6.2. Engage with regional and international processes to enhance ASEAN cooperation to improve the governance of trans-boundary fishing and traceability of fishery products in order to combat IUU fishing.</i>				
6.2.1 Conduct pilot testing of ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme for Marine Capture Fisheries (ACDS) in selected in AMS.	ASWGFfi	2021–2025	Pilot testing of ACDS is completed in three AMS.	On-going Pilot-testing conducted in BN, Malaysia, Viet Nam.
6.2.2 Assess the implementation of ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity.	ASWGFfi	2021–2025	Assessment report is completed.	Pending Project proposal on Assessing the implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action to Manage Fishing Capacity is under preliminary review of JAIF.
6.2.3 Develop the Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing in the ASEAN Region (2021–2025).	ASWGFfi	2021–2025	Roadmap is endorsed by SOM-AMAF.	Completed AMAF adopted the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing (2021-2025) by ad-referendum on 30 November 2020.
6.2.4 Establish the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU)	ASWGFfi	2021–2025	Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure of AN-IUU endorsed by SOM-AMAF. Focal Points of AN-IUU are appointed by AMS.	On-going The Cooperation Framework, TOR and ROP was adopted by the 42nd AMAF Meeting. AN-IUU Focal Points have been nominated by AMS.

Activities/Sub-activities	ASEAN Bodies Lead Country	Timeline	Output Indicators	STATUS/REMARKS
6.2.5 Foster dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN Member States, Dialogue Partners, and international and regional organizations in combating IUU fishing.	ASWGF	2021–2025	AN-IUU is operationalized.	<p>Thailand serves as the Network Center to host the online interactive platform.</p> <p>The AN-IUU will develop guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU interactive platform</p>
6.2.6 Build up the capacity of AMS to effectively meet the requirements of international agreements relating to combating IUU fishing (e.g. Port State Measures).	ASWGF FCG/ASSP	2021–2025	Dialogue or joint activity is organised.	<p>On-going</p> <p>The project on Establishing Cooperation on Combating IUU Fishing under EREADi is still on-going. 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.</p>
6.2.7 Implement the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fisheries Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.	ASWGF	2021–2025	Training/Workshop is organised.	<p>On-going</p> <p>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 on the implementation arrangement of the project</p>
			Country report on the implementation of the guideline.	<p>On-going</p> <p>The progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines to Prevent the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain was reported at the 23rd FCG/ASSP Meeting.</p>

ASEAN ROADMAP ON COMBATING IUU FISHING (2021-2025)

PROGRESS

The ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing (2021-2025) was adopted by AMAF on 30 November 2020. The Roadmap contains 7 action programmes and 24 activities. To date, three (3) activities have been completed, six (6) activities are ongoing, six (6) activities are pending, and nine (9) activities require further actions from ASWGFi.

Completed Activity:

- 1) 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.
 - *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 EREAD. The 3rd ASEAN Meeting Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Partnership with the European Union (EU) was held virtually from 23-24 February 2021.*
- 2) 4.2.1 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*
- 3) 1.1 Support the operation of AN-IUU in accordance with the Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure
 - *Training Workshop on the Use of the AN-IUU Interactive Platform. was organised by Thailand on 18 July 2023.*
 - *The regional guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information for the AN-IUU were adopted by the 44th AMAF in October 2022.*
 - *Virtual Workshop on the Guidelines for 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) 1.2 Provide regular updates on SEAFDEC Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) and FAO global fishing vessel records (GR), and explore the possibility of cross-linking both records through SEAFDEC.
 - *The 24th FCG/ASSP Meeting reported that 6,849 fishing vessels from AMS were already included in the database.*
- 2) 3.1 Implement ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.
- 3) 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).
 - *The 23rd 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 medium and large-scale fishing; Malaysia- 2 pilot sites were selected; Viet Nam-4 pilot sites were selected; and Myanmar- Yangon was selected as a pilot site.*
 - *14th AFCE 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.*



- 4) 5.1 Enhance MCS programs under national laws and regulations, including strengthening cooperation among relevant national agencies for the implementation of the MCS programme.
 - *Thailand is hosting the AN-IUU Center, including the AN-IUU Interactive Platform for sharing IUU-fishing and MCS-related information.*
 - *A Refresher Training on Using the AN-IUU Interactive Platform was organised on 18 July 2023*
 - *Operationalisation of AN-IUU Interactive Platform.*
- 5) 7.2 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 ASWGFi Meeting agreed to include the discussion on the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the purview of AFCEP.*
 - *USAID agreed to support the capacity building on the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the SuFiA Technical Support programme.*
- 6) 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.
 - *Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning (MEL) and Communication Workshop was held from 12-13 September 2023. The workshop aims to strengthen ASWGFi's governance mechanisms and its functioning including MEL, reporting and communications, that are gender sensitive and inclusive, in promoting responsible fishing practices including addressing IUU fishing*

The following activities are under the project appraisal and approval process/pending implementation:

- 1) 6.3 Implement, where appropriate, the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)
 - *The project proposal is currently awaiting Japan's in-principle approval. Once it is obtained, the project proposal will be formally submitted to the ASEAN appraisal and approval process under the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) for funding.*
 - *The project proposal on the Implementation and assessment of fishing capacity and zoning system for Southeast Asia is under preliminary review by JAIF.*
- 2) ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia
 - *JICA has revised the project proposal following a series of consultations with SEAFDEC. The revised project proposal has been circulated to the ASEAN Sectoral Bodies for re-approval of the proposed changes.*
 - *The project proposal was 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*
 - *Once implemented, the project will support the following activities in the Roadmap:*
 - 2.2 Provide technical assistance and training on technologies to combat IUU fishing and fishing-related activities*
 - 2.4 Conduct regional workshops and training courses on combating IUU fishing in collaboration with regional organizations*
 - 6.1 Support AMS to develop, implement and revise their National Plan of Action (NPOA) to combat IUU Fishing*
- 3) 2.5 Sharing of experience and best practices on the implementation of the Fisheries Observer Programme (**Appendix 1**)
 - *Thailand agreed as the Lead Country for this activity and has developed a Concept Note on the ASEAN Regional Meeting on the Exchange of Experiences and Best Practices for Onboard Observers*
 - *The Concept has been circulated to AMS for input and to USAID SuFiA for possible funding.*
 - *Input from AMS, particularly from Viet Nam was incorporated in the revised concept note as of 20 July 2023.*

- 4) 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.
 - Thailand agreed as the Lead Country for this activity
 - Proposed to be included as one activity under the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia

The following are activities requiring further action:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 3.4 Leverage a public-private partnership to improve the implementation of fisheries traceability systems.
- 3) 4.1 Work towards the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM).
- 4) 4.2.2 Conduct of training for port inspections including legal and operational aspects with emphasis on the practical hands-on component.
- 5) 5.2 Intensify national surveillance during fishing operations, where appropriate.
- 6) 5.3 Implement a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for commercial fishing vessels licensed by the AMS.
- 7) 7.1 Collaborate with relevant regional and international partners to build capacity on international fisheries trade-related issues.
- 8) 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.

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

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

The Meeting may wish to note the progress of implementation of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing (2021–2025).

ACTION PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES 2021–2025

Activities/Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
1. Strengthen Regional Collaboration and Information Sharing <i>Priority 6. Strengthening collaboration among AMS and international and regional organizations; expanding knowledge sharing and collaboration platforms for regional and sub-regional exchange of information, experiences and best practices.</i>				
1.1 Support the operation of AN-IUU in accordance with the Cooperation Framework, Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure.	2021–2025	AN-IUU	AN-IUU is launched and operational. Exchange and share MCS information related to IUU fishing and best practices for combating IUU fishing.	On-going The Cooperation Framework, TOR and ROP were adopted by the 42nd AMAF Meeting. AN-IUU Focal Points have been nominated by AMS. Thailand serves as the Network Center to host the online interactive platform. 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 guidelines for sharing, access to, and use of IUU fishing-related information were adopted by the 44 th AMAF. Training Workshop on the Use of the AN-IUU Interactive Platform. was organised by Thailand on 18 July 2023.
1.2 Provide regular updates on SEAFDEC Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) and FAO global fishing vessel records (GR), and explore the possibility of cross-linking both records through SEAFDEC.	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Number of AMS regularly updating and accessing the RFVR and GR.	On-going The 24th FCG/ASSP Meeting reported that 6,849 fishing vessels from AMS were already included in the database.
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>				

Activities/Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
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 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. 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; and technologies to combat IUU fishing and fishing-related activities.	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Training workshops; training modules and manuals.	Pending 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
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 was developed.	
2.4 Conduct regional workshops and training courses on combating IUU fishing in collaboration with regional organizations.	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Number of technical workshops, meetings and studies relevant to IUU (e.g. ACDS etc.).	Pending 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.
2.5 Sharing of experience and best practices on the implementation of the Fisheries	2021–2025	ASWGFI	Workshop on the implementation of the	Pending Thailand agreed as the Lead Country for this

Activities/Sub-activities	Timeline	ASEAN Bodies/ Lead Country	Output Indicators	Status/Remarks
Observer Programme.			Fisheries Observer Programme.	activity and has developed a Concept Note on the ASEAN Regional Meeting on the Exchange of Experiences and Best Practices for Onboard Observers USAID agreed to support this activity under the SuFiA Project.
3. Implement Traceability and Catch Documentation Scheme				
<i>Priority 3. Applying innovative use of technologies to support monitoring and surveillance of fishing activities, including traceability of fish throughout the supply chain as well as regional/sub-regional networks for sharing and exchanging information.</i>				
3.1 Implement ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.	2021–2025	AFCF FCG/ASSP	Country updates on the implementation of the guidelines.	Ongoing The progress of the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines to Prevent the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain was reported at the 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 a public-private partnership to improve the implementation of fisheries traceability systems.	2021–2025	FCG/ASSP	Country report on the promotion of PPP activities.	

ACTION PROGRAMME / SUB-ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	ASEAN BODIES/LEAD COUNTRY	OUTPUT INDICATORS	STATUS/PROGRESS
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	ASWGFfi	Port State measures are applied based on the FAO Port State Measures Agreement.	
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. 4.2.2 Conduct of training for port inspections including legal and operational aspects with emphasis on the practical hands-on component.	2021–2025	ASWGFfi	Technical assistance and capacity building workshops, training and needs assessment conducted.	Completed The 23 rd FCG/ASSP reported the status and 13 action points that are needed to support the implementation of PSM in ASEAN,
4.3 Share information on national fisheries/port laws and 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.	Pending Thailand agreed to be the Lead Country for this Activity The activity is proposed to be included under the Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia
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	2021–2025	ASWGFfi	Regional/sub-regional/national workshops and forums on MCS.	On-going Operationalization of AN-IUU Interactive Platform Thailand is now serving as AN-IUU Center, which hosts the AN-IUU Interactive Platform for sharing IUU-fishing and MCS-related information.

ACTION PROGRAMME / SUB-ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	ASEAN BODIES/LEAD COUNTRY	OUTPUT INDICATORS	STATUS/PROGRESS
programme.				Thailand organised a Refresher Training on Using the AN-IUU Interactive Platform on 18 July 2023
5.2 Intensify national surveillance during fishing operations, where appropriate.	2021–2025	ASWGFfi	Country report on surveillance records are shared during ASWGFfi Meetings.	
5.3 Implement a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for commercial fishing vessels licensed by the AMS.	2021–2025	ASWGFfi	VMS system in place.	
6 Implement National and Regional Fisheries Management Measures to Combat IUU Fishing. <i>Priority 5: Enhance coordination with the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU) and optimizing impacts related to the implementation of the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) IPOA-IUU.</i>				
6.1 Support AMS to develop, implement and revise their National Plan of Action (NPOA) to combat IUU Fishing in line with the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU), including sharing of best practices.	2021–2025	AFCF	Number of AMS with developed/revised NPOA-IUU. NPOA-IUU implementation status	Pending 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.
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	ASWGFfi AFCF	New measures or policies adopted and shared among AMS through the ASWGFfi Meeting.	Ongoing Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning (MEL) and Communication Workshop was held from 12-13 September 2022 -aims to strengthen ASWGFfi's governance mechanisms and its functioning including MEL, reporting and communications, that are gender sensitive and inclusive, in promoting responsible fishing practices including addressing IUU fishing

ACTION PROGRAMME / SUB-ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	ASEAN BODIES/LEAD COUNTRY	OUTPUT INDICATORS	STATUS/PROGRESS
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.	<p>Pending The 23rd 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.</p> <p>The project proposal on the Implementation and assessment of fishing capacity and zoning system for Southeast Asia is under preliminary review by JAIF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project proposal is currently awaiting Japan's in-principle approval. Once it is obtained, the project proposal will be formally submitted to the ASEAN appraisal and approval process under the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (AJCEP) for funding.
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.	
7.2 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.	2021-2025	ASWGF AFCF	Workshops/Meetings.	<p>On-going The 28th ASWGF Meeting agreed to include the discussion on the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the purview of AFCF.</p>
8 Effectively Apply International Organizations, Instruments, Agreements and Treaties of Relevance to Fisheries and Fishery Activities				
<i>Priority 6. Strengthening collaboration among AMS and international and regional organizations; expanding knowledge sharing and collaboration platforms for regional and sub-regional exchange of data and information, experiences and best practices.</i>				



ACTION PROGRAMME / SUB-ACTIVITIES	TIMELINE	ASEAN BODIES/LEAD COUNTRY	OUTPUT INDICATORS	STATUS/PROGRESS
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	ASWGFfi	Number of countries ratifying relevant international instruments.	
8.2 Improve the participation of AMS in relevant regional and international fora related to combating IUU fishing.	2021-2025	ASWGFfi	Participation in regional and international fora and other relevant dialogues	

ASEAN NETWORK FOR COMBATING IUU FISHING (AN-IUU)

3rd AN-IUU Meeting (Virtual), 13 June 2023, Brunei Darussalam

Key Outcomes

The Meeting:

1. **NOTED** that USAID SuFiA developed a Tabletop Exercise, which can be applied to many fisheries use cases such as reporting IUU fishing, MCS technology adoption, IUU fishing vessel targeting and electronic catch documentation and traceability (E-CDT). SuFiA-TS is also exploring solutions using digital technology to monitor labour safety, the number of workers and labour working hours in fishing vessels.
2. **WELCOMED** Canada's proposal to provide technical expertise and share best practices with AN-IUU on remote sensing technologies, MCS capacity programme, and counter-IUU fishing operations through dark vessel detection collection and analysis; and **REQUESTED** Canada to coordinate with the ASEAN Secretariat to discuss the implementation arrangement of these activities.
3. **NOTED** that the AN-IUU Interactive Platform contains menus for the sources of IUU fishing vessels, including:
 - i) **Fisheries Regional Management Organisations (FRMO) IUU List**, in which AN-IUU Network Center gathers IUU vessels from the RFMOs website and updates this list annually;
 - ii) **Watch List**, in which AN-IUU Focal Point can share the watch list of suspicious IUU fishing vessels related activities or IUU fishing vessels through the "Incident" menu; and
 - iii) **Domestic IUU List** refers to IUU fishing vessels that have been declared by the ASEAN Member States. The Focal Points can share the vessel list, vessel information, and causes of offences in this menu.
4. **NOTED** the progress of the AN-IUU Interactive Platform wherein exchanges of information on IUU fishing vessels were conducted between the AN-IUU Center (Thailand), AMS and International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS).
5. **REQUESTED** ASEAN Member States to provide Thailand, through the ASEAN Secretariat, information on their fisheries laws and regulations and an updated list of AN-IUU focal points for inclusion in the AN-IUU platform.
6. **NOTED** the progress made by Thailand in developing the 3-year Plan of Action (POA) of the AN-IUU; and **REQUESTED** AMS to provide their inputs on the draft POA of the AN-IUU. (*Note: The 3-year POA of AN-IUU was adopted by the 45th AMAF Meeting on 4 October 2023*).
7. **REQUESTED** Thailand to conduct a Training Workshop on the Use of the AN-IUU Interactive Platform
8. **WAS INFORMED** by Thailand on the intergovernmental Collaboration to combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia, AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU and RFVR.
9. **DISCUSSED** the suggestion for AN-IUU to access the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) database developed by SEAFDEC; and **AGREED** not to raise this request to ASWGFi and SEAFDEC considering that AMS have already accessed to the RFVR, in which the AN-IUU Focal Point could readily use.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

The 26FCG/ASSP is requested to note the outcomes of the 3rd AN-IUU Meeting.

ASEAN SHRIMP ALLIANCE (ASA)

1. The 13th Meeting of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) was organized on 24 July 2023 virtually via Zoom Video Conferencing Application, hosted by Lao PDR and chaired by Thailand. The Meeting was attended by representatives from 9 ASEAN Member States (AMSs) as well as the representatives from ASEAN Secretariat, SEAFDEC and INFOFISH. The key outcomes of the Meeting are as follows:

- **NOTED** the outcomes of the 30th ASWGFi Meeting, virtually held on 23-24 June 2022, highlighting on the approval for ASA to initiate the discussion on the streamlining of ASA to cover other seafood industries besides shrimp and to be expanded as an ASEAN Seafood Alliances, focusing more on collaboration and cooperation to address common and current production and trade issues following the guidance of the 28th ASWGFi Meeting; and **NOTED** that the 30th ASWGFi Meeting agreed for ASA Secretariat to request 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 in white shrimp"
- **NOTED** the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action of ASEAN Shrimp Alliance for 2021 – 2025 (PAA). Out of 7 activities in the PAA, five (5) activities are completed while the remaining two (2) activities are pending for project appraisal.
- **NOTED** the response from SEAFDEC that, due to a lack of expertise and funding, SEAFDEC was unable to extend support to conduct a training program on broodstock management which was one of the components of the project proposal on “3.1 Regional Collaboration for long-term genetic improvement of growth, robustness and resistance to Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in white shrimp for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance” as requested by ASA Secretariat.
- **NOTED** the status of the pending activity on “3.2 ASEAN Awareness Building on Implementing Traceability System and Aquaculture Certification” under the PAA that the revised project proposal is under the review of JAPAN-ASEAN Integration fund (JAIF).
- **REITERATED** the importance of those two pending activities not only for the development of shrimp industry in Southeast Asia and the capacity building of officials responsible for shrimp production, but also for demonstrating commitments of ASA to implementing its Plan of Actions. Hence the Meeting agreed that there was the need to conduct the training face-to-face regional training/meeting, not in a virtual format, regardless of financial constraints.
- **TASKED** Thailand to revise the project proposal for the Activity No. 3.1 to make it more feasible to conduct a 5-day training on broodstock management, including breeding and artificial insemination techniques, for aquatic animals mainly cultured in ASEAN; and **REQUESTED** ASEAN Secretariat to further seek support from ASEAN dialogue partners for the implementation of the revised project proposal.
- **NOTED** the overview of global trend on shrimp trade: post-covid pandemic as presented by INFOFISH, including international shrimp trade, market scenarios, product diversification and recommendations for ASEAN to stay competitive in the global market by stronger pushing towards product and market diversification, adopting new technologies, and practicing industry or country branding.
- **AGREED** to propose to the 31st ASWGFi Meeting to expand the scope of the ASEAN Seafood Alliance to cover not only aquaculture but also the capture fishery sector.
- **RECOMMENDED** the ASEAN Public Private Taskforce (Taskforce) for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture to be subsumed under the proposed ASEAN Seafood Alliance; to avoid overlapping the scope of work, since both ASEAN Seafood Alliance and the Taskforce provided



platforms for public and private sectors to discuss issues on seafood production and trade. The commonalities in terms of objectives and scope of work in promoting public-private collaboration in the fisheries sector could be shared when developing the draft TOR of ASEAN Seafood Alliance

- **REQUESTED** the ASWGFi to assign the ASA to convene a consultative workshop with the ASEAN Public Private Taskforce for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture to further develop the draft TOR of ASEAN Seafood Alliance.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

To note the outcomes of the 13th ASA Meeting.

SEAFDEC COMBAT IUU FISHING: PROGRESS ON THE REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR COMBATING IUU FISHING

SEAFDEC has been actively engaged in a comprehensive approach to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Southeast Asian region. Since 2016, a series of programs and activities have been conducted through regional consultation platforms to promote information sharing, exchange of knowledge, and facilitate the development of a national system for the traceability of fish and fishery products (Electronic Catch Documentation Scheme), and development and promotion of Regional Fishing Vessel Records (RFVR database). These initiatives are designed to enhance regional data collection efforts, enabling a better understanding of IUU fishing activities, including their impact on fisheries resources and ecosystems. The outcomes of these activities serve as the foundation for evidence-based policy recommendations aimed at effectively addressing this issue.

Concurrently, SEAFDEC has also been actively involved in bolstering the capacity of its Member Countries through the organization of training programs, workshops, and seminars for fisheries management authorities and stakeholders. These efforts involve a series of regional training workshops focused on the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, with the aim of equipping individuals and organizations with the knowledge and skills necessary for the detection and mitigation of IUU fishing. Furthermore, SEAFDEC maintains close collaboration with its Member Countries to strengthen legal frameworks and regulations related to fisheries management and the issue of IUU fishing. This comprehensive approach includes the development of regional collaboration and frameworks, along with technical support for ASEAN's establishment of the ASEAN Network for Combat IUU Fishing (AN-IUU), with the goal of creating an effective regional platform to address IUU fishing.

Moreover, SEAFDEC actively promotes responsible and sustainable fishing practices among artisanal and small-scale fishers, commercial fisheries, as well as fishing communities, by raising awareness about the adverse consequences of IUU fishing and advocating for compliance with regulations. This initiative is aimed at facilitating regional cooperation and collaboration among Member Countries to collectively tackle IUU fishing, sharing essential information, intelligence, and best practices. SEAFDEC also encourages partnerships with international organizations such as FAO, RPOA-IUU, IMCS-Network, NOAA, and various stakeholders to consolidate resources and expertise, fostering a comprehensive and coordinated approach to combat IUU fishing.

As of the present, the following provides updated information on regional initiatives related to IUU fishing.

1. UPDATES ON REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO COMBAT IUU FISHING

The following are key existing regional mechanisms, initiatives, and activities to combat IUU fishing:

AN-IUU¹: Development of Guidelines on Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-related Information

Under the ASEAN mechanism, a Cooperation Framework, Concept Proposal, Terms of Reference, and Rules of Procedure have been established for the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU). These developments underscore the collective commitment of ASEAN Member States (AMS) to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region. The ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU) is a regional initiative established by the AMSs in 2017 to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Southeast Asian region, and endorsed by ASEAN Ministers during the 42nd of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) Meeting in 2020. AN-IUU serves as a collaborative platform for tackling these challenges through information sharing, capacity building, and regional cooperation, complementing existing mechanisms and initiatives to strengthen the collective effort against IUU fishing in Southeast Asia. The adoption of these frameworks marks a fundamental milestone in the ongoing fight against IUU fishing, providing clear guidelines and procedures for effective collaboration among AMSs and other stakeholders. AN-IUU created the AN-IUU interactive platform, which is real-time

¹ See general information of AN-IUU in **Annex1**



information and assistance when dealing with IUU fishing activities and the Guidelines on Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-related Information was approved at the 44th AMAF Meeting in October 2022. Thailand proposed the draft action plan to effectively implement the Guidelines and agreed by AMSs at the 3rd Meeting of the AN-IUU in 2023, and subsequently approved by the ASWGFi *ad referendum* and subsequently by 45th AMAF in October 2023.

FAO/HQ: FAO Regional Workshop for Asia on the 2022 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, 23–27 October 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

FAO/HQ organized a regional workshop for Asia on the 2022 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment from 23 to 27 October 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand, to promote and discuss the implementation of the 2022 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (VGT). These guidelines set international standards for the regulation, monitoring, and control of transshipment of fish that have not been previously landed, with the aim of combatting illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The workshop aims at facilitating discussions among States, regional fisheries management organizations, and intergovernmental organizations on how to integrate the VGT into broader fisheries management frameworks, assess regional transshipment regulations, explore linkages with other IUU fishing combatting instruments like the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), and identify necessary actions for implementation at national and regional levels, especially for developing states.

RPOA-IUU: Coordination Committee Meetings

The 15th RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee Meeting in Fremantle, Australia, held from 22 to 24 November 2022, brought together 11 participating countries and various advisory bodies and observers. The meeting covered topics like a Joint Ministerial Statement, resolutions on vessels without nationality, and data-sharing mechanisms. It emphasized responsible fisheries practices and combating IUU fishing. International efforts to promote responsible fisheries were discussed, with a call for greater participation in international agreements. The meeting concluded with recommendations for future actions.

