

**REPORT OF
THE FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

19–21 May 2026
Bangkok, Thailand



THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**REPORT OF
THE FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF
THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

19–21 May 2026

Bangkok, Thailand



**THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

Report of the Fifty-eighth Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center was prepared by Secretariat of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, in collaboration with its Departments namely, the Training Department (TD), the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), the Aquaculture Department (AQD), the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and the Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD). The document is distributed to the SEAFDEC Member Countries and its Departments.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

SEAFDEC. (2026). *Report of the Fifty-eighth Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center*. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Bangkok, Thailand. 341 pp.

NOTICE OF COPYRIGHT

References to this publication could be made provided that the publication is properly cited.

Electronic copy of this publication is also available under the SEAFDEC Institutional Repository (SIR), accessible through <https://repository.seafdec.org>. E-copy of the publication may be shared only for non-commercial purposes. However, public access to the e-copy of the publication could be made only through the publication URL in the SIR; and not through other domains without permission in writing from SEAFDEC.

SEAFDEC Secretariat
Suraswadi Building
Kasetsart University Campus
P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand.
E-mail: secretariat@seafdec.org

All rights reserved

©SEAFDEC 2026

CONTENTS

	Paragraph No.
INTRODUCTION	1–2
INAUGURAL CEREMONY	3–6
I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
1.1 Opening of the Meeting	7
1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2026–2027	8–9
1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting	10
II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL	11–24
III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING	25–33
IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE FCG/ASSP	34–38
V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES	
5.1 Science-based and Fisheries Management	
5.1.1 Efforts to Combat IUU Fishing in the Region	39–48
5.1.2 Effort to Combat Marine Debris and Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing gear (ALDFG) in Southeast Asia	49–57
5.1.3 Hydroacoustic-based Stock Assessment	
5.1.3.1 Progress on Fisheries Acoustic Survey in the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia for Pelagic Fish Stock Assessment	58–60
5.1.3.2 Future Plan for the Transfer of Hydroacoustic-based Stock Assessment to SEAFDEC Member Countries	61
5.2 International Fisheries Related Issues	
5.2.1 Outcomes of CITES CoP20 and CITES-Related Issues	62–69
VI. OTHER MATTERS	
6.1 Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia	70–73
6.2 The Preparation for Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2027 (SEASOFIA 2027)	74–79
VII. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS	80–88
VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL	89
IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER	
9.1 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations	90–93
9.2 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels	94–98
9.3 Disposal Plan of the M.V. SEAFDEC	99–105
9.4 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 (Mid-term Evaluation 2025)	106–107
9.5 Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN)	108–119

	Paragraph No.	
9.6	The Preparation of the 60 th Anniversary of SEAFDEC	
9.6.1	SEAFDEC Anniversary Event and Relevant Materials	120–125
9.6.2	Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040	126–127
9.7	Update on Financial Situation of Japanese Trust Fund 7	128–129
9.8	Modification of the Organizational Structure of SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC Training Department	130
9.9	Discontinuation of Hard Copy Reports for SEAFDEC Annual Meetings	131–132
X.	FINANCIAL MATTERS	
10.1	Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2024	133
10.2	Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2025, and Status of the MRC Financial Situation in the Year 2026	134
10.3	Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2027	135
XI.	CONCLUDING MATTERS	
11.1	Adoption of the Report and Press Statement	136
11.2	Date and Venue of the Fifty-ninth Meeting of the Council	137
11.3	Vote of Thanks to the Host Government	138
XII.	CLOSING OF THE MEETING	139

ANNEXES

Annex		Page
1.	List of Participants	23
2.	Welcome Remarks by <i>Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert</i> , The Director-General of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand and SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand	35
3.	Opening Remarks by <i>Mr. Leong Der Yao</i> , Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Corporate, Industry & Technology and Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2025–2026	37
4.	Keynote Message by <i>Dr. Pornthep Sritanatorn</i> , Inspector General, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	39
5.	Agenda	41
6.	Executive Summary of the Forty-eighth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee	43
7.	Executive Summary of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)	51
8.	Efforts to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia	55
9.	Efforts to Combat Marine Debris and Abandoned, Loss or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in Southeast Asia	61
10.	Progress on Fisheries Acoustic Survey in the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia for Pelagic Fish Stock Assessment	67
11.	Future Plan for the Technology Transfer of Hydroacoustic-Based Stock Assessment to SEAFDEC Member Countries	69
12.	Outcomes of CITES COP20 and CITES-related Issues	73
13.	Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia	81
14.	Preparation of Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2027	89
15.	Statement by <i>Dr. Benjamin Belton</i> , the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP)	95
16.	Statement by <i>Ms. Pouchamarn Wongsanga</i> , the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	97
17.	Statement by <i>Ms. Gemma Meermans Matainaho</i> , the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery and Aquaculture Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH)	101
18.	Statement by <i>Mr. Namazu Yohei</i> , Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	103
19.	Statement by <i>Mr. Simon Wilkinson</i> , the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)	105
20.	Statement by <i>Mr. Herve Lefevre</i> , World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US)	107

Annex	Page
21. Collaborative Arrangements Between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations	109
22. Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels	119
23. Disposal Plan of M.V. SEAFDEC	127
24. 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 (Mid-Term Review 2025)	181
25. Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) program	261
26. The Preparation of the 60 th Anniversary of SEAFDEC: SEAFDEC Anniversary Event and Relevant Materials	277
27. The Preparation of the 60 th Anniversary of SEAFDEC: Revised Budget	287
28. The Preparation of the 60 th Anniversary of SEAFDEC: Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040	289
29. Update on Financial Situation of Japanese Trust Fund 7	307
30. Proposed Modification of the Organizational Structure	
a. SEAFDEC Secretariat	309
b. Training Department	313
31. Discontinuation of Hard Copy Reports for SEAFDEC Annual Meetings and SEAFDEC Annual Report	319
32. Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Center for the Year 2024 Ending on 31 December 2024	321
33. Un-Audited Financial Report for the Year 2024 and the Status of the MRC for the Year 2025	327
34. Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2026	333
35. Press Statement	337
36. Vote of Thanks to the Host Country by <i>Mr. Akhane Phomsouvanh</i> , the Deputy Director-General and SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR	339
37. Closing Remark by <i>Mr. Prathet Sorrak</i> , on behalf of <i>Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert</i> , Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, Thailand	341

**THE FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

**Bangkok, Thailand
19–21 May 2026**



The SEAFDEC Council and Alternate Council Directors, together with the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General at the 58th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council

REPORT OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

19–21 May 2026

Bangkok, Thailand

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifty-eighth Meeting of the Council (58CM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was conducted from 19 to 21 May 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand, at the invitation of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand.
2. The 58CM was attended by the Council Directors for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia (online), Indonesia (online), Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, together with their respective delegations. Moreover, the 58CM was also attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. Other attendees included representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA), the Embassy of the United States of America in Bangkok, and World Wildlife Fund of the United States, Inc. (WWF-US) as observers; while the representative from Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH) delivered her statement of cooperation through video. The list of participants appears in **Annex 1**.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

3. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Fifty-eighth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was held on 19 May 2026 and was officiated by *Dr. Pornthep Sritanatorn*, the Inspector General, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand.
4. At the outset, the Director-General of the Department of Fisheries of Thailand and SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand, *Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert*, welcomed the participants to the 58CM. She commended *Mr. Leong Der Yao* for his leadership as Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2025–2026. She also acknowledged that environmental, economic, and social changes worsened by geopolitical tensions have complicated sustainable fisheries development, prompting the country to call for collective action from all stakeholders and Member Countries. She commended the role of SEAFDEC in sustainable fisheries and capacity building and committed to working with all members as the organization approaches its 60th anniversary to ensure a resilient and sustainable regional fisheries future. She then invited participants to discover Bangkok as a vibrant capital, blending deep-rooted cultural heritage with modern progress and encouraged the meeting participants to enjoy the city's unique charm and hospitality. Her Welcome Remarks appear in **Annex 2**.
5. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Corporate Industry & Technology and SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2025–2026, *Mr. Leong Der Yao*, welcomed the SEAFDEC Council Directors and all participants to the 58CM. In his remarks, he expressed his appreciation to the Government of Thailand for the warm hospitality extended to all delegates. He reflected on the progress made over the past year, during which innovative ideas, strengthened trust, and a shared vision among the SEAFDEC Member Countries were evident in safeguarding the long-term viability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia. He also highlighted that the programs and operations of the SEAFDEC/MFRD, hosted by Singapore, have been increasingly oriented toward sustainability, environmental monitoring, and long-term climate adaptation. As the region continues to face growing challenges from climate change and environmental degradation, he emphasized the urgent need for enhanced environmental monitoring and adaptive measures to ensure resilient food systems, particularly for aquatic resources. He noted that several important issues related to fisheries management, regional collaboration, and the future direction of the Center would be discussed during the 58CM, paving the way



toward the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC in 2027. Over the past six decades, SEAFDEC has evolved from a modest regional initiative into a cornerstone institution for fisheries and aquaculture development in Southeast Asia. This milestone reflects the collective commitment of the Member Countries to responsible fisheries management, sustainable aquaculture, and the well-being of millions in fishing communities that depend on the region's aquatic resources. In closing, he expressed his hope that the collective efforts of the Member Countries throughout the meeting would lead to meaningful and lasting outcomes in support of the shared vision for the region. His Remarks appear in **Annex 3**.

6. The Inspector General, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, *Dr. Pornthep Sritanatorn*, warmly welcomed the delegates to the 58CM. He underscored that 2026 marks the midpoint in the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 and highlighted the role of SEAFDEC in monitoring and evaluating progress in close collaboration with the Member Countries. He further encouraged all countries to intensify their efforts to achieve more tangible and impactful results. He emphasized that global fisheries is facing increasing pressure from climate change, overexploitation, pollution, trade regulations, escalating costs, and geopolitical tensions, and therefore, urgent progress is required. To address these challenges, he encouraged SEAFDEC Member Countries to promote sustainable fisheries and environmentally responsible aquaculture; intensify efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; and strengthen supply chain transparency through robust traceability mechanisms and ethical labor practices consistent with international standards, while ensuring inclusivity that empowers small-scale fishers. Recognizing SEAFDEC's vital role in fostering partnerships, digital innovation, and capacity building to address environmental and trade challenges, he reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to collaborating with SEAFDEC and Member Countries on sustainable, globally aligned fisheries and aquaculture. He expressed appreciation to the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Department of Fisheries of Thailand for their excellent preparations for the 58CM. Finally, he then officially declared the Meeting open. His Keynote Message appears in **Annex 4**.

I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Opening of the Meeting

7. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Corporate Industry & Technology) of Singapore Food Agency and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2025–2026, *Mr. Leong Der Yao*, welcomed the participants to the 58CM. He reiterated his gratitude to the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General for their support during his term as Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council. He also expressed appreciation to partner organizations for their technical and financial support, which has enabled SEAFDEC to implement activities toward the sustainable development of fisheries in Southeast Asia. He then declared the Meeting open.

1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2026–2027

8. The SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand, represented by the SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director for Thailand, *Mr. Prathet Sorrak*, was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2026–2027 in accordance with Article 5, Paragraph 4 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC.

9. *Mr. Prathet Sorrak* expressed his gratitude to the SEAFDEC Council for electing the Council Director for Thailand as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2026–2027. He then expressed appreciation to the Council Director for Singapore for his excellent Chairpersonship during the Year 2025–2026, as well as to the SEAFDEC Secretariat for supporting Thailand in the preparation for the 58CM. He further expressed hope that the continued support from SEAFDEC and cooperation among Member Countries will play a crucial role in strengthening food security and alleviating poverty in the fisheries sector in the coming year.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting

10. The Council adopted the Agenda of the Meeting, which appears as **Annex 5**.

II. REPORT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL

11. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Ms. Sampan Panjarat*, presented the draft SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025, wherein she highlighted key achievements in 2025 in accordance with the SEAFDEC Strategies Towards 2030.

12. The Council Director for Indonesia approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025 and expressed appreciation for the hard work undertaken by SEAFDEC in implementing various programs and activities throughout the year. He noted that Indonesia had been actively involved in several SEAFDEC activities, including consultations and capacity-building programs. He particularly expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for convening several activities in Indonesia, such as the “On-site Training on the Implementation of National Fish Traceability and Logistic System (STELINA)” organized on 11–13 November 2025 in Surabaya, Indonesia and the “Training Course on Enhancing Capacity for Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) of Domestic and International Fishing Vessels to Combat IUU Fishing” on 19–21 August 2025 in Jakarta, Indonesia. He highlighted that the participants have gained practical knowledge and experience from these training activities. Furthermore, he emphasized that human resource development is a key factor in achieving sustainable fisheries, particularly through strengthening the capacity of stakeholders, including government officials and local fishing communities. In this regard, he encouraged SEAFDEC and the Member Countries to further enhance cooperation on capacity-building activities. He also noted Indonesia’s cooperation with the Member Countries under the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), including academic exchanges and collaborative initiatives.

13. The Council Director for Indonesia further encouraged SEAFDEC to sustain the implementation of programs and activities related to small-scale fisheries, noting that SEAFDEC could play an important role in facilitating the development of the National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) for the Member Countries. In this context, Indonesia has developed its NPOA-SSF to support sustainable fisheries development for SSF in Indonesia. Regarding the aquaculture sector, as aquaculture production in the region has gained increasing global attention, efforts to support sustainable and responsible aquaculture practices need to be strengthened. He therefore encouraged SEAFDEC to facilitate more capacity-building programs, particularly on sustainable aquaculture practices and technologies. With respect to the activities of IFRDMD, he encouraged the implementation of more inland fisheries programs and activities, including studies, research, and capacity-building initiatives, as well as the promotion of strategic and locally relevant practices. He further emphasized that comprehensive implementation and reporting of activities would contribute to more concrete and positive outcomes for inland fisheries development, including the future direction of IFRDMD programs.

14. While supporting the approval of the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025, the Council Director for Malaysia acknowledged SEAFDEC’s efforts in strengthening regional cooperation on sustainable fisheries, aquaculture, food security, combating IUU fishing, climate resilience, and science-based fisheries management. She also appreciated the successful implementation of regional initiatives, particularly fisheries research and stock assessment activities. Furthermore, she reaffirmed Malaysia’s commitment to supporting collaboration between ASEAN and SEAFDEC toward sustainable fisheries development and regional food security.

15. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for its achievements in 2025 and recognized SEAFDEC as an important partner in promoting collaboration and capacity-building activities on aquaculture, combating IUU fishing, and fisheries resource management. He also appreciated the support provided through marine resource surveys in Myanmar waters by using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2. In closing, he expressed his full support for SEAFDEC and approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025.



16. The Council Director for Cambodia expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for its achievements in 2025 and approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025. Although Cambodia was unable to participate in person in meetings/workshops conducted by SEAFDEC in 2025, the delegation attended these events through an online platform.

17. The Council Director for Lao PDR congratulated SEAFDEC on its achievements in 2025, particularly in advancing aquaculture, enhancing inland fisheries management, and strengthening food security across the region. He also appreciated the technical support provided by SEAFDEC in improving community-based fisheries management and strengthening rural livelihoods and food security. He also expressed approval of the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025 and looked forward to collaborating with SEAFDEC and the other Member Countries in future activities.

18. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam commended SEAFDEC and the Secretariat for preparing the draft SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025, which clearly reflects significant achievements aligned with the SEAFDEC Strategies Towards 2030 and demonstrates a continued commitment to advancing sustainable fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. While also appreciating the progress made in enhancing visibility, implementing the Gender Strategy, and following up on Council and Committee directives, she supported the approval of the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025.

19. The Council Director for Japan expressed appreciation for the comprehensive preparation of the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025 and noted that SEAFDEC had continuously expanded and implemented a wide range of important activities. He subsequently approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025.

20. The Council Director for the Philippines expressed her appreciation for the accomplishments reflected in the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025 and approved the Annual Report for publication and dissemination.

21. The Council Director for Viet Nam expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for its achievements in 2025, particularly the implementation of numerous training activities and technology transfer initiatives. He then approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025.

22. The Council Director for Thailand expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for the progress in implementing various programs and activities in 2025. She also recognized the important role of SEAFDEC in conducting research, training, implementation of pilot projects, and regional fisheries resource surveys in collaboration with the Member Countries, including activities addressing the marine debris issue. Furthermore, she reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to serving as a reliable and constructive partner of SEAFDEC and expressed its readiness to continue providing support in terms of policy, technical expertise, and operational cooperation, as well as to jointly advance sustainable fisheries development in the region.

23. The Council Director for Singapore noted the activities undertaken in 2025 in partnership with various organizations and looked forward to the continuation of the programs in the coming years. He then approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025.

24. After providing views and comments on the performance and achievements of SEAFDEC, the Council approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2025 for publication and dissemination to the Member Countries, relevant organizations, and the public.

III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING

25. The Council took note of the results of the Forty-eighth Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC (48PCM), which was held on 3–5 November 2025 in Langkawi, Malaysia (**Annex 6**), as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Sampan Panjarat*, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC.

26. While approving the progress of the programs in 2025 and the proposed programs for implementation in 2026, the Council Director for Malaysia expressed her appreciation to SEAFDEC for its continued efforts in addressing regional priorities, particularly on sustainable fisheries management,

combating IUU fishing, food security, climate-related impacts, market compliance requirements, and emerging international fisheries-related issues; and looked forward to the effective implementation of the proposed activities. She then encouraged SEAFDEC to further strengthen regional cooperation, capacity building, and technical assistance, particularly in areas relevant to the Member Countries' needs, including improved fishery data systems, climate change impact assessment, and sustainable fisheries management.

27. The Council Director for Viet Nam approved the program implementation in 2025 and proposed programs in 2026. He further suggested that SEAFDEC continue to enhance the regional responses to emerging international fisheries-related issues such as 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 Agreement), the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, and the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) through workshops and training programs to assist Member Countries in complying with international regulations and market requirements.

28. The Council Director for Myanmar encouraged SEAFDEC to continue implementing activities that align with the SEAFDEC Strategies Towards 2030 in close collaboration with the Member Countries. Furthermore, he noted the achievements in 2025, including enhanced communication and visibility, the implementation of the Gender Strategy, and the execution of follow-up actions on relevant directives of the Council. He underscored the active engagement of Myanmar in projects focused on combating IUU fishing and stock assessment of tropical anguillid eels, as well as the country's participation in related capacity-building initiatives. In this connection, he supported and approved the 2025 programs and the proposed 2026 programs as recommended by the 48PCM.

29. The Council Director for the Philippines took note of the program implemented in 2025 and approved the proposed programs for 2026, together with the recommendations from the 48PCM.

30. The Council Director for Japan supported the outcome of the program implemented in 2025 and proposed programs for implementation in 2026, as recommended by the SEAFDEC Program Committee.

31. The Council Director for Indonesia took note of and approved the 48PCM report and commended SEAFDEC for the successful implementation of its activities in 2025. He further encouraged SEAFDEC to develop new initiatives on marine spatial planning to support the efforts of the Member Countries in balancing marine biodiversity conservation with sustainable economic growth. In light of the recent developments regarding the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and the BBNJ Agreement, he also suggested including the BBNJ Agreement as a permanent agenda item for future PCMs. Considering that both Agreements have recently entered into force, he encouraged SEAFDEC to continue supporting the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) through the dissemination of information, facilitation of regional dialogues, and organization of capacity-building workshops to address common regional concerns and implementation challenges.

32. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam commended the progress of the SEAFDEC programs implemented in 2025, noting that the achievements reflected SEAFDEC's strong commitment to advancing regional fisheries development. She further observed that the proposed programs for implementation in 2026 demonstrated SEAFDEC's responsiveness to emerging priorities and evolving regional needs. In this connection, she expressed her support for the progress of programs implemented in 2025 and approved the proposed programs for implementation in 2026.

33. After the discussion, the Council approved the progress of the programs of activities implemented by SEAFDEC in 2025 and approved the proposed programs of activities for 2026, as well as the recommendations of the 48PCM. The Council then requested SEAFDEC to consider incorporating the recommendations of the Council at this 58CM into its future programs.



IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE FCG/ASSP

34. The Council noted the results and recommendations of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (28FCG/ASSP), which was held on 6–7 November 2025 in Langkawi, Malaysia (**Annex 7**), as presented by the Director-General of the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar, *Mr. Myint Zin Htoo*, in his capacity as the ASEAN Co-Chair of the 28FCG/ASSP.

35. The Council Director for Indonesia took note of the results of the 28FCG/ASSP as reported by the ASEAN Co-Chair.

36. The Council Director for Viet Nam acknowledged the results of the 28FCG/ASSP. While endorsing the report as well as the recommendations from the 28FCG/ASSP, he called for the Council’s attention to the adoption by the 47th AMAF of the Regional Strategy for the Implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-scale Fisheries, and the membership of Timor-Leste to ASEAN in 2025, enabling the country to attend future meetings of the FCG/ASSP.

37. The Council Director for Japan acknowledged the results of the 28FCG/ASSP, noting that several aspects discussed there would be further addressed at the 58CM. He then endorsed the report and the recommendations from the Meeting.

38. While endorsing the results and recommendations of the 28FCG/ASSP and supporting that this would be reported to the 34th Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF) in 2026, the Council requested SEAFDEC to continue coordinating and cooperating with the ASEAN Secretariat in the implementation of the programs under the FCG/ASSP mechanism in the future.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

5.1 Science-based and Fisheries Management

5.1.1 Efforts to Combat IUU Fishing in the Region

39. The Council took note of the Efforts to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia (**Annex 8**), as presented by the representative from TD. The presentation outlined the SEAFDEC activities conducted in the past and the ongoing activities for combating IUU fishing, including the challenges, proposed way forward, and the need for capacity building to combat IUU fishing during transshipment at sea in Southeast Asia.

40. The Council Director for Viet Nam took note of the efforts of SEAFDEC in combating IUU fishing and suggested that SEAFDEC further strengthen support for Member Countries in implementing electronic traceability systems in fisheries. He also shared updates on Viet Nam’s national efforts to address IUU fishing, including revisions of the legal frameworks to increase penalties for IUU fishing activities, the establishment of a national fishing vessel database, including VMS data for vessels over 15 meters, and the enhancement of monitoring and enforcement by various local authorities. He then informed the 58CM on the implementation of electronic Catch Documentation and Traceability (eCDT) and electronic logbooks, while also highlighting future directions to reduce capture fisheries and promote aquaculture and conservation measures. To enhance regional efforts, he requested that SEAFDEC Member Countries work closely together to share information regarding vessel violations.

41. The Council Director for Thailand expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for serving as a key regional organization in fostering cooperation with relevant organizations and donors, both within and outside the region, to combat IUU fishing. She highlighted the benefits of the Project “Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities” or BOBLME Phase II, which contributed to improving the high-risk assessment system for neighboring fishing vessels under the PSM inspections through integrated indicators and analytical model which will enhancing its effectiveness of the existing model. In this

connection, she also highlighted that SEAFDEC should consider integrating important regional instruments into its future workplans; these included ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), and the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU) interactive platform.

42. The Council Director for Thailand further raised the issue of “Innocent Passage” under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), noting that fishing vessels may inadvertently enter the territorial waters of neighboring States without malicious intent, particularly in areas where maritime boundaries are contiguous, such as the border areas between Malaysia and Thailand. In this regard, Malaysia and Thailand have established a bilateral arrangement whereby designated focal points facilitate advance notification for fishing vessels intending to transit Malaysian waters in good faith through prior communication via email for acknowledgment. Recognizing this arrangement as an effective practical measure, Thailand sought the views of the other Member Countries on the possibility of expanding similar arrangements at the regional level in the future.

43. The Council Director for Japan expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for the progress made in combating IUU fishing, including training programs and workshops on VMS, MCS, information sharing, traceability, the legal framework, and transshipment at sea. He then recognized initiatives such as Port State Measures (PSM) inspections, information sharing through the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR), enhancing traceability in line with the principles of the ACDS, and support to the implementation of National Plans of Action to combat IUU fishing (NPOA-IUU) that led to strengthened practical and operational capacities of AMSs to prevent and combat IUU fishing. With regard to the outcomes of the “Regional Workshop on Enhancing Policies and Countermeasures Against IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia,” organized in October 2025, he highlighted key challenges related to transshipment at sea, including procedural and technical issues, limited human and financial resources, and institutional and governance constraints. He emphasized the need to further strengthen capacity building, promote effective utilization of VMS and AIS, establish information-sharing mechanisms, and enhance domestic legal frameworks. In addition, he reaffirmed its continued support through the Japan Trust Fund (JTF) and encouraged SEAFDEC to maintain its central role in advancing regional cooperation and the practical implementation of efforts to combat IUU fishing.

44. The Council Director for the Philippines took note of the updated information on regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing, including challenges, ways forward, and capacity-building needs related to transshipment at sea in Southeast Asia. She emphasized the importance of aligning national fisheries enforcement systems with regional interoperability and ASEAN information-sharing mechanisms. She also expressed support for strengthening regional cooperation among AMSs through the implementation and utilization of regional mechanisms such as the RFVR, the electronic ACDS (eACDS), and the AN-IUU, with a view toward promoting a more robust and harmonized regional effort against IUU fishing in Southeast Asia.

45. The Council Director for Indonesia took note of the progress in combating IUU fishing and expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for strengthening national capacities related to PSM, MCS, promoting the traceability of fish and fishery products, and coordination among national, regional, and international networks. While supporting in principle the expansion of the RFVR database to include vessels below 24 meters in length, he emphasized the need to optimize the utilization of the existing RFVR database for vessels 24 meters in length and over. He also informed the Council that Indonesia will give priority to fishing vessels that are actively registered, hold valid permits, and operate in the high seas.

46. The Council Director for Malaysia took note of the updates on regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing and the outcomes of the “Regional Workshop on Enhancing Policies and Countermeasures Against IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia” in 2025. She also noted the challenges raised by the Member Countries regarding control and enforcement measures. Then, she expressed support for continued regional cooperation and capacity-building efforts, particularly in developing practical tools, enhancing technical capabilities, and improving coordination mechanisms to strengthen implementation at both national and regional levels. Regarding the issue of innocent passage raised by Thailand, she highlighted the longstanding cooperation and mutual understanding between Malaysia and Thailand concerning notifications of innocent passage through Malaysian waters through continuous information sharing and coordination between the relevant authorities. She expressed appreciation for Thailand’s commitment and transparency on this matter and expressed support for the continuation of such cooperation in the future. Furthermore, she noted that



such good collaboration and regional cooperation could be further strengthened and expanded among Member Countries for the mutual benefit of the region.

47. The Council Director for Myanmar took note of SEAFDEC's continued efforts in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia, including key initiatives such as the RFVR, eACDS, implementation of PSM, and updated regional initiatives and capacity-building needs related to transshipment at sea. Recognizing that IUU fishing remains a significant challenge to the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the region, he encouraged SEAFDEC to further strengthen regional cooperation, information sharing, and capacity-building programs to support Member Countries in effectively addressing IUU fishing, including enhancing MCS measures and strengthening legal and institutional frameworks. He also informed the Council of the country's ongoing efforts to establish a traceability system for aquatic product exports and to effectively utilize the eACDS system with technical assistance from SEAFDEC, and requested continued technical support for the successful implementation of these initiatives. In addition, he informed the Meeting of the existing bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand under the PSM framework and noted that Myanmar, as a flag State, is making efforts to comply with the requirements of Thailand as a port State. He further noted that related matters would continue to be discussed under the Joint Working Group Meeting established under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on fisheries cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand.

48. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for its efforts in combating IUU fishing, particularly through the expansion of the RFVR, the strengthening of traceability systems, and alignment with the PSM. She recognized these initiatives as important for safeguarding food security and marine ecosystems in the region. She also noted ongoing challenges related to transshipment at sea, where outdated documentation and limited manpower hinder effective monitoring. Therefore, she reaffirmed her support for the operationalization of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment and the use of digital tools, such as satellite monitoring and artificial intelligence. In addition, she emphasized the importance of capacity building and harmonized legal frameworks and encouraged SEAFDEC to continue strengthening regional cooperation for sustainable fisheries management.

5.1.2 Effort to Combat Marine Debris and Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing gear (ALDFG) in Southeast Asia

49. The Council took note of the Efforts to Combat Marine Debris and Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Southeast Asia (**Annex 9**), as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. These include the outcomes of the "Regional Symposium on Marine Debris and Microplastics in Southeast Asia" held on 30 March 2026, together with the progress in developing the "Technical Guidelines to Assess, Prevent, and Remove Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in the Southeast Asian Region," including the outlines and indicative timelines for the Guidelines.