Commencing in 2022, Australia has introduced the Combating IUU Fishing and Promoting Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia Program as a component of the RPOA-IUU initiative. This program planned to continue until 2026, is specifically aimed at the AMSs and nations participating in RPOA-IUU. Managed by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (DAFF), and with the backing of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), and CSIRO, the primary objectives of this program involve the enhancement of regional Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) capabilities, as well as the promotion of gender inclusivity in fisheries management. It comprises four integral elements: MCS Training Courses, Officer Exchange Program, Targeted Capacity Building Support, and the Southeast Asia Regional Innovation Fund for Fishing (SEA-RIFF). The 16th Meeting of the RPOA-IUU Coordination Committee Meeting in Dili, Timor Leste and online platform on 26-27 October 2023.

2. SUPPORTING FAO VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON TRANSSHIPMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Based on the Report of the 55th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in May 2023, the Council Directors have strongly emphasized the need for SEAFDEC to proactively promote effective implementation of the 2022 FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment (VGT). In addition, it was recommended that SEAFDEC explore the provision of technical assistance to the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) by means of comprehensive training and capacity-building programs. These proposed measures, including the establishment of vessel tracking protocols based on standardized guidelines, are envisioned to form the fundamental framework for the entire region. To ensure the sustained progress of these initiatives through 2030, it has been suggested that SEAFDEC actively pursue funding opportunities from potential donors. In alignment with these recommendations, SEAFDEC/TD will develop an appropriate regional program to implement capacity-building activities focused on the VGT as a vital tool in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia, which will play a crucial role in strengthening the region's capacity to combat IUU fishing effectively. Moreover, SEAFDEC/TD, in partnership with FAO and in cooperation with pertinent regional and international initiatives and partners including IMCS Network, will jointly undertake in the near future

a series of initiatives aimed at facilitating the development of a regional guidebook to assist Member Countries in the implementation of the FAO-VGT.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the updated information on the regional initiatives for combat IUU Fishing
- To take note and provide recommendations in the effective implementation of the FAO-VGT

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

1. INTRODUCTION

The collaboration between SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member States to encourage the sustainable exploitation of neritic tunas began in 2013. In this connection, the "Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Exploitation of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region (RPOA-Neritic Tunas)" and the formation of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) for Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment in Southeast Asian Waters (SWG-Neritic Tunas) were endorsed by both the SEAFDEC Council and the ASEAN mechanism in 2015. Furthermore, from 2015 to 2019, a total of five meetings took place, with the funding provided by the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project. From 2020 until now, this project was attached to JTF6 Phase 2: Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in Southeast Asian Region" under the second objective. One of the key functions of the SWG-Neritic Tunas is to offer technical and scientific insights into the present condition of neritic tuna fisheries resources and to provide policy recommendations to the SEAFDEC Council for the sustainable utilization and enhancement of fisheries management for neritic tunas in Southeast Asia.

The SWG also conducted a series of stock and risk assessments on neritic tunas and tuna-like species 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 SEAFDEC Council Meetings for approval. Based on earlier discussions and recommendations, many ASEAN Member States have initiated enhancements to their statistical systems to meet data prerequisites for more effective data analysis concerning neritic tuna resources.

Also, a series of workshops was organized from 2016 to 2020. These practical workshops focused on the stock and risk assessments on two tunas neritic as well as two tuna-like species *i.e.*, *S. commerson* and *S. guttatus* using A Stock-Production Model Incorporating Covariates (ASPIC) software. Based on the discussions at the SWG-Neritic Tunas, it was suggested that the stock and risk assessments of these species should be done at least once every three years or once every two years if the stocks are worsened.

2. STATUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, the project extended its data collection efforts with questionnaires, which had been ongoing since 2021. Additionally, it conducted genetic and age composition analyses for specific key neritic tuna species as part of its research approach.

A regional training workshop is planned to be organized in December 2023. This regional training workshop will focus on the stock and risk assessments for *S. commerson* (Narrow-barred Spanish mackerel) and *S. guttatus* (Indo-Pacific king mackerel) in the Southeast Asian region, inviting the SWG-neritic tuna members from eight AMSs, a resource person from Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, SEAFDEC/Sec, SEAFDEC/TD and officials from MFRDMD. Also, the data used in this workshop is the catch and effort data from all the AMSs. Moreover, participants can bring their own data for this upcoming workshop. Lastly, the report for this workshop will be published in 2024.

In addition, MFRDMD already published the report for the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific Working Group for Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment in Southeast Asian Waters in 2023. This meeting was held with online from 23 to 24 August 2022. Furthermore, this publication can be found by online at the SEAFDEC/MFRDMD website or through this link: <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12561/1930>.

With regard to the genetic population study, MFRDMD also conducted DNA analysis for "Clarification of the stock Structure for one Neritic Tuna species (*Euthynnus affinis*) in the Southeast Asian region". The specimens were collected from the 15 different location sites, was succeeded in analyzing a total of 430 specimens using mitochondrial DNA *d-loop* region. The study suggested that *E. affinis* is a single population stock in the Southeast Asian region. Due to unforeseen circumstances, 100 specimens stored at the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) Indonesia were not analyzed and omitted from the analysis.



As for the “Life history study for major neritic tuna species in Southeast Asian region”, which was conducted since 2020, the objective of the study is to study the age structure of the Kawakawa (*E. affinis*) population in the northeastern part of Peninsular Malaysia. The efforts have been enhanced throughout 2023 to complete laboratory-related duties such as embedding, sectioning, refining, mounting, and analyzing otolith samples collected in 2021 and 2022. In all, 444 samples of Kawakawa otoliths were read for annuli rings in 2021, and 558 otolith samples were embedded, sectioned, polished, and mounted till September 2023. This laboratory work will continue for subsequent phases. In addition, a data validation session for otolith annuli rings will be conducted with the resource person in December 2023. This is to ensure that the gathered data will be reliable and impartial. It is expected that the results will be concluded by June 2024.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the activities that had been done by MFRDMD.
- To take note and provide recommendations on the plan to conduct of the Fifth Regional Practical Workshop on Stock and Risk Assessment of Two Seerfish Species that will be organized by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in December 2023.

MIXED-STOCK FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

Mixed-stock fisheries management is foundational in overseeing the harvest of multiple fish stocks in shared fishing grounds, especially when different stocks coexist in common fishing areas or during migrations. SEAFDEC emphasizes the importance of sustainable fisheries management, science-based approaches, overfishing prevention, and bycatch mitigation. In promoting "mixed-stock fisheries management," SEAFDEC supports key principles such as stock assessment, science-based decision-making, and regional/sub-regional cooperation. Challenges extend beyond stock status and population identification in Southeast Asian countries to understanding population structures. The application of mixed-stock fisheries management in ASEAN depends on various factors, and its success necessitates regional cooperation with international support. Upcoming SEAFDEC events include training workshops and capacity-building programs to facilitate the enhancement of fisheries management in Southeast Asia.

Mixed-stock fisheries management is an approach employed to regulate fisheries where multiple stocks or populations of fish species coexist and are harvested within the same fishing areas. This approach becomes particularly relevant when different stocks of the same or different species intermingle during migrations or within shared fishing grounds. In recent decades, there has been a notable emphasis on utilizing tools like MSY (Maximum Sustainable Yield), MEY (Maximum Economic Yield), and various assessment methods to evaluate the status of fisheries. It's worth noting that these tools were originally designed for temperate waters, where single-species fisheries predominated, making their adaptation for mixed-stock scenarios a significant challenge.

SEAFDEC, in close collaboration with FAO, has promoted sustainable fisheries management, with a focus on ensuring the long-term health of fish stocks, environmental well-being, and the prosperity of fishing communities. This commitment involves advocating for science-based management approaches, the prevention of overfishing, and the reduction of bycatch. Even though it does not specifically promote "mixed-stock fisheries management" as a distinct term or concept, it advocates for the principles and practices that underpin effective fisheries management, many of which are relevant to mixed-stock fisheries. These guiding principles encompass:

- Stock Assessment: including the conduct of regular stock assessments to understand the abundance and health of fish stocks. This is necessary for establishing appropriate catch limits and quotas, whether for individual stocks or in instances involving mixed-stock fisheries.
- Science-Based Management: stressing the importance of basing fisheries management decisions on robust scientific data and assessments.
- Preventing Overfishing: advocating for the prevention of overfishing by setting catch limits that are sustainable and ensuring that fishing efforts do not exceed the capacity of fish stocks to replace themselves. This principle holds particular significance in mixed-stock fisheries.
- Bycatch Reduction: promoting the adoption of measures to reduce bycatch and mitigate the impact on non-target species in fishing operations, which is also pertinent in mixed-stock scenarios.
- Regional and Sub-regional Cooperation: providing support for cooperation among countries through the exchange of knowledge and best practices via regional and sub-regional platforms related to fish stock status, all aimed at ensuring effective management, especially in instances where fish stocks migrate across national boundaries.

While this approach to fisheries management is comprehensive, encompassing a variety of practices, its overarching objective is to promote sustainability and responsible management of fisheries resources. Consequently, the principles and best practices recommended by SEAFDEC are applicable not only to mixed-stock fisheries but also to other forms of fisheries, ensuring the preservation of marine resources and the livelihoods of those dependent on them.

A significant challenge faced by many Southeast Asian countries concerns "stock identification" within mixed-stock fisheries. Over the years, through numerous regional programs conducted in collaboration with multiple donors and international partner agencies, SEAFDEC provided support to ASEAN Member States



in comprehending the population structure of various commercially important aquatic species at both regional levels (Southeast Asian region, encompassing neritic tunas, tropical anguillid eels, etc.) and sub-regional levels (Gulf of Thailand sub-region, including short mackerel). Furthermore, SEAFDEC has actively raised awareness among ASEAN Member States about critical fisheries issues that reflect the regional context and the current situation, contributing to the fulfillment of international and regional commitments that serve as the fundamental framework for the sustainable management of fisheries resources. These commitments include the Sustainable Development Goals and relevant conventions aimed at ensuring food security and the health of the oceans, such as UNCLOS, UNFSA, FAO CCRF, and SSF, among others.

2. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES FOR STOCK ASSESSMENT AT NATIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL LEVELS

The recently adopted 2022 WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, which aligns with SDG 14.6, underscores the need to meet specific goals by prohibiting certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to issues including overcapacity, overfishing, and IUU fishing. It also emphasizes the avoidance of introducing new subsidies. The agreement recognizes the importance of special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries as an integral part of WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations. In this connection, in terms of managing fishing capacity while ensuring that fisheries do not suffer from overcapacity and overfishing, the harvesting of fisheries stocks must be conducted at a sustainable level, considering stock availability in relation to critical habitats and the environment. This approach is guided by the most relevant harvest control rules and references. In this context, SEAFDEC, in collaboration with international organizations including ASEAN, FAO, IISD, and others, has been actively involved in capacity-building initiatives. These initiatives aim to enhance knowledge and facilitate the exchange of information regarding the establishment of effective harvest control measures, ultimately promoting the sustainable utilization of coastal and marine fisheries resources within individual countries.

Recently, SEAFDEC, in collaboration with the support of FAO, initiated a series of training workshops on stock assessment starting in 2021. These workshops were designed with the objective of comprehending the present status of stock assessment capabilities in the region. Participants engaged in scrutinizing available datasets from their respective countries, working on stock status estimations through data analysis and modeling, all under the guidance of FAO stock assessment trainers and SEAFDEC resource experts. As a result of these efforts, participants were able to generate a set of stock assessments for commercial fishery species in their respective countries. Notably, they achieved an innovative milestone by developing assessment-data-based evaluations of major stocks in the sub-region, specifically in Area 57.

In early 2023, FAO with the support from SEAFDEC organized a Regional Workshop aimed at establishing a network of practitioners dedicated to fishery stock assessment. This workshop brought together practitioners from across the Asian region and offered comprehensive insights into various stock assessment methods employed in different countries. These assessments typically encompassed a wide range of scenarios, including data-poor to data-rich contexts, multi-gear and multi-species considerations. Moreover, participants presented preliminary findings on the status of fisheries they examined in their respective countries. This collaborative network gained valuable knowledge on applying these approaches to determine appropriate levels of fisheries exploitation and provided updated reports on the status of fish stocks assessed across the Southeast Asian region.

Concurrently, SEAFDEC organized a series of webinars on Fisheries Subsidies during 2020 and 2021. The purpose was to obtain up-to-date information from the Member Countries on the status of negotiations while facilitating the exchange of information among Member Countries on this critical issue. During the 53rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, recommendations were put forth, including a request for capacity building in stock assessment, particularly in defining reference points to address concerns related to overcapacity and overfishing.

3. WAYS FORWARD

The appropriateness of the mixed-stock fisheries management approach for countries would depend on various factors, including the specific fisheries involved, the level of cooperation among members, and the capacity for effective management. Some considerations include as follows:

- Fishery Characteristics: ASEAN Member States have diverse fisheries, ranging from small-scale artisanal fisheries to commercial operations. The applicability of mixed-stock fisheries management can vary depending on the species and scale of the fishery. This approach is typically more relevant to fisheries where different stocks of the same species intermingle during their migrations or in common fishing grounds.
- Cooperation and Coordination: effective mixed-stock fisheries management requires cooperation and coordination among neighboring countries, especially when fish stocks migrate across boundaries. Countries would need to work together to develop and implement management strategies that consider the transboundary nature of many fish stocks in the region.
- Data and Scientific Capacity: accurate stock assessments and stock identification are critical components of mixed-stock fisheries management. Country (s) would need a data collection system in place, scientific expertise, and resources to conduct stock assessments and identify different stocks effectively.
- Enforcement and Compliance: ensuring that fishing vessels follow to catch limits and quotas for each stock is essential. Adequate enforcement and compliance mechanisms would also need to be in place to prevent overfishing and illegal fishing activities.
- Adaptive Management: the ability to adapt management strategies based on a new set of data and changing stock dynamics is crucial. ASEAN Member States would need a flexible and adaptive management framework to respond to changing conditions.
- Bycatch Mitigation: given the diverse marine ecosystems in the ASEAN region, addressing bycatch and protecting non-target species would be important considerations in mixed-stock fisheries management.
- Capacity Building: many countries may require capacity-building support, technical assistance, and training to implement effective mixed-stock fisheries management practices.
- Political Will and Commitment: successful fisheries management requires political will and commitment from governments to prioritize sustainability over economic interests.

In conclusion, the appropriateness of mixed-stock fisheries management for ASEAN Member States relies on their specific circumstances and their capacity to address the challenges associated with this approach. The feasibility and success of such an approach are likely to vary from one fishery to another and may require a regional or sub-regional strategy for optimal effectiveness. Collaboration with international organizations and neighboring countries is also crucial to ensure the sustainable management of jointly shared fish stocks.

4. UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEAFDEC and FAO will co-organize the training workshop on monitoring and assessing Gulf of Thailand fish stocks, at SEAFDEC/TD in February 2024 (TBC)
- Regional Capacity Building Network Program (RECAB on Stock Assessment, hosted by MFRDMD and Secretariat on 4-11 June 2024 (TBC)

Regional Workshop on Sharing Best Practices on Multi-species Stock Assessment Modeling for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia in 2024 (TBC) Regional Workshop on Sharing Best Practices on Multi-species Stock Assessment Modeling for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia in 2024 (TBC)

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the regional initiatives in addressing the issue of mixed stock assessment in Southeast Asia; and
- To provide advice to SEAFDEC in assisting the AMSs on this issue.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL GUIDELINES ON GOOD MANUFACTURING AND HANDLING PRACTICES (GMP & GHP) FOR READY-TO-EAT RAW FISH AND FISHERY PRODUCTS

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's fast-moving world including the ASEAN region, consumers increasingly demand for quick and easy Ready-to-Cook (RTC) foods, or even Ready-to-Eat (RTE) meals. Many consumers are drawn to consuming seafood, because of its high nutritional value, along with its versatility in preparation. Quick and easy-to-prepare RTE seafood dishes include sushi and sashimi, shucked shellfish, and RTC seafood in sauce. However, the minimally processed or raw nature of these foods puts them at high microbiological risk. To mitigate the high microbiological risk while retaining the high nutritional content, it is essential that these foods are prepared under Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices (GMP & GHP) and with reputable technologies such as High-Pressure Processing (HPP) to improve the value, safety, and quality of seafood products. Hence, the project adopted one of a two-pronged approach to enhance the safety and competitiveness of seafood products. This involved developing guidelines for handling and manufacturing raw RTE seafood products, as well as introducing HPP as a novel non-thermal technology.

2. STATUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT

With the goal to strengthen regional capabilities in the safe handling of high-risk seafood, the Regional Guideline on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices (GMP & GHP) is being developed by SEAFDEC/MFRD. This is part of the project, entitled “Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products” funded by the Japanese Trust Fund. This guideline will serve as a guide in the development of national standards for GMP & GHP for Ready-to-Eat raw fish and fishery products. The main content of the guideline comprises of process flow for Ready-to-Eat raw fish and fishery products preparation, good manufacturing and handling practices, and verifications. This guideline applies to the handling, processing, storage, transportation, and retail of ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products, that are intended for human consumption. By following these guidelines which are aligned to international standards, local seafood processors adopt best practices for quality assurance. The draft guideline is in *Appendix 1*.

At present, SEAFDEC/MFRD is working with a local consultant to write the recommendations, incorporating inputs from the Member Countries. The guideline is anticipated to be finalized in the third quarter of 2024. The completed guideline will be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council for review in order to be promoted to the ASEAN Guidelines status. The guideline will be endorsed by the ASEAN Mechanism after being approved by the SEAFDEC Council. The timeline for developing the Regional Guidelines is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Tentative timeline for development of the Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products

October 2020	Virtual Inception Meeting where MCs discussed the scope and implementation plan of the project activities.
July 2021– December 2021	Development of GMP & GHP training materials where MFRD collaborated with a local consultant to develop training materials for RTE fish and fishery products.
April 2022	Virtual Training Workshop on GMP & GHP held by MFRD. All MCs attended the training workshop. It was conducted by a local consultant technical expert to prepare the MCs for the pilot trial.
June 2022–May 2023	1-year pilot trial conducted by the various MCs and survey of the industry practices on GMP & GHP.
June 2023	Mid-term review meeting in Singapore on the results of the findings and experiences on implementing GMP & GHP for fish and fishery products in the Member Countries. Draft Regional Guidelines was developed and deliberated with MCs to improve the draft Regional Guidelines.



November 2023	Present the draft Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products to the Member Countries through the FCG/ASSP to update on the project status and plans.
November 2023– March 2024	Review and compile the necessary inputs from the Member Countries to the draft Regional Guidelines.
April 2024	Submission the draft Guidelines to the 56 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and suggestion.
September 2024	End-of-Project Meeting and finalization of the draft Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products.
November 2024	Report the progress on the development and submission of the final draft Regional Guidelines at the 27FCG/ASSP.
April 2025	Submission of the final draft Regional Guidelines to the 57 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for approval.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the development and plan to submit the draft Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices for Ready-to-Eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products, and
- To provide recommendations to SEAFDEC on this draft Regional Guidelines.

REGIONAL GUIDELINES ON GOOD MANUFACTURING AND HANDLING PRACTICES
(GMP & GHP)
FOR READY-TO-EAT RAW FISH & FISHERY PRODUCTS

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Section 1. General Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Track II of the new JTFVI Phase II Project on “Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products”, focuses specifically on ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products, which are minimally processed or raw nature foods which are high microbiological risk products. The importance of good manufacturing and handling practices for seafood due to its perishable nature and susceptibility to spoiling because of poor temperature control along the supply chain could be accentuated. The microbiological status of ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products such as...reflects the microbiology of materials used for their preparation. The detection of *Vibrio spp.* is indeed related to the fish and shellfish products used (Giuffrida and Panebianco, 2008), while *B. cereus* has been reported in plant foods (especially rice) (Eglezos et al., 2010). *Salmonella spp.* and *L. monocytogenes* can occur in vegetables and dairy products (cheese), while the finding of *S. aureus* is evidence of human contact during the preparation of food (Nogara et al., 2004).

Most fish sold at the general markets and fishery ports are not intended for raw consumption. Depending on the quality of the waters in which they were bred in, harvested from, or transported in, fish could carry a number of parasites or naturally occurring bacteria. Retail food establishments should consider the following when purchasing fish intended for raw consumption.

The objective of this project is to strengthen regional capabilities in handling high-risk seafood products, such as ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products, ensuring these products are consistently produced and controlled according to quality and safety standards.

1.2 Scope

This regional guideline applies to the handling, processing, storage, transportation and retail of ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products, that are intended for human consumption. By following these guidelines which are aligned to international standards, local seafood processors adopt best practices for quality assurance.

1.3 *General Definition

Biotoxins Poisonous substances naturally present in fish and fishery products or accumulated by the animals feeding on toxin-producing algae or in water containing toxins produced by such organisms.

Chilling The process of cooling fish and shellfish to a temperature approaching that of melting ice, with internal core temperature to reach below 4 °C.

Cleaning The removal of soil, food residues, dirt, grease or other objectionable matter.

Contaminant Any biological or chemical agent, foreign matter or other substances not intentionally added to food that may compromise food safety or suitability.

Contamination The introduction or occurrence of a contaminant in fish, shellfish and their products.

Control measure Any action and activity that can be used to prevent or eliminate a food safety hazard or reduce it to an acceptable level.

Corrective action Any action to be taken when the results of monitoring at the CCP indicate a loss of control.

Critical control point (CCP) A step at which control can be applied and is essential to prevent or eliminate a food safety hazard or reduce it to an acceptable level.

Critical limit A criterion that separates acceptability from unacceptability.

Disinfection The reduction by means of chemical agents and/or physical methods in the number of micro-organisms in the environment to a level that does not compromise food safety or suitability.

Facility Any premises where fish and fishery products are prepared, processed, chilled, frozen, packaged or stored.

Fish Any of the cold-blooded (ectothermic) aquatic vertebrates.

Good hygiene practices (GHP) cover the system/ measures for maintaining hygiene and sanitation, which includes personal hygiene and employee health conditions, maintenance of plant and equipment hygiene including food contact surfaces, pest control, waste disposal, water quality, toilet and hand washing facilities to prevent cross-contamination.

Good manufacturing practices (GMP) include manufacture and process controls which covers supplier control, specifications, calibration equipment, traceability and recall, equipment designs where conditions for food safety can be achieved, maintained and monitored, lighting and ventilation systems, storage conditions and control of operations.

Hazard A biological, chemical or physical agent in, or condition of, food with the potential to cause an adverse health effect.

Hazard analysis The process of collecting and evaluating information on hazards and conditions leading to their presence in order to decide which are significant for food safety and, therefore, should be addressed in the HACCP plan.

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) A system that identifies, evaluates and controls hazards that are significant for food safety.

Monitor The act of conducting a planned sequence of observations or measurements of control parameters to assess whether a CCP is under control.

Prerequisite programme/ control A programme that is required prior to the application of the HACCP system to ensure that a fish and shellfish processing facility is operating according to appropriate food safety legislation.



Raw materials Fresh and frozen fish, shellfish and/or their parts that may be utilized to produce fish and shellfish products intended for human consumption.

Ready-to-eat food (RTE) is food intended by the producer or the manufacturer for direct human consumption without the need for cooking or other processing effective to eliminate or reduce to an acceptable level micro-organisms of concern (Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005)

Shelf-life The period during which the product maintains its microbiological and chemical safety and sensory qualities at a specific storage temperature. It is based on identified hazards for the product, heat or other preservation treatments, packaging method and other hurdles or inhibiting factors that may be used.

Validation Obtaining evidence that the elements of the HACCP plan are effective.

Verification The application of methods, procedures, tests and other evaluations, in addition to monitoring to determine compliance with the HACCP plan.

Whole fish (or round fish) Fish as captured, ungutted.

1.4 Ready-to-Eat (Fish & Fishery) Products

Ready-to-eat fish and fishery products in the ASEAN region have gained significant popularity due to their convenience, diverse flavours, and cultural significance. These products cater to the busy lifestyles of consumers who seek quick and convenient meal solutions without compromising on taste and nutrition.