50. The Council Director for Viet Nam took note of the outcomes of the Regional Symposium and the progress in the development of the Technical Guidelines, including the indicative timeline for their completion. She looked forward to the approval of the final draft at the 59th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (59CM). She also reaffirmed Viet Nam's strong commitment to cooperating with the AMSs in combating marine debris and encouraged SEAFDEC to continue strengthening capacity-building activities for the AMSs, particularly in promoting fishing gear marking and supporting the circular economy in the fisheries sector.

51. The Council Director for the Philippines took note of the outcomes of the Regional Symposium and reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening initiatives to combat marine debris and manage ALDFG, including monitoring, reporting, mitigation programs, regional cooperation, public awareness, participation, and capacity-building activities. She also expressed support for the development and implementation of the Technical Guidelines. Furthermore, she supported the harmonization of fishing gear marking among AMSs, the sharing of best practices to mitigate ALDFG, and research and development on biodegradable materials for fishing gear, the impacts of marine debris, and ALDFG retrieval systems.

52. The Council Director for Indonesia took note of the updated activities and efforts to combat marine debris and ALDFG in Southeast Asia. Regarding the development of the Technical Guidelines, he expressed Indonesia's strong interest in the initiative and requested the opportunity for the draft guidelines to be

thoroughly reviewed, allowing countries to gain a deeper understanding and provide substantive contributions and constructive input on the document.

53. The Council Director for Malaysia took note of the progress made and encouraged SEAFDEC to continue facilitating practical collaboration among the Member Countries in addressing marine debris and ALDFG, including through strengthened cooperation, exchange of experiences, and continued development of the Regional Technical Guidelines. She recognized that ALDFG remains a significant challenge affecting marine ecosystems, fisheries sustainability, and coastal livelihoods. In this regard, she supported harmonized regional approaches on fishing gear marking, reporting, and retrieval mechanisms, as well as research and innovation on biodegradable fishing gear, tracking technologies, and hotspot mapping to strengthen evidence-based management.

54. The Council Director for Thailand expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for its continued efforts in addressing marine debris and ALDFG in the Southeast Asian region. She informed the 58CM that Thailand had developed the National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Debris Management from Marine Sources 2024–2027, which covers key measures including the establishment of guidelines for the control and management of marine debris, reduction of ALDFG incidents, and promotion of the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear (VGMFG). She further elaborated on the Plan that includes the development of technical guidelines aimed at reducing plastic leakage from vessels, enhancing public awareness of the impacts of marine pollution caused by fisheries and maritime activities, and strengthening mechanisms and facilities for port reception of ship-generated waste. Furthermore, she encouraged SEAFDEC to advance concrete and practical regional initiatives in this area and reaffirmed Thailand's readiness to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders in driving these efforts toward sustainable and effective outcomes.

55. The Council Director for Cambodia took note of the results of the Regional Symposium and the progress in developing the Technical Guidelines. He informed the 58CM that Cambodia is in the process of preparing policy guidelines on marine debris, including issues related to ghost fishing gear, and noted that the Technical Guidelines would support Cambodia in this development process. He further shared that this would be Cambodia's first policy guideline in this subject and that Cambodia would continue working closely with SEAFDEC. He also informed the 58CM that Cambodia had nominated delegates to participate in the consultations to support the development of the policy guidelines, and that action plans would subsequently be developed upon approval of the policy guidelines.

56. The Council Director for Myanmar took note of the presentation on efforts to combat marine debris and ALDFG in Southeast Asia. He informed the 58CM that while Myanmar has initiated actions to address these issues, challenges remain in enforcement, waste management from fishing vessels, and the availability of port reception facilities. He further shared the findings of the Dr. Fridtjof Nansen survey conducted from 24 August to 29 September 2018 which detected microplastics smaller than 5 mm within one square kilometer, with an estimated total of 57,000 pieces recorded, including 22,000 pieces in Rakhine State, 8,000 pieces in Ayeyarwady Region, and 27,000 pieces in Tanintharyi Region. In this regard, he requested SEAFDEC and relevant partners to provide technical assistance and capacity-building activities, particularly on ALDFG monitoring, reporting, and retrieval, the development of fishing gear marking and traceability systems, and guidance on establishing port waste reception facilities. He also requested that Myanmar be considered for future ALDFG-related research projects. Furthermore, he expressed appreciation for SEAFDEC's continued efforts and reaffirmed Myanmar's commitment to working closely with the Member Countries to reduce marine debris and ALDFG in the region.

57. After the discussion, the Council supported MFRDMD to continue its work towards completing the draft of Technical Guidelines to Assess, Prevent, and Remove Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in the Southeast Asian Region and looked forward to the final draft of the Technical Guidelines for approval by the Council in 2027.

5.1.3 *Hydroacoustic-based Stock Assessment*

5.1.3.1 *Progress on Fisheries Acoustic Survey in the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia for Pelagic Fish Stock Assessment*

58. The Council took note of the Progress on Fisheries Acoustic Survey in the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia for Pelagic Fish Stock Assessment (**Annex 10**), as presented by the Chief of MFRDMD. Explicitly, the Council acknowledged the report of the survey conducted on 10–19 September 2025 in the waters off the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 equipped with the SIMRAD EK-80 scientific echosounder. While also noting the methodology for biomass analysis and international standard analysis procedures, including the challenges faced in the conduct of the acoustic survey, the Council was informed that the analysis of the samples and data collected during this survey is still ongoing.

59. The Council Director for Malaysia expressed appreciation to MFRDMD and TD for the collaborative acoustic survey activities conducted along the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia. She also conveyed appreciation to the JTF for its financial support for these activities. She noted that the collaboration would contribute to strengthening technical expertise and developing suitable methodologies for the stock assessment of pelagic species, which would beneficially support sustainable fisheries management in the region.

60. The Council Director for Myanmar recognized acoustic technology as an important tool for improving the accuracy of fisheries stock assessment and supporting science-based sustainable fisheries management. He informed the 58CM that Myanmar conducted an acoustic survey in Tanintharyi waters in February 2026 using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 research vessel to assess fisheries resources. However, due to limited technical expertise, the collected samples required analysis abroad. In this regard, he highlighted the urgent need to strengthen acoustic technical capacity among SEAFDEC and its Member Countries. Furthermore, he encouraged SEAFDEC to continue providing support through technical training, software applications such as EchoView, data sharing and pilot activities, particularly for data-limited fisheries. He also expressed Myanmar's interest in continuing cooperation with SEAFDEC in advancing scientific approaches for sustainable fisheries management.

5.1.3.2 *Future Plan for the Transfer of Hydroacoustic-based Stock Assessment to SEAFDEC Member Countries*

61. The Council took note of the Future Plan for the Transfer of Hydroacoustic-based Stock Assessment to SEAFDEC Member Countries (**Annex 11**) as presented by the representative from TD. Specifically, the Council noted the 10-Year Strategic Roadmap (2026–2035) comprising four core pillars of activities: 1) Capacity Development (Highest Priority), 2) Development of a regional Target Strength reference library, 3) Standardized Methodology, and 4) Collaboration and Partnership.

5.2 **International Fisheries Related Issues**

5.2.1 *Outcomes of CITES CoP20 and CITES-Related Issues*

62. The Council took note of the Outcomes of the 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and CITES-Related Issues (**Annex 12**), as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat. In particular, the 58CM noted the SEAFDEC side event during the CITES CoP20 and the decision on the listing of commercially exploited aquatic species (CEAS) into CITES Appendices at the CITES CoP20; the progress of developing the new project proposal “Toward Science-Based Stock Assessment and Management of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species,” for which the SEAFDEC Secretariat would seek SEAFDEC Council approval once the proposal is finalized and approved by the potential donor; and the planned “Regional Workshop on Introduction from the Sea (IFS) for Southeast Asian and East Asian Countries,” which will be jointly organized by SEAFDEC and CITES on 4–7 August 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.

63. While acknowledging the outcome on the listing of CEAS adopted at CITES CoP20, the Council Director for Viet Nam underscored SEAFDEC's vital role to assist its Member Countries in strengthening

scientific knowledge and promoting regional cooperation for the conservation and sustainable utilization of sharks, rays, and tropical eels. Furthermore, he also took note of the proposed new project, “Toward Science-Based Stock Assessment and Management of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species,” and shared information on national progress regarding sea cucumber farms, which are converted from abandoned shrimp farms.

64. The Council Director for Japan expressed appreciation to the SEAFDEC Member Countries for their active participation and unified positions on the proposals of CEAS at CITES CoP20. Even though the outcomes of the proposal to include all *Anguilla* species in CITES Appendix II was rejected, it may be again proposed for the listing of *Anguilla* species at the CITES CoP21. Considering the needs for the sustainable use of aquatic living resources based on scientific evidence, Japan will continue to maintain and further strengthen cooperation with SEAFDEC Member Countries toward CITES CoP21. In addition, recognizing that the SEAFDEC side event held during CITES CoP20 was useful in highlighting research, studies, and capacity-building efforts for the conservation and management of aquatic resources in the region, as well as the challenges faced in the field, Japan looked forward to seeing similar initiatives at CITES CoP21. Furthermore, he wished that the new project on “Towards Science-Based Stock Assessment and Management of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species” will generate reliable scientific information on tropical eel species, which will contribute to and support future discussions under CITES.

65. The Council Director for Japan further informed the 58CM on the BBNJ Agreement, which entered into force in January 2026, that the first Conference of the Parties (CoP1) will be in January 2027. While noting that the recent BBNJ preparation discussions are mainly participated by environmental and foreign affairs authorities, he expressed the view that this dynamic may result in the perspectives of sustainable fisheries being insufficiently reflected, particularly concerning proposals such as the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which could adversely impact the fisheries sectors of Member Countries. He therefore encouraged the Member Countries to send representatives from the fisheries authorities to CoP1 and participate in the discussions from the perspective of sustainable fisheries and to consider the draft Rules of Procedure for the CoP as an important document that will guide all future decision-making under BBNJ Agreement such as secret ballot and EU proxy voting rights. He expressed the willingness of Japan to continue working closely with SEAFDEC and its Member Countries from the perspective of sustainable fisheries.

66. While noting the Outcomes of the CITES CoP20, the Council Director for Thailand expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for its continued financial, technical, and capacity-building support, which has significantly advanced CITES-related work at the regional level. She also extended her gratitude to SEAFDEC and all AMSs for their unified efforts in advancing ASEAN common positions on CITES proposals, reflecting effective regional cooperation that ensures decision-making is rooted in scientific evidence and principles of sustainability. In addition, she committed to collaborating with SEAFDEC Member Countries, international organizations, and key stakeholders to support the effective implementation of CITES.

67. The Council Director for Indonesia extended the support for the proposed new project and the upcoming Regional Workshop on IFS, which will be held on 4–7 August 2026, in Bangkok, Thailand to support CITES Parties in the effective implementation of the IFS provisions by strengthening national capacities, enhancing coordination between CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and fisheries authorities, and facilitating the exchange of best practices and lessons learned among participating countries. He noted key outcomes and updates from the CITES CoP20, particularly regarding aquatic species which are Indonesia’s strategic engagement within the CITES framework. In addition, he highlighted that the proposed listing of *Anguilla* spp. and *Actinopyga* spp. were rejected, protecting a vital trade sector worth over IDR 120 billion annually. He also noted the up-listing of *Carcharhinus longimanus*, *Mobulidae* spp., and *Rhincodon typus* to Appendix I.

68. In addition, the Council Director for Indonesia also informed the 58CM that Indonesia has been elected as a member of the Plants Committee (PC) and as an alternate member of the Standing Committee (SC), leading up to CoP21. He affirmed that this active and continued representation across vital CITES Committees is highly strategic. This positioning ensures that the Member Country remains directly engaged in the formulation of global policies, scientific assessments, and trade regulations, thereby advancing both national and broader regional interests.



69. While noting the outcomes of the CITES CoP20, the proposed new project, and the upcoming Regional Workshop on IFS, the Council Director for Malaysia expressed the country's interest in participating in the new project. She appreciated SEAFDEC and the Government of Japan for their continuous support in addressing CITES-related issues, including facilitation of regional coordination before CoP and follow-up actions thereafter. To further assist Member Countries, she proposed the development of additional activities aimed at strengthening traceability, with a specific focus on processed products. She also highlighted the need to enhance enforcement capacities through the adoption of appropriate identification technologies and requested SEAFDEC to support in identifying regulatory and capacity gaps related to national CITES implementation. Recognizing that conservation and trade measures must be underpinned by robust scientific evidence and practical implementation strategies, she supported the proposed project's focus on stock assessments and evidence-based management for sharks and rays. In conclusion, she reaffirmed the country's commitment to balancing sustainable fisheries management with socio-economic considerations and the safeguarding of fisheries livelihoods.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia

70. The Council took note of the updated progress on the Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia (**Annex 13**), as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat. In particular, the Council noted the proposed revision of questionnaire templates for compiling statistics from ten AMSs, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, for the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia. Also recognizing the launch of the new "SEAFDEC Database on Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia," the Council encouraged the Member Countries to utilize this new Database as a basis for understanding the status and to support sustainable policy planning and management of fisheries.

71. The Council Director for Thailand expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for its continued efforts in advancing fisheries statistics in the Southeast Asian region. She underscored the importance of the regional fisheries statistics database and data collection systems developed by SEAFDEC to support evidence-based policy formulation, science-based decision-making, and strengthened cooperation among AMSs. She also emphasized the importance of strong collaboration among the countries in providing accurate, complete, and timely fisheries statistics, and encouraged AMSs to further strengthen their national fisheries statistical systems and actively engage in regional data-sharing mechanisms to support the sustainable management of fisheries resources in the region.

72. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed appreciation for SEAFDEC's ongoing efforts to strengthen the regional fisheries statistical system, including the development of the revised questionnaire template and the new SEAFDEC Fishery Statistics Database. He informed the 58CM that Myanmar is currently able to provide marine fisheries data, while inland fisheries data remain incomplete due to challenges in disaggregating information by species and fishing gear. Nevertheless, Myanmar is making efforts to ensure that comprehensive data for both inland and marine fisheries can be submitted for the 2026–2027 reporting period. He further expressed support for the approval of the revised questionnaire template and welcomed the new database as a valuable tool for regional data sharing and analysis. In this regard, he encouraged SEAFDEC to continue providing technical support and capacity-building activities to facilitate effective implementation at the national level.

73. After the deliberation, the Council approved the revised questionnaire templates, *i.e.* Q18: Export by Commodities; Q19: Export to Major Countries of Destination by Major Commodities; Q20: Import by Commodities; and Q21: Import from Major Countries of Origin by Major Commodities, that will be used for compiling statistics from AMSs.

6.2 The Preparation for Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2027 (SEASOFIA 2027)

74. The Council took note of the progress in the preparation of the Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA 2027) (**Annex 14**), as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC

Secretariat. In particular, the Council noted the outline, together with the workplan and timeframe for preparing SEASOFIA 2027 for its finalization and publication in early 2027.

75. The Council Director for Malaysia took note of the progress and outline for SEASOFIA 2027 and expressed appreciation for SEAFDEC’s efforts in developing the report as an important regional reference for fisheries and aquaculture policy planning and cooperation. She also looked forward to the continued coordination among AMSs to ensure accurate, updated, and harmonized information for the successful publication of SEASOFIA 2027.

76. The Council Director for Singapore took note of the progress and outline of SEASOFIA 2027, recognizing the importance of this publication in providing valuable information on fisheries and aquaculture to support sustainable fisheries development in the region as well as the sector’s outlook. He also acknowledged and expressed sincere appreciation for the continued collaboration between the Secretariat and the Departments in preparing the upcoming publication in 2027.

77. The Council Director for Thailand took note of the progress of SEASOFIA 2027 and encouraged all AMSs to cooperate in completing the questionnaires in a comprehensive, accurate, and timely manner so that the information collected could effectively reflect the actual situation of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the region. She also expressed the view that the active cooperation of the countries would enhance the quality and credibility of SEASOFIA 2027, making it a valuable reference for policy formulation and the advancement of sustainable fisheries development in the region.

78. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed appreciation for SEAFDEC’s continued efforts in compiling and updating regional fisheries and aquaculture information, which serves as an important reference for policy development and sustainable resource management in the region. He supported the progress and proposed outline of SEASOFIA 2027 and underscored the importance of timely and accurate data submission from AMSs to ensure the quality and comprehensiveness of the report. He also expressed Myanmar’s support for the successful preparation of SEASOFIA 2027.

79. Regarding the questionnaires sent to the Member Countries to gather input for SEASOFIA 2027, the Council urged countries that have not yet submitted their responses to provide the required information to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by the end of May 2026.

VII. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

80. Representatives from the collaborating partners of SEAFDEC attending the 58CM were invited to inform the Council of their programs and activities relevant to the sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, as well as the potential areas of cooperation with SEAFDEC.

81. The representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), *Dr. Benjamin Belton*, extended his sincere appreciation to SEAFDEC for the opportunity to participate in the 58CM. He reaffirmed the continued commitment of FAO with SEAFDEC and the Member Countries in promoting sustainable fisheries, aquatic food systems, and regional collaboration. Highlighting the critical role of aquatic food systems in Asia and the Pacific, while also emphasizing the growing challenges posed by climate change, environmental degradation, and economic pressures, he emphasized the “FAO’s Blue Transformation Roadmap,” focusing on expanding sustainable aquaculture, improving fisheries management, and developing efficient and inclusive aquatic food value chains. Additionally, he further informed the 58CM of the ongoing collaboration between FAO and SEAFDEC through key regional initiatives, including BOBLME II and the GoTFish Projects, as well as several joint activities in promoting MCS, ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), the SSF Guidelines, and aquatic food value chains for food security and nutrition, including the upcoming Regional Workshop on Key Challenges and Practical Solutions for Multispecies/Multigear (MSMG) Fisheries Management, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 8 to 12 June 2026. Furthermore, as the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) is currently suspended until 2028 and the time is approaching to determine its future, he encouraged the SEAFDEC Member Countries to consider supporting the revitalization of APFIC and to demonstrate that Asia can lead the way in restoring ocean health and securing the future of fisheries. His Statement appears in **Annex 15**.



82. The representative from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, *Ms. Pouchamarn Wongsanga*, Project Director Agriculture, reiterated the recent cooperation between GIZ and SEAFDEC in combating IUU fishing. Under the ASEAN framework, GIZ works closely not only with the ASEAN Secretariat but also with SEAFDEC and other regional organizations. The “Blue Fair Fish (BFF) Project” is a regional initiative commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ in collaboration with the ASEAN Secretariat and AMSs from March 2025 to February 2028, with activities at regional level and piloting in Indonesia and the Philippines, with a total budget of up to EUR 4 million. The Project aims to strengthen sustainable fisheries and combat IUU fishing through capacity building, technical cooperation, policy advisory support, and regional knowledge sharing. Under this umbrella, SEAFDEC and GIZ agreed to cooperate through the Project “Strengthening Regional Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing and Promote Safe, Fair and Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia,” with a GIZ budget of EUR 150,000 for four capacity-building workshops. Specifically, she informed the 58CM of upcoming workshops, covering subjects on marine surveillance technologies, fisheries monitoring and stock assessment, and ocean governance and legal frameworks, in which the AMSs are encouraged to participate. Moreover, GIZ has also provided technical support to ASEAN for the development of the Draft Plan of Action (POA) for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2026–2030 to help ensure that sustainable fisheries and IUU fishing priorities are well reflected in the regional agenda, while also continuing to promote regional collaboration and knowledge sharing among SEAFDEC, AMSs, and relevant partners. Her Statement appears in **Annex 16**.

83. The Director of the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH), *Ms. Gemma Meermans Matainaho*, expressed her appreciation to SEAFDEC and the Government of Thailand for the invitation to participate in the Fifty-eighth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. She reaffirmed the long-standing partnership between INFOFISH and SEAFDEC and welcomed the recent extension of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in October 2025, which provides an important framework for continued cooperation between the two intergovernmental organizations. She highlighted the productive collaboration between INFOFISH and SEAFDEC over the years, particularly in information exchange, technical cooperation, regional dialogue, and support for fisheries and aquaculture trade and market development initiatives. Recognizing the complementary mandates of the two organizations, she emphasized their shared role in strengthening resilient, competitive and sustainable seafood value chains across Asia and the Pacific. *Ms. Matainaho* further identified several strategic areas for enhanced collaboration, including fisheries and aquaculture trade and market intelligence, seafood value chain development, traceability and certification systems, support for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and small-scale fisheries, digital transformation, capacity building, technical advisory services, and regional knowledge-sharing initiatives. She noted that the fisheries and aquaculture sectors continue to face significant challenges arising from global trade uncertainties, evolving sustainability requirements, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, climate change impacts, and changing market expectations, underscoring the importance of stronger regional cooperation and coordinated responses. *Ms. Matainaho* commended SEAFDEC for its continued leadership and contributions to fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, advancing sustainable aquaculture, and supporting regional policy coordination throughout Southeast Asia. In concluding, she informed the Meeting that INFOFISH will mark its 45th Anniversary in 2026 and reaffirmed the organization's commitment to strengthening partnerships, including with SEAFDEC, through practical cooperation, innovation, capacity development and knowledge sharing for the benefit of Member States and the fisheries and aquaculture sectors across Asia and the Pacific. Her Statement appears in **Annex 17**.

84. The representative from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), *Mr. Namazu Yohei*, expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for providing him with the opportunity to participate in the 58CM. He highlighted the ongoing collaboration between JICA and SEAFDEC through the ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project and the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, which contribute to strengthening sustainable fisheries, enhancing food security, and improving the resilience of the fisheries sector in the region. As for the ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project, covering the duration from 2024 to 2027, the Project implemented by MFRD and AQD in cooperation with AMSs covers activities related to hygiene management systems, GMP, HACCP, cold chain management, ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP), and regional guidelines for fish and fishery product inspection. While expressing appreciation for the strong cooperation from SEAFDEC and its Member Countries, he reaffirmed JICA’s commitment to continue working closely with

SEAFDEC and relevant stakeholders for the benefit of the fisheries sector in the region. His Statement appears in **Annex 18**.

85. The representative from Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), *Mr. Simon Wilkinson*, expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for the opportunity to participate in the 58CM and to the Government of Thailand for hosting the Meeting. He commended SEAFDEC for its achievements in promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development and strengthening regional food security, livelihoods, and economic resilience, as well as its role in capacity building, policy harmonization, and research, which have been advancing the governance and management of fisheries and aquaculture across Southeast Asia. Additionally, he informed the Council of two ongoing NACA activities of potential interest for future collaboration. The first is the AQUADAPT initiative, implemented in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), focusing on the development of an Aquaculture Innovation and Investment Hub to connect aquaculture entrepreneurs and startups with investors and financial institutions. The second is the video-based Aquaculture Academy, which aims to provide vocational-level training and certification in core aquaculture skills to strengthen technical capacity in the sector, while also welcoming collaboration from partners interested in contributing training courses through the Academy. In conclusion, he reaffirmed NACA's commitment to continue its collaboration with SEAFDEC to advance rural development and improve the livelihoods of communities in the region. His Statement appears in **Annex 19**.

86. The Director of the Regional Economic Engagement and Environment Office, the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, *Mr. Daniel Rittenhouse*, delivered a statement, in which he commended SEAFDEC for its technical work, leadership in fostering regional cooperation, and steadfast commitment to strengthening transparent fisheries management. He emphasized that combating IUU fishing remains a central priority, noting that it is a transnational crime that distorts global markets, undercuts legitimate fishers, and is frequently intertwined with forced labor and human trafficking. He reaffirmed the commitment of the U.S. to the region's peace, prosperity, and stability. He also outlined the ongoing support for SEAFDEC's mission, which includes capacity-building programs, acoustic data collection, stock assessment training, and the deployment of technical expertise from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He noted its dual strategic approach: providing immediate and practical regional training while simultaneously building long-term institutional capacities across Member Countries.

87. The representative from World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US), *Mr. Herve Lefevre*, informed the Council of the implementation of the "Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture," a regional project supported by the Global Environment Facility with a funding of USD 6 million. Implemented in collaboration with SEAFDEC as the main executing partner, the Project serves as a regional platform for capacity building, while strengthening seaweed value chains and promoting inclusive participation, including women and youth groups. He then highlighted the socioeconomic benefits of seaweed aquaculture, including resilient livelihoods, diversified income sources, improved household revenues, and job creation, as well as environmental benefits such as reducing coastal pollution, mitigating ocean acidification, and supporting marine biodiversity and habitat restoration. With governance mechanisms and partnerships established through this Project, including the Seaweed Technical Working Group, the Project Steering Committee, the Global Seaweed Coalition, and IW:LEARN, he appreciated the role of SEAFDEC in regional coordination and dialogue. He then informed the Council that the next phase of the project would focus on regional technical standards, policy support, pilot site development, and gender equality, and noted potential opportunities under the GEF9 funding window to further support SEAFDEC strategies. In the end, he reaffirmed the commitment of WWF to continue supporting cooperation among SEAFDEC Member Countries toward strengthening livelihoods, restoring marine ecosystems, and promoting a sustainable blue economy. His Statement appears in **Annex 20**.

88. The Council Director for Thailand expressed appreciation to international/regional organizations extending cooperation and support to SEAFDEC enabling SEAFDEC to undertake activities and support the Member Countries on priority fisheries-related issues.

VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL

89. There was no matter proposed for discussion under this Agenda.



IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER

9.1 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations

90. The Council took note of the establishment of collaborative arrangements between SEAFDEC and other organizations during the period from May 2025 to May 2026 (**Annex 21**), as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

91. The Council Director for Thailand congratulated and expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for its strong and effective efforts in fostering collaboration with regional and international organizations as well as academic institutions. She recognized that such collaborations reflect SEAFDEC's commitment to responding to global challenges and supporting the fisheries sector of the Member Countries in becoming more resilient to the changing global context. She further commended SEAFDEC for initiating and implementing several new activities that address the emerging needs of the Member Countries, particularly on issues related to marine debris and the reduction of microplastics. In addition, she also highlighted several new collaborative initiatives with organizations such as INFOFISH, FAO, and the Government of Canada, which were considered timely, beneficial, and attractive in supporting sustainable fisheries development in the region.

92. While noting the collaborative arrangements established by SEAFDEC with international and regional organizations, academic institutions, and agencies of Member and non-member Countries, the Council Director for Malaysia congratulated SEAFDEC for strengthening regional cooperation in support of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development. She further informed the 58CM that Malaysia plans to collaborate with MFRDMD, with support from FAO, to implement two national projects, namely 1) the ALDFG Survey and 2) the Food Loss and Waste in Fish Value Chain Study. In this regard, she expressed the expectation that MFRDMD would provide technical support and serve as the liaison with FAO for both initiatives.

93. The Chief of AQD emphasized the importance of assessing the accomplishments of collaborative arrangements between SEAFDEC and other organizations, particularly the extent to which these collaborations have achieved their intended objectives.

9.2 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels

94. The Council took note of the Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels (**Annex 22**) as presented by the representative from TD.

95. While commending the report made by TD on the utilization of the vessels, which are important assets of SEAFDEC and the region, the Council Director for Japan expressed satisfaction that M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was actively utilized in 2025 and encouraged the Secretariat, TD, and Member Countries to continue the effective utilization of both vessels in 2026 and beyond.

96. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam noted the proposed utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2026, which includes the deployment of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in Brunei Darussalam's waters for a duration of 36 days. She then supported the continued effective use of these vessels and looked forward to a close partnership with SEAFDEC to ensure that future training and research operations directly contribute to long-term sustainability of regional fisheries.

97. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed sincere appreciation to SEAFDEC for its continuous support regarding the operation of the research vessels. Furthermore, he requested that SEAFDEC facilitate the timely coordination and analysis of the hydroacoustic survey results conducted by M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in February 2026, which will be vital to enabling subsequent actions. He expressed full support for the proposed utilization plan in 2026 and echoed the call for the continued effective use of the vessels for the benefit of Member Countries.

98. After the deliberation, the Council took note of the proposed use of the M.V. SEAFDEC in 2026 under charter arrangements with the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) and the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) of Thailand. The Council also approved the proposed

plan for the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2026 for the conduct of pelagic resources and environment survey for the DOF Myanmar; the marine resources and environment survey for the DOF Brunei Darussalam; and the shipboard training on hydroacoustic by TD.

9.3 Disposal Plan of the M.V. SEAFDEC

99. The Council took note of the Progress and Plan for the Disposal of the M.V. SEAFDEC (**Annex 23**) as presented by the representative from TD. Specifically, the Council recognized the progress made toward the disposal of the M.V. SEAFDEC from May 2025 to May 2026, and the proposed plan from May 2026 to May 2027, noting that Myanmar and the Philippines have expressed interest in the vessel and visited TD to assess its condition.