Here are some examples of ready-to-eat fish and fishery products in the region:

Sushi and Sashimi: Sushi and sashimi are traditional Japanese delicacies that have become internationally renowned. Ready-to-eat sushi and sashimi packs offer a variety of fresh fish, such as tuna, salmon, and mackerel, served with rice or as raw fish slices.

Raw Fish Salad (Yam Pla): This traditional Thai dish features raw fish, typically white fish or seafood like shrimp or squid, marinated in lime juice, fish sauce, chili, and other seasonings.

Ceviche: Ceviche is a popular raw fish dish found in several ASEAN countries, including the Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam. It consists of raw fish or seafood marinated in citrus juice, such as lime or calamansi, which chemically "cooks" the fish.

Fish Tartare: Fish tartare is a raw fish preparation finely chopped or minced and mixed with various seasonings, and is typically served as an appetizer or part of a seafood platter, accompanied by bread or crackers.

Kinilaw: Kinilaw is a traditional Filipino dish that showcases raw fish or seafood marinated in vinegar or citrus juice, such as calamansi or kalamansi.

Indonesian Rujak: Rujak is a traditional Indonesian fruit salad that occasionally features thinly slices or finely chopped raw fish or seafood.

Section 2. Process Flow for ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products Preparation

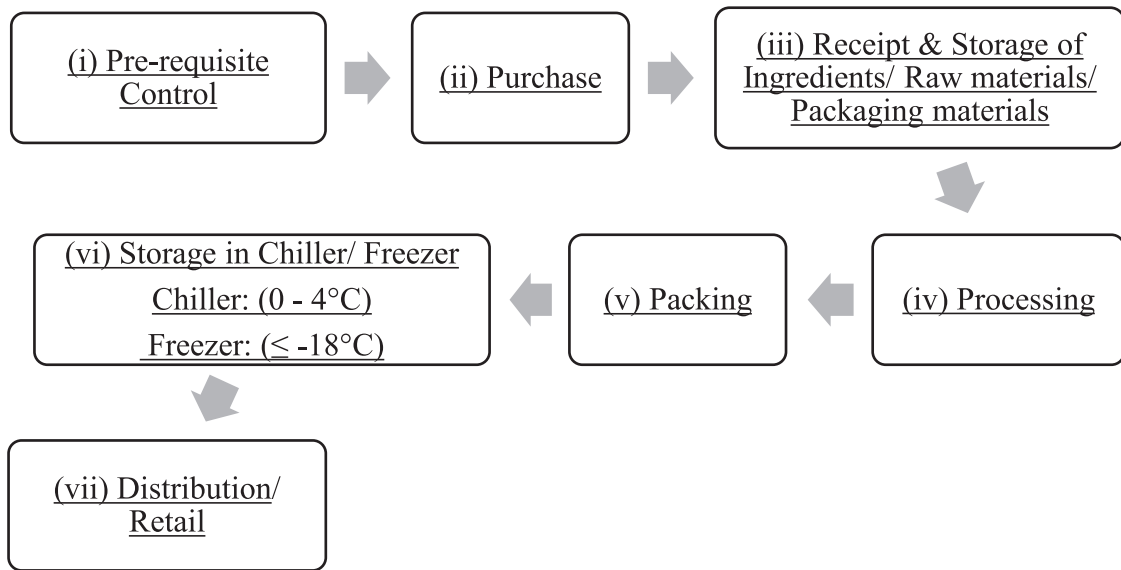


Figure 1: Flow Diagram of ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products

Section 3. Good Manufacturing & Handling Practices

(i) Pre-Requisite Controls



a. Good personal hygiene



b. Proper facility



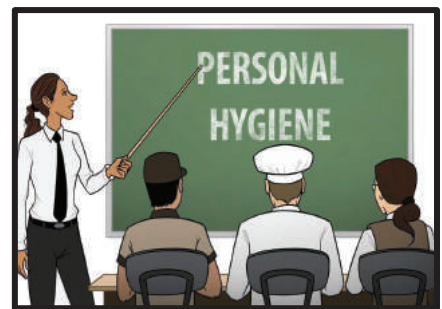
c. Choose suppliers and develop supplier specifications



d. Proper cleaning and sanitation



e. Appropriate equipment maintenance



f. Training

Figure 2. Examples of Pre-Requisite Controls



(a) Good Personal Hygiene

The potential effects of harvesting and handling of products, on-board vessel handling or in-plant production activities on the safety and suitability of fish, shellfish and their products should be always considered. This includes all points where contamination may exist and taking specific measures to ensure the production of a safe and wholesome product. The type of control and supervision needed will depend on the size of the operation and the nature of its activities. Schedules should be implemented to:

- protect the fish, shellfish and their products from contamination;
- dispose of any rejected material in a hygienic manner;
- monitor personal hygiene and health standards.

Personal Hygiene

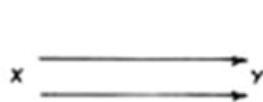
- i. Production operation workers should wear full personal protective clothing, always maintain cleanliness of their gloves, and wash their hands regularly when handling food. This is to prevent contamination of food by foreign matter such as the hair, saliva or mucus of production operation workers. It also maintains food safety and hygiene of food.
- ii. Production operation workers should always keep their nails clean and well-trimmed.
- iii. All accessories such as watches and rings should be removed during food preparation.
- iv. Personal protective clothing such as face masks, hair nets, aprons, gloves and boots should be worn during the preparation and serving of food.
- v. Personal protective clothing should be washed or replaced when dirty to prevent contamination of food.
- vi. All personal protective clothing worn during food preparation should be removed when leaving the food preparation area.
- vii. Production operation workers should avoid direct contact with ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products without gloves on. Clean chopsticks or tongs can be used instead.
- viii. Hands should be frequently washed with soap and water and sanitised, especially before food preparation and after going to the toilet, handling raw food and coming into contact with non-food items and surfaces.
- ix. Production operation workers should not smoke, spit, drink, eat or touch their hair, body and clothing when preparing or serving food.
- x. Disposable gloves (such as vinyl, nitrile, polyvinyl, chloroprene, or polyethylene gloves) or single-use gloves should be used for one continuous task only. Change of gloves should be done regularly to prevent cross-contamination between different types of food or surfaces.
- xi. Gloves should be removed and thrown away before production operation workers go to the toilet, smoke, eat, drink or touch their hair, scalp or body.
- xii. Gloves cannot be reused once removed.

Health Status, Illness & Injuries

- i. Personnel known or suspected to be ill or carrying a disease likely to be transmitted through food should not enter any food handling area if there is a likelihood of them contaminating food. Any person so affected should immediately report illness or symptoms of illness to the management. It may be appropriate for personnel to be excluded for a specific time after symptoms resolve or, for some illnesses, to get medical clearance before returning to work.
- ii. Personnel with cuts and wounds should, where necessary, be assigned to work in areas where they will have no direct contact with food. Where personnel are permitted to continue working, cuts and wounds should be covered by suitable waterproof plasters and, where appropriate, gloves. Appropriate measures should be applied to ensure plasters do not become a source of contamination (e.g. plasters of contrasting colour compared to the food and/or detectable using a metal detector or X-ray detector).
- iii. Production operation workers should not handle food when sick/suffering from vomiting, diarrhoea or fever or when they have open wounds on their fingers and hands.

(b) Proper Facility

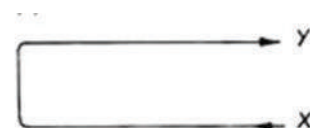
- i. The facility should include a product flow-through pattern that is designed to prevent potential sources of contamination, minimize process delays (which could result in further reduction in essential quality), and prevent cross-contamination of finished product from raw materials. Therefore, the facility should be designed to facilitate rapid processing and subsequent storage. [include a sample floor plan – “I”, “L”, “U”]
- ii. I-shaped product flow and L-shaped product flow, also known as through flow, provides larger sorting and storage areas for both shipping and receiving docks as well as allowing for isolated monitoring of each function.
- iii. A U-shaped product flow is the most common type of layout, offers shared utilization of dock resources such as personnel and material handling equipment. This layout also minimizes product handling.



(a) I-shaped flow



(b) L-shaped flow



(c) U-shaped flow

- iv. The design and construction of a facility should take into consideration the ease of cleaning and disinfection. The surfaces of walls, partitions and floors should be made of impervious, nontoxic materials. All surfaces with which fish, shellfish and their products might come into contact should be of corrosion-resistant, impervious material that is light-coloured, smooth and easily cleanable.
- v. Adequate facilities should be provided for the handling and washing of products and should have an adequate supply of cold potable water for this purpose.



- vi. Monitor the Pest Control Programme

(c) Choose suppliers and develop supplier specifications

- i. Consistent with food safety and quality requirements, ingredients should be purchased from known or approved sources under the control of competent health authorities.
- ii. Retail operators should develop and use written purchase specifications designed to ensure food safety and desired quality levels.
- iii. Verification of supplier's programme or supplier's quality audit should be established to control quality of supplies of raw fish and fishery.

(d) Proper Cleaning & Sanitation

- i. Cloths with prepared disinfectant or bleach solution should be soaked and used to wipe all frequently touched areas.
- ii. A steady wiping motion should be applied when cleaning either floors or horizontal surfaces, to prevent the creation of aerosols or splashing.
- iii. An appropriate contact time, temperature should be adopted for complete penetration of the disinfectant/ sanitiser into the filth (according to manufacturer's instructions).
- iv. Cleaning tools should be colour-coded or labelled to enable users to differentiate the tools used for the different areas, to prevent cross-contamination.
- v. All accessible surfaces should be cleaned.
- vi. Equipment used should be easily dissembled for cleaning and maintenance.
- vii. Cleaning tools should be maintained and stored in clean and hygienic conditions.
- viii. The effectiveness and suitability of different cleaning methods/ chemicals should be critically assessed and verified.
- ix. Monitor cleaning and disinfecting programmes.
- x. Monitor the quality and safety of water and ice supplies.

(e) Appropriate Equipment Calibration and Preventive Maintenance

- i. Where appropriate, equipment should be cleaned and stored in a place to protect it from contamination.
- ii. Where appropriate, equipment (e.g. thermometers) should be calibrated regularly.
- iii. The food-contact surfaces of the equipment must be made of waterproof, non-toxic materials and should not be corroded or damaged in any way.
- iv. All equipment and food contact surfaces used in the packing of ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products must be clean and well maintained.

- v. The condition of the equipment and utensils should be such that it minimizes the build-up of residues and prevents them becoming a source of contamination.
- vi. The design and construction equipment and utensils should take into consideration the ease of cleaning and disinfection.
- vii. Equipment should be durable and movable and/or capable of being disassembled to allow for maintenance, cleaning, disinfection and monitoring.
- viii. Equipment, containers and utensils coming into contact with fish, shellfish and their products should be designed to provide for adequate drainage and constructed to ensure that they can be adequately cleaned, disinfected and maintained to avoid contamination.
- ix. Equipment and utensils should be designed and constructed to minimize sharp inside corners and projections and tiny crevices or gaps in order to avoid dirt traps. The food contact surfaces must be smooth.
- x. Tools and utensils ought to be cleaned, sanitised and stored away (whenever appropriate).

(f) Training

- i. Fish or shellfish hygiene training is of fundamental importance. All personnel should be aware of their role and responsibility in protecting fish or shellfish from contamination and deterioration.
- ii. Handlers should have the necessary knowledge and skill to enable them to handle fish or shellfish hygienically.
- iii. Those who handle strong cleaning chemicals or other potentially hazardous chemicals should be instructed in safe handling techniques.

Each fish and shellfish facility should ensure that individuals have received adequate and appropriate periodic training in the design and proper application of a robust food safety system and process control.

(g) Quality of ice/water

- i. Water, as well as ice made from water, should be fit for its intended purpose based on a risk-based approach.
- ii. Control of ice/ water quality to minimize the presence of many potential hazards (e.g. biological, chemical, physical).
- iii. Water and ice should be stored and handled in a manner that does not result in their becoming contaminated.
- iv. If water is used as the thawing medium, then it should be of potable quality.
- v. If re-circulated water is used, then care must be taken to avoid the build-up of microorganisms.
- vi. An adequate supply of clean seawater or potable water should be available for the washing of product during and after skinning.
- vii. Where water is used to cool crustaceans for immediate shucking, it should be potable water or clean seawater. The same water should not be used for cooling more than one batch.



(ii) Purchase

- (a) Purchase from suppliers who can show the quality of the fish, e.g. by providing a health certificate (or HACCP certificate/equivalent) by the relevant authority of the country of origin. Ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products must be obtained from regulated and reputable sources with temperature monitoring records available to verify the freshness of fish.
- (b) Fish to be consumed raw should be packed in a clean and hygienic environment to avoid cross-contamination.
- (c) Transportation of raw fish should be chilled between 0 and 4 °C.
- (d) Upon receipt, check the temperature of the fish using a temperature gauge/temperature gun and that the fish remains fresh, wholesome and of good quality. Indications to look out for in fish may include firm, shiny flesh with no discoloration, clear eyes, bright red gills free from slime and lack of fishy odour.

In short, all ingredients, raw materials and packaging material should be obtained from licensed and approved sources. Relevant licenses and certificates, product specifications and certificates of analysis should be made readily available.

(iii) Receipt & Storage of Ingredients/ Raw materials/ Packaging materials

(a) Dry Ingredients

- i. Typical ingredients used for the manufacturing of **include salt, sugar, vinegar, acidulants and other permitted additives**. These ingredients are usually stored at room temperature. The ingredients are added during the seasoning step to enhance the texture, taste and flavour of the finished products.
- ii. Storage of ingredients in a clean and dry environment is necessary to prevent pest infestation (e.g. rats, cockroaches) and microbial growth (e.g. mould) which thrive in dirty and damp environments.
- iii. The packaging of these ingredients shall be intact, undamaged and properly labelled. Ingredients should be stored above the floor in a clean and dry room with proper housekeeping away from areas with any contaminants.

(b) Fresh/ Chilled/ Frozen Raw Materials

- i. The raw materials used will include chilled or frozen fish that may or may not be degutted. Frozen fish are usually filleted.
- ii. Raw fish received in the whole or filleted form should be appropriately labelled and packaged. Raw fish and fishery products should not be subjected to temperature abuse prior to and after receipt.
- iii. Good cold storage practices after receipt of raw fish, especially sashimi, must be maintained at a required temperature zone.
- iv. Cross-contamination between raw fish and fishery products and other raw or cooked ingredients must be avoided during cold storage.

- v. Ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products are high-risk food prone to attack by foodborne pathogens. If stored under inappropriate cold storage condition, pathogens can easily grow to an unsafe limit. These pathogens can cause food poisoning when consumed due to the lack of heat treatment before consumption.
- vi. The fish should also be subjected to a process to control any parasites e.g. candling, trimming belly flaps and/ or physically removing the parasite cysts. Regularly monitor fish for any signs of parasite infestation, such as unusual behaviour, visible parasites, or physical symptoms. Early detection allows for timely intervention and treatment to prevent the spread of parasites and minimize their impact on fish health.
- vii. Whole and filleted fish shall be properly labelled with the weight of fish, country of origin, species of fish, date of harvest etc. Whole fish shall be packaged in a Styrofoam box and iced. Filleted fish should be vacuum packed and packaged in a Styrofoam box and iced.
- viii. In order to maintain optimum fish quality, fish, once caught should be chilled to 0°C as quickly as possible. Ice chills fish by surface heat transfer either by direct contact between fish and ice or by cold melt water running over the fish surface. Hence, the more ice in contact with the fish the quicker the cooling rate. Even quicker cooling can be achieved by immersing the fish in a mixture of iced water which allows maximum surface heat transfer.
- ix. Temperature of fish should be in the range of 0–4°C for chilled fishes and $\leq -18^{\circ}\text{C}$ for frozen fishes. Temperature ought to be monitored and recorded. Temperature monitoring device must be calibrated at least once a year by accredited companies.
- x. Raw fish and fishery products must be adequately covered with the packaging intact during receipt and stored in a refrigerator (for chilled fish) or freezer (for frozen fish). Raw fish and fishery products should be unloaded from the chilled transport vehicle and transferred to the inhouse cold storage room as quickly as possible to minimise exposure to room temperature.
- xi. Extensive handling by production operation workers and no heat treatment are involved to process raw fish and fishery products.
- xii. There is a high risk of microbial proliferation if raw fish and fishery products are subjected to temperature abuse or a break in cold chain, as most foodborne pathogens thrive in the temperature range of 5–60°C. Bacteria present on uncooked fish or meat can be transferred onto ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products and cooked ingredients.
- xiii. Ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products must be stored separately from uncooked and cooked ingredients, in separate chillers or freezers if possible. If stored in the same chiller or freezer, uncooked and cooked ingredients as well as ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products must be segregated and stored in clean, food grade, containers which are completely sealed.
- xiv. These ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products and cooked ingredients should be stored above uncooked ingredients in the same chiller or freezer to prevent raw liquids from uncooked food such as meat from dripping onto ready-to-eat and cooked food.
- xv. When packaging is compromised, the ingredient within will either be contaminated by the external environment or leak out. The stored ingredient will be in contact with foreign matter



such as dirt and dust, become more prone to insect infestation and may increase its likelihood of spoilage. Wastage occurs and insufficient ingredients might be available. Ingredient storage rooms should be situated away from toilets, sources of dust, smoke, odours and other contaminants.

- xvi. Usage of ingredients should be based on a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) or First-Expired-First Out (FEFO) principle to facilitate stock rotation. This prevents wastage and eliminates the risk of tainting food with unwholesome ingredients that have passed their use-by date.

(c) Packaging Materials and labelling

- i. Packaging material (in direct contact with fish and fishery products) must be food-grade and non-toxic to prevent chemicals from packaging from leaching into food.
- ii. Materials such as polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP) bags are commonly used to vacuum-pack fish after they have been processed before being packed in styrofoam boxes to be distributed to the respective retail outlets.
- iii. Cling wraps are also commonly used to wrap food in contact with ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products such as ~~sushi~~ rice to keep them always covered. They should be stored under clean and dry conditions to avoid any form of contamination.
- iv. Packaging is responsible for protecting the final product from any external contamination during delivery and retail. Damaged or dirty packaging can cause the product to be contaminated.
- v. The packaging storage room should be located away from food handling areas to reduce risk of contamination.
- vi. Labelling is mandatory to correctly identify the source, composition and use-by date of the ingredient. Labelling facilitates easy identification, traceability and storage of fish according to date of receipt. The following information should be printed on packaging labels of the ingredients:
 - Name of ingredient
 - Name and address of manufacturer or importer
 - Country of origin
 - Net Weight
 - Expiry date/ use-by date
 - Other relevant requirements for labelling stipulated under the Food Regulations in the respective countries.
 - Batch numbers or any other means of identification should ideally also be printed for traceability reasons.
 - List allergens
- iv. Regular housekeeping must be carried out to eliminate possible sources of contamination of the ingredients for effective pest management. All unused items in storage room should be removed to prevent it from becoming a breeding ground for pests.

(iv) Processing of raw fish

Low temperature conditions are required to limit proliferation of foodborne pathogens in ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products ~~sashimi~~. Prolonged exposure to air will also accelerate the microbial growth. Dirty and/ or poorly maintained equipment may become a source of contamination for the products.

(a) Scaling and Degutting of raw fish

- i. Scales should be removed thoroughly, otherwise it will be a source of physical contamination to the product.
- ii. Fish should be degutted and washed thoroughly (both outside and inside) to prevent the acceleration of the growth of spoilage microorganisms. Hence chilled fish should be scaled and be degutted before they are further processed.
- iii. Wash water to be kept chilled and is potable.
- iv. Scaling and degutting processing should be done in batches at low temperatures.
- v. All equipment and surfaces used in the scaling and degutting process such as the knife, scaler, trays, chopping board and tabletop must be kept clean and well-maintained.

(b) Portioning of raw fish

- i. Cutting the pieces of the fish into smaller portions to suit the demand of the retail restaurants must be done in a clean work environment.
- ii. Portioning process should be carried out at low temperatures with minimum delays. Portioning processing should be done in batches.
- iii. The equipment must be washed and sanitized at the end of each processing day and whenever appropriate.
- iv. Equipment for raw and cooked food items must be kept and used separately.

(v) Packing

- i. Packing of raw fish and fishery products must be done at low temperatures and with minimal delay to minimise any possibility of cross-contamination and microbial growth. Low temperature conditions are required to limit proliferation of foodborne pathogens in raw fish and fishery products.
- ii. Prolonged exposure to air will also accelerate the microbial growth.
- iii. Well-insulated fish containers such as Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) or Styrofoam boxes should be used for tertiary packaging.
- iv. Suitable ice or gel packs should be added to the fish container (tertiary packaging) to improve the cooling capacity of the container.
- v. Packaging should be properly labelled to ensure traceability of raw fish and fishery products.
(It is recommended to pack the vacuumed packed raw fish and fishery products into containers that are well designed with drainage vents to allow the melt water to be efficiently removed.)



(vi) Storage in Chiller/ Freezer

- i. Storage of the sealed fishes in a non-designated open area in a haphazard manner may increase risk of contamination by pests, chemicals and foreign objects (e.g. dust, dirt, sand etc). It should be stored in the chiller / freezer room at appropriate temperatures to prevent microbial growth and quality deterioration.
- ii. Temperature monitoring device must be calibrated at least once a year by accredited companies.

(vii) Distribution/ Retail

- i. The deliveries of the packed fish in containers (e.g. Styrofoam box) are taken to the loading bay to be transferred into (pre-cooled) delivery trucks which has a temperature-controlled compartment. Delivery trucks send the consignments to various retail outlets and clients such as hotels.
- ii. The packaging for raw fish and fishery products should always be intact and should not be compromised during distribution to prevent their exposure to the external environment.
- iii. The raw fish and fishery products should be delivered in clean, well-maintained and refrigerated enclosed trucks to protect them from contamination by dust, dirt or fumes from vehicles.
- iv. Retail chillers should be maintained at temperatures 0 - 4°C.

Section 4. Verifications

(i) Microbiological Testing of Ready-to-Eat Products

A microbiological testing schedule should be established and followed to ensure food safety of raw fish and fishery products.

The amount of Enterobacteriaceae (including *Escherichia coli* of any strain) detected in any ready-to-eat food, must be less than 10,000 colony forming units per gram. The amount of *Escherichia coli* of any strain detected must be less than 100 colony forming units per gram. *Clostridium perfringens* and Coagulase-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* must be less than 100 colony forming units per gram, whereas *Bacillus cereus* must be less than 200 colony forming units per gram. No pathogen, including *Listeria*, *Salmonella*, *Vibrio* and any parasites or worms should be detected in all ready-to-eat raw fish and fishery products ~~Sushi and Sashimi~~.

(ii) Verification of Sanitation Efficacy

A visual inspection is a common method to check that the cleaning has been completed. It is necessary to check that chemicals have been used at the required doses and contact time, hot water is at the correct temperature and food handlers have been adequately trained in cleaning procedures.

With any type of cleaning there needs to be some type of verification process in place. What this means is one needs to:

- Check that the cleaning has been completed
- Check that the cleaning has been effective

The most common methods used in verification are microbiological swabbing, Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) swabbing, allergen swabbing or finished product testing for key hazards.

- Microbiological Swabbing

- i. The sterile swab stick shall be dipped into 5mL of sterile BPW for 5-10 seconds
- ii. The area of interest shall be swabbed by rolling the cotton bud on the surface horizontally and then vertically – ensuring the entire surface is covered:

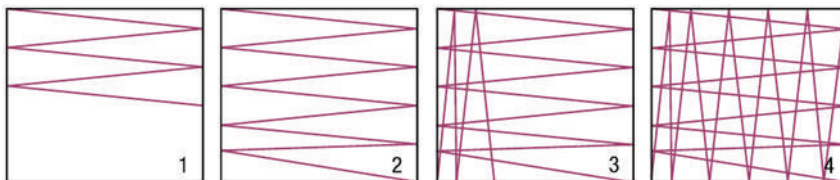


Figure 3: Directions for microbiological swabbing on surface

- iii. The swab stick is then placed back into the sterile diluent then plated on the appropriate agar dish.

- ATP Swabbing

- i. The sterile swab stick shall be used to swab the area using the rolling method.
- ii. The swab stick is placed back into the designated holder.
- iii. The solution vial shall be snapped to release the solution into the swab stick.
- iv. The holder shall be thoroughly mixed (by moving left and right) for at least 5 secs.
- v. The swab stick is inserted into the ATP reader for the Relative Light Unit (RLU) values.

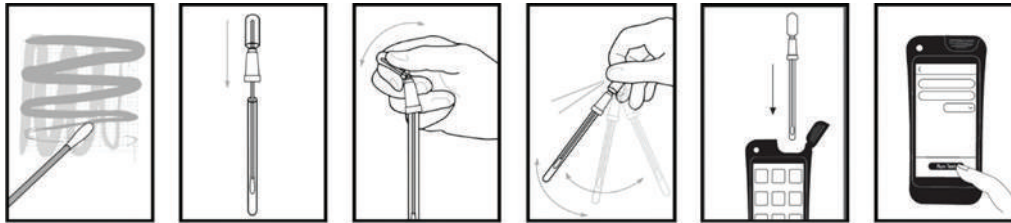


Figure 4: Directions for ATP swabbing and measurement

(iii) Documentaion & Records Keeping

- Documentation should be maintained to allow traceability from harvest/ purchase to distribution, in accordance with the jurisdictional requirements.
- Documentation concerning all procedures and records appropriate to processes should be established.
- A current, accurate and concise record-keeping system will greatly enhance the effectiveness of any food safety management programme and facilitate the verification process.
- Appropriate records for the business operation should be retained for a period that exceeds the shelf-life of the product or as determined by the competent authority.

- Section 5. References Joint FAO/ WHO Food Standards Programme, Codex Alimentarius Commission – Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products
- Joint FAO/ WHO Food Standards Programme, Codex Alimentarius Commission – General Principles of Food Hygiene CXC 1-1969
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Bangkok) A Regional Guidance on Criteria for Good Manufacturing Practices/ Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (GMP/ HACCP) for Asian Countries, 2014.

CITES-RELATED ISSUES

1. INTRODUCTION

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an internationally legally binding agreement between governments (Parties). It was signed on 3 March 1973 and entered into force on 1 July 1975, with the aim to ensure that 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 February 2023, CITES regulates international trade in over 40,900 species of animals and plants, including their products and derivatives, ensuring their survival in the wild, and providing benefits for the livelihoods of local people and the global environment. The species are grouped in the Appendices (I, II, and III) based on the degree to which they are threatened by international trade. Following the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (CoP19), which took place in Panama in November 2022, several Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) including sharks (*Carcharhinidae* spp) were listed in the CITES Appendix II of the Convention.

Southeast Asian countries supply fish and fish products to the global markets. The listing of CEAS in the CITES Appendices is critical facing the fisheries sector of Southeast Asia, as it has the potential to impact not only fisheries management but also the economies of the countries in the region. These impacts are anticipated not only as a result of regulations on the trade of species listed in the CITES Appendices but also in the trade of look-alike species and in the trade of parts or processed forms of these species.

SEAFDEC has continuously supported the AMSs in addressing trade-related issues, particularly concerning CITES, and has enhanced the AMSs' data collection efforts on internationally concerning aquatic species. These species include marine turtles, sharks and rays, sea cucumbers, tunas, anguillid eels, and others. In addition, SEAFDEC has provided regional forums to discuss the possibility to discuss the possibility of developing common or coordinated positions based on scientific evidence. These positions aim to assist the fisheries and CITES authorities of the respective countries in effectively voicing their concerns during CITES CoP meetings.

This paper provides updated information on CITES-related meetings and ongoing regional initiatives by SEAFDEC to enhance the capacities of the AMSs in 2023.

2. UPDATED INFORMATION ON CITES-RELATED MEETINGS

- **Regional Workshop on Implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) for Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.) in Asia, 14-17 March 2023, Cebu, the Philippines**

All seahorses have been listed in CITES Appendix II since 2002. During the 74th Standing Committee, in particular to seahorses, it was noted that Parties can fulfill their obligations regarding seahorses under the Convention in two ways: either by a) increasing their efforts to address illegal trade; or by b) ensuring that seahorses are traded are sourced sustainably and applying the CITES Appendix II listing following precautionary approach.

From 14 to 17 March 2023, SEAFDEC was invited to participate in the Regional Workshop on Implementation of the CITES for Seahorses in Asia in Cebu, the Philippines. The Regional Workshop was co-hosted by Project Seahorse, IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group, along with the Zoological Society of London-Philippines, in collaboration with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI). The Regional Workshop was attended by representatives from relevant government agencies (including fisheries, forestry, coastal and marine resources, marine parks, and the environment), experts from universities, local NGOs, and representatives from FAO, TRAFFIC, and SEAFDEC. The participants were organized into country-based groups to facilitate discussion. The focus of the discussion was on the country-specific assessments related to CITES implementation for Appendix II species. This included non-detriment findings (NDFs), legal acquisition findings (LAFs), monitoring to support adaptive management, and enforcement. Each



country analyzed its unique situation and developed possible actions, considering that the export of seahorses is legal and sustainable. The outcomes of the Workshop were reported to the 32nd Meeting of Animals Committee (AC32) of CITES, which was held in June 2023. It's worth noting that, under this program, a guidebook on Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) document development has been introduced. This guidebook will serve as a useful reference for the national development of species-specific NDF documents.

- **32nd Meeting of Animals Committee of CITES relevant to CEAS**

After the COP19, the 32nd Meeting of Animals Committee (AC32) of CITES was held in June 2023, in Geneva, Switzerland. AC32 focused on CITES trade regulations and compliance, capacity building, and species-specific matters related to animals listed in the CITES Appendices, including aquatic species such as sharks and rays, eels, sea cucumbers, seahorses, marine ornamental fishes, among others. *In-session* working groups were established during AC32 to discuss specific topics including captive breeding of stony corals, and sharks, nomenclature, and Review of Significant Trade. The AC32 approved the inclusion of species/country combination in stage 2 of RST, including all mobula ray species in Sri Lanka; great hammerhead sharks in Mexico; scalloped hammerhead sharks in China, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Oman, Sri Lanka, and Yemen; and oceanic whitetip sharks in Kenya, Oman, Senegal, and Yemen. The AC32 also established five *intersession* working groups to work after the AC32 and report to the next AC33 in July 2024 to discuss relating to seahorses, stony corals, eels, nomenclature, and the role of CITES in reducing the risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international trade.

Furthermore, during AC32, SEAFDEC served as one of the panelists at the side event organized by FAO titled “Needs and Solutions to Enable Parties to Service CITES Provisions for CoP19 Listed Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species” on 19 June 2023. SEAFDEC also shared information on measures implemented by the Southeast Asian countries in the management and conservation of shark resources and fisheries, the current status of shark and ray management and conservation in the region, and regional needs in terms of capacity building and financing.

Upcoming CITES Events

77 th Meeting of the Standing Committee	6-10 November 2023, Geneva, Switzerland
International Expert Workshop on CITES Non-Detriment Findings	4-8 December 2023, Nairobi, Kenya
33 rd Meeting of the Animals Committee	July 2024, Geneva, Switzerland
78 th Meeting of Standing Committee	Q1/2025
20 th CITES CoP	2025

3. SEAFDEC ONGOING PROJECTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

SEAFDEC has continued to provide support to the AMSs through the implementation of regional projects aiming at enhancing the capacities of the AMSs. These projects focus on data collection of aquatic species under international concern, including vulnerable species that may be subject to CITES. They also cover other areas such as species identification, data collection on catch and landings, stock assessment, socioeconomic assessment, non-detriment findings, aquaculture, and stock enhancement of these species. Ongoing projects are being carried out by SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments as follows:

- Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region (by MFRDMD/ JTF/2020–2024)
- Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia (by Secretariat/ASEAN-JAIF/2020–2024)
- Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region (by IFRDMD/JTF/2020–2024)
- Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues (by Secretariat/JTF/2020–2024)

In addition, the SEAFDEC Secretariat was invited to participate in the 18th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Wildlife Enforcement (AWG-CITES and WE) in May 2023. The purpose of their participation was to present the activities aimed at addressing CITES-related issues, including the outcomes 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. This consultation took place from 30 August to 1 September 2022, and resulted in the formulation of the countries' positions regarding the proposed listing CEAS into the CITES Appendices. These species include *Carcharhinidae* spp., *Sphyrnidae* spp., *Potomotrygon* spp., *Thelonota* spp., and *Hypancistrus zebra*. prior to the CITES COP19.

Based on previous SEAFDEC Council Meetings, the Member Countries faced challenges such as the development of non-detriment findings, lack of data set for stock assessment, and limited knowledge on the identification of lookalike species, particularly on sharks.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the updated information from CITES-related meetings in 2023 and SEAFDEC ongoing projects and related activities in the Southeast Asian region; and
- To provide policy directives regarding the implementation of regional and national initiatives related to CITES-listed CEA species.

SUMMARY OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

The FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade serves as an international forum for consultations on technical and economic aspects of international trade in fish and fishery products, which including pertinent aspects of production and consumption. The 19th Session of Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (19COFI:FT) was organized by FAO and hosted by the Norwegian government. This event took place from 11 to 15 September 2023 in Bergen, Norway. The Meeting was attended by the country delegates from FAO member nations, observers from international organizations, international non-governmental organizations, as well as SEAFDEC, among others.

During the 19COFI:FT, a wide range of significant international trade-related issues were reviewed and discussed. Major topics included food safety in connection with market access for aquatic products; trade and market access considerations for small-scale fisheries; combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing; implementation of Port States Measures (PSM); traceability; catch documentation scheme (CDS); as well as biodiversity conservation and international trade.

Additionally, the 19COFI:FT acknowledged recent agreements and international instruments pertaining to trade. These included WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Treaty); FAO Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture, FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment; among others.

The 19COFI:FT recommended FAO to provide technical assistance in various aspects such as:

- Ongoing WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies
- Developing initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of aquatic foods and assisting countries with climate change adaptation
- Supporting members with methodologies and tools to improve their data collection and developing a global strategy on fisheries and aquaculture statistics to assist countries in collecting high-quality data for better sector management and identifying relevant trends
- Developing guidance for the evaluation and management of marine biotoxins, particularly for bivalve molluscs and gastropods
- Addressing the need for standards to test microplastics in food and obtaining additional scientific evidence and data on cell-based aquatic products to determine their food safety implications
- Providing support for the forthcoming commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the SSF Guidelines during the next SSF Summit, to be convened in July 2024
- Continuing to deepen insights into the complexities and trade perspective of IUU fishing and identifying options for addressing it
- Collaborating with CITES in developing and reviewing the technical guidance on identifying lookalike species and supporting Members in the non-detriment findings document development. This includes continued collaboration with the CITES Secretariat and Parties to support the implementation of CITES provisions for commercially exploited aquatic species once they enter into force.

During the 19COFI:FT, SEAFDEC reaffirmed its commitment and offered updates on its activities designed to assist the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in addressing global fish trade-related issues. These initiatives notably include efforts to combat IUU fishing and implement regional capacity-building programs on fish stock assessment and the PSM Agreement. Furthermore, SEAFDEC emphasized its dedication to collaborating closely with FAO and other international organizations to support the AMSs in achieving their objectives for the sustainable utilization of fishery resources and the well-being of the people in Southeast Asia.

Suggested Follow-up Actions for the Southeast Asian region

Based on the issues mentioned, SEAFDEC can consider the following recommended actions derived from the 19COFI:FT as follows:



Fisheries: Planning, Management, and Trade

- Actively engage and contribute to the ongoing World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on fisheries subsidies to ensure that regional interests and concerns are addressed within the context of trade policies related to fisheries
- Provide support to Member Countries in enhancing their data collection methodologies and tools related to fisheries and aquaculture. Additionally, contributes to the development of a global strategy on fisheries and aquaculture statistics to assist countries in collecting high-quality data for effective sector management
- Facilitate the establishment of standards for testing microplastics in food products, ensuring the safety and quality of seafood
- Provide support for the forthcoming commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines during the next SSF Summit, scheduled for July 2024
- Support Member Countries in combating IUU fishing with a focus on trade perspectives and explore future options in terms of technology and innovation for effectively addressing IUU fishing in the region
- Continue close collaboration with CITES regarding the review of technical documents related to the identification of lookalike aquatic species and technical support for Member Countries in the development of NDFs as requested. Additionally, collaborate with the CITES Secretariat and Parties to support the implementation of CITES provisions for commercially exploited aquatic species once they enter into force.

Aquaculture:

- Continue working on initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of the significance of aquatic foods and assisting member countries with climate change adaptation strategies in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors
- Facilitate the development of regional technical guidance for the evaluation and management of marine biotoxins, with a particular focus on bivalve molluscs and gastropods, to ensure the safety of aquatic food products

Reference: Report of 19COFI:FT (<https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi-sub-committee-on-fish-trade/en/>)

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the summary of the Nineteenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, organized by FAO.
- To provide policy recommendations to guide SEAFDEC in its subsequent actions.

MARINE BIODIVERSITY POLICIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

INTRODUCTION

The fisheries sector plays a crucial role in contributing to the global economy, food security, and nutrition. Environmental degradation, overcapacity (including illegal and non eco-friendly fishing), and the threats posed by climate change are considered significant challenges for fisheries and aquatic habitats. These issues threaten their sustainability and the livelihoods of the millions of people who depend on these resources. Global efforts have been made to progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goal, which aims for prosperity while safeguarding the planet. Fisheries are focusing on implementing actions to address SDG14, emphasizing the importance of conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas, and marine resources.

Two new international agreements have been endorsed: the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). These agreements aim to conserve biodiversity in the ocean.

This paper outlines the new global biodiversity-related policies that will impact fisheries and explores how the regional plans to respond to their implementation.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022)

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) is a new global policy framework for biodiversity, encompassing a range of services that it provides for people, including livelihoods, nutrition, and addressing climate change. It was adopted at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 19 December 2022. The new GBF was built upon the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its achievements, gaps, and lessons learned, as well as the experience and achievements of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements. It sets out an ambitious plan to implement broad-based actions to transform societies' relationship with biodiversity by 2030, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. The framework aims to ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is realized. The vision of the GBF is a world where “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”

The GBF comprises four (4) goals for 2050 and twenty-three (23) action-oriented global targets towards achievement in 2030. The final text is available at <https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-final-text-kunming-montreal-gbf-221222>.

ASEAN-SEAFDEC RES&POA-2030 and GBF

The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030), is a regional policy framework that provides a blueprint for the sustainable development of fisheries. It aims to enhance the contribution of fisheries to the food security and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region. While GBF was developed to achieve SDGs, the RES&POA-2030 also aligns with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially those aspects that promote the sustainable development and management of fisheries.

Several elements of RES&POA-2023 share similar targets with GBF. For example, RES#3 seeks “to promote capacity building of relevant organizations and stakeholders through mobilization of resources and harmonization of initiatives that support fisheries communities and governments, with due consideration given to gender equality.”, RES#6 aims to “implement effective management of fisheries that integrates habitat with fishery resources management and aims to improve the social and economic benefits of all stakeholders”, among others.



SEAFDEC has undertaken numerous programs and activities in alignment with the GBF. These initiatives encompass the conservation, rehabilitation, and integration of habitat with fisheries management, incorporating an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management (EAFM). They are designed to support ecological well-being, human well-being, and capacity development in good governance, addressing international trade in commercially aquatic species (such as sharks and rays, eels), resource enhancement, aquaculture, genetic diversity, and gender integration, among others.

SEAFDEC has maintained a continuous commitment to promote social and environmental sustainability in the Southeast Asian region, with a focus on the longer term. Additionally, SEAFDEC is collaborating with FAO and partners to carry out two new projects funded by GEF in two sub-regional areas under the projects funded by GEF in two sub-regional areas. These projects, “Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities (BOBLME Phase 2)”, and “Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project),” will commence soon.

The adopted GBF contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and RES&POA-2030 shares the same goal. The 23 targets of GBF are relevant to regional efforts aimed at sustainable fisheries, with due consideration given to social (gender) aspect, poverty alleviation, and food security.

Awareness raising on GBF and collaboration between regional seas organizations and regional fisheries bodies

The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) is a capacity-building program established in 2010 to provide support and guidance to countries in their effort to achieve global biodiversity targets in marine and coastal areas. In October 2022, SEAFDEC was invited to join the 3rd Meeting of SOI Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs), which took place in Busan, Republic of Korea. The meeting was convened by the CBD’s Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The objectives of the dialogue were as follows:

- i. Sharing experiences regarding the respective work of RSOs and RFBs
- ii. Sharing experiences related to coordination and collaboration between RSOs and RFBs in regions where this is occurring
- iii. Identifying opportunities and approaches for coordination and collaboration between RSOs and RFBs
- iv. Identifying the roles and opportunities for RSOs and RFBs in facilitating and monitoring progress towards global goals and targets for the ocean.

The meeting focused on specific timely issues, including other effective area-based conservation measures. It also addressed matters related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (later named the GBF), an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ), as well as international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. These were in the development stages and had not been finalized at the time of the meeting. The meeting considered these issues in the context of the four thematic areas of focus of the SOI Global Dialogue:

- i. Ecosystem approach/ecosystem-based management
- ii. Area-based management tools
- iii. Reducing and mitigating the impacts of pollution
- iv. Monitoring, assessment, and information-sharing.

The meeting’s outcome included the synthesis of key discussion points on those issues, and it included regional road maps for advancing collaboration and coordination between RSOs and RFBs. The Outcome of the 3rd Meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies is available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/dcee/41b9/255ee54901e1c8ed2551f06d/s oi-om- 2022-outcomes-en.pdf>.

To follow up, the CBD's Secretariat organized the virtual Intersessional Workshop of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies on 1–3 August 2023. The workshop primarily focused on discussions about regional collaboration in the context of recent developments. These developments included the adoption of the GBF (2022) and the newly adopted international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) (2023). The workshop also addressed the progress made in implementing the regional road maps outlined in the Busan Outcome.

Following this, from 5–8 September 2023, the SOI Regional Capacity Building Workshop for East, South, and Southeast Asia was convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea. This workshop aimed to identify methods, opportunities, priorities, and challenges in implementing the GBF within the East, South, and Southeast Asian region, with a specific focus on marine and coastal biodiversity. The workshop brought together experts, managers, officers, and specialists in marine biodiversity conservation and fisheries management from various countries, global and regional organizations, and indigenous communities. The purpose was to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and experiences among diverse stakeholders committed to marine conservation and sustainable resource management. During the Workshop, key considerations, expert guidance, and tools for achieving the Framework's targets. They also worked on developing regional strategies and action plans for the accelerated implementation of the Framework. This collaboration effort aimed to enhance cooperation among Parties, global and regional organizations, and indigenous communities to achieve marine and coastal biodiversity conservation.

Based on SEAFDEC's engagement in the SOI meetings, the following are possible follow-up actions and activities related to the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Regional Capacity Building Workshop that align more closely with SEAFDEC's field of work:

1. **Strengthen Regional Collaboration**: the key issue is to foster stronger partnerships with regional fisheries organizations, Member Countries, and stakeholders to enhance cooperation in sustainable fisheries management. Collaborate on research initiatives, data sharing, and capacity-building programs focused on improving the health and resilience of marine ecosystems.
2. **Sustainable Fisheries Programs**: there is a need to develop and implement targeted programs that promote sustainable fisheries practices within SEAFDEC Member Countries. These programs consider align with the GBF by emphasizing responsible fisheries management, bycatch reduction, and the protection of critical marine habitats.
3. **Data Collection and Monitoring**: promotional works of SEAFDEC regarding the enhancement of fisheries data collection and monitoring capabilities of the Member Countries to better assess the impact of fisheries on marine and coastal biodiversity should be further strengthened. Implementing and promoting the use of innovative technologies and methodologies for sustainable fisheries data collection, analysis, and reporting should also be accommodated in the current or future programs/activities.
4. **Policy Advocacy**: efforts to influence regional and national fisheries policies in line with biodiversity conservation goals are potential areas of future work. Work with member countries to develop and update fisheries policies and regulations that prioritize sustainability and the protection of marine biodiversity.
5. **Capacity Building**: it is possible to expand the capacity-building initiatives of SEAFDEC in the future to include training and education programs specifically tailored to sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation. Collaborate with partners to provide technical assistance and knowledge-sharing platforms for fisheries professionals in the region.

Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Treaty) (2023)

Since 2018, a series of meetings have been organized by the United Nations for the development of the new legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This instrument is designed to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, often referred to as "BBNJ Treaty." It was finally adopted on 19 June 2023.



The new treaty aligns with the 2030 SDGs and GBF for Biodiversity. The BBNJ Treaty comprises the Preamble, 12 Parts, 76 Articles, and 2 Annexes. It addresses the conservation and sustainable use of marine BBNJ; marine genetic resources including questions related to benefit-sharing; area-based management tools such as marine protected areas; environment impact assessments; capacity building; and the transfer of marine technology. The Treaty will enter into force once it is ratified by 60 Parties.

The Agreement is available online,

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N23/177/28/PDF/N2317728.pdf?OpenElement>

In order to comprehend the context of BBNJ Treaty, SEAFDEC will host the forthcoming “Regional Training Course on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS 1982) in Fisheries Perspective” from 6-9 November 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The new BBNJ Treaty will be included as part of the course sessions.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the newly adopted global biodiversity policies namely: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Treaty)
- To provide advice to SEAFDEC on how SEAFDEC assists the AMSs to enhance the understanding of global policies.

FAO GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1. RATIONALE

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is committed to the cause of long-term food security and development, and the exploitation of aquatic genetic resources (AqGR) is vital to this purpose. FAO strives to cultivate and harness AqGR via creative ideas and devoted efforts to guarantee a world where food security and sustainable development go hand in hand. The FAO strategy focuses on empowering people, improving research, and encouraging responsible management of aquatic genetic resources. FAO envisions a future in which AqGR plays a critical role in tackling global food security and development concerns. This vision emphasizes FAO's critical role in using AqGR to ensure a sustainable future for all.

AqGR is crucial for ASEAN Member States due to its significant contributions to global food security, livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation. The aquatic ecosystems in ASEAN are incredibly diverse, housing a wide array of species critical for food security and livelihoods. These resources not only provide essential nutrients but also contribute significantly to the economies of ASEAN countries. In this connection, the responsible management of AqGR is essential for conserving biodiversity, especially in light of challenges such as overfishing and climate change. Furthermore, AqGR can enhance climate resilience, maintain cultural practices, and support global trade in seafood products. Given the transboundary nature of many aquatic species and emerging challenges in aquaculture, regional collaboration and the adoption of AqGR management practices are vital to ensure sustainable resource use, economic development, and the preservation of cultural heritage in ASEAN.

Regarding that, SEAFDEC responsible for delivering technical assistance and supporting Member Countries in addressing emerging issues within the field of aquaculture, particularly those related to disease outbreaks that can be mitigated through the utilization of AqGR, took the initiative to convene a webinar.

2. SUMMARY OF THE SEAFDEC'S WEBINAR ON AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The SEAFDEC Secretariat successfully organized the "Webinar on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (AqGR)" on 8 August 2023. Distinguished speakers at the Webinar include representatives from the FAO and a genetic expert from the Philippines. The FAO provided information on AqGR and the FAO Global Plan of Action for the Conservation; Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and other relevant initiatives. Moreover, FAO also introduced the Prototype of Global Information System for AqGR (AquaGRIS), its structure and function, and explained how it can be used to create national inventories of AqGR which can then inform subsequent development of AqGR management strategies. The experience of the Philippines on data collection and genetic resource registry of milkfish (*Chanos chanos*) was also shared during the Webinar. During the discussion, SEAFDEC Member Countries were encouraged to contribute to the national registry and AquaGRIS, aiding the development of effective management strategies.

In addition, the Webinar was also informed of the FAO Online Training Programme on the Management and Development of Aquaculture Genetic Resources and the relevant FAO resources on AqGR management. The Webinar concluded by highlighting FAO's ongoing and future support for member countries, including technical cooperation programs and collaborations with regional organizations including SEAFDEC to promote effective AqGR management. The possible follow-up actions of SEAFDEC on this matter include:

- FAO's assistance in supporting the development of the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) with Indonesia for the national registry;
- Regarding the contribution of the country to the national registries and AquaGRIS, the countries are encouraged to develop effective strategies for the management of aquatic genetic resources; and
- FAO may collaborate with SEAFDEC to organize regional workshops in the future, focusing on providing training and the usage of AquaGRIS.