100. With regard to the specification of the new vessel to replace the M.V. SEAFDEC after the disposal, the Council took note of the “Report on the Basic Survey for the Introduction of Replacement Vessel for Southeast Asia,” undertaken with support from the Fisheries Agency of Japan on 14–17 October 2025, which came up with the design and general arrangement plan for a replacement fisheries research and training vessel.

101. The Council Director for Japan expressed appreciation to TD for developing a detailed disposal plan and noted the active interest from some Member Countries in receiving the M.V. SEAFDEC. He then proposed streamlining the selection process by using email and virtual meetings where possible, and suggested that, if necessary, in-person discussions could be held during the Program Committee Meeting scheduled for November 2026. Furthermore, he recommended that the Chair of the Selection Committee and TD prepare a preliminary analysis based on established criteria to facilitate subsequent evaluation and preparation of a written comment by the Selection Committee.

102. On the replacement vessel, the Council Director for Japan reiterated the difficulties Japan faces in providing direct financial assistance under its current grant aid policies. However, he informed the Council that Japan dispatched the consulting firm from Marino Forum 21 for a mission to Thailand in October 2025 to study basic specifications for a future vessel. Nevertheless, with the difficulties expressed earlier, he encouraged SEAFDEC and Member Countries to explore various alternative options, including external funding sources, cost-sharing arrangements, and the use of second-hand or chartered vessels.

103. The Council Director for Myanmar informed the 58CM that Myanmar possesses a coastline of approximately 2,832 kilometers and an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of about 486,000 km². The fisheries sector directly provides employment opportunities for approximately 2.3 million people and contributes around 3.5 % to the national GDP, significantly contributing to the country’s economy, food security, and foreign income generation. In this regard, he emphasized the importance of sustainable fisheries production and the implementation of fisheries management measures in line with international commitments and regional cooperation. While expressing Myanmar’s strong willingness to acquire the M.V. SEAFDEC, he informed the Council that the vessel would be utilized for research activities, including studies on fish species distribution, catch per unit effort (CPUE), reproductive maturity and recruitment, plankton and fish larvae investigations, and marine debris assessments to support coastal waste management planning. He assured the Council that the DOF Myanmar would allocate annual budgetary support for the operation and maintenance of the vessel to ensure its continuous utilization, and that all research and capacity-building activities conducted using the vessel would align with SEAFDEC’s fisheries-related priorities.

104. The Chief of AQD raised important procedural questions regarding the terminology and implications of the disposal plan. Additionally, he raised concerns about how the vessel’s use will be monitored after transfer, particularly regarding conditions for non-commercial and non-military use. On the Philippines’ interest in acquiring the vessel, noting that the country is an archipelago with many islands, the vessel would potentially be very useful. Also acknowledging that the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources officials had visited and inspected the vessel and developed plans for its use, he expressed concern about the cost of maintenance and operation of the vessel.

105. After the deliberation, the Council supported the proposed procedures from May 2026 to May 2027, and approved the establishment of the Selection Committee with National Coordinators serving as members,



along with its Terms of Reference (TOR), following the aforementioned procedures recommended by the Council.

9.4 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 (Mid-term Evaluation 2025)

106. The Council took note of the progress and the final draft report of 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 (Mid-term Review 2025) (**Annex 24**), as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

107. After the discussion, the Council approved the final draft Report of the Mid-term Review 2025 and supported the SEAFDEC Secretariat to submit the final draft Report to the ASEAN mechanism.

9.5 Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN)

108. The Council took note of the progress of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) Program (**Annex 25**), as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. The presentation includes the implementation and evaluation of the RFPN program in 2025; the RFPN activities in 2026; and the proposed RFPN program for 2027, including the proposed estimated budget to be used from the accumulated unspent Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC).

109. While noting the progress and achievements of the RFPN program, including the planned implementation in 2026, the Council Director for the Philippines approved the RFPN program implementation for 2027, along with its estimated budget and the utilization of accumulated unspent MRC.

110. The Council Director for Malaysia took note of the RFPN program implementation and evaluation in 2025, supported the planned activities for 2026, and the continuation of the RFPN program in 2027, including the estimated budget and proposed use of the accumulated unspent MRC, subject to prudent financial management and regular evaluation of program outcomes. She emphasized that the critical need is to ensure the program's outputs remain practical and strictly aligned with national and regional priorities to facilitate concrete follow-up actions, particularly on emerging issues such as IUU fishing, traceability, climate change, WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, BBNJ Agreement, and other regional fisheries policy matters. Additionally, she suggested SEAFDEC consider reviewing the annual leave entitlements for RFPN.

111. While recognizing the importance of the RFPN as an effective platform for strengthening policy development and regional cooperation, the Council Director for Myanmar expressed full support for the activities in 2026 and approved the RFPN program in 2027, including the estimated budget and the use of the accumulated unspent MRC.

112. The Council Director for Viet Nam approved the RFPN program implementation for 2027, including the estimated budget and the use of the accumulated unspent MRC.

113. While acknowledging the benefits of the RFPN program in enhancing policy-level networking among Member Countries, the Council Director for Thailand raised concerns that the remaining MRC balance is becoming increasingly constrained and trending towards deficit, due to several factors such as fluctuating foreign exchange rates, rising project implementation costs, including allocation of funds for SEAFDEC's upcoming 60th anniversary activities. Considering long-term financial sustainability of the budget, and awaiting the evaluation results by December 2026, she then proposed temporarily postponing the implementation of the RFPN program for 2027 and requested a comprehensive assessment of the program's efficiency and overall results for the next Council Meeting for consideration of the future implementation of the program.

114. The Council Director for Indonesia took note of the progress and reaffirmed the country's commitment to supporting the sustainability of the program. Supporting the continuation of the RFPN program in 2027, he suggested the early arrangement of the selection timeline.

115. The Council Director for Lao PDR commended the progress and the achievements of the RFPN 2025 and 2026, and then he approved the RFPN program in 2027, including its estimated budget and the use of accumulated unspent MRC.

116. The SEAFDEC Secretariat raised the concern that the current TOR for the RFPN program was originally approved by the Council in 2006 with a minor revision in 2024, and some aspects may not be applicable to the current situation. At that time, the original intent of the RFPN was to support regional policy development, whereas the current implementation focuses more on capacity building for junior staff.

117. In view of the concern raised on the focus of the RFPN program TOR, the Council Director for the Philippines recommended to review and update the TOR to address the current needs and emerging challenges of the region.

118. After the deliberation, the Council Director for Thailand supported the view of the Philippines, while also agreeing to support the majority views by proceeding with the RFPN program in 2027. However, she requested that the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the National Coordinators review and revise the TOR and their indicators to ensure maximum efficiency and alignment with the current needs of Member Countries, including consideration on the appropriate title of this program.

119. After the discussion, the Council approved the RFPN program for 2027, including the budget of USD 210,000 from accumulated unspent MRC. In addition, the Council requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to revise the TOR, including the evaluation criteria, for further review by National Coordinators during the 49th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and subsequently submit to the 59CM for consideration and approval.

9.6 The Preparation of the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC

9.6.1 SEAFDEC Anniversary Event and Relevant Materials

120. The Council took note of the progress on the preparation of the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC Event and Relevant Materials (**Annex 26**), as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat.

121. The Council Director for Malaysia approved the proposal for the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC, including the proposed program, venue, workplan, preparation of relevant materials, and budgetary requirements. She also expressed appreciation to the Government of Thailand for co-hosting the event and supported the invitation of SOM-level officials as Head Delegates. Noting the 60th Anniversary logo and related materials, she informed the Council that Malaysia supported the conduct of the Drawing Contest and would further coordinate internally on the nomination of Malaysia's focal person within the indicated timeline.

122. Noting that the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC marks an important milestone for the organization, the Council Director for Japan expressed gratitude for SEAFDEC's longstanding dedication and valuable contributions to the development of the fisheries sector in Southeast Asia. He further expressed support for sharing information about SEAFDEC's achievements through commemorative activities, both within the region and beyond. Nevertheless, given the current financial challenges, he suggested that the SEAFDEC Secretariat carefully review the budgetary arrangements for the planned activities, prioritizing and optimizing budget utilization within existing resources. With regard to the drawing contest, in which the award will be allocated to each of the Member Countries, he sought consideration on this and suggested that the use of financial resources could be more strategic. Finally, he expressed the hope that this commemorative Event will be successfully held and looks forward to SEAFDEC's future prospects for fisheries in the region.

123. The Council Directors for Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines supported the view of the Council Director for Japan that some costs for the Anniversary Event could be reconsidered, *i.e.* not to organize the national drawing contest; not to organize a press conference; to produce a coffee-table book only in electronic format; to reduce food packages for followers, security officers, and nurses; and to optimize costs for the outsourced organizer by focusing only on essential items.



124. After consideration, the Council supported the proposed program, including the date and venue of the Anniversary Event to be on 19 August 2027 at the Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld in Bangkok, Thailand. The Council also supported that the SOM-level officials from the ministry/agency responsible for fisheries of the respective Member Countries should be invited to serve as Heads of Delegation at the Anniversary Event, the invitation of which will be extended by the Government of Thailand.

125. In response to the recommendations of the Council, the SEAFDEC Secretariat prepared a revised budget as appears in **Annex 27**. In connection with this, the Council approved the SEAFDEC Secretariat to use the budget from accumulated unspent MRC of USD 111,980 for the 60th Anniversary, including the conduct of the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, SEAFDEC Anniversary Event, and relevant materials to be used during the Anniversary Event.

9.6.2 Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040

126. The Council noted the proposed workplan for updating the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC; Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040 (RES-2040), including the draft questionnaires on the updated RES-2040 to be sent to SEAFDEC Departments for their inputs, and the proposed program of the Special Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, in conjunction with the 60th SEAFDEC Anniversary event in 2027 (**Annex 28**), as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat.

127. After the presentation, the Council approved the workplan for updating the RES-2040.

9.7 Update on Financial Situation of Japanese Trust Fund 7

128. The Council took note of the updated information on the Financial Situation of Japanese Trust Fund 7 (JTF-7) (**Annex 29**), as presented by the Council Director for Japan.

129. The Chairperson of the Council expressed gratitude to the government of Japan for the continued support to SEAFDEC and its Member Countries. This support remains vital to the success of SEAFDEC and the Member Countries, not only through the JTF, but also from JICA and the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, which enable SEAFDEC to implement key initiatives in the region.

9.8 Modification of the Organizational Structure of SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC Training Department

130. The Council took note of the proposed Modification of the Organizational Structure of SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC Training Department (**Annex 30a and b**), as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat. After the presentation, the Council approved the new organizational structure of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and TD.

9.9 Discontinuation of Hard Copy Reports for SEAFDEC Annual Meetings

131. The Council took note of the proposed Discontinuation of Hard Copy Reports for SEAFDEC Annual Meetings (**Annex 31**), as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

132. After consideration, the Council approved the Discontinuation of Hard Copy Reports for SEAFDEC Annual Meetings, *i.e.* the Council Meeting, PCM, and FCG/ASSP Reports, and the SEAFDEC Annual Report, starting from the year 2026 onwards, noting that the PDF files of these reports would be sent to the participants and made available in the SEAFDEC Institutional Repository.

X. FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2024

133. In accordance with Article 6, Paragraph (ii) of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Council approved the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Center for the year ended 31 December 2024, including that of SEAFDEC Secretariat and four Departments, namely: TD, AQD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD (**Annex 32**), as audited by the official auditor of the Center, *Mr. Terakarn Watprapasak*, from S.A. 81 Audit Co., Ltd., Thailand.

10.2 Unaudited Financial Report for the Year 2025, and Status of the MRC Financial Situation for the Year 2026

134. The Council took note of the Unaudited Financial Report for the Year 2025, and Status of the MRC Financial Situation for the Year 2026, which appear in **Annex 33**.

10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2027

135. The Council approved the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for the Year 2027 as shown in **Annex 34**.

XI. CONCLUDING MATTERS

11.1 Adoption of the Report and Press Statement

136. The Council adopted the Report of the Fifty-eighth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Press Statement on 21 May 2026 as shown in **Annex 35**.

11.2 Date and Venue of the Fifty-ninth Meeting of the Council

137. In considering the date and venue of the Fifty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the SEAFDEC Council Director for Viet Nam informed the Council that the Government of Viet Nam accepted the responsibility of hosting the next Council Meeting in Danang, Viet Nam in 2027.

11.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government

138. On behalf of the SEAFDEC Council Directors, the Council Director for Lao PDR delivered the vote of thanks. He/she congratulated the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the successful conduct of the Meeting and expressed gratitude to all delegates for their valuable contributions during the Meeting. He thanked SEAFDEC and the government of Thailand for hosting the Meeting and all excellent arrangements, particularly to the staff for their hard work and dedication, both behind the scenes and throughout the Meeting in ensuring smooth coordination, excellent preparation, and continuous support during the participants' stay in Thailand, making this event both successful and memorable. He wished everyone a safe journey back home. His remarks appear in **Annex 36**.

XII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

139. The Chairperson expressed appreciation to the SEAFDEC Council Directors, delegations, and partner organizations for their constructive engagement, cooperation, and valuable contributions during the 58CM. As one of the outcomes of the 58CM was the approval of the celebration of 60th Anniversary of the establishment of SEAFDEC in 2027, she expressed her anticipation of welcoming all SEAFDEC Council Directors to join in the celebration. She underlined that this occasion would reaffirm the enduring importance of SEAFDEC in supporting fisheries development and contributing to the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. She then thanked SEAFDEC Secretary-General and her staff, as well as the staff of the DOF of Thailand, for their efforts in making arrangements for the success of the conduct of the Meeting. She wished all delegates a safe journey back home and declared the 58CM closed. Her Closing Remarks appear in **Annex 37**.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Hajah Wanidawati Haji Tamat (Mrs.)
Acting Director of Fisheries and
SEAFDEC Council Director

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Muara Fisheries Complex, Simpang
287-53 JLN Peranginan Pantai Serasa Muara
BT1728, Negara, Brunei Darussalam
Tel: +673 770068-9
E-mail: wanidawati.tamat@fisheries.gov.bn

Nur Diyana Besar (Ms.)
Fisheries Officer

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Muara Fisheries Complex, Simpang
287-53 JLN Peranginan Pantai Serasa Muara
BT1728, Negara, Brunei Darussalam
Tel: +673 770068-9
E-mail: nurdiyana.besar@fisheries.gov.bn

CAMBODIA (Online)

Buoy Roitana
Deputy Director-General and
SEAFDEC Council Director

General Directorate of Fisheries (GDF)
#186, Preah Norodom Blvd.
Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkar Mon
Phnom Penh, P.O. Box 582 Cambodia
Tel: +855 12 5 58090
E-mail: roitana@gmail.com

Leng Syvann
Deputy Director of Department of Fisheries
Conservation and SEAFDEC National
Coordinator

General Directorate of Fisheries (GDF)
#186, Preah Norodom Blvd.
Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkar Mon
Phnom Penh, P.O. Box 582 Cambodia
Tel: +855 17 446 373
E-mail: lengsyvann@gmail.com

Ngin Kamsan
Vice Chief of Office of Wildlife Affairs

General Directorate of Fisheries (GDF)
#186, Preah Norodom Blvd.
Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkar Mon
Phnom Penh, P.O. Box 582 Cambodia
E-mail: nginkamsan@gmail.com

INDONESIA (Online)

Dr. I Nyoman Radiarta
Director General of the Agency of Marine and
Fisheries Extension and Human Resources
Development and SEAFDEC Alternate Council
Director

Agency of Marine and Fisheries Extension and
Human Resources Development,
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries,
Mina Bahari Building III, 7th Floor, Jalan Medan
Merdeka Timur 16, Central Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +62 81319022210
Email: radiarta@kkp.go.id



Dr. Lilly Aprilya Pregiwati

Secretary of the Directorate General of the Agency of Marine and Fisheries Extension and Human Resources Development

Bureau of Public Relation and Foreign Cooperation, Secretariat General, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina Bahari Building I, 5th Floor, Jalan Medan Merdeka Timur 16, Central Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +62 8129479597
Email: lapregiwati@gmail.com

Yusra Hayati (Ms.)

Deputy Director of Regional and Subregional Cooperation

Bureau of Public Relation and Foreign Cooperation, Secretariat General, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina Bahari Building I, 5th Floor, Jalan Medan Merdeka Timur 16, Central Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +62 81317843308
Email: yusrahayati_yusri@gmail.com

Hendri Kurniawan

Senior Policy Analyst

Bureau of Public Relation and Foreign Cooperation, Secretariat General, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina Bahari Building I, 5th Floor, Jalan Medan Merdeka Timur 16, Central Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +62 87882822237
Email: nc.indonesia@gmail.com

Siti Annisa Mardhatillah (Ms.)

Junior Government Translator

Bureau of Public Relation and Foreign Cooperation, Secretariat General, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Mina Bahari Building I, 5th Floor, Jalan Medan Merdeka Timur 16, Central Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +62 85813545113
Email: multilateralmmaf@gmail.com

Ida Bagus Nyoman Suryana

Senior Policy Analyst

Secretariat of Directorate General of Aquaculture, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina Bahari Building IV, 7th Floor, Jalan Medan Merdeka Timur 16, Central Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +62 87875992342
Email: ksp.djpb@gmail.com

Aulia Maghfirotul Khatami (Ms.)

Senior Policy Analyst

Secretariat of Directorate of Marine and Fisheries Product Competitiveness Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Mina Bahari Building III, 12th Floor, Jalan Medan Merdeka Timur 16, Central Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +62 81295981813
Email: kerjasama.pds@gmail.com

Danang Akbar Wijayajati

Associate Expert Licensing Administrator

Secretariat of the Directorate General of Marine And Fisheries Resources Surveillance Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Mina Bahari Building IV, 11th Floor, Jalan Medan Merdeka Timur 16, Central Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +6281229202360
Email: danang.wijayajati@kkp.go.id

Kiestiko Sri Saptasari (Ms.)
Associate Policy Analyst

Agency of Marine and Fisheries Extension and
Human Resources Development,
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
Indonesia
Mina Bahari Building III, 7th Floor, Jalan Medan
Merdeka Timur 16, Central Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +62 85718101810
Email: keistiko.sari@gmail.com

Rizki Dewi Kristikareni (Ms.)
Senior Cooperation Analyst

Secretariat of the Marine and Fisheries Quality
Assurance Agency
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Mina
Bahari Building II, 7th Floor, Jalan Medan
Merdeka Timur 16, Central Jakarta Indonesia
Tel: +6285216672610
Email: rizki.kristikareni@kkp.go.id

JAPAN

Takumi Fukuda
Councilor and SEAFDEC Council Director

Resources Management Department
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 100-8907 Japan
Tel: +81 3 3503 8971
E-mail: takumi_fukuda720@maff.go.jp

Takeru Iida
Assistant Director of Overseas Fisheries
Cooperation Office and SEAFDEC
National Coordinator

Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo, 100-8907 Japan
Tel: +81 3 3503 8971
E-mail: takeru_iida150@maff.go.jp

LAO PDR

Akhane Phomsouvanh
Deputy Director-General and
SEAFDEC Council Director

Department of Livestock and Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
P.O. Box 6644, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR
Tel: +856 21 21 5242
Fax: +856 21 21 5242
E-mail: akhanep@gmail.com

Souvanny Phommakone (Ms.)
Director, Fisheries Division and
SEAFDEC National Coordinator

Department of Livestock and Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
P.O. Box 6644, Vientiane 01000, Lao PDR
Tel: +856 21 21 5242
Fax: +856 21 21 5242
E-mail: s_phommakone@yahoo.com

MALAYSIA

Yazeereen binti A. Bakar (Ms.)
Director of Policy and Strategic Planning Division
and SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 6 Tower 4G2, Precint 4,
62686 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +603-8870 4208
Fax: +603-8889 1195
E-mail: yazeereen@dof.gov.my



MYANMAR

Myint Zin Htoo
Director-General and
SEAFDEC Council Director

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Building No (36), Zabuthiri Township,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: +95-67-3408178
E-mail: myintzinhtoo@gmail.com

Dr. Aung Naing Oo
Director of Aquaculture Division

Department of Fisheries,
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Building No (36), Zabuthiri Township,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: +95-67-3408472
E-mail: ano93dofmm@gmail.com

PHILIPPINES

Drusila Esther E. Bayate (Ms.)
Undersecretary for Fisheries, and
SEAFDEC Council Director

Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
(BFAR) Fisheries Bldg. Complex BPI
Compound Brgy. Vasra, Diliman,
Quezon City 1101, Republic of the Philippines
Tel: +639 177002157
E-mail: debayate@da.gov.ph

Elymi Ar-J S. Tuñacao (Mrs.)
Chief of Fisheries Planning and Economic
Division and SEAFDEC National Coordinator

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
(BFAR)
Fisheries Bldg. Complex BPI Compound
Brgy. Vasra Diliman, Quezon City 1101
Philippines
E-mail: etunacao@bfar.da.gov.ph

Rhoda S. Bacordo (Ms.)
Chief of National Marine Fisheries Development
Center and SEAFDEC Alternate National
Coordinator

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
(BFAR)
Fisheries Bldg. Complex BPI Compound
Brgy. Vasra, Diliman, Quezon City 1101
Philippines
E-mail: rbacordo@bfar.da.gov.ph

Imelda R. Calixto (Mrs.)
Chief of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture
Division

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
(BFAR)
Fisheries Bldg. Complex BPI Compound
Brgy. Vasra, Diliman, Quezon City 1101
Philippines
E-mail: Icalixto@bfar.da.gov.ph

SINGAPORE

Leong Der Yao
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and
SEAFDEC Council Director

Singapore Food Agency
52, Jurong Gateway Road,
#14-01, Singapore 608550
Tel: +65068052828
E-mail: LEONG_Der_Yao@sfa.gov.sg

Melvin Chow
Senior Director and
SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director

Singapore Food Agency
52, Jurong Gateway Road,
#14-01, Singapore 608550
Tel: +65068052989
E-mail: melvin_chow@sfa.gov.sg

THAILAND

Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert (Mrs.)
Director-General and
SEAFDEC Council Director

Department of Fisheries
50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road,
Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok,
10900, Thailand
Tel: +662 562 0529
E-mail: ddg.dof.thailand@gmail.com

Prathet Sorrak
Deputy Director-General and
SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director

Department of Fisheries
50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road,
Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok,
10900, Thailand
Tel: +662 562 0529
E-mail: ddg.dof.thailand@gmail.com

Dr. Pavarot Noranarttragoon
Expert on Marine Fisheries

Department of Fisheries
50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road,
Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok,
10900, Thailand
E-mail: pavarotn@gmail.com

Lukhana Boonsongsrikul (Mrs.)
Fishery Biologist, Senior Professional Level,
Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division

Department of Fisheries
50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road,
Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok,
10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 579 7947
E-mail: lukhanabssk@gmail.com

Chutima Pokhun (Ms.)
Fishery Biologist, Senior Professional Level,
Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division

Department of Fisheries
50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road,
Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok,
10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 579 8215
E-mail: chutimappho@gmail.com

Deeka Ratanachamnong
Fishery Biologist, Professional Level,
Inland Fisheries Research and Development
Division

Department of Fisheries
50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road,
Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok,
10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 562 0585
E-mail: deekadarkie@hotmail.com

Nootchaya Karnjanapradit (Ms.)
Fishery Biologist, Professional Level,
Fisheries Resources Management and Measures
Determination Division

Department of Fisheries
50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road,
Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok,
10900, Thailand
E-mail: jariyayj@gmail.com



Jariya Jiwapibantanakit (Ms.)
Economist, Professional Level,
Fisheries Development Policy and Planning
Division

Department of Fisheries
50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road,
Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok,
10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 561 3371
E-mail: jariyayj@gmail.com

Supatcharee Wanchana (Mrs.)
Fishery Biologist, Professional Level,
Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division

Department of Fisheries
50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road,
Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok,
10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 562 0529
E-mail: supatcharee43@gmail.com

Natnapa Puthongkum (Mrs.)
Fishery Biologist, Practitioner Level,
Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division

Department of Fisheries
50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road,
Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok,
10900, Thailand
Tel: +662 562 0529
E-mail: natnapa.pitakmoo@gmail.com

VIET NAM

Dr. Tran Dinh Luan
Director General and
SEAFDEC Council Director

Department of Fisheries and Surveillance
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Giang Vo,
Hanoi, Viet Nam
E-mail: tdluan.dah@gmail.com

Dr. Nguyen Thi Phuong Dung (Mrs.)
Head of Science, Technology and International
Cooperation Division and SEAFDEC Alternate
Council Director and SEAFDEC National
Coordinator

Department of Fisheries and Surveillance
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Ba-Dinh
Hanoi, Viet Nam
E-mail: nguyendzung74@gmail.com

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SEAFDEC)

Secretariat

Sampan Panjarat (Mrs.)
Secretary-General and
Chief of Training Department

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: + 66 29406326
Fax: +66 29406336
E-mail: sg@seafdec.org

Koichi Tahara
Deputy Secretary-General and
Deputy Chief of TD

E-mail: dsg@seafdec.org

Masahide Kanno
Assistant Project Manager for Japanese
Trust Fund

E-mail: atfm@seafdec.org

Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn (Ms.)
Policy and Program Coordinator

E-mail: pattaratjit@seafdec.org

Nualanong Tongdee (Ms.)
Information Program Coordinator

E-mail: nual@seafdec.org

Saivason Klinsukhon (Ms.)
Senior Information Officer
E-mail: saivason@seafdec.org

Sawitree Chamsai (Ms.)
Senior Policy and Program Officer
E-mail: sawitree@seafdec.org

Rommel Guarin
Technical Writer/Editor
E-mail: rommel@seafdec.org

Nattha Srihera (Ms.)
Policy and Program Officer-I
E-mail: nattha.s@seafdec.org

Onjira Korboon (Ms.)
Policy and Program Officer-II
E-mail: onjira@seafdec.org

Pawitporn Daopa (Ms.)
Information Officer-I
E-mail: pawitporn@seafdec.org

Napasson Pphemphon (Ms.)
Information Officer-II
E-mail: napasson@seafdec.org

Kwanruean Vudthipanyo (Ms.)
Finance Officer
E-mail: kwanruean@seafdec.org

Training Department (TD)

Isara Chanrachkij
Project Planning and Management Division Head
and Special Departmental Coordinator
P.O. Box 97, Phrasamutchedi,
Samut Prakan, 10290, Thailand
Tel: + 66 24256140
Fax: +66 24256110
E-mail: isara@seafdec.org

Panitnard Weerawat (Ms.)
Research and Development Division Head
E-mail: panitnard@seafdec.org

Kongpathai Saraphaivanich
Training and Research Supporting Division Head
E-mail: kongpathai@seafdec.org

Phakaphan Dangam (Ms.)
Accounts and Finance Section Head
E-mail: phakaphan@seafdec.org

Aquaculture Department (AQD)

Dan D. Baliao
Chief of SEAFDEC/AQD
Tigbauan, 5021 Iloilo, Philippines
Tel: +63 33 3307061
Fax: +63 33 3307001
E-mail: aqdchief@seafdec.org.ph,
dbaliao@seafdec.org.ph

Dr. Takahiro Sajiki
Deputy Chief
E-mail: tsajiki@seafdec.org.ph

Richelle T. Bautista (Ms.)
Special Departmental Coordinator
E-mail: rbautista@seafdec.org.ph



Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD)

Tan Yit Wee
Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRD

Singapore Food Agency
52, Jurong Gateway Road, #14-01,
Singapore 608550
Fax: +65 6861 3196
E-mail: TAN_Yit_Wee@sfa.gov.sg

Hoe Geok Ting (Ms.)
Special Departmental Coordinator

E-mail: HOE_Geok_Ting@sfa.gov.sg

Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD)

Abd. Haris Hilmi bin Ahmad Arshad
Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080, Kuala Terengganu,
Malaysia
Tel: +60 9 617 5940, +60 9 617 1543
Fax: +60 9 617 5136
E-mail: haris_arshad@seafdec.org.my

Dr. Masahito Hirota
Deputy Chief

E-mail: hirota@seafdec.org.my

Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)

Andi Soesmono
Chief of SEAFDEC/IFRDMD

Jl. Gub H.A. Bastari no.08
RT.29RW.27, Kel Silaberanti, Kec.,
Seberang Ulu I, Jakabaring, Palembang 30252,
Sumatera Selatan, Indonesia
E-mail: chief@seafdec.id