The Report Webinar on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (AqGR) is shown in *Appendix 1*. The recording of the Webinar can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/fiVrlFyhXE>.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the FAO initiative on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- To take note of the Report of the Webinar on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- To provide suggestions regarding a long-term plan for effective management of aquatic genetic resources in the Southeast Asian region

Report of the Webinar on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 8 August 2023, SEAFDEC Secretariat

Executive Summary

The Webinar on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was organized by the SEAFDEC Secretariat on 8 August 2023. The event took place online and aimed to disseminate the importance of aquatic genetic resources (AqGR) for sustainable food security and development. Resource persons of the webinar included FAO and a genetic expert from the Philippines. Participants included representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, and officials from SEAFDEC Departments. The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, welcomed participants and underscored the challenges and significance of managing aquatic genetic resources for fisheries and agriculture. She highlighted the objectives of the webinar, which aimed to provide insights into AqGR, FAO's Global Plan of Action, and the Aquatic Genetic Resources Information System (AquaGRIS). *Dr. Graham Mair* presented on the state of aquatic genetic resources worldwide, while he introduced the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for AqGR. *Dr. Daniela* further introduced the AquaGRIS prototype, an FAO-based information system to collect and share global genetic data on aquaculture species. *Dr. Maria Rowena R. Romana-Eguia* shared her experience in the Philippines in collecting data and maintaining a genetic resource registry for milkfish. *Dr. Graham Mair* introduced the FAO/Nofima Online Training Programme on the Management and Development of Aquaculture Genetic Resources. Participants were informed about FAO's resources and publications related to AqGR. Discussion regarding Way Forward included topics such as data collection challenges, prioritization of species, and the implementation of GPA recommendations. It was clarified that countries can tailor GPA actions based on their unique contexts. Regarding the following up actions, SEAFDEC Member Countries are encouraged to contribute to the national registry and AquaGRIS, aiding the development of effective management strategies. *Dr. Tomoko Nakazato*, SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, expressed gratitude to resource persons for the insights shared during the webinar, emphasizing the importance of conserving and using aquatic genetic resources for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.



I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Webinar on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was organized on 8 August 2023. The resource persons of the Webinar include representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and a genetic expert from the Philippines. Meanwhile, the Webinar was attended by the representatives from the SEAFDEC Member Countries namely: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam as well as SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, and officials from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department (TD), Aquaculture Department (AQD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD). The List of Participants appears in **Annex 1**.

II. OPENING OF THE WEBINAR

2. The SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, welcomed the participants to the Webinar. She emphasized the needs and challenges of managing and developing genetic resources in fisheries, such as overfishing, climate change, and genetic modification, which have potential impacts on wild fish populations and their genetic diversity where FAO made commendable strides in advancing aquatic genetic resource management. She informed the objectives of this two-hour webinar are to provide information on the importance of aquatic genetic resources (AqGR) for food security and sustainable development, FAO's Global Plan of Action, Aquatic Genetic Resources Information System (AquaGRIS) prototype, and be aware of challenges and recommendations for effective management strategies for aquatic genetic resources. She then declared the Webinar open. Her Opening Remarks appears in Annex 2.



III. INTRODUCTION AND UPDATES FROM FAO ON AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

3. The resource person from FAO, *Dr. Graham Mair* presented “The State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and FAO’s response to its key findings”. In his presentation, he started with the introduction of the cycle of work on the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and highlighted on importance works of Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR) that are crucial for agriculture and food production, which FAO focus on the farm species and their wild relatives. He summarized the key findings of the State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. His presentation appears as Annex 3.

4. Following that, the resource person from FAO, *Dr. Daniela Lucente* presented on the “Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GPA)”. In her presentation, she underlined the GPA framework, which is aimed to enhance the management of AqGR to make a significant contribution to the promotion of food security and sustainable development and alleviation of poverty, it comprises 21 strategic priorities and nearly 100 recommended actions. She gave the example of the actions in the GPA *e.g.* strengthening national and regional monitoring systems, identifying stocks at risk, promoting the use of genetic tools in stock assessment and management, etc. In addition, she emphasized the importance of monitoring the GPA implementation where the indicators have been developed by FAO. It was divided into 2 different categories one, for resource indicators to measure the status of AqGR at national, regional, and global levels, while another one is for process indicators that relate to activities undertaken by countries to implement the GPA. Her presentation appears as **Annex 4**.

5. *Dr. Daniella* continued to make the presentation on the “Introduction of a Prototype of Global Information System for AqGR (AquaGRIS) and its Application.” AquaGRIS is an FAO-based information system to collect, organize and make freely available global genetic data on farmed types and wild stocks of aquaculture species. She informed that FAO conducted the country-level exercises in different regions that also includes Southeast Asian region, focused on the Philippines case. While informing that by the end of 2023, AquaGRIS will become a fully-functional information system with additional features and sections by end of 2023, she also mentioned the expectation and next steps *e.g.* more information on farmed types inputs in the system, a new section dedicated to wild stocks of aquaculture species, and also informed that currently, the training for testing the new version of AquaGRIS is underway. Her presentation appears as **Annex 5**.

6. After the presentations, the question was raised about whether the online training is intended for the AqGR questionnaire. The FAO representative clarified that the online training program was developed in collaboration with partners to enhance genetic management and the practical application of AquaGRIS before receiving the AqGR questionnaire. This training includes various elements, such as written guidelines and some element needs to have well understood on how to classify specific farm types and genetic stock resources. It is expected that the national focal points will attend the training before entering the information inputs. The training program will be offered over the next two years where it can be an opportunity for discussion on the ways forward for the actual use of AquaGRIS.

7. Given that this global initiative on AqGR and the GPA are both on a non-binding and voluntary basis, how this initiative can obtain inputs from the Member Countries. In response, the FAO representative explained that this initiative was developed by FAO in response to the request made by Member Countries and endorsed by the FAO Council. Therefore, in following up and moving ahead, FAO will communicate with Member Countries that GPA is available and it is timely for moving to the implementation phase. Simultaneously, FAO has also developed tools like AquaGRIS to provide essential support to countries in implementing the GPA.

8. The Webinar noted on the cycle of work under Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as explained by Dr. Graham. He further explained that in the first phase of the program, FAO worked with national focal points from 92 countries, of which 9 countries from Southeast Asia, provided the country reports and came up with the “State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOW-AqGR)” published in 2019. Through the development of AquaGRIS, a tool for national to develop national registries, which would be easier and updated by the countries and can be generated reports in different forms and also SOW-AqGR reports in the future. FAO is willing to support the Member

Countries to learn the AquaGRIS as far as possible in order that 92 countries can create national registries which can be updated every two years.

IV. NATIONAL EXPERIENCES FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES

9. In the presentation made by *Dr. Maria Rowena R. Romana-Eguia*, the resource person from De La Salle University, shared the experience of the Philippines on data collection and genetic resource registry of milkfish (*Chanos chanos*). While informing on the overview of milkfish, which is important for the aquaculture industry and be chosen for national registry exercise, she explained the methods for conducting the data collection of milkfish into the system. Her presentation appears as **Annex 6**.

V. SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE ONLINE TRAINING

10. The resource person from FAO, *Dr. Graham Mair* introduced the “FAO/Nofima On-line Training Programme and other FAO Resources” He informed that FAO in partnership with the Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research (Nofima) developed an online training course on Management and Development of Aquaculture Genetic Resources. It comprises 18 modules and is available on the FAO-hosted platform. In addition, as part of awareness-raising efforts, he informed that FAO produced three case studies to illustrate critical issues in relation to the management of AqGR namely: i) genetic management of Indian major carps; ii) lessons from two decades of tilapia genetic improvement in Africa and iii) proactive approach proved key to survival for the Australasian Pacific oyster industry, while two Guidelines are under preparation namely: i) genetic management in stocking programs and ii) guidelines for ex-situ in vitro gene banking. His presentation appears as **Annex 7**. He also shared the FAO publications list’s link, <https://www.fao.org/fishery/static/aqgenres/FAOPublicationsRelatedAqGR.pdf>

VI. DISCUSSION AND WAYS FORWARD

11. During the open discussion, it was inquired concerning how data collection of each species can be represented the whole country in the AquaGRIS. In response, FAO explained that in general, the countries should collect data as much as possible. However, it is understood that the countries have diverse situations, some countries have limited aquaculture production and limited species and few farmed types, this data collection can be easily provided data to AquaGRIS. Nonetheless, some countries have a variety of farmed types such as China, Japan, Thailand, and the Philippines where species farms are many and have several possible farmed types, so it can be more challenging for the completion of data collection. In this regard, it was suggested that the country can start to focus on priority species and most important farmed types within different species.

12. With regard to the GPA, which comprises 21 strategies and nearly 100 recommendations, it was inquired that does it is necessary for the countries to implement all of those recommendations. In response, it is well understood that each country has different situations and they know where they are, in this regard, each individual country can identify to implement actions of GPA based on their own priority.

13. The Webinar was informed that countries nominated the National Focal Points designated for the work on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to work closely with FAO. The list of national focal points is available at <https://www.fao.org/3/bs238e/bs238e.pdf>

Ongoing and possible future follow-up actions

- FAO is willing to provide support to the Member Countries, current programs such as Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) with Indonesia to support the national registry (ongoing)
- Encourage the countries to provide information in the national registry and AquaGRIS, a tool for creating a national registry and helping the country to develop the national strategies for effective management of aquatic genetic resources; and
- FAO is willing to work in collaboration with regional organizations like SEAFDEC to conduct regional workshops to train on AquaGRIS and coordinate and support the countries in such activities.

VII. CLOSING OF THE WEBINAR

14. The SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, *Dr. Tomoko Nakazato*, expressed her gratitude to FAO's



resource persons for sharing insights on aquatic genetic resources' importance in global fisheries and aquaculture which participants have gained knowledge for future collaborations. She also thanked all attendees for their engagement. The goal of conserving and using aquatic genetic resources is highlighted, and the webinar is officially closed. Her Closing Remarks appears in **Annex 8**.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FAO SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

1. BACKGROUND

The FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its 33rd Session in 2018 (COFI 33) raised the interest in deliberating the development of a sub-committee on fisheries management, hence, requested the FAO Secretariat to develop a proposal for the possible establishment of a new sub-committee in accordance with rules of procedure for establishing subsidiary bodies. A Joint Task Force for Investigation of the Proposal to Establish a New Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (JTF) was established to investigate potential options, and to propose the best ways forward. Several options were proposed which are:

Option A to create a specific and new sub-committee on fisheries management (SCFM),

Option B to enhance the utilization of the existing bodies (COFI and the two Sub-Committees: Sub-Committee on Fish Trade (SCFT) and Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (SCA)),

Option C to keep two sub-committees, but rearrange the Terms of Reference of COFI and its two Sub-Committees, as appropriate, to include capture fisheries management into one of the sub-committees, Option D to conduct virtually hold trial SCFM sessions to determine whether there are several agenda topics to be discussed, and

Option E to establish a working group under one of the existing Sub-Committees to discuss specific topics.

COFI 34 in 2021 agreed that a transparent and inclusive consultation process on such proposal should be continued hereafter an open-ended working group (WG) was established to further analysis of options, and mechanisms to support participation from developing countries, Terms of Reference for a new sub-committee, and creation of a specific subpage for the WG. The WG admitted that the establishment of new SCFM will make it more difficult for Members, particularly developing Members. It was noted that this added load also involves a lack of funding for physical participation as well as an availability of staff and time for planning and attending. The WG then recommended the TOR and the following scheme for consideration at COFI 35 (2022).

Between COFI 35 (2022) and 36 (2024)	Between COFI 36 (2024) and 37 (2026)	Between COFI 37 (2026) and 38 (2028)
SCA (in-person) SCFT (in-person) SCFM (virtual)	SCA (in-person) SCFT (virtual) SCFM (in-person)	SCA (in-person) SCFT (in-person) SCFM (virtual)

Once these meetings of three sub-committees have been arranged, COFI 38 (2028) will review how the SCFM meetings carried out its mandate as well as how the first two initial meetings contributed to the discussions on fishery management issues at COFI 36 and 37, respectively. COFI 38 will also evaluate the continuation of SCFM afterward. The WG also recommended that SCFM should hold meetings, either in-person or virtual, when extra-budgetary funding is available. To mitigate administrative difficulties, measures should be taken such as avoidance of duplication with other international meetings, and distribution of a more detailed annotated agenda. In addition, if a minimum amount of funds is secured, meetings between COFI 36 and COFI 37 should take place in person; otherwise, they should be conducted virtually. If there is no host Member, the meeting shall take place in person at the FAO Headquarters in Rome. In this connection, six months after COFI 35, the SCFM Secretariat should announce whether or not the virtual SCFM meeting will be held. The First Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management will be held virtually 15–18 January 2024.

2. PROGRESS AT COFI 35

Based on the abovementioned results, COFI 35 endorsed the proposal for the establishment of a COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management emphasizing the need to address financial and administrative burdens, particularly for developing States Members. COFI 35 also acknowledged the modality rotation while expressing concern that there will be limited time for the review process by COFI 38. In addition, COFI 35 highlighted the need to prioritize and balance agenda items for in-depth dialogue on fisheries management



matters in order to avoid duplication with existing Sub-Committees. The COFI 35 then agreed to the Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management as *Appendix 1*.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the updated information on the proposal to the establishment of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management

Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management

(Reference: Appendix G of Report of the Thirty-fifth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, Rome, 5–9 September 2022 via <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3652en/cc3652en.pdf>)

1. The Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (SCFM) shall serve as a forum for consultation and discussion on fisheries management, associated technical and policy issues, and the related work performed by FAO, taking into account the work of relevant regional and international organizations, countries, stakeholders' groups and NGOs, and in cooperation with them, as appropriate.

2. In this context, the Sub-Committee shall:

(1) provide a technical and policy advisory forum to discuss fisheries governance and management issues and explore solutions for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources and advance the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries based on the best available science as well as ecosystem and precautionary approaches;

(2) identify and discuss major issues and trends in global fisheries management and sustainable development, which require action, such as those related to development and management of small-scale fisheries, effects of climate change on fishery management, and eradication of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;

(3) make recommendations to address such issues and trends as well as fisheries development needs and, in this regard:

(i) to advise on preparing, facilitating, and implementing such recommendations, as appropriate;

(ii) to advise on the promotion of information sharing on regional policies and technical measures on fisheries management, as appropriate;

(iii) to advise on the strengthening of regional and international collaboration to assist FAO Members, in particular developing Members including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Members, in the implementation of such actions and instruments in the domain of fisheries governance and management; and

(iv) to advise on possible cooperation between FAO and, as appropriate, relevant regional and international organizations, including RFMOs, countries, stakeholder groups, and NGOs, to promote and support good practices and avoid discrepancy in policies and actions.

(4) address any specific (technical or policy) matters relating to fisheries governance and management referred to this Sub-Committee by its Members, the Committee on Fisheries, or the Director-General of FAO;

(5) collaborate with and provide inputs to the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade on fishery management issues related to trade in fish and fisheries products; and

(6) collaborate with and provide inputs to the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture on fishery management issues related to aquaculture.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE RESOLUTION AND PLAN OF ACTION ON SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES FOR FOOD SECURITY FOR THE ASEAN REGION TOWARDS 2030

1. INTRODUCTION

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030² (RES&POA-2030), which was adopted in 2020, 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) comprises 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 contain a total of 88 actions for the implementation by the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) at the regional, sub-regional, and/or national levels, including through programs, projects, and activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC mechanism.

Since its adoption in 2020, SEAFDEC proposed to conduct the monitoring and evaluation of implementation of RES&POA-2030 during the 53rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2021. The Council supported such idea, SEAFDEC then organized two workshops in 2022 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 (baseline in 2021, mid-term in 2025, and final evaluation in 2029). The Workshops agreed on the key indicators of POA-2030, reporting template and the timelines of the submission of country inputs for monitoring and evaluation of the RES&POA-2030 for the 2021 Baseline Information. In addition, the SEAFDEC National Coordinators were designated as the focal persons to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the RES&POA-2030.

2. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE POA-2030: 2021 BASELINE INFORMATION

After agreed on the key indicators of the RES&POA-2030, AMSs provided the inputs for 2021 Baseline Information. The SEAFDEC Secretariat came up with the draft Report which was submitted to the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (5-7 December 2022), the 25th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (8-9 December 2022). The final draft Report was approved by the 55th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and subsequently by the 31st Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (31st ASWGFi) in July 2023 and was approved by the Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) in August 2023 and by 45thAMAF in October 2023, respectively.

The full report is downloadable from <https://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/7185>.

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030: 2021 Baseline Information.

² <http://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/6583>

REVISION OF REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR FISHERY STATISTICS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. BACKGROUND

Since 1978, SEAFDEC has been undertaking initiatives in compiling fishery statistics from the Member Countries bordering the South China Sea Area. Considering that the harmonization of data is crucial in facilitating the exchange and compilation of fishery statistics at regional and international levels, while there were changes in coverage of SEAFDEC members; in the mid-2000s, SEAFDEC in consultation with the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) started developing the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia including the “standard definitions and classifications” harmonized with the international standards and “area of coverage” consistent with the areas of competence of SEAFDEC. The framework was approved by the SEAFDEC Council in 2008 and applied for the compilation of fishery statistics from the AMSs starting from 2008 onwards.

Nevertheless, after 2008, several new global statistical standards were developed and updated by the FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP). In 2017, SEAFDEC organized the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Fishery Statistics and Information in Southeast Asia to update the Southeast Asian countries on the recent developments made by the CWP. It was agreed during the RTC in 2017 that after the adoption of the new CWP standards (*i.e.* at the 26th Session of the CWP in 2019), SEAFDEC should organize a meeting among the members of the ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics to revise the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia. Other areas for improving regional fishery statistics, *e.g.* inclusion of statistics on fish trade and fish processing, should also be discussed.

From 2021 to 2023, SEAFDEC, therefore, organized a series of RTCs (*i.e.* the first RTC on 21–22 September 2021, online; the second RTC on 23–26 August 2022 in Pattaya, Thailand; and the third RTC on 22–24 August 2023 in Chiang Mai, Thailand) with the participation of all AMSs to review the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia and came up with the Final Draft Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia (2024 Edition). It is planned that the Final Draft Regional Framework (2024 Edition) would be further submitted to the 56th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council for approval, and subsequently to the 32nd Meeting of the ASWGF_i for endorsement.

It should be noted that the continued revision of the Regional Framework is in line with the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 which was adopted in 2020, specifically the provision on the need to “*Enhance regional fishery information systems and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information required at the sub-regional and regional level, and apply where appropriate, regionally standardized definitions and classifications for statistical data to facilitate regional compilation, analysis, and data exchange.*”

2. REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR FISHERY STATISTICS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA (2024 EDITION)

The Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia (2024 Edition) was developed based on the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia approved by the SEAFDEC Council in 2008 by further harmonizing the standards, definitions and classifications of the fisheries statistics of Southeast Asia with the updated international standards, definitions and classifications and adding some additional statistics items with a view to enhance the usability of the statistics by providing a better understanding and clearer picture of the fisheries sector of the region. Through the first, second and third RTCs, the major revision of the Regional Framework (2024 Edition) are as follows:

- Revision of Geographical Coverage
 - Updating “Sub-areas” of the Southeast Asian countries
- Revision of Statistics on Marine Capture Production



- Adding production by the “scale of fishing activities” (small-scale and commercial fisheries), with updated definition of small-scale and commercial fisheries of the respective countries
- Revision of Statistics on Inland Capture Production
 - Updating production by “type of fisheries” (*i.e* by scales, by seasonality or fishing rights/license, and by types of fishing gears)
- Revision of Statistics on Aquaculture
 - Updating production by “aquaculture facility”
 - Providing selected examples of aquaculture and capture fisheries practices
- Revision of Statistics on Fishers and Fish Farmers
 - Adding classification of fishers and fish farmers by “nationality” and “gender”
- Revision of Statistics on Producer Price
 - Separation of Producer Price from “capture fisheries” and from “aquaculture”
- Addition of Statistics on Fish Processing
- Addition of Statistics on Exports and Imports of Fishery Commodities
- Addition of Statistics on Per Capita Fish Consumption

The final draft of the Regional Framework (2024 Edition) (*Appendix I*) was agreed by the third RTC in 2023. The structure of the Regional Framework (2024 Edition) is as follows:

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During the third RTC in 2023, it was also agreed that the Final Draft Regional Framework (2024 Edition) should be submitted for consideration and approval by the SEAFDEC Council at its 56th Meeting in 2024, and subsequently to the ASWGFi for endorsement of the revision. The workplan and timeframe for seeking approval of the Regional Framework (2024 Edition) are as follows:

Timeline	Activities
23–24 November 2023	26 th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC/SEC: Report the progress of the revision of the Regional Framework (in order to further report to the ASWGFi in 2024)

Timeline	Activities
2 nd quarter of 2024	56 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC/SEC: Seek approval of the Council on the “Regional Framework (2024 Edition), set of Questionnaires, and process for submission of statistics to SEAFDEC and FAO
2 nd quarter of 2024	32 nd Meeting of the ASWGFi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC/SEC: Inform on the Regional Framework (2024 Edition) for endorsement by the ASWGFi
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC/SEC and AMSs: Start using the Regional Framework (2024 Edition) and Questionnaires to request inputs from the AMSs (for statistics data in 2024)

3. ASEAN NETWORK ON FISHERY STATISTICS

As part of the Regional Framework (2024 Edition), the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics (*As of establishment in 2004*) were confirmed as follows:

- To act as the national focal point in supporting and providing national inputs for the compilation of fishery statistics at regional and international levels;
- To involve in developing regional standards, definitions, and classification of fishery statistics;
- To involve in planning and implementation of regional programs/projects on fishery statistics and information; and
- To supervise and manage all required activities and ensure regular communication with SEAFDEC Secretariat according to the volume of work envisaged within the determined timeframe.

The Members of the ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics were also updated by the countries through the official nomination by the SEAFDEC Council Director of the respective countries, as well as by the ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC. The members of the Network (*as of September 2023*) are as follows:

Country	Representatives
Brunei Darussalam	<p>Name: Mrs. Noor Dafinah Hj Jelani Position : Senior Fisheries Officer, Policy and Planning Division Address: Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism Muara Fisheries Complex, Spg 287-53, Jln Peranginan Pantai Serasa, Muara BT1728, Brunei Darussalam Tel: +673 277 0066 E-mail: noordafinah.jelani@fisheries.gov.bn</p>
Cambodia	<p>Name: Dr. Em Puthy Position: Deputy Director of Planning Address Fisheries Administration 186, Norodom Blvd., P.O.Box 582, Phnom Penh, Cambodia Tel : +855 16 850003 Fax: +855 21 5470 E-mail: emputhy@yahoo.com</p>
Indonesia	<p>Name: Ms. Rennisca Ray Damanti Position: Team Leader for Data and Information Working Group, Center for Data, Statistics, and Information Address: Center for Data, Statistics, and Information, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No.16, Gedung Mina Bahari II 16th floor, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia Tel : +62 21 351 9070 Fax: +62 21 352 0351 E-mail: rennisca@kkp.go.id</p>



Country	Representatives
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Thailand	<p>Name: Ms. Prompan Hiranmongkolrat Position: Statistician Address: Department of Fisheries, Fishery Development Policy and Planning Division, 5 Flr., Preda Karnasuta Building, Kasetsart Klang, Phaholyotin Rd, Bangkok 10900 Tel: +66 2 5620600 Ext. 13517</p>

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ASEAN and SEAFDEC Focal Persons

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SEAFDEC	Representative
SEAFDEC Secretariat	Name: Ms. Saivason Klinsukhon Position: Senior Information Officer Address: SEAFDEC Secretariat P.O. Box 1046 Kasetsart Post Office, Bangkok 10903, Thailand Tel: +66 2 9406326 Fax: +66 2 9406336 E-mail: saivason@seafdec.org

REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE 26FCG/ASSP

- To take note of the progress of preparation of the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia (2024 Edition)
- To take note and provide recommendations (if any) on the Final Draft Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia (2024 Edition) including the updated members of the ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics
- To note that, upon approval by the Council, the Regional Framework (2024 Edition), will be submitted to the ASWGF in 2024 for endorsement

FINAL DRAFT

**REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR FISHERY STATISTICS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA
(2024 EDITION)**

**(agreed during the 3rd RTC on Fishery Statistics and Information in Southeast Asia
22–24 August 2023, Chiang Mai, Thailand)**

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Preparation and Distribution of this Document

The Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia (2024 Edition) was prepared by the Secretariat of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in consultation with the ASEAN Member States and approved by SEAFDEC Council during its 56th Meeting and noted by the 32nd Meeting of the ASWGF in 2024. The document is distributed to the SEAFDEC Member Countries, Departments, concerned institutions, and public to serve as a reference material to support the Member Countries in the improvement of their national fishery statistics and preparation of their inputs to the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia.