Toru Shimoda
Deputy Chief

E-mail: deputy_chief@seafdec.id

Dr. Dina Muthmainnah (Ms.)
Special Departmental Coordinator

E-mail: dina.muthmainnah@seafdec.id
dina.gofar@yahoo.co.id

OFFICIAL AUDITOR

Terakarn Watprapasak

S.A.81 Audit Co., Ltd.
5/125 Sathorn 11, Sathorn Road, Yannawa,
Sathorn, Bangkok 10120, Thailand
E-mail: terakarn.watprapasak@gmail.com

OBSERVERS

International/Regional Organizations and non-Member Countries

Dr. Benjamin Belton
Senior Fishery Officer

Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the
Pacific (FAO/RAP)
39 Phra Athit Road, Phara Nakron,
Bangkok, 10200, Thailand
Tel: +66 26974185
E-mail: benjamin.belton@fao.org

Hervé Lefeuvre
Senior Director

Global Environment Facility (GEF) and
Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs),
WWF-US
Tel: +66 6 2212 3088, +1 2 0 2459 8533
E-mail: Herve.LeFeuvre@wwfus.org

Pouchamarn Wongsanga (Ms.)
Project Director Agriculture

GIZ Thailand
50 Department of Agriculture
Sittwiporn Building, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 9 9060 0954
E-mail: pouchamarn.wongsanga@giz.de

Wuttiwat Siripakkunawong
Project Advisor

GIZ Thailand
193/63 Complex (16th floor) New,
Ratchadaphisek Rd, Klongtoey,
Bangkok 10110, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 6426645
E-mail: wuttiwat.siripakkunawong@giz.de

Yohei Namazu

JICA Thailand Office
31st Floor Exchange Tower,
388 Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey,
Bangkok 10110 Thailand
E-mail: Namazu.Yohei@jica.go.jp

Suporn Langao (Ms.)
Program Officer

JICA Thailand Office
31st Floor Exchange Tower,
388 Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey,
Bangkok 10110 Thailand
E-mail: suporniti@jica.go.jp

Simon Wilkinson
Senior Programme Officer, Information and
Networking

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
(NACA)
Surasawadi Bldg., Dept. of Fisheries
Kasetsart University
Bangkok, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 5611728
E-mail: simon@enaca.org

Michael Ronning
Section Head

Regional Strategic Assistance Section
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok
Athenee Tower, 31st Floor
63 Wireless Road, Pathumwan
Bangkok, 10330, Thailand
E-mail: RonningMA@state.gov

Daniel Rittenhouse
Director of Regional Economic Engagement and
Environment Office

Regional Strategic Assistance Section
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok
Athenee Tower, 31st Floor
63 Wireless Road, Pathumwan
Bangkok, 10330, Thailand
E-mail: RittenhouseDR@state.gov



Katherine Snider (Ms.)
Regional Program Assistant

Regional Strategic Assistance Section
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok
Athenee Tower, 31st Floor
63 Wireless Road, Pathumwan
Bangkok, 10330, Thailand
E-mail: SniderKW@state.gov

SEAFDEC Secretariat

Rawiwan Poonsawat (Ms.)
Policy and Program Officer-III

E-mail: rawiwan@seafdec.org

Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN)

Devi Setya Rini (Ms.)
RFPN for Indonesia

E-mail: devi@seafdec.org

Khamhou Thongsamout
RFPN for Lao PDR

E-mail: kham@seafdec.org

Eleanor Daniella bt. Lokman (Ms.)
RFPN for Malaysia

E-mail: eleanor@seafdec.org

Nay Chi Cho Linn (Ms.)
RFPN for Myanmar

E-mail: naychi@seafdec.org

Jay-Ar Pol D. Mahinay
RFPN for Philippines

E-mail: jmahinay@seafdec.org

Chairat Bumrungsook
RFPN for Thailand

E-mail: chairat@seafdec.org

Vu Van Tam
RFPN for Viet Nam

E-mail: tam@seafdec.org

SEAFDEC Training Department (TD)

Sukchai Arnupapboon
Fishing Ground and Oceanography Section Head

E-mail: sukchai@seafdec.org

Weerasak Yingyuad
Senior Program Planning and Management
Officer

E-mail: weerasak@seafdec.org

Kanokwan Thobphuk (Ms.)
Program Planning and Management Officer

E-mail: kanokwan@seafdec.org

Siriporn Pangsorn (Ms.)
Training and Research Supporting Section Head

E-mail: psiriporn@seafdec.org

Thanyalak Suasi (Ms.)
Fisheries Management Section Head

E-mail: thanyalak@seafdec.org

SECRETARIAT OF THE MEETING

SEAFDEC Secretariat

Arpaporn Eiamsa-ard (Ms.) Senior Administrative Officer	P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office Bangkok 10903, Thailand E-mail: arpaporn@seafdec.org
Satana Duangsawasdi Information Officer-III	E-mail: satana@seafdec.org
Natawan Veeravaitaya (Ms.) Administrative Officer II	E-mail: natawan@seafdec.org
Meen Limthammahisorn Administrative Officer III	E-mail: meen@seafdec.org
Jungjit Kirdgan (Ms.) Foreign Relations Officer, Practitioner level (HiPPs) Temporary at SEAFDEC/SEC	Email: jungjit_jenny@hotmail.com and jungjit.k@fisheries.go.th

Department of Fisheries, Thailand

Parnpan Worranut Fishery Biologist, Professional Level	Department of Fisheries 50 Kaset Klang, Phahonyothin Road, Latyao, Chatuchak, Bangkok, 10900, Thailand E-mail: parnpan.ffad@gmail.com
Niracha yoocharern (Ms.) Fishery Biologist, Professional Level	E-mail: niracha.yoocharern@gmail.com
Charinrat Ubolban (Ms.) Fishery Biologist, Professional Level	E-mail: charinrat.up@gmail.com
Santi Saraphol Fishery Biologist, Practitioner Level	E-mail: santi13301@hotmail.com
Thatpong Yuwawet Foreign Relations Officer, Practitioner Level	E-mail: thatpong10@hotmail.com
Puncharas Gorcharoenwat (Ms.) Fishery Biologist, Professional level	E-mail: gpuncharas@gmail.com
Preecha Phothong Fishery Biologist, Professional level	E-mail: preechadof@gmail.com
Rathachai Ngunthong Dissemination Technical Officer, Practitioner Level	E-mail: earth-1990@hotmail.com
Passakorn Thepphan Dissemination Technical Officer, Practitioner Level	E-mail: neungpassakorn@gmail.com



Aekkawut Udomsirirat Fishery Biologist, Practitioner Level	E-mail: aekkawut6666@gmail.com
Titipat Tongdonkruang Fishery Biologist, Practitioner Level	E-mail: g.titipat@gmail.com
Thanakhan Yordpaun Fishery Biologist	E-mail: thanakhan.ypd@gmail.com
Chanisara Phothirat (Ms.) Fishery Biologist	E-mail: chaniskathy@gmail.com
Tanakorn Tungjareunaree Fishery Biologist	E-mail: tanakorn54102@gmail.com
Jirapat Wichean (Ms.) Fishery Biologist	E-mail: jirapat.wic@gmail.com
Ramon Wannakrairoj (Ms.) Fishery Biologist	E-mail: ramon.wnkr@gmail.com
Jiranan Khamput (Ms.) Fishery Biologist	E-mail: jiranan.kpt@gmail.com
Nuttanicha Netchinda (Ms.) Fishery Biologist	E-mail: nutta.nuttanicha@gmail.com
Kantchompoo Janthanakin (Ms.) Fishery Biologist	E-mail: kantchompoo.j@gmail.com

WELCOME REMARKS

By Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert,
The Director-General of the Department of Fisheries, Thailand
and SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand

Dr. Pornthep Sritanatorn, Inspector General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives;
Mr. Leong Der Yao, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Corporate Industry & Technology, SEAFDEC
Council Director for Singapore, and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2025 to 2026;
Distinguished SEAFDEC Council Directors of the Member Countries;
Ms. Sampan Panjarat, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC;
National Coordinators and Delegates;
Representative from international organization;
Ladies and Gentlemen;
Good morning.

I would like to begin by expressing my deep appreciation to *Dr. Pornthep Sritanatorn*, the Inspector General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives for honoring us with his presence at the opening ceremony of the fifty-eighth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council today. It is also my great pleasure to welcome all SEAFDEC Council Directors, the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, delegates from Member Countries, and representatives from international organizations to this important gathering.

On behalf of the Kingdom of Thailand, I wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Singapore for hosting the fifty-seventh Council Meeting. I would also like to commend *Mr. Leong Der Yao* for his exceptional leadership as Chairperson. In this regard, my team and I have dedicated our full efforts to organizing this meeting and to supporting all delegates throughout the course of your work here.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Like all Member Countries, Thailand recognizes the significant challenges in achieving sustainable fisheries development. While fisheries remain a vital source of food security, employment, and national income, various factors, including environmental, economic and social changes, are making fisheries management more difficult. In particular, current global geopolitical tensions have added further complexity to both fisheries management and aquaculture operations. It is, therefore, essential for all stakeholders and SEAFDEC Member Countries to unite in addressing these challenges with collective strength and shared solutions.

Thailand highly commends SEAFDEC's pivotal role in supporting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the region, as well as its commitment to capacity building for our personnel. Next year marks the Sixtieth Anniversary of SEAFDEC's founding, a milestone that reflects its enduring significance in regional and international cooperation. Thailand commits to work closely with SEAFDEC and all Member Countries to drive our regional fisheries toward a resilient and sustainable future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bangkok, our energetic capital, is a city where deep-rooted cultural heritage meets modern progress. For over two hundred forty years, it has served as the heart of the nation. Beyond its role as a regional hub, Bangkok offers a unique charm, from its historic temples and the majestic Chao Phraya River to its world-renowned street food and diverse tourist attractions. I encourage you to take a moment to experience the warmth and hospitality that define our "City of Angels." In Thai "Krung Thep Maha Nakhon"



For this reason, during this meeting, I hope that you will enjoy your stay in Thailand and find time to discover the charms of Bangkok. We are committed to providing the best possible facilitation during this meeting. Should you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our staff.

Thank you very much.

OPENING REMARKS

By Mr. Leong Der Yao,
Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Corporate, Industry & Technology
and Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2025–2026

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand,
Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert, the SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand,
Honourable Council Directors and Heads of Delegations from all SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Honourable Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC,
Chief of SEAFDEC Departments,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to everyone, it is an honor to welcome you to the 58th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. First of all, on behalf of the SEAFDEC Council and as Chairperson, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the Government of Thailand for hosting the 58th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and for the warm hospitality extended to all delegates in welcoming us to this beautiful country.

In the past year, we have witnessed innovative ideas, strengthened trust, and shared vision amongst SEAFDEC Member Countries, for safeguarding the long-term viability of our fisheries and aquaculture practices in our Southeast Asian region.

We have also witnessed that the Marine Fisheries Research Department or MFRD, which is one of the five Technical Departments of SEAFDEC, hosted by Singapore, is re-pivoted program of work and plan of operations, to focus on sustainability, environmental monitoring, and long-term climate adaptation. As the region faces growing concerns over climate change and environmental degradation, it has amplified the need for enhanced environmental monitoring and long-term climate adaptation measures to ensure overall food supply resilience, especially for aquatic resources.

As we convene this year's meeting to gather and discuss equally significant issues in the areas of fisheries management, regional collaboration, and, importantly, the future direction of the Center, we do so with a sense of anticipation, as we look ahead to a particularly momentous occasion – the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC, which will take place next year.

My colleagues have shared with me the detailed planning and preparations undertaken by the Secretariat and various Departments to make the event a truly memorable one – and rightly so.

Over nearly six decades, SEAFDEC has grown from a modest regional initiative into a cornerstone institution of fisheries and aquaculture development in Southeast Asia. Its enduring legacy is a testament to the collective commitment of our Member Countries to responsible fisheries management, sustainable aquaculture, and the well-being of the millions of fishing communities that depend on the region's aquatic resources.

As we approach this significant milestone, we are reminded not only of how far we have come but of the responsibility we carry in shaping the next chapter of regional fisheries cooperation.

Without further ado, let us proceed with this year's 58th SEAFDEC council meeting. May our collective efforts over the course of this meeting translate into outcomes that are both meaningful and enduring, in service of the shared vision we hold for the region.

Thank you.

KEYNOTE MESSAGE

By *Dr. Pornthep Sritanatorn*
Inspector General, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Mr. Leong Der Yao, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Corporate Industry & Technology, SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore, and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2025 to 2026;
Distinguished SEAFDEC Council Directors;
Ms. Sampan Panjarat, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC;
Delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a profound honor and great pleasure to preside over the opening ceremony of the Fifty-eighth Meeting of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Council. On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, I would like to warmly welcome you to Bangkok. After a decade, Thailand is delighted to once again host this significant gathering of regional leaders and experts.

This year marks the midpoint of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030, adopted in 2020. SEAFDEC has played a pivotal role in monitoring and evaluating progress together with the Member Countries. As we look ahead to the next five years, it is imperative that we accelerate our efforts to achieve more tangible and impactful results.

The global fisheries landscape is currently under pressure from several interconnected and complex factors. These range from climate change and volatility affecting marine ecosystems to the overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, and the degradation of aquatic habitats. Furthermore, we face increasingly stringent international trade regulations, rising production costs in both capture fisheries and aquaculture, and intensifying geopolitical tensions.

To address these challenges, SEAFDEC member countries are encouraged to further promote sustainable resource utilization and environmentally friendly aquaculture development under the ecosystem-based approach. It is also essential to reinforce our corrective actions to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Moreover, we must enhance seafood supply chain transparency through advanced electronic traceability and ensure ethical labor practices that align with international standards. Throughout this transition, we must ensure that our advancements are inclusive, empowering our small-scale fishers and ensuring that no one is left behind.

In this regard, SEAFDEC's role is of paramount importance in fostering partnerships and implementing pilot projects that provide Member Countries with transformative solutions and digital innovations. By integrating data-driven technologies and developing human resources in various fisheries disciplines, SEAFDEC continues to strengthen our capacity to address environmental and trade challenges, ensuring that the region's fisheries sector remains resilient to global change.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to the SEAFDEC Secretariat and all organizers for their excellent preparations. Thailand reaffirms its steadfast commitment to cooperating with SEAFDEC and all fellow Member Countries to promote fisheries and aquaculture that are sustainable and aligned with global standards.

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I hereby declare open the Fifty-eighth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. I wish you all fruitful and constructive deliberations.

Thank you.

AGENDA

Agenda 1: Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Opening of the Meeting by Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2025–2026
- 1.2 Election of Chairperson for the Year 2026–2027
- 1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting

Agenda 2: Report of the Secretary-General

Agenda 3: Note of the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (PCM) on the Results of the Forty-eighth Meeting of PCM

Agenda 4: Note of the Chairperson of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) on the Results of the Twenty-eighth Meeting of FCG/ASSP

Agenda 5: Policy Consideration on Important Issues

- 5.1 Science-based Fisheries and Fisheries Management
 - 5.1.1 Efforts to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
 - 5.1.2 Efforts to Combat Marine Debris and Abandoned, Loss or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in Southeast Asia
 - 5.1.3 Hydroacoustic-based stock assessment
 - 5.1.3.1 Progress on Fisheries Hydro-acoustic Survey in the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia for Pelagic Fish Stock Assessment
 - 5.1.3.2 Future plan for the technology transfer of Hydroacoustic-based stock assessment to SEAFDEC Member Countries
- 5.2 International Fisheries Related Issues
 - 5.2.1 Outcomes of CITES CoP20 and CITES-Related Issues

Agenda 6: Other Matters

- 6.1 Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia
- 6.2 The Preparation for Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2027 (SEASOFIA 2027)

Agenda 7: Cooperation with International/Regional Organizations and Non-member Governments

Agenda 8: Future Direction Requested by the Council

Agenda 9: Management of the Center

- 9.1 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations
- 9.2 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels
- 9.3 Disposal plan of M.V. SEAFDEC
- 9.4 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 (Mid-term Review 2025)
- 9.5 Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) Program



- 9.6 The preparation of the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC
 - 9.6.1 SEAFDEC Anniversary Event and Relevant Materials
 - 9.6.2 Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040
- 9.7 Update on Financial Situation of Japanese Trust Fund 7 (Japan)
- 9.8 Modification of the Organizational Structure of SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC Training Department
- 9.9 Discontinuation of Hard Copy Reports for SEAFDEC Annual Meetings
- 9.10 Others

Agenda 10: Financial Matters

- 10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2024
- 10.2 Unaudited Financial Report for the Year 2025, and Status of the MRC Financial Situation for the Year 2026
- 10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2027
- 10.4 Other financial matters

Agenda 11: Concluding Matters

- 11.1 Adoption of the Report and Press Statement
- 11.2 Date and Venue of the Fifty-ninth Meeting of the Council
- 11.3 Vote of Thanks to the Host Government

Agenda 12: Closing of the Meeting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Forty-eighth Meeting of the Program Committee (48PCM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was organized from 3–5 November 2025 in Langkawi, Malaysia and hosted by the Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD). The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, in her capacity as the Chairperson of SEAFDEC Program Committee, chaired the Meeting which reviewed the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2025 and the programs to be implemented in 2026 to ensure that these have been formulated and implemented in line with the priorities and needs of the Member Countries. The list of SEAFDEC Programs and Projects in 2025 and those for implementation in 2026 appears in **Appendix 1**.

The 48PCM took note of the **Projects under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Mechanism**, which comprises 19 projects under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership, 17 of which are to be continued in 2026, while one of which is scheduled to be completed in 2025, and one New Project. These projects are categorized under six (6) SEAFDEC Strategies: 1) Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region; 2) Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region; 3) Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region; 4) Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements; 5) Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries; and 6) Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries. In addition, the 48PCM took note of the status of one pipeline project to be placed under FCG/ASSP Mechanism. In this connection, the 48PCM endorsed the proposed activities of ongoing projects, a new project, for implementation in 2026 as well as a pipeline for submission to the higher authorities of the ASEAN and SEAFDEC. After deliberations, the recommendations of 48PCM could be summarized as follows:

Ongoing FCG/ASSP Projects

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

- (1) Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity**
 - SEAFDEC to consider emphasizing future activities on the integration of digital data platforms and the strengthening of capacity building to support AMSs that continue to face challenges in fishery statistics data
 - The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026

- (2) Enhanced Marine Research Capacities to Manage Fisheries Resources**
 - MFRDMD to consider including Myanmar among the participating countries
 - MFRDMD to share the assessment results and explore the possibility of organizing regional training and report to the next meeting of the SEAFDEC Council
 - MFRDMD to prepare a well-structured scientific report that carefully considers data sensitivity and clearly outlines the survey design, key findings, challenges encountered, and future plans for technology transfer to Member Countries
 - TD to organize the training and knowledge exchange of hydroacoustic survey techniques, as well as the analysis of climate change impacts on fishery resources
 - The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026

- (3) Improving Fishers' Livelihood and Fisheries Co-Management in Inland and Coastal Small-Scale Fisheries**
 - TD to consider conducting similar activities which may be similar to BOBLME project under the BOBLME project
 - The 48PCM approved the proposed activities for 2026

- (4) Digital Transformation of Regional Fishery Statistics and Enhanced Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information**
 - SEAFDEC to continue assisting the AMSs in enhancing their capacity and capability in fishery statistics through continued workshops and capacity-building programs
 - The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026

- (5) Enhancement of Regional Cooperation and Human Resource Development to Eliminate IUU Fishing**
 - TD to consider organizing events in 2026 through online platforms as an alternative mode, due to the observation that not all Member Countries sent representatives to certain Project events in 2025
 - TD to consider the suggestion of Malaysia on its Fisheries Act regarding transshipment when communicating with FAO on the development of the regional guidelines on transshipment at sea
 - The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026

- (6) ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia**
 - TD, under relevant project, to provide Cambodia with relevant information and recommendations on destructive gears, namely: small trawls, push nets, and collapsible fish traps, so that the country's fisheries law could be revisited in the future
 - The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026

- (7) Research and Dissemination of Sustainable Fishing Technology**
 - The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026

- (8) Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia**
 - TD to consider supporting activities related to research, data collection and analysis, and development of regional reporting system on marine debris and ALDFG
 - TD to consider serving as a regional center for coordination, data and information exchange, capacity building, and cooperation among the AMSs
 - SEAFDEC to explore means to standardize the reporting mechanism on ALDFG by the AMSs if reporting to IMO becomes mandatory in the future
 - TD to consider increasing the number of participants in the symposium on marine debris that will explore baseline and future direction for ALDFG and fishing gear marking in the region
 - The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026

- (9) Enhanced Research Capacities for Sustainable Utilization and Management of Eel and Other Inland Fisheries Resources**
 - IFRDMD to consider addressing the challenges of Malaysia such as limitation of the capacity in conducting survey, estimating stocks, and collecting data and trade data that are not species specific through relevant capacity-building activities
 - IFRDMD to consider addressing the challenges that may be faced in the implementation of Special Area for Conservation and Fish Refugia (SPEECTRA) in other locations in the AMSs
 - IFRDMD to consider involving Myanmar in the activity on biomass estimation in inland fisheries
 - IFRDMD to avoid duplication of efforts between the projects related to the management of eel resources
 - The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026

- (10) Development of Stock Assessment Method for Strengthening of Resources Management Measures of Tropical Anguillid Eels in AMS**
- SEAFDEC Secretariat to consider incorporating the methods for species identification of tropical eels that are low-cost and user-friendly for fishery officers in the future training courses
 - SEAFDEC Secretariat to promote the sharing of information on catch, biology, stock assessment methods, and other relevant data on tropical anguillid eels to support sustainable trade and resource management among the AMSs
 - The 48PCM noted the overall Project achievements in 2020–2025, and its completion in January 2026
- (11) 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 consider organizing ad hoc Project Steering Committee Meeting or online meeting to confirm the activities to be implemented in Malaysia
 - The 48PCM noted the proposed activities in 2026, which will be approved by the Project Steering Committee Meeting scheduled in 2026
- (12) Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)**
- SEAFDEC to circulate to the Program Committee Members ad referendum the activities planned in 2026 once they are finalized and approved by the Project Steering Committee Meeting in November 2025
 - The 48PCM noted that the activities planned for 2026 will be finalized and circulated to the Program Committee Members ad referendum

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

- (13) Promotion of Aquaculture Technologies for Emerging Species through Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP)**
- AQD to conduct capacity-building activities in person, considering that technology transfer, particularly for new areas such as aquaculture technologies for emerging species, would be most effective when delivered face to face
 - AQD to share the successful findings and lessons learned from research activities on important emerging species, such as kawakawa, shortfin scad, and oyster, with the AMSs and integrate them into the future training courses of AQD
 - The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026
- (14) Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture**
- The 48PCM noted the status and progress of the Project in 2025 and noted that the activities in 2026 will be approved at the Project Steering Committee Meeting in November 2025

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

- There is no project under this Strategy

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

- (15) ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project**
- The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026



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

(16) Enhancing Regional Responses to Emerging International Fisheries-related Issues

- SEAFDEC to consider the inclusion of issues on the Agreement on Marine Biological Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) as a permanent agenda item of the FCG/ASSP meetings
- SEAFDEC Secretariat to consider attending as an observer at the 37th Meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and at the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP17)
- SEAFDEC Secretariat to provide capacity-building activities to assist the AMSs comply with the requirements of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies
- SEAFDEC Secretariat to provide the platform for the AMSs to share successful strategies and lessons learned in complying with obligations, including those related to the United States Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)
- The 48PCM approved the proposed activities in 2026

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

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

- SEAFDEC to communicate with Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar regarding the request for the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2026
- The 48PCM approved the cruise plan in 2026

Special Project

(18) USAID Southeast Asia Fisheries Partnership Activity

- 48PCM noted the project was terminated on 25 March 2025 due to the policy adjustment by the U.S. Government

New FCG/ASSP Project

(19) Strengthening Regional Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing and Promote Safe, Fair and Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia

- SEAFDEC to provide updates to the Program Committee upon the finalization of the implementation plan of the project
- The 48PCM approved the new project

The 48PCM noted the progress and achievements of the **Departmental Programs** implemented in 2025 which comprise ten programs, five (5) of which were implemented by AQD, namely; 1) Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture; 2) Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture; 3) Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture; 4) Meeting Social and Economic Challenges in Aquaculture; and 5) Collaborative Projects with the Philippine Government; four (4) by TD, namely: 1) Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Enhancing Human Capacity Building; 2) Collaborative Program with the Government of Thailand; 3) Ghost Fishing in a Global South Demonstration Project; and 4) USAID DOI International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP); and one (1) by MFRD, namely: Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring Network. Noting that the program on “Ghost Fishing in a Global South Demonstration Project” was completed in 2025, while “USAID DOI International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP)” was suspended in 2025, the 48PCM endorsed the other eight (8) programs and their proposed activities to be implemented in 2026. In this connection, the 47PCM provided recommendations on these programs which could be summarized as follows:

(1) Aquaculture Department

- AQD to continue carrying out activities on broodstock development for emerging species (*e.g.* crayfish), refinement of hatchery and nursery protocols, fish health management, feeds and nutrition, and socioeconomic research and development
- AQD to consider conducting study visits or workshops at AQD, focusing on environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions from aquaculture activities, to enhance knowledge and skills in aquaculture among the AMSs
- AQD to consider expanding participation beyond the Southeast Asian region, particularly through South-South Cooperation, to foster broader collaboration with interested partners outside the region, in consultation with the SEAFDEC Secretariat for further consideration and guidance
- AQD to further develop studies on alternative raw materials, particularly plant-based ingredients, to reduce dependency on fish meal
- AQD to enhance the dissemination of results from its Departmental Programs to the AMSs, including through online workshops or webinars in the future
- AQD to consider organizing a workshop on alternative sources for fish feed

(2) Training Department

- TD to organize for the DOF Thailand a training course on inland fishery resource assessment using the R-statistical program to enhance the evaluation and management of inland fishery resources, which would further strengthen the capacity of fisheries officers in conducting assessments for improved resource management
- TD to consider organizing a training course on real-time identification of toxic plankton species for monitoring harmful algal blooms (HABs), inviting external experts on plankton identification from relevant institutions to share their expertise with fisheries officers from DOF Thailand
- TD to consider sharing the progress and outcomes of the research project on “monitoring carbon dioxide emissions from fishing vessels and ports” with other AMSs at future regional workshops and training, possibly as early as 2026
- TD to consider conducting on-site activities to share technical experience and relevant data from the study on “Catch Rate and Species Composition of Anchovy Falling Net with Light Luring Fishing in the Coastal Areas of the Eastern Gulf of Thailand” with Cambodia
- TD to consider organizing a webinar or regional symposium to facilitate the sharing of the results of the “Ghost Fishing in a Global South Demonstration Project”

(3) Marine Fisheries Research Department

- MFRD to organize a half-day online workshop in October 2026 for the AMSs to raise awareness on the critical role of monitoring and surveillance in safeguarding safe seafood production against threats posed by climate change

Under the **Other Programs**, the 48PCM took note the progress and achievements of two projects including 1) Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Strengthening SEAFDEC and its Members’ Capacity in Responding to SoSI-FIRMS & SDG 14.4.1 Data Calls, and 2) Regional Workshop in Asia to commemorate 10 years of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. Both projects were completed in 2025.

The 48PCM took note of two **Pipeline Projects**, *i.e.*: 1) Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the Indo-Pacific; and 2) Toward the Sustainable Utilization of Commercially Exploited Tropical Sharks and Rays, Eels in Southeast Asia.

The 48PCM took note of the **cooperation between SEAFDEC and international/regional organizations**, namely: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the World Wildlife Fund/United States.

With regard to the **Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) Program**, the 48PCM noted the program implementation in 2025 and proposed activities in 2026, and provided the following recommendations:



- SEAFDEC Secretariat to allow the attendance of RFPN members at SEAFDEC meetings when countries are unable to nominate representatives
- SEAFDEC Secretariat to submit the results of the performance evaluation of the RFPN member to their respective Council Director, in addition to the overall evaluation report
- SEAFDEC to consider other approaches to assess the effectiveness of the RFPN program, in addition to the indicators on accountability, teamwork, interpersonal relationships, and time management

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 (Mid-term Evaluation 2025)**, considering the missing baseline evaluation in a few countries, the 48PCM suggested that the SEAFDEC Secretariat re-examine the data analysis methods for the mid-term evaluation. Nevertheless, since this suggestion from the 48PCM could not be accommodated in the Mid-term Review Report for submission to the 28FCG/ASSP, it was recommended that the suggestion of the 48PCM be presented at the 28FCG/ASSP for further consideration.

The 48PCM noted the Preparation of **Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2027 (SEASOFIA 2027)** and suggested that SEAFDEC add a section on the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA), which was adopted by FAO COFI in 2024.

On the **Disposal Plan of M.V. SEAFDEC**, the 48PCM requested that TD prioritize the Member Countries and others that expressed interest in receiving the vessel and continue with the proposed process for the Disposal Plan. The 48PCM noted that, despite the difficult situation at the Japanese Grant Aid, making it challenging for Japan to provide financial assistance for a new vessel, Japan supported a consultancy to survey specifications for a new research vessel. However, Japan encouraged SEAFDEC to also explore various funding options for the new vessel. Moreover, considering that TD has sent an application form together with the letter to the Member Countries, the Member Countries were encouraged to consider the details and see whether the fisheries authority or other national agencies would be interested in acquiring the vessel.

While noting the **status of the JTF budget from 2023 to 2027**, the 48PCM noted that the change in the official rate of the Japanese Yen has resulted in decreased funds received by SEAFDEC in US dollars over the years until 2026. For Fiscal Year 2027, the Fisheries Agency of Japan is requesting a 7.5 % increase in the 2026 budget, but this has not yet been confirmed, and the actual exchange rate remains unknown. The 48PCM noted that this currency fluctuation also affects the budgets for other projects received in US dollars, necessitating that SEAFDEC to adjust project activities based on actual budget availability.

The Program Committee adopted the Report of the 48th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee for submission to the 58th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, and to the ASEAN through the 28th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP).

SEAFDEC PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR 2025–2026

I. Projects under FCG/ASSP Mechanism

Ongoing Project

No.	Strategy/Project Title	Lead Department	2025	2026
Strategy I: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region				
1	Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	MFRDMD	Y	Y
2	Enhanced Marine Research Capacities to Manage Fisheries Resources	MFRDMD&TD	Y	Y
3	Improving Fishers' Livelihood and Fisheries Co-Management in Inland and Coastal Small-Scale Fisheries	IFRDMD&TD	Y	Y
4	Digital Transformation of Regional Fishery Statistics and Enhanced Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information	SEC	Y	Y
5	Enhancement of Regional Cooperation and Human Resource Development to Eliminate IUU Fishing	TD	Y	Y
6	ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
7	Research and Dissemination of Sustainable Fishing Technology	TD	Y	Y
8	Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia	SEC	Y	Y
9	Enhanced Research Capacities for Sustainable Utilization and Management of Eel and Other Inland Fisheries Resources	IFRDMD	Y	Y
10	Development of Stock Assessment Method for Strengthening of Resources Management Measures of Tropical Anguillid Eels in AMS	SEC	Y	Y
11	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
12	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				
13	Promotion of Aquaculture Technologies for Emerging Species through Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP)	AQD	Y	Y
14	Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture	SEC&AQD	Y	Y
Strategy III: Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region				
	None			
Strategy IV: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements				
15	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				
16	Enhancing Regional Responses to Emerging 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				
17	Fisheries Resource Survey & Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	Y	Y
Special Project				
18	USAID Southeast Asia Fisheries Partnership Activity	SEC	Y	N

New Projects

No.	Project Title	Lead Department	Period
19	Strengthening Regional Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing and Promote Safe, Fair and Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia	TD	2025–2027

II. Departmental Programs

No.	Program Title	Lead Department	2025	2026
1	Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
2	Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
3	Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
4	Meeting Socio-economic Challenges in Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
5	Collaborative projects with the Philippine Government	AQD	Y	Y
6	Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Enhancing Human Capacity Building	TD	Y	Y
7	Collaborative Program with the Government of Thailand	TD	Y	Y
8	Ghost Fishing in a Global South Demonstration Project	TD	Y	N
9	USAID DOI International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP)	TD	Y	N
10	Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring Network	MFRD	Y	Y

III. Other Programs

No.	Program Title	Lead Department	2025	2026
1	Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Strengthening SEAFDEC and its Members' Capacity in Responding to SoSI-FIRMS & SDG 14.4.1 Data Calls	SEC	Y	N
2	Regional Workshop in Asia to commemorate 10 years of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication	SEC	Y	N

Y = Program implemented during the year

N = Program not implemented during the year

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE FISHERIES
CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
(ASSP)**

1. The Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP), or the 28FCG/ASSP was organized in Langkawi, Malaysia, from 6 to 7 November 2025. The 28FCG/ASSP was co-chaired by the representative from Myanmar, *Mr. Nyunt Win*, on behalf of the Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i), and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Ms. Sampan Panjarat*. The 28FCG/ASSP was attended by representatives from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, the representative from ASEAN Secretariat, and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. The 28FCG/ASSP discussed the programs and activities implemented in 2025 and endorsed the programs proposed for 2026 under the FCG/ASSP mechanism that has been scrutinized by the Forty-eighth Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee (48PCM), along with the progress made by the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) on fisheries-related issues under the ASEAN and ASEAN-SEAFDEC ASSP mechanism, and policy considerations on issues of international fisheries-related issues.

2. On “Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Fifty-seventh Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-seventh Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership,” the 28FCG/ASSP took note of actions made by SEAFDEC in response to the directives of the SEAFDEC Council at its 57th Meeting and those of the FCG/ASSP during its 27th Meeting.

3. On the “Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries,” the 28FCG/ASSP noted the outcomes of relevant ASEAN meetings, including 1) the 33rd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (33rd ASWGF_i Meeting) held on 24–25 July 2025 in Yangon, Myanmar; 2) Special Senior Official Meeting of the 46th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-46th AMAF) held virtually on 19 August 2025 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar; and 3) 47th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (47th AMAF) held on 1 October 2025 in Pasay City, Philippines, specifically took note of the progress and relevant recommendations as follows:

- The 47th AMAF adopted the Stock and Risk Assessments of Two Seerfish Species (*Scomberomorus guttatus* and *S. commerson*) Resources (1950–2022), Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices (GMP & GHP) for Ready-to-eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products, and Regional Strategy for the Implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-scale Fisheries.
- The Special SOM-46th AMAF requested SEAFDEC to incorporate the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the stock assessment method and to coordinate with ASEAN in developing the ASEAN Common Position on CITES-related issues concerning tropical anguillid eels.

4. On the “FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2025–2026,” the 28FCG/ASSP noted the progress and achievements of the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2025 and endorsed the proposed programs and activities for 2026, as reviewed by 48PCM, for submission to the higher authorities of ASEAN and SEAFDEC. These include 17 ongoing projects. In addition, the 28FCG/ASSP also took note as follows:

- The project “Development of Stock Assessment Method for Strengthening of Resources Management Measures of Tropical Anguillid Eels in AMS” is scheduled to be completed in January 2026.
- The project “USAID Southeast Asia Fisheries Partnership” was terminated in March 2025
- The new project, “Strengthening Regional Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing and Promote Safe, Fair and Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia,” was approved to be implemented under the FCG/ASSP mechanism starting in 2026.
- The pipeline project, “Toward the Sustainable Utilization of Commercially Exploited Tropical Sharks and Rays, Eels in Southeast Asia,” remains under discussion and will be placed under the FCG/ASSP mechanism for subsequent submission to the higher authorities of SEAFDEC and the ASEAN mechanism.



5. The 28FCG/ASSP noted the “Progress of SEAFDEC-Related Activities/Proposals under the ASEAN-Related Bodies,” including:

- ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF)
 - The 28FCG/ASSP noted the outcomes of the 17th AFCF, including the request for SEAFDEC to continue providing technical support to AMSs in developing aquaculture traceability systems and enhancing capacity on bycatch assessment for marine mammals.
- Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021–2025
 - The 28FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025.
- ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing
 - The 28FCG/ASSP noted the progress on the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU Fishing, which includes 24 activities noted, with three completed, six ongoing, six pending, and nine requiring further actions from ASWGF. The 28FCG/ASSP noted that future actions on IUU fishing will be included under a new consolidated Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (2026–2030).
- ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU)
- The 28FCG/ASSP noted the outcomes of the 5th Meeting of the AN-IUU Meeting held on 19 June 2025. ASEAN Framework for Cooperation in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Sector Towards 2045
 - The 28FCG/ASSP noted the adoption of the ASEAN Framework for Cooperation in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Sector Towards 2045 at the 47th ASEAN Summit on 26 October 2025.

6. On “Policy Considerations on International Fisheries-related Issues,” the 28FCG/ASSP took note of several key updates and provided directions, as follows:

- SEAFDEC Combat IUU Fishing: Progress on the Regional Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing
 - The 28FCG/ASSP noted the progress of regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing in the region.
- Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region
 - The 28FCG/ASSP took note of the progress of the implementation and assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity and suggested MFRDMD to consider focusing on integrating digital data platforms in future activities and strengthening capacity-building efforts to support the AMSs that continue to face challenges in collecting fishing capacity data.
- Fish Trade-related Issues
 - CITES-related Issues
 - The 28FCG/ASSP noted the updates on CITES CoP20 and SEAFDEC’s plan for a side event in conjunction with the CITES CoP20 and the outcomes of the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on the Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on Inclusion of the Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) to the CITES Appendices at the CITES CoP20, including positions of the countries, were submitted to the SEAFDEC Council *ad referendum* and through the ASEAN mechanism and outcomes of the “Project End Meeting on Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia.”
 - WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies
 - While acknowledging the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies entered into force on 15 September 2025, the 28FCG/ASSP noted SEAFDEC plans a regional workshop in early 2026 to support AMSs in its implementation, noting that strengthening stock assessment and combating IUU fishing are directly relevant to compliance.

- Others/Emerging Issues
 - Ecosystem and Biodiversity Protection Policies and Sustainable of Fisheries
 - The 28FCG/ASSP was informed on the status of the ecosystem and biodiversity protection policies and its relevant to fisheries that includes 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 Agreement) and international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (Ongoing Negotiations).
 - For BBNJ Agreement, it is scheduled to enter into force on 17 January 2026, SEAFDEC was suggested to support the Member Countries by sharing relevant updates and facilitating joint discussions to identify and prioritize common issues.
7. On the “Other Matters”, the 28FCG/ASSP noted the results of the Mid-Term Review (2025) of the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030). While noting Timor-Leste officially became a member of ASEAN on 26 October 2025, SEAFDEC was suggested to invite Timor-Leste in future FCG/ASSP meetings and the contact details of the focal person to be provided by the ASEC, accordingly.
8. The Report of the 28FCG/ASSP was adopted on 7 November 2025, in Langkawi, Malaysia.

EFFORTS TO COMBAT IUU FISHING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Executive Summary

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to be a critical threat to the food security and marine ecosystems of Southeast Asia. In response, SEAFDEC has spearheaded a comprehensive regional strategy throughout 2025 focused on strengthening Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) through advanced technology and inter-agency cooperation. Key achievements this year include the expansion of the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) to include smaller vessels, the delivery of specialized traceability training in Indonesia and Lao PDR, and the successful implementation of regional workshops that aligned national action plans with international Port State Measures. These efforts have bridged technical gaps and fostered a more transparent supply chain, empowering Southeast Asian countries to better validate fishery products and deter illegal practices.

Despite these advancements, significant systemic challenges remain, particularly regarding transshipment at sea and landing controls. Current efforts are often hindered by outdated paper-based documentation, limited manpower, and a lack of standardized operating procedures across several member countries. Moving forward, the regional strategy shifts toward operationalizing the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment by integrating artificial intelligence and satellite monitoring to detect “dark” vessels. By focusing on human resource development, such as “Training of Trainers” programs and enhanced species identification for observers, SEAFDEC aims to harmonize legal frameworks and ensure that the digital transformation of fisheries management leads to long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note of the updated information on regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing
- Take note challenges, way forward, and capacity building needs for transshipment at sea in Southeast Asia as results from workshop to serve directive of FCG-ASSP and SEAFDEC Council Meeting
- Provide further directions of work for SEAFDEC to pursue in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia



Efforts to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia

I. Introduction

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major threat to the sustainable management of fisheries resources in Southeast Asia, impacting food security, livelihoods, and fish stocks. Since 2012, SEAFDEC has played a crucial role in combating IUU fishing through collaborative efforts with member countries, key partners, and donors such as FAO, ASEAN-JICA, NOAA, IMCS Network, ASEAN, AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU, and others. SEAFDEC has been conducting several activities in the region, such as strengthening national capacities in the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM) and Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS), further promoting the traceability for fish and fishery products, and coordinating a national/regional/international network for collaborative activities to combat IUU fishing.

SEAFDEC's approach incorporates several key initiatives:

1. **Preventing unauthorized fishing and eliminating illegal practices.**
2. **Strengthening the implementation of IUU-related measures** by ensuring compliance with national laws and international agreements. This includes supporting the development of national action plans, promoting inter-agency coordination, and raising awareness of regional and international instruments
3. **Establishing and strengthening regional, sub-regional, and bilateral coordination** for fisheries management and combating IUU fishing
4. **Mobilizing regional collaboration frameworks and tools**, such as the Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices (RPOA-IUU), the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), and technologies like the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), to support monitoring and surveillance
5. **Improving the capacity of national authorities** to effectively implement port State and flag State responsibilities
6. **Applying traceability systems** that validate information throughout the supply chain, alongside establishing regulations and enforcement mechanisms align with international standards.

Through this multi-faceted approach, SEAFDEC has significantly contributed to the fight against IUU fishing in the region. By promoting cooperation and building capabilities of its member countries, SEAFDEC has played a vital role in protecting marine ecosystems and ensuring sustainable fisheries management.

To assist member countries in identifying priority areas of combating IUU fishing for future programs, SEAFDEC convened a regional workshop in 2024 under the Project "Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia." The Workshop identified nine priority areas for future action:

1. Vessel monitoring systems
2. Strengthening MCS for commercial-scale, small-scale, and community-based fisheries
3. Enhancing ASEAN Member States and regional cooperation on IUU information sharing
4. Addressing encroachment of foreign vessels
5. Strengthening traceability of fish and fishery products
6. Developing national and regional estimates of IUU losses
7. Strengthening evidence collection and prosecution procedures to improve the deterrence effect
8. Monitoring transshipment activity
9. Legal and regulatory reform.

II. Achievements on the Regional Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing in 2025

In 2025, SEAFDEC implemented activities following priority areas of combating IUU fishing as

Vessel Monitoring

To support the implementation of VMS, SEAFDEC shared analytical knowledge and best practices through the Regional Training Course for Fisheries Inspectors in the Implementation of Port State Measures (PSM), held 15–18 September 2025, with 37 participants from AMSs and expert input from NOAA and the IMCS Network.

Strengthening MCS for Commercial-scale, Small-scale, and Community-based Fisheries

SEAFDEC enhanced MCS capacity for AMSs through multiple regional training in 2025, focusing on enforcement approaches and new technology applications:

- Regional Training Course on Enhancing Capacity Development for Implementing Port State Measures (PSM) Inspection to Combat IUU Fishing (1-3 April 2025, 21 participants)
- Regional Training Course on Enhancing Capacity for Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) of Domestic and International Fishing Vessels to Combat IUU Fishing (19–21 August 2025, 13 participants)
- Regional Training Course for Fisheries Inspectors in the Implementation of Port State Measures (PSM) (15–18 September 2025, 32 participants)

AMSs/Regional Cooperation on IUU Information

The “Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) Database and Sharing Information to Support Eliminating IUU Fishing” (23 to 24 April 2025, 37 participants) brought together RFVR national focal points and policymakers from AMSs. The meeting updated the regional record for vessels 24 meters in length and over, explored inclusion of vessels less than 24 meters in length, and agreed to develop an RFVR Database for smaller vessels.

A follow-up Workshop on Information Exchange on Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing (24 to 26 November 2025, 30 participants) will promote best practice sharing among participating countries of BOBLME project (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Thailand) and strengthen regional collaboration frameworks.

Strengthening Traceability of Fish and Fishery Products

SEAFDEC conducted several a Regional Training on Traceability and Effective Management Tools for Fish and Fishery Products in Southeast Asia (10–12 June 2025, 45 participants from AMSs), followed by National On-site Training on Traceability for Fish and Fishery Products to Combat IUU Fishing in Lao PDR (18–20 March 2025, with 26 participants from the Department of Livestock and Fisheries) and Indonesia (11–13 November 2025, 61 participants).

These initiatives strengthened AMSs’ practical understanding of electronic documentation, supply chain transparency, and data validation systems aligned with ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) principle.

Monitor Transshipment Activity

To support AMSs’ initiative toward developing ASEAN Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment, SEAFDEC organized a Regional Capacity Workshop on Enhancing Policies and Countermeasures Against IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia (6–8 October 2025, 38 participants). The Workshop generated preliminary recommendations from AMSs for formulating harmonized regional approaches to transshipment management.

Legal Reform

The same October 2025 workshop facilitated sharing of AMSs progress on implementing National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU) and identified areas requiring legal harmonization with regional standards. These activities collectively strengthened AMSs capacity to align national laws with regional and international IUU frameworks. Moreover, the “Training on the Implementation of Thailand’s National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU), Second Edition” was organized (14 August 2025, 80 participants), to enhance the officers’ knowledge of Thailand’s National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUU), Second Edition. Participants learned about the plan’s structure, content, and implementation framework. A key focus was promoting awareness of Thailand’s roles and responsibilities as a Flag State, Coastal State, and Port State, in line with its international obligations

Ultimately, these implementation activities constitute a crucial step in empowering AMSs with the technical, operational, and policy expertise necessary to effectively combat IUU fishing. By strengthening its networks with key organizations, including FAO, JTF, JICA, GIZ, IMCS Network, Global Fishing Watch, Skylight, NOAA, the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Thailand, and Indonesia’s Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), SEAFDEC will continue to play an active role in promoting the sustainable management of marine resources throughout the region.

III. Implementation of Transshipment at Sea Measures Aligning with FCG-ASSP and SEAFDEC Council Directives

To serve as the suggestions by FCG-ASSP and SEAFDEC Council Meeting in 2023 and 2024, relevant to FAO Voluntary Guideline of Transshipment, therefore, SEAFDEC Training Department organized the “Regional Workshop on Enhancing Policies and Countermeasures Against IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia” in October 2025. The workshop was participated by AMSs except Singapore. The workshop came up with Challenges, Way Forward, and capacity building needs for Transshipment at Sea in Southeast Asia as summarized below:

❖ Challenges in Controlling Transshipment at Sea and Landing in Southeast Asia

The difficulties in tackling Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing through transshipment at sea and landing control in the AMSs fall into three main categories: procedural, resource-related, and systemic.

1. Procedural and Technological Hurdles

This category covers issues related to data management, time constraints, and the lack of modern tools:

- **Excessive and Outdated Documentation:** Transshipment requires an enormous volume of paperwork, leading to misreporting, significant delays, and difficulties in retrieving essential data. This highlights the urgent need for a streamlined digital system.
- **Time Constraints for Risk Assessment:** Some countries have limited time to review documents and utilize their electronic systems, such as Electronic Monitoring (EM) footage, for risk assessment before conducting physical inspections and granting permission for a vessel to unload. If carrier vessel activity increases, this process will become challenging, requiring the adoption of AI to assist with the workflow or the establishment of clearer criteria for prioritizing inspections.

2. Resource and Capacity Constraints

Many member states lack the necessary budget and personnel for effective control:

- **Limited Manpower and Budget:** Countries face severe constraints in both human resources and financial capacity, severely hindering their ability to monitor and enforce compliance during landing and transshipment operations.
- **Inadequate Observer Capacity:** There is a significant shortage of both qualified personnel and experienced onboard observers. This lack of capacity undermines consistent monitoring standards and underscores the need for regional capacity-building programs.

3. Systemic and Governance Gaps

These are issues related to cooperation, enforcement, and the legal framework:

- **Weak Inter-Agency and Private Sector Coordination:** Cooperation between government agencies and private landing ports is often limited, reducing the overall effectiveness of port control.
- **Poor Cooperation with Other States:** Efforts to verify transshipment data through cross-checking (e.g., using VMS tracking information from the donor vessel's Flag State) are often undermined by delayed or non-existent responses from those states.
- **Absence of Formalized Procedures:** Many countries suffer from a lack of formal mechanisms, including:
 - Some countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines) have no Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the authorities overseeing transshipment.
 - Some countries have no SOPs for emergencies or crew safety at sea.
- **Weak Surveillance and Enforcement:** The combination of large monitoring areas, inadequate manpower, and a lack of specific laws or regulations makes surveillance and enforcement capacity particularly weak.

❖ *Way Forward for Transshipment at Sea in Southeast Asia*

The existing FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment—along with the accompanying manual for the implementation of the guidelines—already provide a comprehensive framework. Therefore, developing an additional regional manual may unnecessarily burden ASEAN Member States. The discussion from the workshop recommended the way forward for transshipment at sea in Southeast Asia as follows.

1. Human Resource Development and Training

- **Conduct Capacity Building Activities:** Carry out activities to build skills and knowledge on transshipment (both at sea and port).
- **Organize Training of Trainers (ToT):** Implement ToT programs for regional experts on transshipment and PSM inspections.
- **Sharing Documentation/Previous Cases:** Facilitate knowledge transfer by sharing relevant documents and past case studies through regional training sessions.
- **Capacity Building (General):** A core focus area to ensure sustainable improvements.

2. Technology and Monitoring Enhancement

- **Enhance Use of RFVR:** Improve the utilization of the RFVR (Regional Fishing Vessel Record) for better transshipment monitoring.
- **Improve Detection Knowledge and Capacity:** Enhance skills in detecting suspicious activities using advanced technologies such as VMS (Vessel Monitoring System), AIS (Automatic Identification System) track, Algorithm, and Machine Learning.
- **Use Satellite/Sentinel:** Utilize satellite or sentinel technology to detect suspicious activity or dark/silent vessels.

3. Coordination and Legal Framework

- **Develop a Regional Profile:** Create a regional profile on transshipment activities and vessel information.
- **Coordinate with RFMOs on Fish Quota:** Coordinate with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) on fish quota management, with SEAFDEC offering support on species identification based on its mandate.
- **Encourage AMSs to Adopt Domestic Law:** Encourage AMSs to incorporate the Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment into their domestic laws.
- **Creation of a regional transshipment template,** tailored to the specific contexts and operational realities of ASEAN Member Countries. This approach would promote consistency while allowing for national customization.



- Enhance National Focal Points: Establish national focal points for key regulatory Transshipment.
- Strengthening communication and information exchange among AMSs through existing platforms such as the AN-IUU Platform, RPOA-IUU sharing mechanisms, and bilateral channels. This platform can facilitate the sharing of: Confidential information relevant to transshipment activities, National laws and regulations, Best practices and successful case studies, and also SOP.

❖ *Capacity Building Needs to Implement the Transshipment at Sea*

The results from the discussion found that the capacity building needs of the region to implement the transshipment at sea can be categorized into three main topics as follows.

1. Legal and Procedural Alignment

The primary need is to equip national authorities with the tools and knowledge to implement the VG-TS guidelines into domestic operations.

- Training Guidelines on Transshipment for the Authority: This involves developing and delivering specific training materials for relevant national staff, focusing on the principles of the VG-TS.
- Guidance on Implementing Transshipment Procedures: Ensuring that national procedures for managing and authorizing transshipment activities are fully aligned with and operationalized based on the VG-TS framework

2. Technical and Operational Skills

This focuses on enhancing the specific skills required for effective inspection and monitoring of transshipment activities.

- Training on Species Identification: Essential training for observers and inspectors to accurately identify species during transshipment, which is crucial for monitoring catch quotas and compliance.
- Training on Best Surveillance Practices: Providing training on effective surveillance methods for both “donor” (fishing) and “receiving” (carrier) vessels to ensure adherence to regulations during the operation.

3. Knowledge Integration and Sharing

This area involves leveraging regional experience and data systems to support national implementation.

- Compilation of Lessons Learned and Best Practices: Gathering and compiling practical experience, successful strategies, and challenges encountered from real-world transshipment implementation case studies in the Southeast Asian region.
- Integration of GIES with Transshipment Monitoring: Training on how to use the GIES and effectively integrate this system into the national transshipment monitoring workflow.

IV. Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note of the updated information on regional initiatives to combat IUU fishing
- Take note challenges, way forward, and capacity building needs for transshipment at sea in Southeast Asia as results from workshop to serve directive of FCG-ASSP and SEAFDEC Council Meeting
- Provide further directions of work for SEAFDEC to pursue in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia

EFFORTS TO COMBAT MARINE DEBRIS AND ABANDONED, LOSS OR OTHERWISE DISCARDED FISHING GEAR (ALDFG) IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

I. Introduction

Marine debris has emerged as a serious global environmental challenge and a transboundary issue that no single country can address alone. In particular, plastic waste can travel across oceans and coastlines, adversely affecting marine ecosystems, fisheries, tourism, and the livelihoods of coastal communities. Addressing marine debris, therefore, requires strong collaboration and well-coordinated regional efforts.

Within the fisheries sector, Abandoned, Lost, or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) has recently received increasing attention as a significant source of marine debris. ALDFG poses serious threats to marine ecosystems, fish stocks, non-target species, and navigational safety. According to FAO Technical Paper No. 523, ALDFG accounts for less than 10 percent of global marine litter by volume; however, its impacts can be disproportionately severe in coastal and fishing areas where fishing activities are intensive. While land-based sources remain the primary contributors to marine debris, fishing gear-related litter continues to be a critical concern in many coastal fisheries.

In this context, efforts to address these challenges have been undertaken at both global and regional levels. These include the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), Food and Agriculture Organization Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear (VGMFG), Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region, and the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA2030), which collectively aim to strengthen cooperation, improve fisheries management, and reduce marine debris in the region.

In addressing these critical issues, SEAFDEC has been supporting ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in implementing various regional initiatives to address marine debris and ALDFG through policy support, research collaboration, capacity development, and knowledge exchange, through the regional and international collaboration with partners such as the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF), the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Phase II (BOBLME II) Project, and the Ghost Fishing in the Global South Demonstration Project. These initiatives aim to strengthen responsible fishing practices and support fisheries sustainability in Southeast Asia.

This paper provides recent information on ongoing SEAFDEC initiatives and deliverables related to marine debris and ALDFG.

II. Outcomes of Regional Symposium on Marine Debris and Microplastics in Southeast Asia (30 March 2026)

Under the project entitled “Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia,” implemented by SEAFDEC with financial support from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The Project duration was 2022–2026.

To share the experiences and lessons learned from the Project, the SEAFDEC Secretariat, in collaboration with the TD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD Technical Departments, successfully organized the Regional Symposium on Marine Debris and Microplastics in Southeast Asia on 30 March 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Symposium highlighted key achievements and findings from project implementation, focusing on Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), research on marine debris and marine microplastics, and their environmental impacts. It also served as a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences from global, regional, and national initiatives and actions to address these challenging issues, with a particular focus on the fisheries sector. It also identified priority areas for capacity building and research and clarified the role of the fisheries sector in addressing marine debris challenges in the ASEAN region.



At the end of the Symposium, a summary of key messages and recommendations on future actions to address Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) was presented. These recommendations are essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources and the marine environment in the ASEAN region. These efforts are expected to strengthen the ASEAN-wide response to marine debris by fostering a unified, evidence-based strategy to protect marine ecosystems and ensure the sustainability of fisheries. **Appendix 1.**

III. Development of the Technical Guidelines to Assess, Prevent and Remove Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in the Southeast Asian Region

Under the ASEAN Cooperation Project on “Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia,” funded by JAIF and implemented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with TD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD. The one of the expected outputs of the Project is the **Technical Guidelines to Assess, Prevent and Remove Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in the Southeast Asian Region.** Through consultations with the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), the Technical Guidelines is drafted and divided into 3 pillars. The outlines of the Technical Guidelines is shown in **Appendix 2.**

It is expected that the final draft will be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council during 59th Meeting in 2027 and subsequently by the 35th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (35th ASWGF_i) in July 2027. The indicative timelines as shown below:

Indicative timelines

Deadline	Activities	Responsibility agencies
19–21 May 2026	MFRDMD reports to 58 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council on the progress of the development and outlines of the GL	MFRDMD
30 June 2026	Due date for AMSs send the comments on the revised GL to MFRDMD	AMSs
5 July 2026	MFRDMD accommodate the comments from AMSs on the revised GL and share to participants again	MFRDMD
Nov 2026	The final draft Technical Guidelines is noted and agreed by 49PCM	MFRDMD
Nov 2026	The final draft Technical Guidelines is noted and agreed by 29FCG/ASSP	MFRDMD
April 2027	Approval of the final draft GL by 59CM	MFRDMD
April 2027	Approval of the final draft GL by FCG <i>ad referendum</i>	MFRDMD
July 2027	Approval of the final draft GL by 35 th ASWGF _i	

IV. Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note of the outcomes of the Regional Symposium on Marine Debris and Microplastics in Southeast Asia on 30 March 2026.
- Take note of the progress on the development of Technical Guidelines to Assess, Prevent and Remove Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in the Southeast Asian Region including outlines of the GL and indicative timelines.