Citation

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I. BACKGROUND

In Southeast Asia, fishery statistics have been widely accepted as an important tool in providing the basic foundation for the formulation of national fisheries policies and management frameworks and actions as well as in understanding the status of fishery resources. As basic structures to facilitate development planning and management of fisheries, however, the fishery statistical items and datasets collected by the respective ASEAN Member States (AMSs) vary based on their priority and objectives. In addition, the complexity or extent of the national fishery statistical systems including the frameworks for collecting national fishery statistics of the respective AMSs also depend on available resources, *i.e.* financial, institutional, and human capacity.

The need to improve and strengthen the national fishery statistics has been highlighted in the regional policy of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC, *i.e.* the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium (RES&POA) developed in 2001, the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 (RES&POA-2020), and the subsequent Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030). SEAFDEC considered that it is necessary to address the common issues, problems, and constraints through regional cooperation and collective actions under a regional framework to enhance the collection and compilation of fishery statistics. SEAFDEC, therefore, initiated the development of the Regional Framework that comprises minimum requirements that would harmonize the national statistical systems among the countries and facilitate the efficient collection and compilation of fishery statistics and information by the countries in the region.

Since 1978, SEAFDEC regularly pursued the compilation of fishery statistics in Southeast Asia initially through the publication of “Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the South China Sea Area.” However, the escalating situation in fisheries practices in the region and the establishment of a new geopolitical setup of the ASEAN made it necessary to come up with the new Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics in Southeast Asia. In accordance with the policy directives given at the 36th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2004, the SEAFDEC Secretariat organized a series of Regional Technical Consultations (RTC) with the ASEAN Member States to develop a new framework for fishery statistics of Southeast Asia; and the new Regional Framework was endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council at its 37th Meeting in 2005.

The ASEAN Member States Countries supported and agreed to adopt the new Regional Framework at the RTC on Fishery Statistics and Information in 2007. Subsequently, the new Regional Framework was endorsed by SEAFDEC Council at its 40th Meeting in April 2008, and it was also endorsed by the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) at its 16th Meeting in May 2008. The new Regional Framework included major changes which were consistent with the areas of competence of SEAFDEC as well as with the current regional requirements, and was also harmonized with the international standards. Accordingly, the new Regional Framework played a crucial role in enhancing the national fishery statistics of the countries in the region, facilitating the wider sharing of data and information as well as the efficient provision of the necessary inputs to the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia produced by SEAFDEC starting in 2008 that replaced the Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the South China Sea Area which was produced from 1978 to 2007.

After the adoption of the Regional Framework in 2008, however, there have been several changes in global frameworks and standards related to fishery statistics as well as a need for the inclusion of additional statistics to enhance the usability of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin. From 2021 to 2023, the Regional Framework was reviewed and revised during a series of RTC with the AMSs. The revision of the Regional Framework developed in 2008 was in line with the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 which was adopted in 2020 and included the provision on the need to “*Enhance regional fishery information systems and mechanisms to facilitate sharing, exchange and compilation of statistics and information required at the sub-regional and regional level, and apply where appropriate, regionally standardized definitions and classifications for statistical data to facilitate regional compilation, analysis, and data exchange.*” Consequently, the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia (2024 Edition) was approved by the SEAFDEC Council at its 56th Meeting and noted by the 32nd Meeting of the ASWGF_i in 2024.

II. PURPOSE

The Regional Framework (2024 Edition) was streamlined by harmonizing the definitions and classifications of the fisheries of Southeast Asia with international standards such as those of the SEAFDEC and FAO that would facilitate the efficient data compilation, analysis, and exchange of fishery statistics and information not only within the region but also globally. Moreover, additional statistics were included in the Regional Framework (2024

Edition) which would enhance the usability of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin by providing a better understanding and clearer picture of the fisheries sector of the region to support policy planning and management of fisheries toward sustainability. It should be noted that the Regional Framework (2024 Edition) continued to focus on the minimum requirements that can be accomplished by the countries in the region without putting much burden on the agencies responsible for the collection and compilation of fishery statistics. It is envisaged that the adoption of the Regional Framework (2024 Edition) would provide multifold benefits for the countries in the region, namely:

1) Minimum Requirements for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia

Since the Regional Framework is considered as the “Minimum Requirement for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia,” its adoption would be beneficial to the countries in the region as it could serve as a guide that facilitates a long-term improvement of their fishery statistics at the national level, provides better understanding and clear picture of the fisheries sector specifically in terms of the minimum requirements of fishery statistics, and advocates the harmonized standards and definitions in order to correspond to regional requirements and conform with international standards.

2) Frameworks of Inputs for the Development of International Norms and Standards

As the Regional Framework contains the minimum requirements for the compilation of fishery statistics as well as the standards embodying the regional requirements, it could also be used in supporting the international development of norms and standards for fishery statistics. Harmonization of standard definitions and classifications reflecting the multi-species/gear tropical fisheries nature of Southeast Asia would facilitate the sharing of fishery statistics and information in the region as well as contribute to similar development at the global level.

3) Enhanced Sharing of Fishery Information

The standardized definitions and classification of fishery statistics under this Regional Framework could facilitate the sharing and exchange of fishery statistics and information among the countries in the region. Many countries in the region may have already established their respective national fishery statistical standards; or the standards may have been reviewed and improved to conform to the standards, definitions, and classifications of fishery statistics at the international and regional levels. However, for some other countries, harmonization of the varying systems is deemed necessary as this would eventually lead to the sharing of fishery statistics and information in the region, thus, contributing to the global effort of establishing the picture on the status and trends of fisheries at the global level.

III. COVERAGE

3.1 Statistical Coverage

The Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia (2024 Edition) covers the fishery statistics on Production; Fishing Vessels; Fishing Units; Fishers and Fish Farmers; Fish Price; Fish Processing; and Fish Trade. Production cover fishes, crustaceans, molluscs, seaweeds, and other aquatic animals and plants taken for all purposes (marine and inland capture fisheries and aquaculture) by all classes of fishing units and aquaculture activities operating in the marine, brackishwater and freshwater areas, in appropriate geographical categories. Moreover, statistics on per capita fish consumption were also included.

3.2 Geographical Coverage

The geographical areas of the statistics data cover all production by commercial and small-scale fisheries and aquaculture activities in freshwater, brackishwater, and marine waters from the designated FAO Fishing Area 57 (Indian Ocean, Eastern), 71 (Pacific, Western Central), 61 (Pacific, Northwest), and 04 (Asia, Inland Water). The countries and sub-areas to be used in statistics are shown in the table and map below. The sub-areas used in the Regional Framework are established consistent with the FAO Fishing Areas, as shown in the map and description in **Appendix 1**.



Countries	Sub-areas
Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Muara
	Belait
	Tutong
	Temburong
Cambodia	
Indonesia	Malacca Strait and Andaman Sea
	Indian Ocean of Western Sumatera and Sunda Striat
	Indian Ocean of Southern Java, Southern Nusa Tenggara, Sawu Sea, and Western of Timor Sea
	Karimata Strait, Natuna Sea and South China Sea
	Java Sea
	Makassar Strait, Bone Bay, Flores Sea and Bali Sea
	Tolo Bay and Banda Sea
	Tomini Bay, Maluku Sea, Halmahera Sea, Seram Sea and Berau Bay
	Sulawesi Sea and Northern of Halmahera Island
	Cendrawasih Bay and Pacific Ocean
	Aru Sea, Arafuru Sea and Eastern of Timor Sea
Lao PDR	-
Malaysia	West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia
	East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia
	Sarawak
	Sabah
	Labuan
Myanmar	Tanintharyi
	Mon
	Rakhine
	Ayeyarwady
Philippines	FMA-01
	FMA-02
	FMA-03
	FMA-04
	FMA-05
	FMA-06
	FMA-07
	FMA-08
	FMA-09
	FMA-10
	FMA-11
	FMA-12
Singapore	-
Thailand	Gulf of Thailand
	Indian Ocean
Timor Leste	-
Viet Nam	Gulf of Tonkin
	Central Viet Nam
	Southwest Viet Nam
	Southeast Viet Nam
	Middle of East Sea



Sub-areas for marine fishery statistics of Southeast Asian Countries

3.3 Fishery Structure

In line with the structure of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, the statistics are divided into two main sectors, namely: 1) capture fisheries; and 2) aquaculture. **Capture fisheries** refer to economic activities in marine and inland waters to catch or collect aquatic organisms which grow naturally in public waters and are not the property of any person, whereas **aquaculture** refers to economic activities in marine, brackishwater, and freshwater environments to rear young aquatic organisms such as fry, fingerlings, oyster seeds, etc. to commercial size. Unlike in capture fishery, aquatic organisms under aquaculture operations are the property of a specific person or group of persons who manage them until they grow to commercial size.

3.3.1 Statistics on Capture Fisheries

With concerns on the different environments of fishery resources and other components of capture fisheries, the statistics on capture fisheries are classified into two sub-sectors, namely: 1) marine capture fishery; and 2) inland capture fishery. Statistics on production including nominal landings or nominal catch (quantity and value), fishing gear, fishery vessels, fishing units, scale of fishing activities, etc., shall be collected and compiled under each sub-sector.

Ideally, the AMSs should strive toward reporting statistics on marine capture fishery based on nominal landings except indicated otherwise *e.g.* nominal catch. The definitions of nominal landings and nominal catch are as follows:

- **Nominal landings** are total landings (including quantities landed in port as transshipments at sea) converted to live weight equivalent, also expressed in some national publications as
 - landings on a round, fresh basis;
 - landings on a round, whole basis;
 - landings on an ex-water weight basis.
- **Nominal catch** represents the nominal landings, plus the component of the catch discarded dead, and post-release mortality of fish discarded alive. It approximates the concept of ‘total catch’ (*i.e.* the quantity of biomass removed).



3.3.1.1 Marine Capture Fishery

a. Coverage and Definition

Marine capture fishery is divided into two categories based on the scale of fishing activities, namely: 1) small-scale fishery (including subsistence, artisanal, and traditional fishery); and 2) commercial fishery. As it is impossible to establish a common definition of these two categories in the region, the national distinction between small-scale and commercial fisheries of countries in the region is given in [Appendix 2](#). The data on marine capture fishery excludes sport fishing, recreation, and research.

b. Marine Capture Fishery Production

The statistics on marine capture fishery production represent the data on nominal landings or nominal catch of aquatic organisms from marine and brackish waters that are killed, caught, trapped, or collected for subsistence and commercial purposes. The statistics in terms of quantity will be used as an index to reveal the status and trend of the fishing industry and to assess the stock of marine organisms to disclose the sustainability of the fishing industry; while the statistics in terms of value will be used to compare the economics of the fisheries industry with those of other sectors.

b.1 Unit of Measurement

1) Production in quantity

Production in quantity represents the live weight equivalent of the nominal landings or nominal catch. Production in quantity should be reported in tonnes, except those expressed in numbers or in kilograms. If production is reported in kilograms, this should be converted into tonnes and estimated by rounding off to the nearest hundredths. The production of ornamental aquatic organisms should be reported in numbers.

There are many instances where the catches onboard fishing vessels are gutted, filleted, salted, dried, etc., or reduced to meals, oil, etc. The data on the nominal landings or nominal catch of such species and products require conversion by accurate yield rates (conversion factors) to establish the live weight equivalents (nominal landings or nominal catch) at the time of their capture.

2) Production in value

Production in value represents the value of products equivalent to the nominal landings or nominal catch. It is generally estimated by multiplying the quantity of production by the producer price (average monthly weighted value, where available). In reporting production in value, the value reported in the national currencies should be converted to US Dollars.

b.2 Statistics on Marine Capture Fishery Production

1) Production by species

Marine capture fishery production covers the production from small-scale and commercial fisheries broken down by species (at the species, genus, family, or higher taxonomic levels) into statistical category called species items.

Such statistical categories should be reported by using the SEAFDEC code and the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants (ISSCAAP) (3-alpha code, scientific name, and English name). Refer to the updated List of Aquatic Animals and Plants in Southeast Asia for SEAFDEC code and national/local name of the species and [Appendix 3](#) for the category of aquatic animals and plants based on ISSCAAP.

2) Production by the scale of fishing activities

The statistics on marine capture fishery production should be classified into: 1) production from small-scale fisheries; and 2) production from commercial fisheries.

To report the statistics on production by the scale of fishing activities, the definition of small-scale fisheries and commercial fisheries of the respective countries in the region ([Appendix 2](#)) should be referred to.

3) Production by type of fishing gear

The production from marine capture fisheries, where possible, should be further classified into detailed types of fishing gear for each category based on the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) as shown in [Appendix 4](#).

c. Fishery Vessels

Fishery vessels can also be called in various terms including fishing boats, fishing fleets, or fishing crafts. Fishery vessel means any vessel, boat, ship, or other craft that is equipped and used for fishing or in support of fishing activity.

Statistics on fishery vessels will be used to clarify the capital invested in a fishery corresponding to the size of the fishery vessel. Such statistics can also be used as inputs to the economic analysis and measure of the material input productivity of the fishing industry, and as a rough estimation of fishing effort considering the size of the fishery vessel.

c.1 Coverage of Fishery Vessels

The statistics should cover the annual data on fishery vessels that operate in marine waters. All fishery vessels, whether registered with the government or not, should be included.

c.2 Classification of Fishery Vessels

Based on the characteristics of marine capture fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, one fishery vessel can operate various types of fishing gear and catch several target species. Therefore, the regional classification of fishery vessels ([Appendix 5](#)) should be based on the general characteristics of fishery vessels of the countries in the region to present the specific marine capture fishery situation, which is not aligned with the classification developed by the FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP).

The size of fishery vessel is expressed uniformly in the gross tonnage (GT). Although the method of measurement of the size of fishery vessels varies from country to country, statistics should be based on national measurement standards. When a unit other than GT is used to measure the size of the vessel, this should be converted into GT.

d. Fishing Unit

Fishing unit means the smallest unit in a fishing operation, which are generally counted according to types and sizes of fishery vessels, types of fishing gear, and number of fishers. The statistics on the fishing unit are mainly used for fisheries management by considering the limitation of the number of fishing units.

In cases where two fishery vessels are jointly operated in fishing such as the pair trawler or two-boat purse seiner, these two fishery vessels are regarded as one fishing unit. A fishery vessel may be counted as two or more fishing units in the same year if it uses different types of fishing gear in separate seasons. For instance, in cases where a fishery vessel operates trawl fishing for a half year and gillnet fishing during the other half of the year, the fishery vessel is regarded as two fishing units.

Statistics on fishing unit, including the number of fishery vessels by gear and size, should be included in the national statistical system.

d.1 Coverage of Fishing Units

The statistics should cover the annual data on the number of fishing units operating in marine waters. Fishing units operating without fishery vessels or non-powered fishery vessels are excluded.

d.2 Classification of Fishing Units

Fishing units should be reported based on the types and sizes of fishery vessels ([Appendix 5](#)) as well as types of fishing gear ([Appendix 4](#)). In cases where a fishing unit operates more than two fishery vessels such as the pair trawl and two-boat purse seine, the size is represented by the gross tonnage of the major single fishery vessel among



the vessels employed.

3.3.1.2 Inland Capture Fishery

a. Coverage and Definition

Inland capture fishery refers to any activity involving the catching or collection of aquatic organisms which grow naturally in inland water bodies for food security and economic purposes. The statistics cover the annual data of subsistence and commercial operations for catching or collecting and landing production of all aquatic animals from inland water bodies.

The statistics on inland capture fishery cover all production within the FAO Fishing Area 04 (**Appendix 1**).

b. Inland Capture Fishery Production

The statistics on inland capture fishery production represent the catch of organisms from inland water bodies that are killed, trapped, caught, or collected for commercial and subsistence purposes.

b.1 Unit of Measurement

1) Production in quantity

Production in quantity represents the live weight equivalent of organisms caught and collected from inland water bodies, which should be reported in tonnes, except those expressed in numbers or in kilograms. If production is reported in kilograms, this should be converted into tonnes estimated by rounding off to the nearest hundredths.

2) Production in value

Production in value represents the value at the first point of sale, indicating seasonal variations in the average total value, where available, including inland aquatic organisms for subsistence and commercial purposes. In reporting production in value, the amount reported in national currencies should be converted to US Dollars.

b.2 Statistics on Inland Capture Fishery Production

1) Production by species

Inland capture fishery production covers all animals and plants in inland water bodies broken down by species (at the species, genus, family, or higher taxonomic levels) into statistical categories called species items.

Such statistical categories should be reported by using the SEAFDEC code and the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants (ISSCAAP) (3-alpha code, scientific name, and English name). Refer to the updated List of Aquatic Animals and Plants in Southeast Asia for SEAFDEC code and national/local name of the species; and **Appendix 3** for the category of aquatic animal and plants based on ISSCAAP.

2) Production by type of water bodies

Statistics on inland capture fishery production should be presented in accordance with the following types of water bodies:

- a) Lakes: non-flowing, naturally enclosed bodies of water, including regulated natural lakes but excluding reservoirs
- b) Rivers: running water bodies such as rivers, drainage canals, and irrigation canals which also cover creeks, streams, and other linear water bodies
- c) Floodplains/rice fields/swamps: seasonally flooded areas including paddy fields
- d) Reservoirs: artificial impoundments of water used for irrigation, flood control, municipal water supplies, recreation, hydroelectric power generation, and so forth including fish pits, deep pools, ex-mining pools,
- e) Lagoons: take the form of lakes separated from the sea by a sand bar and often associated with river estuaries or coastal deltas
- f) Others: any water bodies other than the above; peri-urban wetland is included

3) *Production by type of fisheries*

Inland capture fishery is diverse in terms of the scale of fishing activities, seasonality, fishing rights/license, fishing gear, and fishery vessels. As available records would allow, the statistics should attempt to reflect the following categories.

- a) Scale of fishing activities
 - Small-scale (household occasional fishing, artisanal, traditional, subsistence)
 - Commercial
- b) Seasonality or fishing rights/license
 - “On-farm” fishing, fishing in rice fields, etc.
 - Community fisheries and other rights-based fisheries at the community level
 - Fishing lots, leasable fisheries, and other types of licensed fisheries and/or areas for (commercial) fishing
 - Dai fisheries (term used to exemplify the national/regional importance of the specific type of fisheries)
- c) Types of fishing gear (refer to **Appendix 4**)
 - Surrounding nets
 - Seine nets
 - Trawls
 - Dredges
 - Lift nets
 - Falling gears
 - Gillnets
 - Traps
 - Hook and lines
 - Miscellaneous gear
 - Gear not known

3.3.2 Statistics on Aquaculture

a. Coverage and Definition

Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms: fish, molluscs, crustaceans, aquatic plants, crocodiles, alligators, turtles, and amphibians. Farming implies some form of intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, such as regular stocking, feeding, protection from predators. Farming also implies individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated. For statistical purposes, aquatic organisms which are harvested by an individual or corporate body which has owned them throughout their rearing period contribute to aquaculture, while aquatic organisms which are exploitable by the public as a common property resource, with or without appropriate licenses, are the harvest of capture fisheries. The classification of aquaculture and capture fisheries practices applicable to the region is provided in **Appendix 6**.

Considering the different ecology and resources in aquaculture, the statistics on aquaculture should be classified based on three types of culture environments, namely: 1) freshwater culture, 2) brackishwater culture, and 3) mariculture, which are based on salinity levels of the environment. Considering that some aquatic species can be cultured in various environments, the production of those species could be reported in more than one type of culture environment, *e.g.* Java barb, tilapia, milkfish, and others.

1) *Freshwater culture*

The farming or growing out of aquatic organisms takes place in lakes, reservoirs, rivers, rice fields, small farm impoundments, or in freshwater ponds where the salinity is constantly neglectable.

2) *Brackishwater culture*

The farming or growing out of aquatic organisms takes place in estuaries, river mouths, or mangrove lagoons where the salinity undergoes continuous periodic fluctuations due to the influx of freshwater or seawater, or in ponds with seawater.

3) *Mariculture*

The farming or growing out of aquatic organisms takes place in marine waters where salinity is always high and appreciable.



b. Aquaculture Production

b.1 Unit of Measurement

1) Production in quantity

Production in quantity represents the weight at the farm gate. Production in quantity should be reported in tonnes, except those expressed in numbers or in kilograms. If production is reported in kilograms, this should be converted into tonnes estimated by rounding off to the nearest hundredths.

2) Production in value

Production in value represents the producer price at the farm gate. It is generally estimated by multiplying the quantity of production by the farm gate price by species. In reporting production in value, the amount reported in the national currencies should be converted to US Dollars.

b.2 Statistics on Aquaculture Production

Aquaculture production means the output of farmed aquatic organisms either for final consumption or as raw materials for transformation into other products or for trade. It includes commodities quantified by numbers rather than by weight such as ornamental fishes and hatchery output. The statistics on production should be classified into the following categories:

1) Production by culture environment

The statistics on production should be based on the types of culture environments where the aquatic organism was cultivated, *i.e.* freshwater culture, brackishwater culture, and mariculture. One species can be reported in more than one type of culture environment depending on its salinity tolerance and categories defined by the respective countries.

2) Production by species

Production from aquaculture from all types of culture environments should be broken down by species. The list of species is provided in [Appendix 3](#).

3) Production by aquaculture facility

To facilitate aquaculture management, the aquaculture production statistics should be reported by aquaculture facility as described below.

- (a) **Ponds** are natural and/or artificial structures on land that are capable of retaining water for the rearing of stock. Earthen ponds (including community ponds), concrete ponds (under or partially under the ground level), plastic-lined ponds, ditches, flood plain depressions, derelict mining pools, and similar structures are included under this category.
- (b) **Tanks and raceways** are artificial units of structure capable of holding and interchanging water and are generally built above ground level and made of various materials in various shapes and sizes.
- (c) **Pens and enclosures** refer to areas of water bodies that are fenced using structures fixed to the bottom permitting free water exchange. A pen generally encloses a large volume of water; while enclosures refer to natural water areas, where the shoreline forms all but one site, confined by a net and other barriers allowing free water interchange and distinguished by the fact that enclosures occupy the full water column between substrate and surface.
- (d) **Cages** refer to open or covered enclosed structures constructed with net, mesh, wooden, or porous materials allowing natural water interchange. These structures may be floating, suspended, or fixed to the substrate but still permit water interchange from below.
- (e) **Rice-fish culture** refers to paddy fields used for the culture of rice and aquatic organisms including both concurrent culture of aquatic organisms with rice plantation and seasonal rotation of fish and rice crop in the same paddy field; rearing them in rice paddies to any marketable size
- (f) **Culture methods for shelled molluscs** refer to methods commonly practiced on off-bottom and on-bottom techniques. Off-bottom systems are structures like trestles and long lines installed on stakes impaled in the seabed or intertidal zone or suspended structures as rafts built of wood, bamboo and long lines normally equipped with floats and safely anchored in a sheltered coastal area. On-bottom systems refer to the farming of shelled molluscs directly seeded on muddy or sandy areas in the inter-tidal zone or on the seabed.
- (g) **Culture methods for seaweeds (marine macroalgae)** refer to the culture of macroalgae or seaweeds in open waters using on-bottom and off-bottom techniques

- longline ropes (suspended horizontally or vertically in the sea) with anchors and buoyance web or net of ropes fixed on stationery racks or poles typically in intertidal areas
 - rafts or floating racks (with seeded ropes for culture attached)
 - floating baskets (chained with ropes; seaweeds protected from grazing animals)
 - sleeve-shaped long net bags (seaweed seedling held inside)
 - suspended net trays (mostly for sea grapes)
- (h) **Recirculation aquaculture systems (RAS)** refers to a technology for farming fish or other aquatic organisms by reusing the water in production. The technology is based on the use of mechanical and biological filters, and the method can in principle be used for any species grown in aquaculture such as fish, shrimps, clams, etc. Recirculation technology is however primarily used in fish farming
- (i) **Others** refer to facilities other than the above; or production from unspecified facilities of culture.

c. Production of cultured ornamental aquatic species

Statistics on the production of cultured ornamental aquatic species include ornamental aquatic animals and plants. Production should be broken down by species; while species in different sizes, life stages, etc. could be reported as separate items. In reporting the production in quantity, the production of ornamental aquatic animals should be reported in pieces, while ornamental aquatic plants should be reported in units (*e.g.* bundle). In reporting the production in value, national currencies should be converted to US Dollars.

d. Seed Production

The statistics on seed production will be utilized to assess the recruitment in aquaculture and facilitate management purpose. Production should be broken down by species in terms of the number of larvae, fingerlings, juveniles, among others, that are used for two main objectives, such as for wild stock enhancement and aquaculture practices. As part of wild stock enhancement, production covers both the number released to a controlled environment and to the wild whereas production for aquaculture practices covers seed stocks for freshwater culture, brackishwater culture, and mariculture.

e. Aquaculture Unit

Aquaculture unit refers to a management unit which operates aquaculture in freshwater, brackishwater, and marine water areas. The term covers both economic units (companies) and households conducting activities in culturing aquatic organisms. In Southeast Asian countries, the use of this term varies from country to country, *e.g.* fishing establishments in Indonesia, farms in Singapore and Thailand.

f. Area under Culture

Area under culture can be referred to as the net area (water surface area) and gross area. Net area refers to the areas of the culture facilities but is limited to the water surface area, whereas gross area refers to the areas of the culture facilities including not only the water surface area but also the area of the dike surrounding the water area. For ponds and cages, the area under culture will be reported both in net area and gross area while other aquaculture facilities could be reported only as net area. The number of aquaculture facilities should be also reported in order to facilitate aquaculture management.