**Regional Symposium on Marine Debris and Microplastics in Southeast Asia
30 March 2026, Bangkok, Thailand**

**Conclusion and Recommendations:
Advancing initiatives for combating marine debris in the fisheries sector**

Aspects Components	Priority needs		
	Research and development (R&D)	Legal and regulatory framework (LRF)	Information, education and capacity building (IEC)
Prevention of marine debris from fisheries activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research/studies on appropriate gear marking materials/design/tagging-position for different types of gear (considering durability, visibility, operational ease; avoiding plastic materials) Experiment to simulate fishing gear loss, to verify the effectiveness of gear marking/coding in determining sources and facilitating recovery of lost gear Research/studies on appropriate and cost-effective alternative fishing gear and net materials (e.g. biodegradable materials) to prevent prolonged ghost fishing if they become ALDFG and being fragmented into microplastics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulations to ensure traceability mechanisms through standardized fishing gear marking protocol in accordance with FAO guidelines (VGMFG) (incl. harmonized SEA regional gear marking standards) Integration of fishing gear marking (and ALDFG) into broader context of fisheries management measures, e.g. fisheries licensing, VMS, MCS, co-management frameworks, etc. Regulations on waste management, wastewater treatment, industrial discharge, and fishing gear handling through accessible and functional port reception facilities Legality of fishing activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising to fishers on the prevention of gear loss that are tailored to priority gear types (e.g. gill net, trawl net, traps) Awareness raising to fishers on fishing gear marking with community coding to facilitate recovery Awareness raising to fishers on ALDFG impacts and mitigation of impacts
Assessment of ALDFG, marine debris, and microplastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further studies to determine the sources of marine debris and map the density, spatial distribution, and hotspot areas of marine debris in the region, including investigation of factors influencing debris accumulation (site survey, questionnaire) Further studies to quantify the relative percentage contribution of ALDFG to total marine debris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory framework requiring fishers (fishing gear owner) to report fishing gear loss; and establishment of formal reporting system and database for different gear types (incl. harmonized SEA regional reporting system) Utilization of international tools and platforms, such as the Global Plastics Hub, Ghost Gear Toolbox, and Atlas of Ocean Microplastics (AOMI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising to fishers (fishing gear owner) to report fishing gear loss

Aspects Components	Priority needs		
	Research and development (R&D)	Legal and regulatory framework (LRF)	Information, education and capacity building (IEC)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of technology (e.g. GPS-enabled buoys and tracking devices) to identify sources and pathways of marine debris and enable long-term monitoring of trends • Standard methodologies for sampling and analysis of marine debris contamination in the aquatic habitats and in aquatic animals for comparative analysis • Evaluation/Estimation of impacts of ALDFG (ghost gear) on aquatic animals/biodiversity, ecology/habitats, and economy of fishers (replacement cost) 		
Removal of ALDFG and marine debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools and methodologies for identification, removal, and retrieval of ALDFG from the sea • Use of mathematical modeling, based on ocean currents and wind patterns, to predict the distribution of marine debris and identify priority hotspots for targeted removal and management interventions • Technologies for the transformation (material and chemical recycle) of ALDFG and EOLFG into recycled plastics, recycled fishing nets, other recycled products, or fuel • Appropriate methodologies for elimination of marine debris (incl. ALDFG and EOLFG) that cannot be recycled/transformed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of collection hubs at shore-based locations for marine debris (including ALDFG and EOLFG) for further recycle, reuse, repurpose, or disposal to incinerator • Incentive programs for fishing vessels/fishers to retrieve marine debris at sea and ALDFG and bring back to the shore, incl. buy-back program for EOLFG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising and capacity building for fishing vessels and the community to retrieve marine debris and ALDFG at sea and bring back to the shore • Public awareness and marketing campaigns for products made from recycled plastics derived ALDFG and EOLFG

Outlines of the Technical Guidelines to Assess, Prevent and Remove Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in the Southeast Asian Region

*(agreed at Regional Workshop on the Development of the Technical Guidelines to Assess, Prevent, and Remove Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in the Southeast Asian Region
31 March 2026, Bangkok, Thailand)*

ABBREVIATION

PREFACE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Background Information
- 1.2 Objective
- 1.3 Statement of Purpose
- 1.4 Scope and Principles
- 1.5 Definitions of Terminologies

2.0 ASSESSMENT OF ALDFG

- 2.1 Statement of Purpose
- 2.2 Scope and Principle
- 2.3 Assessment of Status of ALDFG
- 2.4 Formulation of Survey
- 2.5 Reliability Test (Internal Consistency Check)
- 2.6 Pilot Testing and Improvement of Survey
- 2.7 Dissemination of Survey
- 2.8 Feedback and Data Analysis
- 2.9 Reporting of Findings
- 2.10 Managing Survey Data on ALDFG
- 2.11 Strengthening The ALDFG Baseline

3.0 PREVENTION OF ALDFG

- 3.1 Statement of Purpose
- 3.2 Scope and Principle
- 3.3 Principles of Prevention
- 3.4 Preventive Measures

4.0 REMOVAL OF ALDFG

- 4.1 Statement of Purpose
- 4.2 Scope and Principle
- 4.3 ALDFG Pre-survey or ALDFG detection
- 4.4 Data Collection
- 4.5 ALDFG Retrieval Assessment
- 4.6 Notification to Relevant Local Authorities Prior ALDFG Removal Activities
- 4.7 ALDFG Removal Options
- 4.8 Post-assessment

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ANNEXES

PROGRESS ON FISHERIES ACOUSTIC SURVEY IN THE WEST COAST OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA FOR PELAGIC FISH STOCK ASSESSMENT

Executive Summary

The assessment of pelagic fish stocks remains a critical component in ensuring regional food security and the sustainable management of important marine resources. Fisheries acoustic surveys represent a quantitative and scientific approach utilizing echo sounders to estimate fish biomass, assess stock status, and monitor temporal trends, thereby providing comprehensive scientific information to support evidence-based fisheries management. The Marine Fisheries Research Development, and Management Department (MFRDMD), in collaboration with the Training Department (TD), successfully conducted a 10-day fisheries hydro-acoustic survey from 10 to 19 September 2025. The survey was carried out onboard the research vessel MV SEAFDEC 2 equipped with a EK-80 (Simrad) scientific echosounder, and successfully covered 29 survey stations in the waters between Langkawi, Kedah, and Sabak Bernam, Selangor. The survey was further strengthened through an integrated sampling approach, involving at-sea fish sampling using a chartered purse seine vessel, as well as land-based fisheries sampling by Fisheries Research Institute Malaysia (FRI), the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia, with financial support from DOF Malaysia.

The objectives of the survey were to quantify biomass, density, and species composition of pelagic fish resources in the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia (WCPM), and to evaluate stock trends through comparisons with findings from previous fisheries acoustic surveys. In addition, the survey generated valuable scientific information to support pelagic stock assessment studies based on biological data and analysis. Currently, MFRDMD, in collaboration with FRI Malaysia, is undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the datasets and samples collected during the acoustic survey, including water samples, plankton, fish larvae, and various oceanographic parameters. The analysis of physical, biological, and chemical oceanography samples is ongoing, with several components already partially completed.

In the next phase of the project, MFRDMD intends to seek expert guidance and specialized technical training to strengthen the analysis of the recently collected hydro-acoustic data. A key priority includes advancing research on tropical fish Target Strength (TS) values, which is essential for improving the accuracy of biomass estimations for the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and the wider region.

Furthermore, MFRDMD aims to establish close collaboration with fisheries acoustic experts and implement standardized survey protocols and data analysis procedures, thereby ensuring consistency, reliability, and scientific robustness in future pelagic fish stock assessments in the region. Beyond its research objectives, the survey also served as an important technical capacity-building initiative aimed at enhancing the expertise of young scientists from AMSs in fisheries hydro-acoustic methodologies. Particular emphasis was placed on the operation of the EK-80 (Simrad) scientific echosounder and the application of Echoview software for acoustic data processing and analysis. Capacity building in fisheries acoustics remains essential for the region, as the implementation of fisheries acoustic surveys requires a specialized combination of theoretical expertise and practical sea-going technical skills. With many senior fisheries acoustic researchers approaching retirement or having already retired, there is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of the next generation of scientists through targeted training in fisheries acoustics, echosounder operation, survey methodologies, and acoustic data analysis. Such efforts are crucial to ensure the continuity of technical expertise and to maintain high scientific standards for accurate, reliable, and precise fish stock assessments in the region.

Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note of progress on the Fisheries Acoustic Survey on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia for Pelagic Fish Stock Assessment.

FUTURE PLAN FOR THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OF HYDROACOUSTIC-BASED STOCK ASSESSMENT TO SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES

I. Background

Acoustic techniques are non-destructive and highly effective tools for estimating fish density, spatial distribution, biomass, and population dynamics. However, the systematic application of fisheries acoustics in Southeast Asia has been limited by constraints in human capacity, technical expertise, and opportunities for sustained technical exchange. To address this, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) convened a strategic planning meeting from 17 to 18 February 2026, in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The meeting integrated the efforts of three SEAFDEC departments: the Training Department (TD), Marine Fisheries Research and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Inland Fisheries Research and Management Department (IFRDMD), to formulate a cohesive, long-term roadmap for hydroacoustic utilization.

II. Situational Analysis (SWOT)

A joint situational analysis was conducted to identify the current working status of SEAFDEC and Asian Member Countries regarding fisheries hydroacoustic research.

- **Strengths:** Support and funding are available from member countries and organizations. SEAFDEC possesses vital infrastructure, such as the research vessel M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which is equipped with a quantitative echosounder (EK 80), and has access to internal experts and rapid assessment capabilities.
- **Weaknesses:** There is limited human resource capacity and technical expertise for data analysis. Additionally, equipment maintenance and surveys have high costs, and there is currently an unbalanced workload for available staff.
- **Opportunities:** Open-source software (*e.g.*, LSSS) and specialized equipment are available. There is a growing demand for precise, science-based stock assessment management and ample opportunities for engagement in academic conferences like AFAS.
- **Challenges:** The region's multispecies environment complicates Target Strength (TS) data collection. Other challenges include data sharing policies, time limitations, and the need for interdisciplinary expertise bridging marine biology and acoustic engineering.

III. The 10-Year Strategic Roadmap (2026–2035)

The meeting established a 10-year vision to coordinate a science-driven fisheries acoustics system that strengthens stock assessment and enhances technical self-reliance across SEAFDEC Member Countries. The strategy is divided into three distinct phases:

Phase	Period	Strategic Focus
Phase I	2026–2028	Institutional establishment & foundational capacity.
Phase II	2029–2032	Technical expansion, standardization & integration.
Phase III	2033–2035	Regional integration, database operationalization, and sustainability.



IV. Regional Workplan & Four Core Pillars

The combination of the SWOT analysis and departmental thematic areas resulted in four common regional pillars, ordered by priority.

Pillar 1: Capacity Development in Fisheries Acoustics (Highest Priority)

Objective: Build sustainable human resources and structure regional competence across SEAFDEC departments and member countries.

- **Training Programs:** Develop standardized basic and advanced training modules, complete with syllabi and manuals. Conduct basic training courses and develop self-paced online introductory courses.
- **Institutional Strengthening:** Formalize a Fisheries Acoustics Section or Working Group among TD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD by 2028.
- **Higher Education:** Support technical staff in pursuing higher-level education (MSc or PhD) in hydroacoustics and stock assessment.

Pillar 2: Establishment of the Regional Target Strength (TS) Library (Second Priority)

Objective: Develop, validate, and share TS study methods for use in regional stock assessments.

- **Methodology Development:** Establish a TS laboratory setup and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for TS measurement of swimbladdered, non-swimbladdered, and freshwater species.
- **Database Creation:** Establish an open-access regional TS database by 2035 that includes species lists, species-specific TS values, methodologies, and metadata.

Pillar 3: Development of Fisheries Acoustics for Stock Assessment Methodology

Objective: Standardize survey design, calibration, data processing, and integration methods for marine and inland fisheries.

- **SOP Development:** Formulate comprehensive SOPs covering survey design, standard calibration protocols, data collection methods, and data analysis/interpretation.
- **Harmonization:** Integrate hydroacoustic data with Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) and catch statistics to improve regional biomass estimation consistency.

Pillar 4: Strengthening Collaboration and Partnership

Objective: Establish cooperation mechanisms to position SEAFDEC as a recognized regional hub for fisheries acoustics.

- **Regional Platforms:** Establish an interdepartmental forum for knowledge exchange.
- **International Engagement:** Maintain active participation in international committees and symposiums such as AFAS, ICES, and WGFAS.
- **Resource Sharing:** Implement mechanisms for equipment and technician sharing between departments and provide direct technical assistance to member countries.

V. Expected Outcomes & Regional Impact by 2035

By fully executing this framework over the next decade, SEAFDEC expects to deliver:

- A fully functional, open-access Regional Target Strength (TS) reference library.
- Standardized survey and stock assessment methodologies adopted across the region.
- A sustainable pipeline of highly trained human resources.
- Recognized regional leadership and strong international scientific integration in fisheries acoustics.

Proposed tentative roadmap to support Fisheries Acoustics for Stock Assessment in Southeast Asia (2026–2035)

Activity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Pillar 1: Capacity Development in Fisheries Acoustics										
To build sustainable human resources and structure regional competence in fisheries across SEAFDEC departments and member countries.										
- Phase I: Foundation and Institutionalization										
- Phase II: Technical Deepening										
- Phase III: Sustainability										
Pillar 2: Establishment of the Regional Target Strength (TS) Library										
This pillar aims to establish a regional group for developing, validating, and sharing target strength study methods. The results will be integrated into the regional stock assessment framework.										
- Phase I: TS methods development										
- Phase II: TS standardization										
- Phase III: Regional TS database establishment										
Pillar 3: Development of Fisheries Acoustics for Stock Assessment Methodology										
This pillar aims to standardize survey design, calibration, data processing, as well as the methods for integrating hydroacoustic results into stock assessment frameworks for both marine and inland fisheries.										
- Phase I: SOP development and mechanism establishment										
- Phase II: Integration with stock assessment										
- Phase III: Full harmonization										
Pillar 4: Strengthening Collaboration and Partnership										
To enhance cooperation mechanisms at the regional level and beyond, positioning SEAFDEC as a recognized regional hub for fisheries acoustics.										
- Phase I: Establishing the platform and strengthening the network										



Activity	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
- Phase II: Active internet technological engagement										
- Phase III: Strategic collaboration expansion										

VI. Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note of the proposed roadmap to support Fisheries Acoustics for Stock Assessment in Southeast Asia (2026–2035)

OUTCOMES OF CITES COP20 AND CITES-RELATED ISSUES

I. Introduction

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international, legally binding agreement aimed at ensuring that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. Signed on 3 March 1973 and entering into force on 1 July 1975, CITES now includes nearly all countries of the world as Parties. As of February 2023, it regulates international trade in more than 40,900 species of animals and plants, including their products and derivatives.

SEAFDEC has played a vital role in supporting the ASEAN Member States (AMSs). Key initiatives include capacity-building activities and regional dialogues to develop common positions. This paper presents updated information on CITES-related events and highlights SEAFDEC’s ongoing regional efforts in 2025 to strengthen AMS preparedness and engagement in the international regulatory landscape.

This paper provides the outcomes of the 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), relevant to the CEAS, and the updates on upcoming capacity building activities on CITES-related issues.

II. 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

The 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was convened from 24 November to 5 December 2025, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The outcomes of CITES CoP20 have significant implications for international wildlife trade policies, including the listing of aquatic species of regional economic importance.

2.1 SEAFDEC organized the side event at the CITES CoP20

On 24 November 2025, SEAFDEC organized a side event at the 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), entitled “**Sustainable Utilization of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) in Southeast Asia.**” The event brought together more than 40 participants.

The side event highlighted SEAFDEC’s role in supporting its Member Countries through regional initiatives aimed at enhancing the capacity of fisheries officers and strengthening the sustainable management of commercially exploited aquatic species (e.g., sharks, rays, and tropical eels). These initiatives were advanced under the SEAFDEC framework, focusing on improving scientific knowledge, strengthening management frameworks, and promoting regional cooperation to support the conservation and responsible utilization of sharks, rays, and tropical eels.

During the event, SEAFDEC also presented its ongoing efforts on the sustainable utilization of tropical eels, with particular emphasis on continued research and capacity-building activities.

2.2 Outcomes of CEAS Proposals Decision at CITES CoP20

At the CITES CoP20, under the “Proposals to amend Appendices I and II,” a total of 51 proposals were considered, including 11 proposals concerning aquatic species, covering those of sharks, rays, anguillid eels, guitarfishes, wedgefishes, sea cucumbers, abalones, among others. These proposals sought to amend the listings of species in Appendices I and II; and decisions on each proposal were made through voting by the CITES Parties when consensus could not be reached, requiring approval by a two-thirds majority of Parties present and voting. The results from CITES CoP20 on the proposals concerning aquatic species are summarized in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Decisions of the CITES CoP20 on the Proposals concerning aquatic species

Proposals	Proposed Amendment	Results
Proposal 28: <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> (Oceanic whitetip shark)	Transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I	Adopted
Proposal 29: <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> (Tope, Flake, Oil Shark, School Shark) and <i>Mustelus</i> spp.	Appendix II delay implementation by 18 months	Adopted
Proposal 30: <i>Mobulidae</i> spp.	transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I	Adopted
Proposal 31: <i>Rhincodon typus</i> (Whale Shark)	transfer from Appendix II to Appendix I	Adopted
Proposal 32: <i>Glaucostegus</i> spp. (Guitarfishes)	Appendix II, the annotation of “a zero annual export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes.”	Adopted
Proposal 33: Rhinidae spp. (Wedgefishes)	Appendix II, the annotation of "a zero annual export quota for wild-taken specimens traded for commercial purposes"	Adopted
Proposal 34: <i>Centrophoridae</i> spp. (Gulper shark)	Appendix II delayed entry into force of 18 months	Adopted
Proposal 35: <i>Anguilla</i> spp. (Eels)	Appendix II	Rejected
Proposal 36: Brown sea cucumber (<i>Actinopyga echinites</i> , <i>A. lecanora</i> , <i>A. mauritiana</i> , <i>A. miliaris</i> , <i>A. palauensis</i> and <i>A. varians</i>)	Appendix II	Rejected
Proposal 37: <i>Holothuria lessoni</i> (Golden sandfish)	Appendix II 18-month delay in implementation	Adopted
Proposal 39: <i>Haliotes midae</i> (South African Abalone, Midas Ear Abalone)	Appendix II of South African abalone (<i>Haliotis midae</i>) with an annotation “dried specimens only”	Withdraw

III. Ways Forward

3.1 Toward Science-Based stock assessment and management of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species

SEAFDEC is in the process of developing the new three-year project entitled “Toward Science-Based stock assessment and management of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species.” The proposed project will be supported by the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) as a prospective funding source. The Project will be implemented by SEAFDEC/IFRDMD, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, and SEAFDEC Secretariat. The Project will be placed under the FCG/ASSP mechanism. The overall objective of the project is to ensure that commercially exploited aquatic species discussed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) are sustainably utilized in the Southeast Asian region. This will be achieved through the provision of sound scientific information to support and inform deliberations within CITES. The expected outputs are as follows:

- Output 1:** Harmonized stock assessment methods for tropical anguillid eels, incorporating biological and environmental information, are strengthened (to be implemented by IFRDMD).

- Output 2:** Scientific understandings on tropical anguillid eel distribution for evidence-based management in Southeast Asia is updated (to be implemented by IFRDMD).
- Output 3:** Policy Guidelines for regional conservation and management of tropical anguillid eels resources in Southeast Asia (Endorsed by SOM-AMAF on 11 November 2019) is updated (to be implemented by IFRDMD).
- Output 4:** Operational guidelines to assess the stock status of sharks and rays incorporating biological parameters, and to collect growth process mechanisms as the parameter of the targeted species for use in stock assessment models (to be implemented by MFRDMD).

The Project document will be submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat for approval through the ASEAN mechanism and potential donor. Once the Project approves, SEAFDEC Secretariat will seek the SEAFDEC Council for approval before its implementation.

3.2 Regional Workshop on Introduction from the Sea with Southeast Asian and East Asian countries (IFS workshop)

The SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) are planning to organize the *Regional Workshop on Introduction from the Sea with Southeast Asian and East Asian countries (IFS workshop)*, from 4 to 7 August 2026, Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop aims to support CITES Parties in the effective implementation of the Introduction from the Sea (IFS) provisions by strengthening national capacities, enhancing coordination between CITES Management and Scientific Authorities and fisheries authorities, and facilitating the exchange of best practices and lessons learned among participating countries. In response to the suggestions made by SEAFDEC Member Countries, the Workshop agenda will also include sessions on experiences related to non-detriment findings (NDFs). Invitation letters have been sent to Member Countries. The Concept Note and Agenda are in **Appendix 1**.

IV. Required Considerations by the Council

- Take note of the SEAFDEC Sid event and outcomes of the final decision on the listing of CEAS into CITES Appendices at CITES CoP20.
- Take note of the progress of the new project development “Toward Science-Based stock assessment and management of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species” and note that the SEAFDEC Secretariat will seek SEAFDEC Council approval once the proposal is finalized and approved by a potential funding source.
- Take note of the joint event between SEAFDEC and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on the Regional Workshop on Introduction from the Sea (IFS) for Southeast Asian and East Asian countries, which will be convened from 4–7 August 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.



Draft Concept Note
Regional Workshop on Introduction from the Sea with Southeast Asian
and East Asian countries

Geographical scope: Southeast Asian and East Asian countries, Parties to CITES

Organizers: CITES Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

Location: Bangkok, Thailand with an option for remote participation for resource persons as needed. Exact venue TBC

Dates: 4-day workshop, 4–7 August 2026

Context

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.

CITES Article III, paragraph 5 and Article IV, paragraphs 6 and 7 regulate the Introduction from the sea (IFS) defined as “*the transportation into a State of specimens of any species which were taken in the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State*” (See Article I. Definitions).

Resolution Conf. 14.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Introduction from the sea* provides further specifications and recommendations on the application of IFS provisions by the CITES Parties.

The CITES Secretariat is mandated, through decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its 19th meeting (CoP19)¹, to monitor the implementation of Resolution Conf.14.6 (Rev. CoP16) and work with relevant Parties to assist them to fulfill their CITES responsibilities and obligations and effectively implement the Convention in this area.

The IFS provisions concern both countries that harvest (and export) specimens of CITES-listed species in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and countries importing specimens that have been caught in ABNJ.

In this framework, and with funding provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States of America, and potentially additional funds from other sources (tbc), the CITES Secretariat is envisaging the organization of a series of regional workshops, starting with one for CITES Parties in Southeast Asia and East Asia, focusing on the technical implementation of IFS.

The workshop will be organized in cooperation with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) being an inter-governmental body with the mission to promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia.

The Secretariat would welcome substantial contributions by the SEAFDEC Secretariat to the discussions of the workshop from a technical point of view on fisheries-related issues.

The topics of the workshop are relevant to both the mandate of SEAFDEC and of CITES, and jointly convening the workshop will create added value by addressing issues in a synergetic and holistic manner and by reaching the competent fisheries authorities as well as the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities.

Objectives

Under the overall objective of supporting CITES Parties in effective implementation of IFS, the following outputs will be sought through the workshop:

¹ Similar Decisions were adopted at CoP20, Uzbekistan, November-December 2025

- Strengthening capacities of relevant authorities to implement IFS from legal, scientific and technical point of view, including improved understanding of the conditions for authorizing and reporting trade of specimens taken in ABNJ;
- Sharing of best practices and lessons learnt among countries in relation to CITES implementation for marine species;
- Enhancing coordination between CITES authorities and fisheries authorities at national and regional levels;
- Identifying common challenges and needs across countries of the region, and exploring further opportunities for assistance from CITES and SEAFDEC;
- Making linkages with other relevant international or regional instruments and processes.

Expected participation

Invitation letters, co-signed by both Secretariats (form of invitation tbc), will be sent to the CITES Management authorities with a copy to CITES Scientific Authorities and SEAFDEC Council Directors (fisheries agencies) by each Organization respectively in the following countries (to be confirmed):

1. Brunei Darussalam
2. Cambodia
3. China ²
4. Indonesia
5. Japan
6. Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)
7. Malaysia
8. Philippines (the)
9. Republic of Korea (the)²
10. Singapore
11. Thailand
12. Viet Nam

Regarding non-SEAFDEC Member Countries, a separate letter will be sent signed only by the CITES Secretariat.

Invitations should be sent out at least three months before the workshop starting date.

The goal is to have participating countries represented by both the CITES Authorities (Management and/or Scientific Authority) and fisheries authorities, *i.e.* SEAFDEC counterparts in the respective countries.

Relevant IGOs, and partners may be also invited to participate at their own expense, upon discussion and agreement between CITES and SEAFDEC Secretariats, including the following:

- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
 - Secretariat (AWGF_i) SEAFDEC contact
 - AWG-CITES (enforcement)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/Headquarters and Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific SEAFDEC contact
- UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)
- Secretariat of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA)
- Others to be defined

Total expected number of participants

Approx. 45–60 persons (on site): 26 (countries)+10 (IGOs), 10 (CITES and SEAFDEC), and observers

Logistical and financial aspects

Funds have been made available to the CITES Secretariat by the United States of America for the organization of the workshop, which can be used to cover costs of participants (up to two participants per eligible country), as well as some contractual arrangements, in accordance with relevant UN Rules and Regulations, CITES policies and donor requirements. The CITES Secretariat will prepare and share a

² Not SEAFDEC Member countries



detailed budget in due course. Additional funds may be used from other sources allocated to the CITES Secretariat (to be confirmed at a later stage).

SEAFDEC may contribute to the workshop by covering travel costs for some participants (on exceptional basis in coordination with CITES Secretariat) or providing in-kind contribution, *i.e.* offering the venue and equipment for the workshop, coffee breaks, local administrative support (registration, hotel lists, SEAFDEC staff support) etc., as well as arranging for remote participation of resource persons as needed (zoom platform and IT facilities). The working language will be English, and no interpretation will be provided during the workshop.

For participants covered by CITES, UN rules on travel should be applied, including on the ticket purchasing, daily subsistence allowance (DSA), in accordance with the rates established periodically by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), and terminal expenses.³ Should SEAFDEC cover participation of some representatives, SEAFDEC rules on travel can be applied for these participants. CITES Secretariat and SEAFDEC will further coordinate on the matter.

The first draft of the workshop report will be prepared by the CITES Secretariat and shared with SEAFDEC for inputs. The final draft report will be disseminated to the participants within one month after the end of the workshop.

The modality of Exchange of Letters will be used for the formalization of cooperation between CITES and SEAFDEC Secretariats, in consultation between the two Secretariats and, if appropriate, their governing bodies.

Draft outline of the agenda (*the order of items is indicative*)

Regional Workshop on Introduction from the Sea with Southeast Asian and East Asian countries	
Day 1	
Welcoming remarks	CITES, SEAFDEC
Introduction on CITES framework	CITES
Introduction on SEAFDEC framework	SEAFDEC
IFS general regulatory framework and FAQ	CITES
<i>Lunch break</i>	
Countries' presentations on IFS implementation – focus on applicable practices and challenges ⁴	Countries
Day 2	
Legal Acquisition Findings (LAF)	CITES
Status and developments on fisheries sector (global and regional level) Challenges, solutions and new practices for fishing in the ABNJ, and SEAFDEC initiatives on CITES related issues	FAO Regional Office and SEAFDEC
<i>Lunch break</i>	
Challenges, solutions and new practices for fishing in the ABNJ	FAO or COBSEA
Discussion on fishing in the ABNJ	All participants
Day 3	
Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) Also includes general concept and framework.	CITES, selected parties
CITES/FAO study and guide on the implementation of CITES for marine species	CITES and FAO Regional Office
<i>Lunch break</i>	

³ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/152/90/pdf/n2415290.pdf>
<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n19/209/64/pdf/n1920964.pdf>
<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n14/302/81/pdf/n1430281.pdf>

⁴ Presentations from the countries should be received well in advance to allow the organizers to group them into coherent sessions.

Regional Workshop on Introduction from the Sea with Southeast Asian and East Asian countries	
Linkages between IFS and BBNJ Agreement provisions	DOALOS and CITES
Reporting guidelines	CITES
Day 4	
Breakout group sessions on practical aspects and case studies	Groups to be formed
Report by the breakout groups	Rapporteurs
<i>Lunch break</i>	
Conclusions	CITES
Closing remarks	CITES, SEAFDEC

FISHERY STATISTICS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

I. Background

Recognizing the importance of fishery statistics and information to support policy planning and management of fisheries as well as other usages by researchers, academes, etc., the compilation of fishery statistics had been undertaken by SEAFDEC from 1978 to 2007 in the form of the “Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the South China Sea Area.” Starting in 2004, SEAFDEC revised the statistics framework and came up with the “Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia.” Statistics data were compiled from ten ASEAN Member States (AMSs) namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam based on the Regional Frameworks starting from 2008 with a Statistics Database developed to facilitate dissemination of the data.

With the subsequent 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 Statistics Bulletin of Southeast Asia, SEAFDEC through the project supported by the Japanese Trust Fund 6 Phase II (JTF 6-2) updated Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics and came up with the revised Regional Framework (2024 Edition). The revised Regional Framework (2024 Edition) was approved by the SEAFDEC Council at its 56th Meeting in 2024 and subsequently endorsed at the 32nd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries.

To build upon this, under the Project “Digital Transformation of Regional Fishery Statistics and Enhanced Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information in Southeast Asia” supported by the Japanese Trust Fund 7 (JTF 7), SEAFDEC in 2025–2026 is in the process of developing the **new Statistical Database** in line with the new Regional Framework (2024 Edition). In parallel with this, some AMSs have already begun submitting national statistics data for 2024 to SEAFDEC, based on the set of **fishery statistics questionnaires** aligned with the new Regional Framework.

II. Issues for Consideration

2.1 Fishery Statistics Questionnaires

Following the approval of the Regional Framework (2024 Edition) and the twenty-two (22) questionnaires by the 56th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2024, SEAFDEC is currently compiling the 2024 fishery statistics from the AMSs using the questionnaires aligned with the Regional Framework (2024 Edition). Through this process, some AMSs have indicated challenges encountered in submitting data to SEAFDEC. In this connection, SEAFDEC organized the “Online Meeting on Data Submission for the SEAFDEC Fishery Statistical Database” on 16 March 2026 to discuss these challenges and identify practical solutions for more effective implementation.

Discussion was specifically made on **Q18** on “Export by Commodities” and **Q20** on “Import by Commodities.” Several AMSs raised concerns regarding their 2024 data submissions to SEAFDEC based on the original Q18 and Q20, which use the 6-digit HS Code linked to the International Standard Statistical Classification of Fishery Commodities (ISSCFC). As the data collected by all AMSs are currently categorized using the 8-digit HS Code under the Tariff of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), **the Meeting agreed to modify the Q18 and Q20 to align with the 8-digit HS Code.** The revised questionnaires appear as **Appendix 1.**

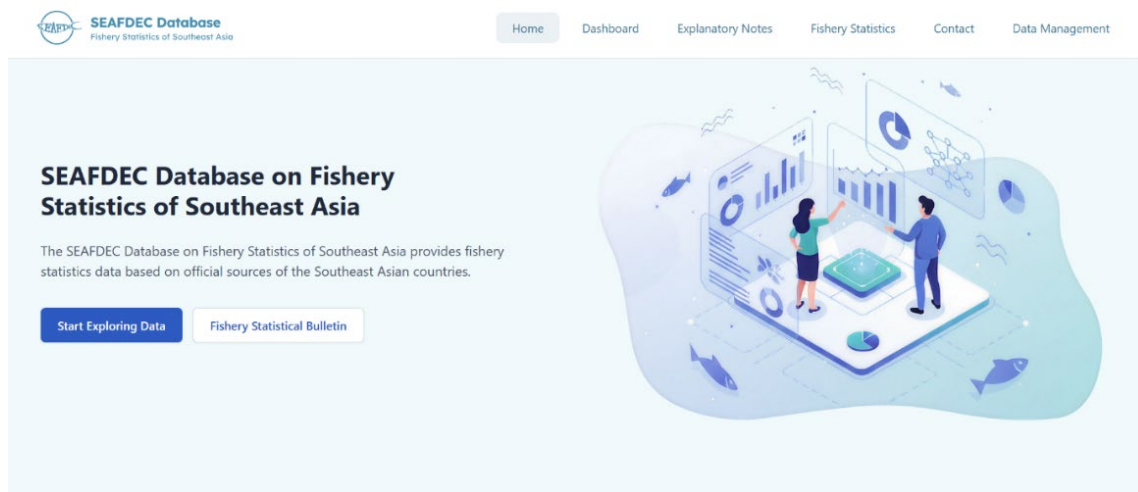
Moreover, for **Q19** on “Export to Major Countries of Destination and by Major Commodities,” and **Q21** on “Import to Major Countries of Origin and by Major Commodities,” noting that the original Q19 and Q21 do not specify major commodities that should be reported by the AMSs, **the Meeting agreed that categories of major commodity groups be harmonized and included as part of Q19 and Q21 (Appendix 2)** to guide all AMSs in reporting data that could be compiled to provide a better regional picture. The categories of major commodity groups are as follows:

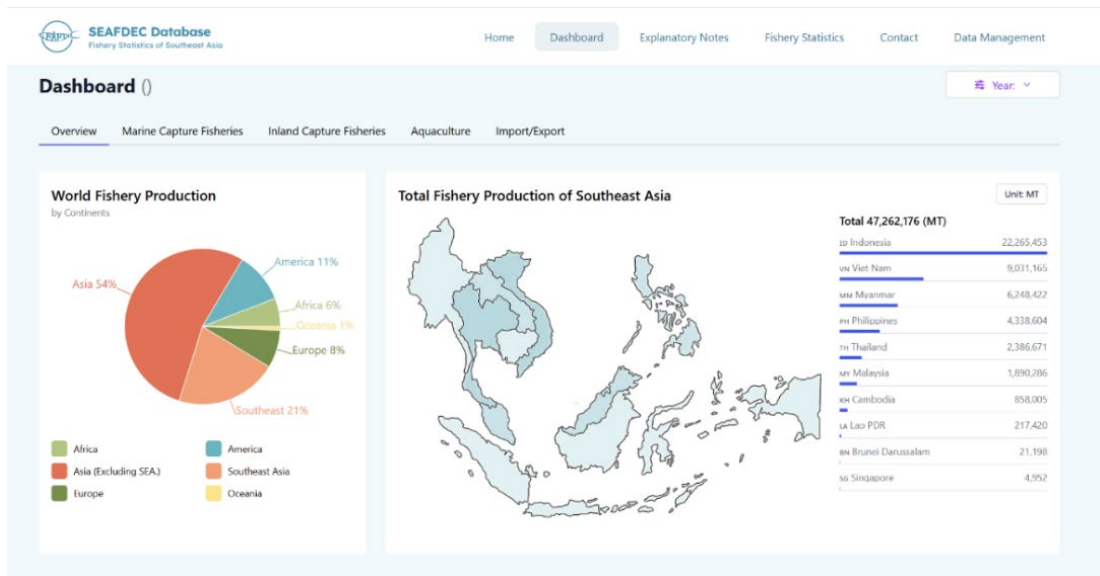
- Catfishes, pangasius
- Tilapias and other cichlids
- Freshwater eels
- Salmon and trouts
- Milkfish
- Barramundi (seabass)
- Mackerels
- Herrings, sardines, anchovies
- Tunas, bonitos, billfishes
- Shrimps, prawns, etc.
- Cuttlefishes and squids
- Molluscs
- Seaweeds and aquatic plants
- Pet food

The revised questionnaire templates (Q18, Q19, Q20, and Q21) agreed upon at this Meeting will be used to compile the 2025 annual fishery statistics. As for the 2024 statistics, the AMSs will also update the data for SEAFDEC using these questionnaire templates.

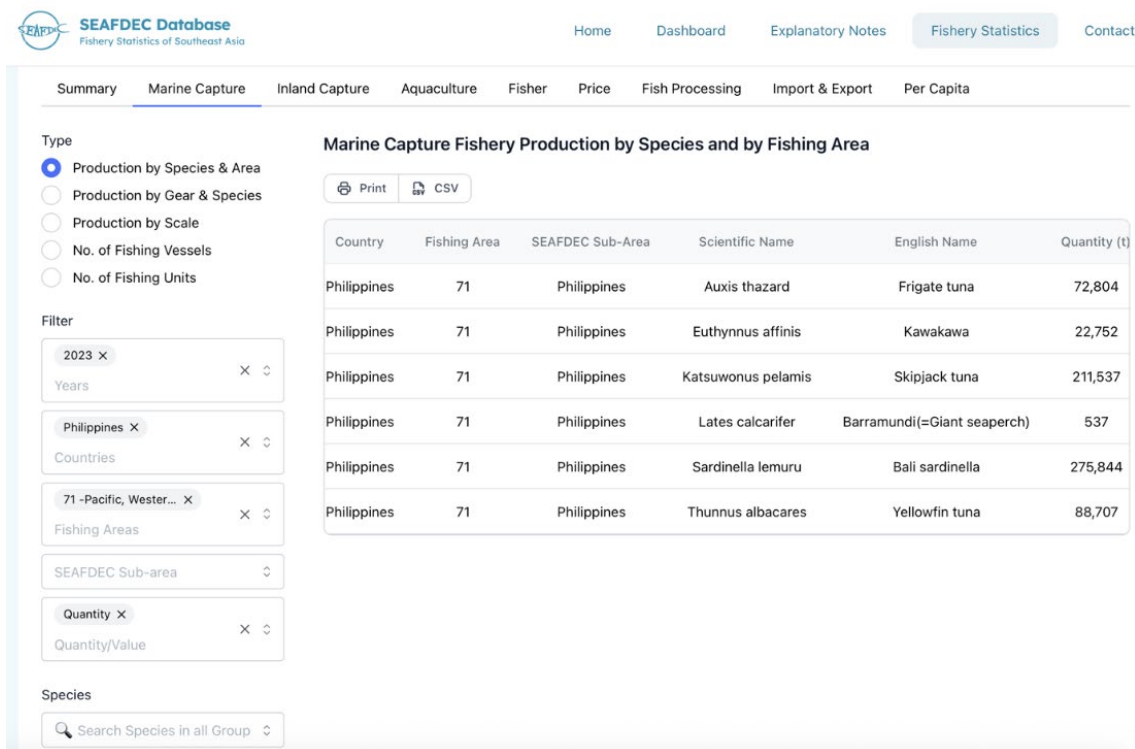
2.2 New Statistical Database

To enhance the accessibility of users to fishery statistics from the AMSs, compiled by SEAFDEC based on the new Statistics Framework (2024 Revision), the SEAFDEC Secretariat developed a new “SEAFDEC Database on Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia” in line with the Regional Framework (2024 Edition), which is now accessible at www.fisherystatistics.seafdec.org.





The statistical components in the Database include: 1) marine fishery production, 2) inland fishery production, 3) aquaculture production, 4) fishers and fish farmers, 5) producer prices, 6) fish processing, 7) exports and imports, and 8) per capita fish consumption.



SEAFDEC Database on Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia

Data verification process

For the verification process before publicizing data in the database, after SEAFDEC completes entering data from all countries, SEAFDEC will generate a PDF of the statistical report and send it back to each country for verification. After verification/confirmation from all countries, the database will be publicized to allow public access.



III. Required Consideration by the Council

- Approve the revised questionnaires template that will be used for compiling statistics from AMSs for the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia, namely:
 - Q18: Export by Commodities
 - Q19: Export to Major Countries of Destination by Major Commodities
 - Q20: Import by Commodities
 - Q21: Import to Major Countries of Origin by Major Commodities
- Take note of the launch of new “SEAFDEC Database on Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia”; and encourage Member Countries to utilize the new Database

 Q18: Export by commodities

Country _____ Year _____

Division	Group	HS Code	Commodities	Quantity (t)	Value (USD 1,000)	
Live fish (03.01)	Freshwater ornamental fish (0301.11)	0301.11.10	Fry			
		0301.11.91	Koi carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)			
		0301.11.92	Goldfish (<i>Carassius auratus</i>)			
		0301.11.93	Siamese fighting fish (<i>Beta splendens</i>)			
		0301.11.95	Arowanas (<i>Scleropages formosus</i>)			
		0301.11.99	Other			
	Others ornamental fish (0301.19)	0301.19.10	Fry			
		0301.19.90	Other			
	Other live fish	0301.91.00	Trout			
		0301.92.00	Eels			
		0301.93.21	Breeding, other than fry			
	Carp (<i>Cyprinus</i> spp., <i>Carassius</i> spp., <i>Ctenopharyngodon idellus</i> , <i>Hypophthalmichthys</i> spp., <i>Cirrhinus</i> spp., <i>Mylopharyngodon piceus</i>) (0301.93)	0301.93.22	Fry			
		0301.93.29	Other			
		0301.93.31	Breeding, other than fry			
		0301.93.32	Fry			
		0301.93.39	Other			
		0301.94.00	Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tunas (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i> , <i>Thunnus orientalis</i>)			

Q20: Import by commodities

Country _____ Year _____

Division	Group	HS Code	Commodities	Quantity (t)	Value (USD 1,000)	
Live fish (03.01)	Freshwater ornamental fish (0301.11)	0301.11.10	Fry			
		0301.11.91	Koi carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)			
		0301.11.92	Goldfish (<i>Carassius auratus</i>)			
		0301.11.93	Siamese fighting fish (<i>Betta splendens</i>)			
		0301.11.95	Arowanas (<i>Scleropages formosus</i>)			
		0301.11.99	Other			
		0301.19.10	Fry			
		0301.19.90	Other			
		0301.91.00	Trout			
		0301.92.00	Eels			
	Others ornamental fish (0301.19)	Other live fish	0301.93.21	Breeding, other than fry		
			0301.93.22	Fry		
			0301.93.29	Other		
			0301.93.31	Breeding, other than fry		
			0301.93.32	Fry		
			0301.93.39	Other		
			0301.94.00	Atlantic and Pacific bluefin tunas (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i> , <i>Thunnus orientalis</i>)		
			0301.95.00	Southern bluefin tunas (<i>Thunnus maccoyii</i>)		

PREPARATION FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (SEASOFIA) 2027

I. Background

Information on the status and trends of fisheries is widely recognized as crucial in serving as a basis for sustainable development and management of fisheries. SEAFDEC throughout the past decades has undertaken several activities to compile various forms of fishery-related data and information, *e.g.* regional fishery statistics based on the national statistics data provided by the Southeast Asian countries, as well as other data and information from different SEAFDEC programs/projects. In order to ensure that the outputs from these initiatives could be integrated or digested into information that supports the development and management of sustainable fisheries of the region, SEAFDEC in 2010 undertook a pilot exercise in developing the publication on “The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture” or “SEASOFIA”. Such an endeavor was meant to provide a platform for compilation of synthesized data and information generated from various programs of activities, while incorporating other data and information available in the region, in order to provide a better understanding of the status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture of the region. The first SEASOFIA was, therefore, prepared in collaboration among SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments and published in 2012.

While taking into consideration the usefulness of the SEASOFIA, especially as a tool in providing a platform for integrating regional data and information and in coming up with information to support policy planning and management of fisheries, the SEAFDEC Council during its 44th Meeting in 2012 agreed that the SEASOFIA could be published on a regular basis, *i.e.* every 5 years. The subsequent publications of SEASOFIA were, therefore, produced in 2017 and 2022, respectively, and these publications were considered as one of the flagship publications of SEAFDEC.

II. SEASOFIA 2027

In line with the directive given by the SEAFDEC Council, the Secretariat plans to prepare the next SEASOFIA for publication in 2027. The proposal for preparing SEASOFIA 2027, including its primary structure, work plan, and publication team, was proposed and supported by the 57th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2025. Subsequently, SEAFDEC organized an Inter-Departmental Workshop on Preparation of SEASOFIA 2027, where discussions were substantially made on the detailed outline and inputs from the respective offices of the Secretariat and Departments for the publication. The following outline of SEASOFIA 2027 was developed by SEAFDEC and was supported by the 48PCM in 2025:

Topic	
Executive summary	
Summary of key messages	
Part 1. Overview of the Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia	
1.1	Global Production and Utilization of Fish
1.2	Fishery Production of Southeast Asia
1.3	Marine Capture Fisheries Production of Southeast Asia
1.3.1	Economically Important Marine Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuna and Tuna-like Species • Small Pelagic Species • Demersal Fish Species • Crustaceans • Mollusks • Seaweeds
1.4	Inland Capture Fisheries Production of Southeast Asia
1.5	Aquaculture Production of Southeast Asia
1.5.1	Mariculture
1.5.2	Brackishwater Culture



Topic	
1.5.3	Freshwater Culture
1.6	Fishing Vessels
1.7	Fishers and Fish Farmers
1.8	Fish Processing Industry
1.9	Fish Trade
1.9.1	Global Trade of Fish and Fishery Products
1.9.2	Southeast Asian Trade of Fish and Fishery Products
Part 2. Status, Issues, and Challenges in Sustainable Development of Fisheries of the Southeast Asian Region	
1.1	Economically Important Marine Fishery Resources
1.1.1	Tuna and Tuna-like Species
1.1.2	Round Scads
1.1.3	Mackerels
1.1.4	Anchovies
1.1.5	Sardines
1.1.6	Crustaceans
1.1.7	Molluscs
1.1.8	Seaweeds
1.2	Inland Fishery Resources
1.2.1	Importance of Inland Fisheries
1.2.2	Data Collection on Inland Fisheries
1.2.3	Multisector Use of Inland Waters
1.2.4	Water Barriers Impacts and Mitigation
1.3	Aquatic Species Under International Concern
1.3.1	Sharks and Rays
1.3.2	Anguillid Eels
1.3.3	Sea Cucumbers
1.3.4	Aquatic Mammals
1.4	Responsible Fishing Practices: Technologies and Innovations
1.4.1	Mitigating the impacts of fishing activities
1.4.2	Safe and efficient fishing operations
1.4.3	Proper onboard handling of catch
1.5	Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products
1.5.1	Technologies and innovations
1.5.2	Food safety and quality concerns
1.6	Fishery Management
1.6.1	Science-based fisheries management
1.6.2	Management of Fishing Capacity
1.6.3	Combating IUU Fishing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCS • Port State Measures • Traceability
1.6.4	Area-based Fisheries Management
1.6.5	Best Practices for Small-scale Fisheries Management
1.6.6	Impacts of Invasive Alien Species
1.7	Aquaculture Development
1.7.1	Importance of Aquaculture
1.7.2	Fish Health Management
1.7.3	Feed Development (fish meal independence)
1.7.4	Advanced aquaculture production
1.7.5	Safe and Quality Aquaculture Products
1.7.6	Impacts of Intensification of Aquaculture on the Environment
1.7.7	Genetics in Aquaculture
1.8	Other Fisheries-related Issues
1.8.1	Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
1.8.2	Marine Debris and Microplastics

Topic	
1.9	International Fisheries-related Agreements
Part 3. Outlook of Fisheries and Aquaculture for Southeast Asia	
1.1	Outlook for marine capture fisheries
1.2	Outlook for inland capture fisheries
1.3	Outlook for aquaculture
1.4	Outlook for food safety

Publication Team:

Advisory board

- SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Chief of SEAFDEC/TD
- SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/TD
- Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRD
- Chief of SEAFDEC/AQD
- Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
- Chief of SEAFDEC/IFRDMD

Editorial board

- *Ms. Nualanong Tongdee*, Information Program Coordinator, SEAFDEC Secretariat
- *Ms. Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn*, Policy and Program Coordinator, SEAFDEC Secretariat
- *Ms. Saivason Klinsukhon*, SEASOFIA Coordinator of SEAFDEC Secretariat
- *Mr. Isara Chanrakhij*, SEASOFIA Coordinator of SEAFDEC/TD
- *Mr. Tan Yit Wee*, SEASOFIA Coordinator of SEAFDEC/MFRD
- *Ms. Richelle T. Bautista*, SEASOFIA Coordinator of SEAFDEC/AQD
- *Mr. Mohammad Faisal bin Md Saleh*, SEASOFIA Coordinator of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
- *Dr. Dina Muthmainnah Gofar*, SEASOFIA Coordinator of SEAFDEC/IFRDMD
- Technical Writer/Editor, SEAFDEC Secretariat

Production team

- *Ms. Nualanong Tongdee*, Information Program Coordinator, SEAFDEC Secretariat
- Technical Writer/Editor, SEAFDEC Secretariat
- *Ms. Saivason Klinsukhon*, Senior Information Officer, SEAFDEC Secretariat

Contributors

- SEAFDEC Departments (Departments are requested to indicate contributor(s) of each topic when submitting the inputs)
- SEAFDEC National Coordinators
- Others (to be listed)

III. Questionnaires for Gathering Information

Considering that the subjects under the SEASOFIA 2027 could be broader than the information that are readily available from SEAFDEC programs and projects, the Secretariat and Departments could therefore encounter difficulties in obtaining information and in writing-up some topics where information is not sufficient. The Secretariat and Departments developed a set of questionnaires that could be useful in gathering the necessary supplementary inputs from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and sending out in December 2025. The AMSs (*particularly in topics where country's information is available*) are requested to fill in and sent back to SEAFDEC Secretariat by end of February 2026. The following show topics of questionnaire that AMSs are required to provide:



- Molluscs
- Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products
- Area-based Fisheries Management
- Genetics in Aquaculture
- Climate Change
- International Fisheries-related Agreements

IV. Workplan and Timeframe

Activity	2025				2026												2027			
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
• Finalization of the proposed outline of SEASOFIA 2027 and a set of questionnaires																				
• Submit the proposed outline and a set of questionnaires to 48PCM																				
• Sending out set of questionnaires to AMSs																				
• Submission of accomplished questionnaire from AMSs (through NC)																				
• Preparation of inputs from contributors																				
• Reporting the progress and outlines of SEASOFIA 2027 to the 58 th Council Meeting																				
• Submission of inputs from contributors to the Secretariat, and harmonization of the draft content																				
• Discussion on the draft content of SEASOFIA 2027 at the Inter-Departmental Consultation																				
• Harmonization of inputs																				
• Submission of the Draft																				

Activity	2025				2026												2027				
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	
SEASOFIA 2027 to the 49PCM																					
• Submission comments from AMSs (through NC)																					
• Finalization of content and layout for publishing																					
• Publication available for the 59 th Council Meeting																					

V. Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note on the progress and outline for the SEASOFIA 2027;
- Encourage countries that not yet provide inputs to submit their inputs to SEAFDEC by the end of May 2026; and
- Provide further directives for the production of SEASOFIA by SEAFDEC

STATEMENT

By Dr. Benjamin Belton

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP)

Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand,
Secretary-General and Chief of the Training Department, *Ms. Sampan Panjarat*,
Distinguished SEAFDEC Council Members,
SEAFDEC Colleagues,
Delegates from Regional Organizations and development partners,

On behalf of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to SEAFDEC for the opportunity to participate in the 58th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, and to share insights on ongoing and future cooperation between FAO, SEAFDEC, and our valued Member Nations.

As you are aware, Asia is at the heart of the world's aquatic food systems. This region produces about three quarters of global aquatic foods, including more than half of capture fisheries and over 90 percent of aquaculture. The region's aquatic food systems provide livelihoods for millions, and are a vital source of affordable, nutritious food.

Aquatic foods are uniquely positioned to address some of our most pressing challenges. They provide high-quality nutrition with a relatively low environmental footprint compared to many land-based protein sources. Yet aquatic food systems and the communities that depend on them are under increasing strain from climate change, environmental degradation, IUU fishing, and economic shocks.

This is why transformation is essential. FAO's Blue Transformation roadmap provides a practical to guide managing this change. It is rooted in FAO's vision of achieving better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and better life, leaving no one behind.

Blue Transformation focuses on three priorities:

- First, the sustainable expansion and intensification of aquaculture to meet growing demand.
- Second, the effective management of all capture fisheries to restore and maintain healthy stocks and ecosystems.
- Third, the development of efficient, inclusive, and transparent value chains.

Together, these actions can unlock the full potential of aquatic food systems as drivers of resilience, sustainability, and inclusive growth.

FAO is pleased to continue its longstanding collaboration with SEAFDEC and Member Countries through strategic initiatives that advance sustainable fisheries and regional cooperation and, in doing so, promote blue transformation.

During 2025, these included two major projects that support sustainable fisheries and marine resource management for the benefit of coastal states and communities, in the Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Thailand, respectively.

- The Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem Phase II (BOBLME II) project.
- The Gulf of Thailand Large Marine Ecosystem project (GOTFISH).

During 2025, SEAFDEC and FAO co-organized several important workshops and trainings under these projects, on topics including Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) to Combat IUU Fishing, and Strengthening Fisheries Governance through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.



But that is not all: over the course of 2025, SEAFDEC and FAO also worked closely together to arrange trainings and events on subjects including:

- The Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF),
- Community Resilience in Small-scale Fisheries, and
- Strengthening Aquatic Food Value Chains for Enhanced Food Security and Nutrition

Looking forward, next month, SEAFDEC and FAO will co-organize a workshop in Bangkok to support the capacity development of Member Countries on principles of stock assessment and management in multi-species multi-gear fisheries.

Excellencies, colleagues, and friends,

I would also like to speak to you today as the new Secretary of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC). As you are aware, APFIC is currently under suspension until 2028, when a session will be convened to determine its future. As such, APFIC stands at a crossroads: facing a final choice between revitalization or closure.

I would therefore like to make an appeal to the Council, to the country delegations, and to the policymakers and fisheries managers you represent.

A great many fish stocks in Asia-Pacific are shared, many of those transboundary stocks are not collectively managed. APFIC has the potential to become a technically robust platform for responsibly managing these stock to ensure long-term sustainability

Doing so will require the revitalization of APFIC, including the identification of new modalities for funding the organization. Let us consider this task carefully, and show the world that Asia can lead the way in restoring the health of our oceans.

To conclude, I thank the SEAFDEC 58th Council Meeting again for affording FAO the opportunity to make this statement on our cooperation and mutual support.

I also wish to reaffirm FAO's deep appreciation toward SEAFDEC for the valued and highly effective partnership between our two organizations

Finally, I thank SEAFDEC and the Department of Fisheries of Thailand for the excellent organization and hosting of this important meeting.

Thank you.

STATEMENT

By Ms. Pouchamarn Wongsanga,
The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Thank you, Council Chair from Thailand.
Honorable SEAFDEC Council Directors,
SEAFDEC Secretary-General,
distinguished delegates from ASEAN
and SEAFDEC Member Countries, Partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen - Good afternoon.

Introduction

On behalf of GIZ, we would like to congratulate on the achievement of SEAFDEC and grateful for the opportunity for GIZ to be here at this 58th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. GIZ is Germany's international cooperation agency for sustainable development. In ASEAN, GIZ works closely with the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member States, and regional organizations, including SEAFDEC. In the fisheries sector, our cooperation focuses on sustainable fisheries management, regional cooperation, and combating IUU fishing while supporting marine biodiversity and coastal livelihoods.

Today, I am pleased to highlight our cooperation with SEAFDEC and ASEAN partner in strengthening sustainable fisheries and combating IUU fishing, including project scope, key achievements, ongoing cooperation with SEAFDEC, and several suggested actions for the Council's consideration.

Project Key Data

The Blue Fair Fish Project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, or BMZ, and implemented by GIZ. The ASEAN Secretariat serves as the regional political partner. The project is implemented across ASEAN, with focused activities in Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The project duration is three years, from March 2025 to February 2028, with a budget of approximately 4 million Euros.

The overall objective is to strengthen technical and institutional capacities for sustainable fisheries management and combating IUU fishing through regional cooperation and technical support.

Project Scope

The project supports marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable fish stocks, and coastal livelihoods through stronger action against IUU fishing. Activities are implemented at ASEAN, transboundary, and local levels.

At the regional level, the project supports ASEAN fisheries mechanisms, including ASWGF and the ASEAN Network on IUU Fishing. At local level, activities focus mainly on Indonesia and the Philippines through technical cooperation, capacity building, and community engagement.

Importantly, lessons learned from local implementation are intended to contribute to ASEAN regional policy discussions.

Project Outcomes

The project aims to strengthen ASEAN Member States' capacities for sustainable fisheries management and the fight against illegal fishing.



There are four key result areas:

- strengthening ASEAN strategic cooperation on fisheries and IUU fishing;
- improving regional exchange of experiences and best practices;
- supporting technical cooperation between Indonesia and the Philippines; and promoting gender-responsive and sustainable fish stock management at local level.
- Lessons learned from local implementation will also support ASEAN regional cooperation frameworks and policy discussions.

Milestones Achieved & Upcoming Activities

Since project formalization in February 2025, several important milestones have been achieved. These include the project launch, the first Steering Committee Meeting under ASWGFi, the I-FIT workshop in the Philippines, onboard observer training for Indonesia and the Philippines, and the joint SEAFDEC-GIZ MCS Information Exchange Workshop held in Bangkok in February 2026.