3.3.3 Statistics on Fishers and Fish Farmers

a. Coverage and Definition

The statistics on fishers and fish farmers could be obtained from various sources (*e.g.* surveys, registration/licensing databases, national fishery/agricultural census, among others of the respective countries).

For fishers, the statistics should cover the number of persons who are involved in fishing activities such as catching and gathering aquatic animals (including reptiles) and plants from the marine water, brackishwater, and freshwater areas. The statistics should exclude sport or recreational fishers and crew of state-operated fishery research and survey vessels, patrol vessels, fishery training vessels, and vessels supporting fishing-related activities.

For fish farmers, the statistics should cover the number of persons who are engaged in aquaculture activities such as breeding, raising, and cultivating aquatic organisms in fish farms and hatcheries, as well as persons who are employed to undertake aquaculture operations such as maintenance of aquaculture facilities, water supply, feeding, among others.



b. Statistics on Fishers and Fish Farmers

1) Fishers and fish farmers by sub-sector and working status

Statistics on the number of fishers and fish farmers shall be categorized by fisheries sectors (*i.e.* fishers for capture fisheries divided into sub-sectors including marine and inland capture fisheries; and fish farmers for aquaculture), and by working status categorized into full-time fishers/farmers, part-time fishers/farmers, occasional fishers/farmers, and unspecified. Definitions of working status are as follows:

- **Full-time fishers/farmers** receive at least 90 % of their livelihood from fishing/aquaculture, or spend at least 90 % of their working time in that occupation.
- **Part-time fishers/farmers** receive at least 30 % but less than 90 % of their livelihood from fishing/aquaculture, or spend at least 30 % but less than 90 % of their working time in that occupation.
- **Occasional fishers/farmers** receive under 30 % of their livelihood from fishing/aquaculture, or spend under 30 % of their working time in that occupation.
- **Unspecified** are workers with unknown working status

Under each category of working status, the statistics should be sex-disaggregated, *i.e.* for male “M”, female “F”, or unspecified sex “U.” For the detailed classification of the fishers and fish farmers by sub-sector and working status, please refer to [Appendix 7 \(a\)](#).

2) Fishers and fish farmers by nationality

Statistics on the number of fishers and fish farmers shall be categorized by fisheries sectors (*i.e.* fishers for capture fisheries divided into sub-sector including marine and inland capture fisheries; and fish farmers for aquaculture), and by nationality categorized into national, foreign, and unspecified. Under each category of nationality, the statistics should be sex-disaggregated *i.e.* for male “M”, female “F”, or unspecified sex “U.” For the detailed classification of the fishers and fish farmers by nationality, please refer to [Appendix 7 \(b\)](#).

3.3.4 Statistics on Producer Price

a. Coverage of Producer Price

Statistics on producer price cover aquatic organisms from capture fisheries and aquaculture, in fresh form only, which includes marine and freshwater species but excluding processed forms of the species.

b. Definition of Producer Price

Statistics on producer price refer to the price of the products, considered as the average weighted price which is realized at wholesale markets or in landing centers for capture fisheries and on-farms/farm gates for aquaculture where producers sell their catches and harvests, as applicable. The price is determined (there) by means of auction, negotiation between producers and wholesalers and middle persons, etc., which can also be used to estimate the total production in value.

c. Unit of Measurement

The producer price should be given in US Dollars per kilogram of aquatic species in fresh form. The figure should include two digits after the decimal point by rounding off to the nearest hundredths.

d. Statistics on Producer Price

1) Producer price from capture fisheries

Statistics on producer price should be broken down by species of aquatic organisms from capture fisheries production.

2) Producer price from aquaculture

Statistics on producer price should be broken down by species of aquatic organisms from aquaculture production.

3.3.5 Statistics on Fish Processing

a. Coverage and Classification

Fish processing statistics cover the processing establishments and their productions, of all aquatic animals and plants produced in freshwater, brackishwater, and marine water, using raw materials from domestic or imported products.

The statistics on processing establishments and productions should include companies, cooperatives households, etc., which preserve and process aquatic animals, regardless of the size of the operation. However, a household that processes products exclusively for own consumption is excluded, while only those households that process products for sale are included.

The statistics classification on fish processing should be based on 15 types of commodities as follows:

1. Frozen
2. Chilled
3. Dried
4. Salted
5. Smoked
6. Boiled
7. Canned
8. Fermented (including fish sauce)
9. Minced
10. Surimi (*e.g.* fish ball, fish cake, crab stick)
11. Cracker
12. Extraction
13. Fish meal
14. Fresh microalgae
15. Others

b. Fish Processing Establishments and Production

b.1 Unit of Measurement

1) *Number of processing establishments*

The data on processing establishments is expressed in number. The number of establishments is generally classified by commodities. Therefore, for a processing establishment that processes more than one commodity, the establishment is counted by the number of each commodity produced. The total number of establishments is obtained as results of an accumulation of the number counted for each commodity. This means that the total number does not necessarily reflect the actual number of establishments.

2) *Production of processed fishery commodities*

The production of processed products is expressed in net weight of final products in tonnes. The production is generally recorded by summing up the total production from all processing establishments, classified by commodities.

b.2 Statistics on Fish Processing Establishments and Production

1) *Number of processing establishments*

The data on processing establishments is expressed in number, and broken down by types of processed fishery commodities.

2) *Production of processed fishery commodities*

The production of processed products is expressed in tonnes, and broken down by commodities.



3.3.6 Statistics on Exports and Imports of Fishery Commodities

a. Coverage and Classification

The statistics cover the quantities and values of annual exports and imports of all fishery commodities ranging from live fish to preserved and processed commodities. In accordance with the internationally recommended practice, export statistics include exports of aquatic animals and plants caught or collected by domestic fishery vessels, whether or not processed onboard, or landed in foreign ports; while import statistics include imports of aquatic animals and plants caught (or collected) by foreign fishing vessels, whether or not processed onboard, landed in domestic ports.

The statistics classification of fish trade should be based on the 12 Divisions of the “FAO International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Commodities (ISSCFC)” as follows:

- 1) Live fish
- 2) Fish, fresh or chilled excluding fillets and other fish meat
- 3) Fish, frozen excluding fish fillets and other fish meat
- 4) Fish fillets and meats, fresh or chilled
- 5) Fish fillets and meat, frozen
- 6) Fish, dried, salted or in brine; smoked fish
- 7) Crustaceans live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine or dried, smoked
- 8) Molluscs live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine or dried, smoked
- 9) Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates, prepared or preserved
- 10) Meals, solubles and similar animal feed stuffs, of aquatic animal origin
- 11) Aquatic animals, oils and fats
- 12) Seaweeds and aquatic plants products thereof

The statistics based on the “Divisions” should be classified further based on their respective “Groups” with reference to the “Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)” of the World Customs Organization, attached as [Appendix 8](#).

The export and import statistics are generally obtained from reports on foreign trade statistics compiled by respective national customs agencies. To prevent errors in the collection and grouping during the compilation of the statistics on fishery commodities, concerned staff should take note that the reports on foreign trade statistics cover not only the fishery commodities but also all kinds of other fishery commodities, and that the classification system used is based on the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature, which is different from that of the ISSCFC.

b. Exports of Fishery Commodities

b.1 Unit of Measurement

1) Exports by fishery commodities

Statistics on exports by fishery commodities should be expressed in volume (tonnes) and value (USD 1,000).

2) Exports to major countries of destination and by major fishery commodities

Statistics on exports to major countries of destination and by major commodities should be expressed in value (USD 1,000).

b.2 Statistics on Exports of Fishery Commodities

1) Exports by fishery commodities

The statistics on exports by commodities (at Division and Group levels based on the ISSCFC) is recorded by summing up the total annual exports of each fishery commodity.

2) Exports to major countries of destination and by major commodities

Statistics on exports to major countries of destination and by major commodities is generally recorded by summing up the value of annual exports to major countries of destination (maximum 20 countries), and is then broken down by major commodities (maximum 10 commodities). The total export of each major commodity should be also recorded.

In reporting the statistics on exports by major commodities, each country can choose the appropriate commodities or commodity groups, *e.g.* based on 6-digit HS code, or others as applicable and appropriate.

c. Imports of Fishery Commodities

b.1 Unit of Measurement

1) Imports by fishery commodities

Statistics on imports by commodities is expressed in volume (tonnes) and value (USD 1,000).

2) Imports from major countries of origin and by major commodities (USD 1,000)

Statistics on imports from major countries of origin and by major commodities is expressed in value (USD 1,000).

b.2 Statistics on Imports of Fishery Commodities

1) Imports by fishery commodities

The statistics on imports by commodities (at Division and Group levels based on the ISSCF) is recorded by summing up the total annual imports of each fishery commodity.

2) Imports from major countries of origin and by major fishery commodities

Statistics on imports from major countries of origin and by major fishery commodities is generally recorded by summing up the value of annual imports from major countries of origin (maximum 20 countries), and is then broken down by major fishery commodities (maximum 10 commodities). The total import of each major commodity is also recorded.

In reporting the statistics on imports by major fishery commodities, each country can choose the appropriate commodities or commodity groups, *e.g.* based on 6-digit HS code, or others as applicable and appropriate.

3.3.7 Statistics on Per Capita Fish Consumption

a. Coverage and Definition

Per capita fish consumption refers to the weight of fish and other aquatic organisms (live weight equivalent) consumed by each person over a calendar year. The estimation of per capita fish consumption is subject to the methods of the respective countries. Per capita fish consumption could be estimated by dividing the total food fish supply for human consumption by the total population.

b. Unit of Per Capita Fish Consumption

Per capita fish consumption should be reported in kilograms, and the numerical value should include one digit after the decimal point by rounding off to the nearest hundredths.

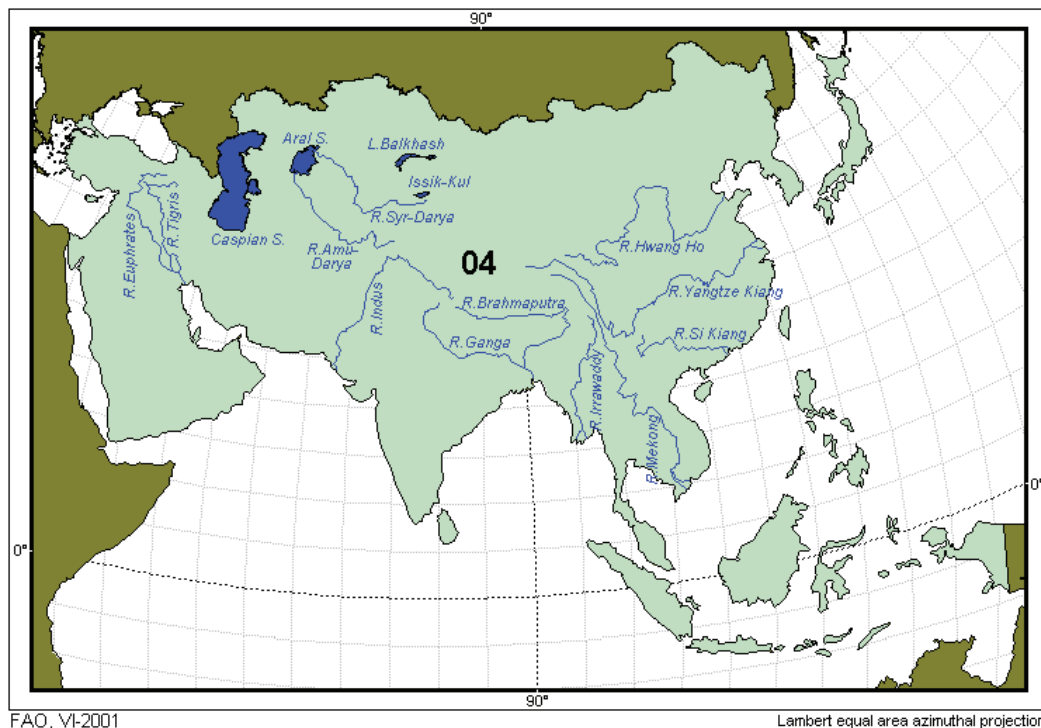
CLASSIFICATION OF FISHING AREAS

The fishing areas of the Southeast Asian region, established for fishery statistical purposes, consist of marine and inland fishing areas, which are consistent with the definition and classification of the capture fisheries sub-sector. These are standardized in accordance with the FAO Major Fishing Areas, the boundaries of which were determined in consultation with international fishery agencies taking into account various considerations, including:

- (i) the boundary of national regions and the natural divisions of oceans and seas;
- (ii) the boundaries of adjacent statistical fisheries bodies already established in intergovernmental conventions and treaties;
- (iii) existing national practices;
- (iv) national boundaries;
- (v) the longitude and latitude grid system;
- (vi) the distribution of the aquatic fauna; and
- (vii) the distribution of the resources and the environmental conditions within an area.

1. Inland Fishing Areas

All inland waters of the Southeast Asian countries are identified under Area 04 (Asia, Inland Water). There is no sub-area for Asia (Fishing Area 04) that is recognized for the collection of catch and effort data for the Southeast Asian region. The data presented by Lao PDR, which is the sole landlocked country in the region, are therefore reported under Area 04 only.



Area 04, Asia-Inland Waters

2. Marine Fishing Areas

The marine fishing areas of the Southeast Asian countries are identified under Area 57 (Indian Oceans, Eastern), Area 71 (Pacific, Western Central), and Area 61 (Pacific, Northwest). Countries and their sub-areas to be used in marine fishery statistics are as follows:

Countries	Sub-areas	FAO Marine Fishing Area	SEAFDEC Sub-areas
Brunei Darussalam		71	71j
	Brunei Muara	71	71j
	Belait	71	71j
	Tutong	71	71j
	Temburong	71	71j
Cambodia		71	71b
Indonesia		57, 71	
	Malacca Strait and Andaman Sea	57	57g
	Indian Ocean of Western Sumatera and Sunda Striat	57	57h
	Indian Ocean of Southern Java, Southern Nusa Tenggara, Sawu Sea, and Western of Timor Sea	57	57i
	Karimata Strait, Natuna Sea and South China Sea	71	71x
	Java Sea	71	71y
	Makassar Straits, Bone Bay, Flores Sea and Bali Sea	71	71z
	Tolo Bay and Banda Sea	71	71aa
	Tomini Bay, Maluku Sea, Halmahera Sea, Seram Sea and Berau Bay	71	71ab
	Sulawesi Sea and Northern of Halmahera Island	71	71ac
	Cendrawasih Bay and Pacific Ocean	71	71ad
	Aru Sea, Arafuru Sea and Eastern of Timor Sea	71	71ae
Malaysia		57, 71	
	West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia	57	57f
	East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia	71	71g
	Sarawak	71	71h
	Sabah	71	71i
	Labuan	71	71i
Myanmar		57	
	Rakhine	57	57a
	Ayeyarwady	57	57b
	Mon	57	57c
	Tanintharyi	57	57d
Philippines		71	
	FMA-01	71	71k and 61d
	FMA-02	71	71l
	FMA-03	71	71m
	FMA-04	71	71n
	FMA-05		71o
	FMA-06		71p and 61c
	FMA-07		71q
	FMA-08		71r
	FMA-09		71s
	FMA-10		71t
	FMA-11		71u
	FMA-12		71v
Singapore		71	71w
Thailand		57, 71	
	Gulf of Thailand	71	71a
	Indian Ocean	57	57e
Timor Leste		57	57j
Viet Nam		61, 71	



Countries	Sub-areas	FAO Marine Fishing Area	SEAFDEC Sub-areas
	Gulf of Tonkin	61	61a
	Central Viet Nam	61	61b, 71e
	Southwest Viet Nam	71	71c
	Southeast Viet Nam	71	71d
	Middle of East Sea	71	71f

(The map of sub-marine fishing areas by country will be updated)

Appendix 2

Classification of Small-scale and Commercial Fisheries

Due to different legal definitions used by each country, the following table shows the classification of small-scale and commercial fisheries of countries in the region.

Country	Small-scale fisheries	Commercial fisheries
Brunei Darussalam	Operating in Zone 1 (0–3 nm) and Zone 2 (3.1–20 nm). Fishers generally use fiberglass fishing boats propelled by one or two units of outboard engines to reach their fishing destinations and operate small-scale fishing gears such as trammel nets, hooks and lines, as well as pots.	Trawlers, seiners, and long liners: a) 60 GT; 350 Hp operating in Zone 2 b) 60.1–150 GT; 350.1–600 Hp operating in Zone 3 c) 150.1–850 GT; 600.1 Hp operating in Zone 4
Cambodia	Marine capture fishery: Coastal fisheries: small-scale fisheries with/without engine (from 5-50 Hp) operating in Zone 1.	Marine fishery: Commercial fisheries: more than 50 Hp operating in Zone 2.
Indonesia	Fisheries that its operation without using boats, using non-power boats, using outboard motor size < 5 GT or inboard motor size < 5 GT	a) Fisheries that its operation using outboard motor size 5–30 GT or inboard motor size 5–30 GT b) Fisheries that its operation using outboard motor size ≥ 30 GT or inboard motor size ≥ 30 GT
Lao PDR	Fisheries are small-scale	Not applicable
Malaysia	Traditional fisheries: Small-scale fisheries using traditional fishing gears (<i>i.e.</i> other than trawls and purse seines) with vessels less than 40 GRT operating in Zone 1 (Zone A 0–300 Hp)	Commercial fisheries: Medium and large-scale fisheries using commercial fishing gear such as trawls and purse seines a) With vessels less than 40 GRT operating in Zone 2 (Zone B < 300 Hp) b) With vessels from 40–70 GRT operating in Zone 3 (Zone C < 500 Hp) c) With vessels above 70 GRT operating in Zone 4 (Zone C2 no horsepower limit)
Myanmar	Inshore/coastal fisheries: a) Vessels of less than 40 ft or using less than 50 Hp engines operating in Zone 1. b) 10 nm from shore (Ayeyarwaddy, Rakhine coastal region and Taninthayi region)	Industrial fisheries: Vessels more than 40 ft or using more than 50 Hp engines operating in Zone 2. (Outer limit of inshore fishing zone to the EEZ)
Philippines	Municipal fisheries: Up to 15 km from shore, or equidistant between two adjacent municipalities. Small-scale fisheries with vessels of less than 3 GT operating in Zones 1 and 2.	Commercial fisheries: a) Small-scale commercial fisheries: from 3.1-20.0 GT vessels operating in Zone 2; can also operate within 10.1– 15.0 km (within Zone 1) if authority is granted by the concerned local government unit (LGU). b) Medium-scale commercial fisheries: from 20.1–150.0 GT operating in Zone 2; can also operate within 10.1-15.0 km (within Zone 1) if authority is granted by the concerned local government unit (LGU). c) Large-scale commercial fisheries: more than 150 GT operating in Zone 2.
Singapore	Small-scale fisheries with vessels of less than 3 GT operating in Zone 1	Small-scale commercial fisheries: Inboard engine less than 50 GT operating in



		Zone 2
Thailand	Small-scale fisheries: Vessels of less than 10 GT operating in Zone 1; except highly efficient fishing gear (trawls, purse seines, and dredges).	Large-scale fisheries: Vessels of more than 10 GT operating in Zone 2.
Viet Nam	No legal definition of small-scale fisheries as of August 2023	No legal definition of commercial fisheries as of August 2023

Fishing Zones of Countries in Southeast Asia

Country	Fishing Zone 1	Fishing Zone 2	Fishing Zone 3	Fishing Zone 4
Brunei Darussalam	From shoreline to 3 nm	From 3.1 nm to 20 nm	From 20.1 nm to 45 nm	From 45.1 nm to EEZ limit
Cambodia	From shoreline to 20 m depth	From 20 m depth to EEZ limit		
Indonesia	From shoreline out to 4 nm	From the outer limit of first fishing zone to 12 nm from shore	From the outer limit of second fishing zone to EEZ limit	
Malaysia	From shoreline to 5 nm	From 5 nm to 12 nm	From 12 nm to 30 nm	From 30 nm to EEZ limit (including the Indian Ocean)
Myanmar	From shoreline to 10 nm in the northern area, 10 nm in the Southern area	From outer limit of first fishing zone to EEZ limit		
Philippines	From shoreline to 15 km	From 15 km to EEZ limit		
Singapore	From shoreline to within port limits	From 12 nm to EEZ limit		
Thailand	From shoreline to 12 nm	From 12 nm to EEZ limit		
Viet Nam	Coastal zone: Delimited by the waterline along the coast and coastal route. For islands, coastal zone is the waters extending up to 6 nm from the average line of tide in multiple years around the coast of the island	Inshore zone: Delimited by the coastal route and inshore route	Offshore zone: Delimited by the inshore route and outer boundary of the exclusive economic zone of Viet Nam waters	

Appendix 3

List of Aquatic Animals and Plants

For the statistics on production from capture fisheries and aquaculture in the region broken down into species, the International Standard Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants (ISSCAAP) should be used as the basis to report the species of aquatic animals and plants.

For capture fisheries production, since some diadromous species may be caught in both marine and inland waters, the statistics will be reported in two categories of capture fisheries (*i.e.* marine capture fishery and inland capture fishery). For aquaculture production, since some aquatic species can be cultured in more than one environment, production can then be reported based on the environment where the species are cultured.

The ISSCAAP applied for the region is as follows:

Division	Code	Group of species
1	1	Freshwater fishes
	11	Carps, barbells, river suckers
	12	Loaches and hillstream loaches
	13	Tilapias and other cichlids
	14	Freshwater catfishes
	15	Freshwater perches and basses
	16	Snakeheads
	17	Characins
	18	Swamp eels and spiny eels
	19	Miscellaneous freshwater fishes
2	2	Diadromous and euryhaline fishes
	21	Sturgeons, paddlefishes
	22	Anguilla eels
	23	Salmons, trouts, smelts
	25	Milkfish, mullets
	26	Euryhaline puffer fishes
	27	Miscellaneous diadromous and euryhaline fishes
3	3	Marine fishes
	31	Flounders, halibuts, soles and other flat fishes
	32	Cods, hakes, haddocks
	33	Miscellaneous coastal fishes
	34	Miscellaneous demersal fishes
	35	Herrings, sardines, anchovies
	36	Tunas, bonitos, billfishes
	37	Miscellaneous pelagic fishes
	38	Sharks, rays, chimaeras
	39	Marine fishes not identified
4	4	Crustaceans
	41	Freshwater shrimps and prawns
	42	Freshwater crayfishes
	43	Miscellaneous freshwater crustaceans
	44	Marine crabs, sea-spiders
	45	Lobsters, spiny-rock lobsters
	46	King crabs, squat-lobsters
	47	Marine shrimps and prawns
	48	Krill, marine planktonic crustaceans
	49	Miscellaneous marine crustaceans
5	5	Molluscs
	51	Freshwater molluscs
	52	Abalones, winkles, conchs, and other sea snails
	53	Oysters
	54	Sea mussels
	55	Scallops, pectens

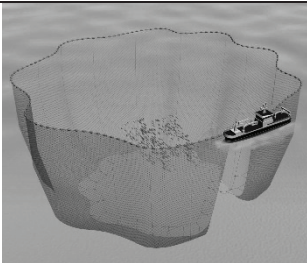

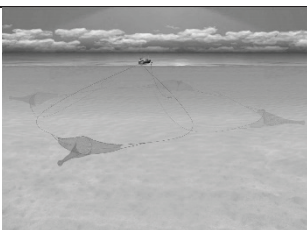



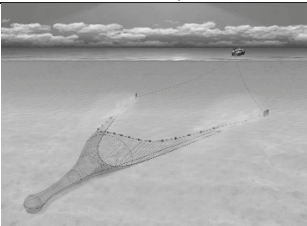
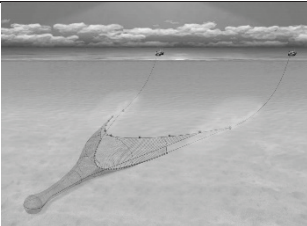
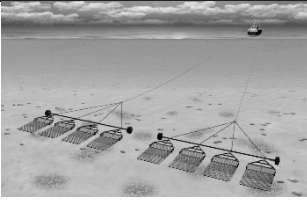


Division	Code	Group of species
	56	Clams, cockles, arkshells and other bivalves
	57	Squids, cuttlefishes, octopus
	58	Miscellaneous marine molluscs
7	7	Miscellaneous aquatic animals
	71	Frogs, salamanders and other amphibians
	72	Turtles
	73	Crocodiles, alligators, and caimans
	74	Sea-squirts and other tunicates
	75	Horseshoe crabs and other arachnoids
	76	Sea-urchins and other echinoderms
	77	Sea cucumbers
	78	Marine worms
	79	Miscellaneous aquatic invertebrates
8	8	Miscellaneous aquatic animal products
	81	Marine pearls, mother-of-pearls, shells
	82	Corals
	83	Sponges
9	9	Aquatic plants
	91	Brown algae
	92	Red algae
	93	Marine macro green algae
	94	Aquatic Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)
	95	Miscellaneous aquatic micro-algae
	96	Aquatic macrophytes

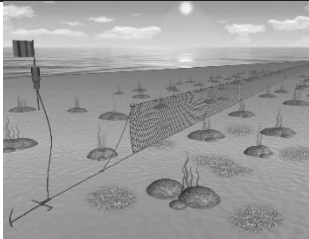
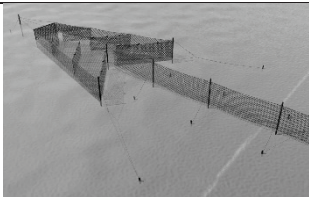
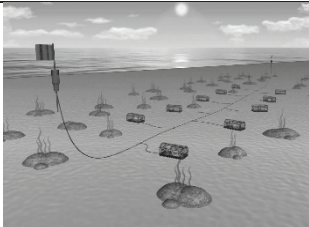
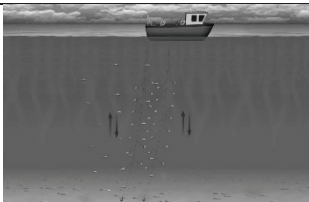
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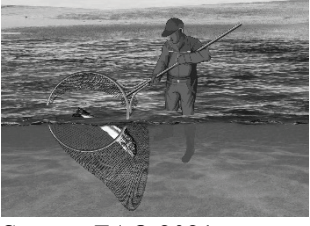
Classification of Fishing Gear

In reporting the statistics on production from capture fisheries by types of fishing gear, the classification of fishing gear based on the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishing Gear (ISSCFG) should be applied to the region as follows:

Code	Category and type	Illustration	Description
01	Surrounding nets		
01.1	Purse seine - <i>Anchovy purse seine</i> - <i>Fish purse seine</i>	 Source: Seafish, 2021	Purse seines are the most efficient gear for catching small and large pelagic species that are shoaling. The gear is made of a long wall of netting framed with floatline and leadline (usually, of equal or longer length than the former) and has purse rings hanging from the lower edge of the gear, through which runs a purse line made from steel wire or rope which allow the pursing of the net.
01.9	Surrounding nets (<i>nei</i>)		
02	Seine nets		
02.1	Beach seines	 Source: Seafish,2021	Beach seines are operated from the shore. The gear is composed of a bunt (bag or lose netting) and long wings often lengthened with long ropes for towing the seine to the beach. The headrope with floats is on the surface, the footrope is in permanent contact with the bottom, and the seine is, therefore, a barrier that prevents the fish from escaping from the area enclosed by the net.
02.2	Boat seines	 Source: Seafish,2021	Boat seines consist basically of a conical netting body, two relatively long wings, and a bag. The wings are frequently longer than on trawls. The long ropes extending from the wings, which are used to encircle a large area are an important component of the capture efficiency. The groundrope is usually a fairly heavy rope weighted with lead rings or hanging lead ropes. The seine ropes are made from synthetic fiber ropes with a lead core or from a combination of ropes.
02.9	Seine nets (<i>nei</i>)		
03	Trawls		
03.11	Beam trawl		Beam trawls consist of a cone-shaped body ending in a bag or codend which retains the catch. The horizontal opening of the net is provided by a beam, made of wood or metal, which is up to 12 m long. The vertical opening is provided by two hoop-like trawls mostly made from steel. No hydrodynamic forces are needed to

Code	Category and type	Illustration	Description
		Source: Seafish,2021	keep the gear open.
03.12	Single boat bottom otter trawls	 <p>Source: Seafish,2021</p>	Single boat bottom otter trawls are the most common type of trawls and are often called “bottom otter trawl,” “otter trawl,” or “bottom trawl.” The gear is a cone-shaped trawl towed on the seabed by one boat with its horizontal spread maintained by a pair of otter boards.
03.15	Bottom pair trawls	 <p>Source: Seafish,2021</p>	Bottom pair trawls consist of a cone-shaped body, normally made of two or four (and sometimes more) panels, closed by a codend and with lateral wings extending forward from the opening.
03.9	Trawls (<i>nei</i>)		
04	Dredges	 <p>Source: Seafish,2021</p>	Dredges are dragged along the bottom to catch shellfish. The gear consists of a mouth frame to which a holding bag constructed of metal rings or meshes is attached.
04.9	Dredges (<i>nei</i>)		
05	Lift nets	 <p>Source: FAO, 2021</p>	Lift nets are horizontal netting panels or bags shaped like a parallel-piped pyramid or cone with the opening facing upwards which are submerged at a certain depth, left for a while, the time necessary for light or bait to attract fish over the opening, then lifted out of the water.
05.9	Lift nets (<i>nei</i>)		
06	Falling Gear		
06.1	Cast nets	 <p>Source: FAO, 2021</p>	Cast nets are cast by fishers to catch fish. The gear is constructed from a series of tailored netting sections joined together to produce a cone-shaped net with weights and a drawstring attached to the perimeter. Netting at the funnel end may be arranged such that the net hangs in a series of sculpted pockets to aid in the retention of fish. The line attached to the apex of the cone is used to assist in casting and retrieval of the net allowing the brail lines to be tightened.
0.6.9	Falling gear (<i>nei</i>)		

Code	Category and type	Illustration	Description
07	<u>Gillnets and entangling nets</u>	 Source: Seafish,2021	Gillnets and entangling nets are strings of single, double, or triple netting walls, vertical, near by the surface, in midwater, or at the bottom, in which fish will gill, entangle, or enmesh. The gear can set, anchored to the bottom or left drifting, free or connected with the vessel which have floats on the upper line (headrope) and, in general, weights on the ground-line (footrope).
07.9	Gillnets and entangling nets (<i>nei</i>)		
08	Traps		
08.1	Stationary uncovered pound nets	 Source: Seafish, 2021	Stationary uncovered pound nets consist usually of net walls anchored or fixed on stakes, reaching from the bottom to the surface. The nets are open at the surface and include various types of fish herding and retaining devices. The gear is mostly divided into chambers closed at the bottom by netting.
08.2	Pots	 Source: Seafish, 2021	Pots are designed in the form of cages or baskets, small or large (with dimensions ranging from around half a meter to two), made from various materials (wood, wicker, metal rods, wire netting, plastic, etc.). Most of the pots are set on the bottom, while a few models are designed to be in mid-water. Pots are frequently set in rows and used with or without bait, depending on the target species. The bait is usually pieces of fish or artificial flourished baits. The gear might have one or more openings or entrances.
08.9	Traps (<i>nei</i>)		
09	Hook and lines	 Source: Seafish,2021	Hook and lines attract fish by a natural or artificial bait (lures) placed on a hook fixed to the end of a line or snood, on which they get caught. Hooks or metallic points (jigs) are also used to catch fish by ripping them when they pass in its range of movement. Hook and line units may be used singly or in large numbers.
09.9	Hook and lines (<i>nei</i>)		
10	Miscellaneous gear		

Code	Category and type	Illustration	Description
10.5	Pushnets	 <p>Source: FAO,2021</p>	<p>A pushnet is a bag-shaped net with two sides fixed to scissor-like crossed poles and pushed by a fisher wading in water or from a boat in shallow waters. The poles are made from bamboo, wood, plastic, aluminum, or steel.</p>
10.6	<u>Scoopnets</u>	 <p>Source: FAO,2021</p>	<p>Scoopnets are operated by wading in shallow water, from rocks in a river, or from a boat. The gear is usually operated by hand, by one or more people to scoop or sieve the catch from the water. The net is held open by metal, plastic, or wooden frame, with or without handles.</p>
10.9	<u>Gear <i>nei</i></u>		
99	<u>Gear not known</u>		

Appendix 5**Classification of Fishery Vessels**

To compile the statistics on fishing units, the regional classification of fishery vessels should be referred to as follows:

Vessel type		Size (GT)
Category	Sub-category	
1.	Non-powered vessel	
2.	Powered vessel	
	2.1 Out-board powered vessel	
	2.1 In-board powered vessel	Less than 5
		5–9.9
		10–19.9
		20–49.9
		50–99.9
		100–199.9
		200–499.9
		More than 500

Selected Examples of Aquaculture and Capture Fisheries Practices

Production from	Designation	
	Aquaculture	Capture fisheries
Hatcheries	*	
Ponds (including intertidal ponds)	*	
Tanks	*	
Raceways	*	
Cages	*	
Pens	*	
Integrated culture production	*	
Stocked lakes, reservoirs, barrages, and rivers		
- with other enhancement (predator control and/or fertilization)		*
- modification with “exploitation rights”	*	
- no other intervention without “exploitation rights”		*
Lakes, coastal lagoons, reservoirs and rivers without stocking		
- open capture fisheries without any control and exploitation rights		*
- with enhancement (fertilization and/or predator control, habitat modification), with “exploitation rights” presence of fish barriers (e.g. lavorieri; dajlan; bordigue)	*	
Rice-fish culture	*	
Finfish and other animals harvested from brush parks:		
- managed over time and with other enhancement rights		*
- harvested on an install and harvest basis		*
Finfish and other animals harvested from fish aggregating devices and/or artificial reefs		*
Finfish or other organisms reared in captivity from wild captured seeds, including postlarval capture and culture (PCC):		
- quantities of wild seeds captured		*
- the remaining quantity of harvest	*	
Shellfish		
- from managed grow-out site (e.g. poles, ropes, net bags)	*	
- from areas not managed but sown with cultured seeds		*
- subject to harvest with “exploitation rights”		*
- subject to open fisheries		*
Aquatic plants and seaweeds		
- harvest of planted and suspended aquatic plants	*	
- from enhanced areas (implanting, predator control, and/or habitat modifications)		*
- harvest of natural aquatic plants		*
Aquatic organisms caught in open waters		*

Appendix 7

Classification of Fishers and Fish Farmers

To compile statistics on the number of fishers and fish farmers, the classification of fishers and fish farmers will be used as follows:

a. Fishers and fish farmers by sub-sector and working status

Category	Sub-sector	Working status	Sex
1. Fishers	1.1 Marine capture fisheries	Full-time fishers	Male (M)
			Female (F)
			Unspecified (U)
		Part-time fishers	Male (M)
			Female (F)
			Unspecified (U)
		Occasional fishers	Male (M)
			Female (F)
			Unspecified (U)
		Status unspecified	Male (M)
			Female (F)
			Unspecified (U)
	1.2 Inland capture fisheries	Full-time fishers	Male (M)
			Female (F)
			Unspecified (U)
		Part-time fishers	Male (M)
			Female (F)
			Unspecified (U)
Occasional fishers		Male (M)	
		Female (F)	
		Unspecified (U)	
Status unspecified		Male (M)	
		Female (F)	
		Unspecified (U)	
2. Fish farmers	Aquaculture	Full-time fish farmers	Male (M)
			Female (F)
			Unspecified (U)
		Part-time fish farmers	Male (M)
			Female (F)
			Unspecified (U)
		Occasional fish farmers	Male (M)
			Female (F)
			Unspecified (U)
		Status unspecified	Male (M)
			Female (F)
			Unspecified (U)



b. Fishers and fish farmers by sub-sector and nationality

Category	Sub-sector	Nationality	Sex
1. Fishers	1.1 Marine capture fisheries	National	Female
			Male
			Unspecified
		Foreign	Female
			Male
			Unspecified
	1.2 Inland capture fisheries	National	Female
			Male
			Unspecified
		Foreign	Female
			Male
			Unspecified
2. Fish farmers	Aquaculture	National	Female
			Male
			Unspecified
		Foreign	Female
			Male
			Unspecified
		Female	
		Male	
		Unspecified	

Appendix 8

List of Fishery Commodities for Export and Import Statistics

Division	Group	ISSFC Code	HS Code	Commodities
1. Live fish (034.1.1)	11. Ornamental fish	034.1.1.1.19	0301.19	Ornamental fish <i>nei</i>
		034.1.1.2.90	0301.99	Fish for culture incl. fingerlings
	12. Other live fishes	034.1.2.1.20	0301.92	Eels
		034.1.2.1.10	0301.93	Carps
		034.1.2.1.90	0301.99	Others
2. Fish, fresh or chilled excluding fillets and other fish meat (034.1)	21. Freshwater fishes	034.1.3.1	0302.73	Carps, barbells and other cyprinids
		034.1.3.2	0302.71	Tilapias and other cichlids
		034.1.3.9.30	0302.72	Catfishes
		034.1.3.9.90	0302.89	Freshwater fishes <i>nei</i>
	22. Diadromous fishes	034.1.4.3	0302.19	Salmons, trouts, smelts
		034.1.4.5.10	0302.89	Milkfish
		034.1.4.5.20	0302.89	Barramundi
	23. Marine fishes	034.1.5.1	0302.29	Flounders, halibuts, soles
		034.1.5.5	0302.89	Herrings, sardines, anchovies
		034.1.5.6	0302.89	Tunas, bonitos, billfishes
		034.1.5.7.69	0302.44	Mackerels <i>nei</i>
		034.1.5.8	0302.89	Sharks, rays, chimaeras
		034.1.5.8.90	0302.89	Marine fish <i>nei</i>
3. Fish, frozen excluding fish fillets and other fish meat (034.2)	31. Freshwater fishes	034.2.3.1	0303.89	Carps, barbells and other cyprinids
		034.2.3.2	0303.23	Tilapias and other cichlids
		034.2.3.9.30	0303.24	Catfishes
		034.2.3.9.90	0303.89	Freshwater fishes <i>nei</i>
	32. Diadromous fishes	034.2.4.3	0303.19	Salmon and trouts
		034.2.4.5.10	0303.89	Milkfish
		034.2.4.5.20	0303.89	Barramundi
	33. Marine fishes	034.2.5.1	0303.89	Flounders, halibuts, soles
		034.2.5.5	0303.89	Herrings, sardines, anchovies
		034.2.5.6	0303.89	Tunas, bonitos, billfishes
		034.2.5.7.69	0303.54	Mackerels <i>nei</i>
		034.2.5.8	0303.81	Sharks, rays, chimaeras
		034.2.5.9.90	0303.89	Marine fish <i>nei</i>
4. Fish fillets and meats, fresh or chilled (034.3)	41. Freshwater fishes	034.3.1.3.1	0304.39	Carps, barbells and other cyprinids
		034.3.1.3.2	0304.31	Tilapias and other cichlids
		034.3.1.3.9.30	0304.32	Catfishes
		034.3.1.3.9.90	0304.49	Freshwater fishes <i>nei</i>
	42. Diadromous fish	034.1.4.3	0304.49	Salmon, trouts, smelts
	43. Marine fishes	034.3.1.5.1	0304.43	Flounders, halibuts, soles
		034.3.1.5.5	0304.49	Herrings, sardines, anchovies
		034.3.1.5.6	0304.49	Tunas, bonitos, billfishes
		034.3.1.5.8	0304.49	Sharks, rays, chimaeras
		034.3.1.5.9.90	0304.49	Marine fish <i>nei</i>
	5. Fish fillets and meat, frozen (034.4)	51. Freshwater fishes	034.4.1.3.2	0304.89
034.4.1.3.9.30			0304.62	Catfishes
034.4.1.3.9.90			0304.89	Freshwater fishes <i>nei</i>
52. Diadromous fish		034.4.1.4.3	0304.89	Salmon, trouts, smelts
53. Marine fishes		034.4.1.5.1	0304.83	Flounders, halibuts, soles
		034.4.1.5.5	0304.89	Herrings, sardines, anchovies
		034.4.1.5.6	0304.89	Tunas, bonitos, billfishes
		034.4.1.5.7.69	0304.89	Mackerels <i>nei</i>
		034.4.1.5.8	0304.88	Sharks, rays, chimaeras
034.4.1.5.9.90		0304.89	Marine fish <i>nei</i>	

Division	Group	ISSCFC Code	HS Code	Commodities
6. Fish, dried, salted or in brine; smoked fish (035)	61. Freshwater fish dried whether or not salted, not smoked	035.02.1.3	0305.59	
	62. Diadromous fish dried whether or not salted, not smoked	035.02.1.4	0305.59	
	63. Marine fishes dried whether or not salted, not smoked	035.02.1.5.1	0305.59	Flounders, halibuts, soles
		035.02.1.5.5	0305.59	Herrings, sardines, anchovies
		035.02.1.5.6	0305.59	Tunas, bonitos, billfishes
		035.02.1.5.7.69	0305.54	Mackerels <i>nei</i>
		035.02.1.5.8	0305.59	Sharks, rays, chimaeras
	035.02.1.5.9.90	0305.59	Marine fish <i>nei</i>	
	64. Freshwater fish salted and in brine	035.02.2.3	0305.69	
	65. Diadromous fish salted and in brine	035.02.2.4	0305.69	
	66. Marine fish salted and in brine	035.02.2.5.1	0305.69	Flounders, halibuts, soles
		035.02.2.5.5	0305.69	Herrings, sardines, anchovies
		035.02.2.5.6	0305.69	Tunas, bonitos, billfishes
		035.02.2.5.7.69	0305.69	Mackerels <i>nei</i>
		035.02.2.5.8	0305.69	Sharks, rays, chimaeras
	035.02.2.5.9.95	0305.69	Marine fish <i>nei</i>	
	67. Freshwater fish, smoked	035.03.3	0305.49	
	68. Diadromous fish, smoked	035.03.4	0305.49	
	69. Marine fish, smoked	035.03.5.1	0305.49	Flounders, halibuts, soles
		035.03.5.5	0305.49	Herrings, sardines, anchovies
035.03.5.6		0305.49	Tunas, bonitos, billfishes	
035.03.5.7.69		0305.49	Mackerels <i>nei</i>	
035.03.5.8		0305.49	Sharks, rays, chimaeras	
035.03.5.9.95	0305.49	Marine fish <i>nei</i>		
7. Crustaceans live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine or dried, smoked (036)	71. Crustaceans live, fresh or chilled	036.0.1.3.1.50	0306.36	Freshwater shrimps and prawns
		036.0.1.3.2	0306.33	Crabs
		036.0.1.3.3	0306.31	Lobsters, spiny-rock lobsters, etc
		036.0.1.3.5	0306.36	Shrimps, prawns, etc.
	72. Crustaceans frozen	036.0.1.4.1.50	0306.17	Freshwater shrimps and prawns
		036.0.1.4.2	0306.14	Crabs and crab meat
		036.0.1.4.3	0306.11	Lobsters, lobster meat
		036.0.1.4.5	0306.17	Shrimps, prawns, etc.
	73. Crustaceans, dried, salted or in brine, smoked	036.0.1.5	0306.99	
	8. Molluscs live, fresh, chilled, frozen, salted, in brine or dried, smoked (036.0.2)	81. Molluscs live, fresh or chilled	036.0.2.3.3	0307.11
036.0.2.3.4			0307.31	Mussels
036.0.2.3.7.40			0307.42	Cuttlefishes and squids
036.0.2.3.9.91			0307.91	Molluscs <i>nei</i>
82. Molluscs frozen		036.0.2.4.2.10	0307.83	Abalone
		036.0.2.4.3	0307.12	Oyster
		036.0.2.4.4	0307.32	Mussels
		036.0.2.4.7.40	0307.43	Cuttlefishes and squids
036.0.2.4.9.91		0307.92	Molluscs <i>nei</i>	
83. Molluscs, dried, salted or in brine, smoked		036.0.2.5.2.10	0307.87	Abalone
		036.0.2.5.3	0307.19	Oysters
		036.0.2.5.4	0307.39	Mussels
	036.0.2.5.7.40	0307.49	Cuttlefishes and squids	

Division	Group	ISSCFC Code	HS Code	Commodities
		036.0.2.5.9.91	0307.99	Molluscs <i>nei</i>
9. Fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates, prepared or preserved (037)	91. Fish prepared or preserved	037.1.1.6.94	1604.19	Fish not minced, prepare or preserve in airtight containers
		037.1.1.6.95	1604.19	Fish not minced, prepare or preserve not in airtight containers
	92. Crustaceans, molluscs, and other aquatic invertebrates prepared or preserved	-	-	Crustacean and mollusc preparations in airtight containers
		037.2.3.9.91	1605.40	Crustacean and mollusc preparations, not in airtight containers
10. Meals, solubles and similar animal feedingstuffs, of aquatic animal origin (081)		081	2301.20	
11. Aquatic animals, oils and fats (411)		411	1504.10	
12. Seaweeds and aquatic plants products thereof		292.9.1	1212.29	

ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics

Terms of Reference (*As of establishment in 2004*)

- To act as the national focal point in supporting and providing national inputs for the compilation of fishery statistics at regional and international levels;
- To involve in developing regional standards, definitions, and classification of fishery statistics;
- To involve in planning and implementation of regional programs/projects on fishery statistics and information; and
- To supervise and manage all required activities and ensure regular communication with SEAFDEC Secretariat according to the volume of work envisaged within the determined timeframe.

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CLOSING REMARKS

by *Dr. Suttinee Limthammahisorn*
SEAFDEC Secretary-General

My Co-Chair for the ASEAN,

Distinguished delegates from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the ASEAN Secretariat,

SEAFDEC senior officials, ladies, and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Firstly, please allow me to thank *Dr. Kaviphone Phouthavong*, my co-chairperson of ASEAN, for chairing with me the Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership or FCG/ASSP. Allow me also to thank *Mr. Joseph Arbiol* from the ASEAN Secretariat for his kind assistance and guidance.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the participants of this Meeting whose cooperation and support during deliberations allowed us to successfully conclude the Meeting with significant recommendations. SEAFDEC therefore wishes that such recommendations would be submitted by my ASEAN counterpart to the higher authorities of the ASEAN for consideration and endorsement.

In facing the emerging challenges in fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia, let us remain committed to addressing these issues collectively for a sustainable future. Let us also carry forward the spirit of cooperation and collaboration that defines the ASEAN-SEAFDEC partnership. The issues we face are complex, but with continued dedication and shared efforts, we can sustain fisheries and aquaculture in our region by ensuring that fisheries products from our region remain a source of prosperity for generations to come.

Last but not the least, I also thank the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia, SEAFDEC/IFRDMD, and staff of the SEAFDEC Secretariat for the warm hospitality and excellent support and arrangement of the Meetings. Despite our busy schedule, I believe all of us enjoyed the food and culture, and we all had a memorable time here in Bali.

Thank you once again for your cooperation and have a safe flight back home. Until we meet again in our shared pursuit of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region.

I now declare this Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership closed.

Good day!