In Thailand, the project has cooperated closely with the Department of Fisheries and the ASEAN Network on IUU Fishing Centre. During the MCS Workshop, Thailand shared experiences on digital monitoring systems, vessel monitoring, and electronic Port State Measures implementation.

In the Philippines, the project supported capacity building on fisheries compliance and onboard observer systems, while also documenting community-based approaches such as the Bantay Dagat coastal watch system.

In Indonesia, cooperation focused on strengthening monitoring and surveillance systems, including support for onboard observer training and community-based surveillance initiatives.

A major achievement was the regional MCS Workshop jointly organized by SEAFDEC and GIZ, with participation from nine ASEAN Member States, SEAFDEC departments, and the RPOA-IUU Secretariat.

The workshop identified several regional priorities, including:

- strengthening monitoring and surveillance systems,
- improving traceability and information sharing,
- enhancing Port State Measures implementation,
- supporting small-scale fisheries monitoring, and
- strengthening legal and institutional frameworks.

Currently, GIZ is also supporting the drafting of the ASEAN Plan of Action for Fisheries 2026–2030 to help ensure that sustainable fisheries and IUU fishing priorities are well reflected in the regional agenda.

Looking ahead, upcoming workshops will focus on marine surveillance technologies, fisheries monitoring and stock assessment, and ocean governance and legal frameworks. Community-level activities in Indonesia and the Philippines will also continue.

SEAFDEC-GIZ Cooperation Project

The SEAFDEC-GIZ cooperation project is a 24-month initiative focused on strengthening regional capacity to combat IUU fishing. The cooperation includes four regional workshops and development of technical knowledge products for ASEAN Member States. The first workshop on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance was successfully completed in February 2026. Upcoming workshops will focus on marine surveillance technologies, fisheries monitoring and stock assessment, and ocean governance and legal frameworks.

Overall, the cooperation aims to strengthen regional coordination, practical implementation, and information sharing across ASEAN.

Suggested Actions by the Council

The Blue Fair Fish Project respectfully invites the Council to:

- take note of the SEAFDEC-GIZ collaboration on strengthening regional capacity to combat IUU fishing;
- encourage continued participation of ASEAN Member States in upcoming workshops;
- note GIZ's support to the ASEAN Fisheries Plan of Action 2026–2030; and
- continue promoting regional collaboration and knowledge sharing among SEAFDEC, ASEAN Member States, and partners.

Closing Remarks

Distinguished Council Directors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The seas of Southeast Asia are among the world's most important marine ecosystems and support millions of livelihoods. However, they continue to face growing pressure from IUU fishing and unsustainable practices. Addressing these challenges requires strong regional cooperation and trusted partnerships. GIZ and the Blue Fair Fish Project sincerely appreciate the partnership with SEAFDEC, ASEAN Member States, and BMZ in advancing this shared work.

Thank you very much for your kind attention, and we look forward to continued collaboration.

STATEMENT

By Ms. Gemma Meermans Matainaho

Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery and Aquaculture Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH)

Chairperson,
Madam Secretary-General,
Distinguished Council Directors,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of INFOFISH, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Government of Thailand for the invitation to participate in the Fifty-eighth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and for the warm hospitality extended to all participants here in Bangkok.

INFOFISH highly values its long-standing partnership and collaboration with SEAFDEC. As intergovernmental organizations serving fisheries and aquaculture development across Asia and the Pacific, our institutions share common objectives in promoting sustainable fisheries, responsible aquaculture, regional cooperation, food security, market development and inclusive industry growth.

INFOFISH is particularly pleased that our institutional cooperation has recently been strengthened through the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding between INFOFISH and SEAFDEC, signed in October 2025. The renewed MoU provides an important framework for continued collaboration in areas such as information exchange, technical and trade-related capacity building, joint research activities, participation in regional events and the promotion of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development.

Over the years, INFOFISH and SEAFDEC have maintained productive collaboration through participation in technical meetings, regional consultations, information sharing and support for fisheries and aquaculture trade and market development initiatives. INFOFISH greatly appreciates the active engagement of SEAFDEC departments and technical officers in various regional dialogues and industry-focused initiatives.

Distinguished delegates,

The fisheries and aquaculture sectors across Asia and the Pacific continue to face a rapidly evolving operating environment. Emerging challenges associated with global trade uncertainties, market volatility, sustainability requirements, traceability demands, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, climate change impacts and shifting consumer expectations increasingly require stronger regional cooperation and coordinated responses.

In this regard, INFOFISH believes there are significant opportunities for deeper collaboration between our organizations, particularly in the areas of:

- fisheries and aquaculture trade and market intelligence;
- seafood value chain strengthening and market access;
- sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development;
- traceability, certification and compliance systems;
- support for MSMEs and small-scale fisheries;
- digital transformation and data-driven fisheries trade systems;
- capacity building and technical advisory services; and
- regional knowledge sharing and industry dialogue platforms.

INFOFISH also sees strong complementarities between SEAFDEC's technical and policy expertise and INFOFISH's mandate in fisheries trade, markets and industry advisory services. Such complementarities are increasingly important in supporting ASEAN Member States and the wider Asia-Pacific region to strengthen resilient, competitive and sustainable seafood value chains.



In line with this, INFOFISH welcomes opportunities to further collaborate with SEAFDEC through joint technical programmes, training initiatives, market-oriented studies, publications, regional consultations and industry engagement activities that can directly benefit fisheries stakeholders across our respective Member States.

INFOFISH also wishes to acknowledge SEAFDEC's continued leadership and contributions towards regional fisheries cooperation and sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia. We commend the important work being undertaken by SEAFDEC and its Departments in advancing fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, promoting sustainable aquaculture and supporting regional policy coordination.

Distinguished delegates,

As INFOFISH approaches its 45th Anniversary in 2026, we remain committed to strengthening partnerships with regional and international organizations such as SEAFDEC in addressing emerging fisheries and aquaculture challenges and opportunities through practical cooperation, innovation and knowledge sharing.

We look forward to continuing and further enhancing the strong partnership between INFOFISH and SEAFDEC in the years ahead for the benefit of our Member States, industry stakeholders and the broader fisheries and aquaculture sectors across Asia and the Pacific.

Thank you very much.

STATEMENT

By Mr. Namazu Yohei,
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Ms. Sampan Panjarat, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC,
Distinguished members of the SEAFDEC Council and country delegates
Chiefs of the SEAFDEC Departments

On behalf of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the 58th SEAFDEC Council Meeting.

We are pleased to note that our ongoing collaboration with SEAFDEC continues to make steady progress. Currently, 2 projects, “ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project” and “ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia”, are being implemented smoothly with the strong cooperation of SEAFDEC and its member countries.

These projects contribute to strengthening sustainable fisheries, enhancing food security, and improving the overall resilience of the fisheries sector in the region.

We would like to express our gratitude for your continued support and our deep respect for SEAFDEC’s outstanding technical expertise and its important role as a regional platform for cooperation.

As both projects are now entering their final year, JICA remains committed to working closely with SEAFDEC and all stakeholders to ensure that the achievements are consolidated and further utilized for the benefit of the region.

In this regard, we would like to provide a brief update on the progress of the “ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project”

We sincerely hope that our partnership with SEAFDEC will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead.

I would like to conclude by wishing this Council Meeting every success.

Thank you very much.

STATEMENT

By Mr. Simon Wilkinson,
Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)

Council Chair, Secretary-General,
distinguished Council Members,
Department Chiefs and guests,
esteemed colleagues, and friends,

It is an honor to represent NACA at the 58th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. I extend my sincere thanks to SEAFDEC for this opportunity to further our longstanding cooperation, and to Thailand for graciously hosting this important gathering.

I commend SEAFDEC for the outstanding progress and achievements outlined in the Secretary-General's Annual Report. SEAFDEC's commitment to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development continues to strengthen regional food security, livelihoods, and economic resilience.

SEAFDEC's contributions to capacity building, policy harmonization, and research have been instrumental in advancing the governance and management of fisheries and aquaculture across Southeast Asia. Your technical work in resource enhancement, combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and fostering regional cooperation has made a lasting impact.

NACA has shared more than 35 years of productive collaboration with SEAFDEC, particularly through the Aquaculture Department, which also serves as a NACA Regional Lead Centre. Our joint efforts—such as SEAFDEC/AQD's role in the Asia Regional Advisory Group on Aquatic Animal Health and our mutual support in regional policy dialogues and training—continue to deliver tangible benefits to member countries and rural communities.

In the interests of time keeping, I would like to briefly mention two recent but ongoing NACA activities that may be of interest for future collaboration:

- Firstly, NACA has been working with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) on a broad multi-project climate-change initiative called AQUADAPT. NACA's component has been focussed on Knowledge brokering for nature-based solution in aquaculture transformation for the region. Specifically, we are developing an Aquaculture Innovation and Investment Hub, which aims to link entrepreneurs and startups working on innovations in aquaculture development, inclusive of technologies, social and environmental innovations, with investors and financial institutions. We've held two coaching workshops for startups recently, and a hub website is in development, which you can find at aquahub.asia.
- Secondly, our work on establishing a free video-based Aquaculture Academy continues, although somewhat slower than we would like. The purpose of the academy is to deliver vocational-level instruction in core aquaculture skills. The academy will offer both open access training and optional certification, aiming to raise the baseline technical capacity of the sector. We are open to partners publishing their own courses through the academy.

Ladies and gentlemen, collaboration multiplies impact. We look forward to continuing our partnership with SEAFDEC in advancing rural development in our member states and improving the lives of the communities we serve.

Thank you.

STATEMENT

By Mr. Herve Lefevre,
World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US)

Distinguished SEAFDEC Members,
colleagues,
and partners,

The World Wildlife Fund US (WWF-US) is an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). With that function we help countries to access GEF funding for supporting Sustainable environment projects. So working closely with SEAFDEC and regional partners, we have successfully mobilized **USD 6 million in GEF resources** to launch the *Blue Horizon* initiative.

This project, for which SEAFDEC serves as the **main executing partner**, brings together a unique regional partnership across Southeast Asia—particularly in the Philippines and Viet Nam. Its objective is to unlock the full potential of **sustainable seaweed aquaculture** as a nature-based solution for **ocean health, climate resilience, and coastal livelihoods**.

Blue Horizon serves as a **regional platform for capacity building**, delivering plans, tools, and training grounded in real coastal communities where seaweed farming already plays a vital role in local economies.

- **Philippines:** Zamboanga Peninsula (Buenavista) and Palawan (Green Island, Roxas)
- **Viet Nam:** Ninh Thuan Province (Thuan Nam District) and Khanh Hoa Province (Ninh Hoa District)

By strengthening seaweed value chains—from **production to processing and market access**—the project is designed to deliver tangible benefits to **smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and coastal households**, including **women and youth**.

Socioeconomic Benefits

Seaweed farming contributes to:

- Resilient livelihoods and diversified income sources
- Improved household revenues and job creation
- Inclusive participation across value chains

Environmental Benefits

At the same time, seaweed provides critical ecosystem services:

- Absorbing excess nutrients and reducing coastal pollution
- Helping mitigate ocean acidification
- Supporting marine biodiversity and habitat restoration

Governance and Partnerships of the project;

Key governance structures are now operational:

- The **Seaweed Technical Working Group**, strengthening regional scientific collaboration
- The **Project Steering Committee**, ensuring policy coordination and oversight

We have also established important global partnerships:

- With the Global Seaweed Coalition, to bring global expertise
- With IW:LEARN, to facilitate knowledge sharing across the GEF projects portfolio

Role of SEAFDEC

The strength of SEAFDEC is clearly reflected in its role in **continuous coordination, regional dialogue, and effective governance platforms**. These have been instrumental in maintaining momentum and addressing challenges collaboratively across member states.



Next Phase Priorities

The next phase of *Blue Horizon* will focus on:

- Rolling out regional principles and technical standards for sustainable seaweed
- Supporting farmers and cooperatives through pilot sites and targeted value-chain investments
- Strengthening national policy and regulatory frameworks
- Promoting gender equality and inclusive participation across all activities

This initiative demonstrates how SEAFDEC Member States can work together to:

- Strengthen livelihoods
- Restore marine ecosystems
- Build a sustainable blue economy

WWF remains fully committed, as a GEF Agency, to support SEAFDEC. The GEF9 Starting in July 2026 provide a new funding window under International Waters cooperation that could support the SEAFDEC strategies.

We encourage the SEAFDEC countries members to take example from the blue horizon project and start discussions with the SEAFDEC on potential additional GEF funding .

We thank you for your leadership and partnership, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN SEAFDEC AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

During the period after the 57th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council organized in May 2025 until the 58th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in May 2026, SEAFDEC established collaborative arrangements with other organizations as follows:

1. Collaboration with International/Regional Organizations, Non-member Governments, and Donors

• Association of Southeast Asian Nations

SEAFDEC entered into collaborative efforts to implement the project “**Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia**” with funding from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). This Project is being implemented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with SEAFDEC/IFRDMD, with the original project duration from 2020 to 2022. The project underwent its first no-cost extension until 23 January 2026. However, due to some ongoing activities, particularly the ongoing study on distribution, the level of diversity and stock structure of the tropical anguillid eels species, and finalization of scientific papers for publishing in peer reviewed journal, SEAFDEC requested the second no-cost extension for the project until 31 May 2026.

• Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

On 11 February 2026, SEAFDEC entered into the Letter of Agreement with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to co-organize the **Regional Workshop on Introduction from the Sea with Southeast Asian and East Asian countries (IFS workshop)**. This workshop aims to support CITES Parties in the effective implementation of the Introduction from the Sea (IFS) by strengthening national capacities, enhancing coordination between CITES and fisheries authorities, and facilitating the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among countries. The workshop is scheduled for 4–7 August 2026.

• Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

In September 2025, SEAFDEC updated **Annex 2 to the Partnership Agreement between SEAFDEC and the FAO Fisheries and Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)**, which was established in 2004. The updated Annex 2 outlines SEAFDEC’s potential contributions to FIRMS in three key areas: 1) fishery statistics of Southeast Asia, 2) geospatial information on fishing subareas based on the regional statistics framework, and 3) results from stock and risk assessment for selected species undertaken by SEAFDEC projects.

On 7 July 2025, SEAFDEC signed the **Letter of Agreement between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of funds in support of a “Regional Capacity Building Workshop for strengthening SEAFDEC and its Members’ capacity in responding to SoSI-FIRMS & SDG 14.4.1 Data Calls.”** The purpose of this LOA is for SEAFDEC to co-organize with FAO a regional capacity building workshop on “Strengthening Regional Representation in Global Stock Status Reporting - preparing SEAFDEC and its member countries for the SoSI-FIRMS & SDG 14.4.1 Data Calls” with funding from FAO of up to USD 20,000. The duration of this LOA is from 30 June 2025 to 15 October 2025.

On 18 July 2025, SEAFDEC signed the **Operational Partnership Agreement with FAO for the Implementation of the Project “Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project).”** With the duration from 2025 to 2030, the Project aims to achieve “Improved natural resource governance in the GoT through the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF), contributing to the broader, regional fisheries objectives of the South China Sea Strategic Action Programme (SCS-SAP).” To achieve this, the GoTFish Project will work on four main components: 1) Regional



transboundary fisheries governance and management strengthened; 2) Alignment of incentive mechanisms; 3) Ecological Corridor of Critical and Important Habitat for Aquatic Resources in the Gulf of Thailand (with focus on Malaysia); and 4) Stakeholder engagement, communication, monitoring, and evaluation. SEAFDEC serves as the Executing Agency responsible for Project Components 1 and 4, with the four project participating countries, namely: Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The total budget from FAO to SEAFDEC is up to USD 3,770,909.

On 19 December 2025, SEAFDEC signed the **Letter of Agreement between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of Mixed Stock Fisheries in the Asia Pacific: Identifying key technical limitations and providing practical solutions for management**. The project aims to develop a technical report, present a tool developed by Amoroso *et. al.* to understand trade-offs between societal objectives and multispecies yield, and build the regional capacity by organizing a regional workshop aimed at strengthening multispecies management approaches in the Asia Pacific Region. The duration of the project is from the signing date until 31 July 2026, with funding from FAO of up to USD 62,500.

- **International Maritime Organization**

SEAFDEC received a letter “Invitation to SEAFDEC to become a **Strategic Partner in the OceanLitter Programme**,” which is implemented by International Maritime Organization (IMO) in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the aims to provide technical assistance to developing countries to prevent and reduce sea-based sources of marine plastic litter from the maritime transport and fisheries sectors. Upon approval by the SEAFDEC Council in March 2026, SEAFDEC entered into a Strategic Partnership to support the mission and aims of the Programme to reduce and prevent marine plastic litter from sea-based sources.

- **Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region**

On 2 October 2025, SEAFDEC signed an **Extension of Memorandum of Understanding between SEAFDEC and the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH)** to cooperate in the scopes of: 1) Exchange of information including publications, subscriptions and library materials; 2) Joint research and capacity building activities of mutual interest as agreed by the Parties; 3) Participation of their respective officers and those of the Member Countries in technical trainings organized by either Party, as relevant and appropriate, and agreed by the Parties; 4) Participation and contribution of resource person(s) from one Party in the event(s) organized by the other Party, upon mutual agreement, with complementary registration and the possibility of recognition as a supporter of the event; and 5) Other activities or form of cooperation as may be mutually determined by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties. The MOU between SEAFDEC and INFOFISH was first established in 2020. This Extension is effective starting from the signing date for a period of five years.

- **Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans, the Government of Canada**

On 11 December 2025, SEAFDEC and the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) of the Government of Canada entered into the **Contribution Agreement to organize a “Workshop on Strengthening Regional Fisheries Governance and Technology Integration to Combat IUU Fishing in the Indo-Pacific,”** which is tentatively scheduled in February 2026 and will be participated in by the representatives from the ASEAN Member States. The Workshop was aimed at: 1) sharing information on the regional implementation of combating IUU fishing; 2) introducing and promoting the adoption of innovative MCS technologies for combating IUU fishing; and 3) strengthening institutional cooperation on implementation for combating IUU fishing in the region. The duration of the Agreement is until 31 March 2026, with a total budget of up to \$ 96,000 CAD.

- **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH**

On 4 November 2025, SEAFDEC signed the Grant Agreement with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH to implement the project **Strengthening Regional Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing and Promote Safe, Fair and Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia**. The

project duration is from 1 December 2025 to 30 November 2027, with the objectives to enhance national and regional responses through digital innovation, target capacity building in monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) systems, and foster transparency and enhance regional cooperation and networks with other relevant institutions. With the grant provided by the GIZ, SEAFDEC will organize a regional workshop and practical workshops that will facilitate exchange of information, lessons learned, and experiences on the implementation of components to combat IUU fishing in the region; promote harmonization of port State controls, national fisheries laws/regulations, and traceability of fish and fishery products; and build institutional capacities for policy development, enforcement, and data management through regional collaboration and technical assistance. The total budget under this Grant Agreement is up to EUR 150,000.

- **Embassy of the United States of America, Bangkok**

On 19 August 2025, SEAFDEC received an email from the U.S. Department of State to notify SEAFDEC of the U.S. Government’s intent to reinstate the award granted from the USAID/RDMA to the Southeast Asia Fisheries Partnership (SEAFish) Activity, which was earlier terminated in March 2025. In this connection, SEAFDEC adjusted the Activity workplan for 2025–2026, and came up with a project to be implemented by SEAFDEC/Training Department (TD) that is aligned with Objective 3 of the SEAFish Activity, *i.e.*, Increase operational and technical capacity among national fisheries agencies and fisheries institutions. The budget under this Agreement is USD 194,150. Support for this new project will be channeled through the Embassy of the USA in Bangkok, and the project will initially comprise two (2) initiatives designed to enhance regional capacity in fisheries stock assessment using hydroacoustic survey methods. Together, these initiatives represent a strategic investment in regional human resource development, equipping ASEAN Member States and TD with the modern tools, technical expertise, and collaborative capacity necessary to advance science-based, sustainable fisheries management in the region.

2. Cooperation with Agencies of SEAFDEC Member Countries

- **Faculty of Fisheries and Marine, Universitas Airlangga, Indonesia**

On 4 June 2025, SEAFDEC signed the “**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SEAFDEC and the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine, Universitas Airlangga (FPK-UNAIR)**” in Surabaya, Indonesia. The MOU aims to promote collaboration between SEAFDEC and FPK-UNAIR toward sustainable fisheries and aquaculture on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The areas of cooperation include: 1) exchange of academic staff, administrative staff, and students; 2) joint research in the field of mutual interests; 3) sharing of research and academic information and publications; 4) community services, *i.e.* faculty members serving as speakers to share knowledge and experience with the local community; and 5) any other research and academic activities to which both Parties agree. This MOU is valid from the date of signature for a period of five years.

- **Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Diponegoro University, Indonesia**

On 5 June 2025, SEAFDEC signed the “**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SEAFDEC and the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, University of Diponegoro (FPIK UNDIP)**” in Semarang, Indonesia. The MOU aims to promote collaboration between SEAFDEC and FPIK UNDIP toward sustainable fisheries and aquaculture on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The areas of cooperation include: 1) exchange of academic staff, administrative staff, and students; 2) joint research in the field of mutual interests; 3) sharing of research and academic information and publications; and 4) other research and academic activities to which both Parties agree. This MOU is valid from the date of signature for a period of five years.

- **Japan International Cooperation Agency**

On 8 January 2026, SEAFDEC and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed an **Amendment for the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) for the “ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project.”** Under the PCM signed in 2025, the Project is being implemented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with AQD and MFRD. However, for “Activity 3.3: Develop regional guidelines of inspection for fish and fishery products at each point on supply chain” that is intended to develop the



“guideline” that cover zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted from fish to humans and some residues in fish and fishery products, which focus on food safety to ensure human health, that is beyond the mandate of SEAFDEC. The Amendment is therefore made for JICA to be responsible for this activity; while SEAFDEC will focus on providing technical inputs on laboratory testing methods relevant to inspection for fish and fishery products, including preparing a manual for laboratory testing of biotoxin (marine) and organic contaminants. The duration of the PCA remains the same, from 23 January 2025 until 31 May 2027. The funding amount to be allocated to SEAFDEC was changed from USD 461,890 to USD 281,743.

- **Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Japan**

On 16 May 2025, SEAFDEC and Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT), Japan, signed the **Extension of Arrangement for Academic and Educational Cooperation between SEAFDEC and TUMSAT.** The original “Arrangement for Academic and Educational Cooperation Between TUMSAT and SEAFDEC” was established in June 2004 and was subsequently extended every five years. This latest Extension of the Arrangement will enable cooperation in the forms of: 1) collaboration of faculty and staff members for research, symposia and other academic pursuits; 2) exchange of staff and students for education, training, and research; and 3) exchange of data, documentation, and research materials in the fields of mutual interest, taking cognizance of existing policies of both institutions. This Arrangement is valid from the date of signature for a period of five years.

- **Kyoto Prefectural University, Japan**

On 12 June 2025, SEAFDEC signed the “**Memorandum of Understanding for Scientific and Educational Cooperation between SEAFDEC and Kyoto Prefectural University, Japan.**” The objectives of the MOU are: 1) develop scientific and technical cooperation on fisheries sciences and food culture studies that are of interest to the two organizations through mutual understanding and interrelationship; 2) develop academic and educational cooperation on fisheries sciences and food culture studies that are of interest to the two organizations through mutual understanding and interrelationship; and 3) conduct detailed discussions between Kyoto Prefectural University and SEAFDEC if required, in cases of relevant and practical matters that may arise. This MOU is valid from the date of signature for a period of five years.

- **Hokkaido University, Japan**

On 9 January 2026, SEAFDEC signed the “**Extension of Arrangement for Scientific, Educational, and Technical Cooperation between SEAFDEC and the Faculty of Fisheries, Science, Hokkaido University, Japan.**” The original Arrangement between SEAFDEC and FFS-HU was established in 2016 and was subsequently extended every five years. This latest Extension of the Arrangement will enable cooperation in the forms of: 1) collaboration of staff members and students for research, symposia and other academic pursuits; 2) collaboration and exchange of staff members and students for education, training, extension, and research; and 3) exchange of data, documentation, and research materials in the field of mutual interests, taking cognizance of existing policies of both institutions. This Arrangement is valid from the date of signature for a period of five years.

- **Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Caraga (BFAR Caraga), Philippines**

On 28 May 2025, SEAFDEC/AQD and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Caraga (BFAR Caraga), Philippines, signed a **Memorandum of Agreement.** BRAR Caraga would allocate and transfer funds, with a total amount of PHP 999,040.00, to SEAFDEC/AQD to provide services in the conduct and preparation of feasibility studies and related documents for two (2) multi-species marine hatchery projects, *i.e.* 1) San Miguel, Surigao del Sur, and 2) Carmen, Agusan del Norte; and provide support to AQD experts in the conduct of required on-site activities. AQD will provide services to BFAR and produce outputs: 1) Feasibility Studies; 2) Aquaculture Development Plans; and 3) Detailed Engineering Design, as well as technical assistance during bidding and construction of the hatcheries. This MOA takes effect upon the parties' signing and will terminate on 29 November 2025.

- **BFAR RFO 11 and CBlue Aquafarm Ventures Inc., Philippines**

On 16 June 2025, SEAFDEC/AQD, the Philippine “Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Regional Fisheries Office 11 (BFAR RFO11),” and “CBlue Aquafarm Ventures Inc. (CBLUE)” signed the Renewal of the **Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement**, which extends the original MOA that is valid from 25 April 2024 to 25 April 2025 for one more year. This collaboration aims to 1) Build the capacities of CBLUE personnel by increasing their knowledge, skills, and competencies within the various areas of high-value fish production; 2) Institute high-quality infrastructure maintenance and management systems and practices as a means to support sustainable high-value fish production; and 3) Pursue local research and development initiatives which support the sustainability of aquaculture industry and food security. The Terms of this renewed MOA would be until 25 April 2026.

- **Local Government of the Municipality of New Washington Aklan, Philippines**

On 29 August 2025, SEAFDEC/AQD and the Local Government of the Municipality of New Washington Aklan (NW Aklan LGU), Philippines, signed a **Memorandum of Agreement** to collaborate under the project “Development of a more reliable production system for high-quality oyster” with the aims to: 1) create environmental profiles of potential oyster farm sites and assess suitability and carrying capacity; 2) produce good quality spat from the hatchery to minimize dependence on wild spat as a source for grow-out culture stocks; 3) evaluate growth and survival rates of hatchery-reared (HR) spat during the nursery phase under varying stock densities and tumbling frequencies in two different environments; earthen pond and riverine grow-out culture area; 4) compare growth parameters and survival of HR single oyster spat nursed in different environments in grow-out culture using pouches and bags; and 5) evaluate microbial and chemical safety of oysters. This MOA takes effect upon the parties’ signing and will terminate on 31 December 2028.

- **Local Government of the Municipality of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, Philippines**

On 20 June 2025, SEAFDEC/AQD and the Local Government of the Municipality of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras (NUEVA VALENCIA LGU), Philippines signed the **Memorandum of Agreement** to collaborate under the project “Panobolon Sea Cucumber Project, which generally aims to: 1) determine the status of sea cucumber industry around Nueva Valencia, Guimaras; 2) identify potential aquaculture sites for the sea cucumber *Holothuria scabra* or sandfish, locally known as balat, kurtido, or kiskisan; 3) produce sea cucumber juveniles from local broodstock using hatchery and nursery protocols by SEAFDEC/AQD; 4) determine appropriate farming modalities for identified sites; 5) demonstrate and monitor grow-out farming, together with local partners. The duration of the MOA is from 1 March 2025 to 31 December 2027.

- **National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, Philippines**

On 13 August 2025, SEAFDEC/AQD and the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI), Philippines, signed a **Memorandum of Agreement** with the purpose of collaborating in the area of sustainable aquaculture through the Tamban Hatchery Program, towards the development of aquaculture techniques for Bali Sardinella or Tamban (*Sardinella lemuru*). The project entitled “Biological study and transport trials of Bali Sardinella (*Sardinella lemuru*)” would be implemented from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026. The fund for this project, totaling PHP 2,866,000.00, was provided by NFRDI for implementation. The duration of the MOA is from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026.

- **Department of Fisheries, Thailand, and the PPTEP**

On 19 December 2025, the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) signed a “**Memorandum of Understanding for a Research Project on Rehabilitation of Fisheries Habitats in the Oil Rig Platform in the Gulf of Thailand.**” The MOU establishes a collaborative project involving the Department of Fisheries of Thailand (DOF Thailand), PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP), Kasetsart University (Thailand), Prince of Songkla University (Thailand), and SEAFDEC/TD. With DOF Thailand serving as the lead institution for project administration and implementation, SEAFDEC/TD will contribute to the study on the development of a model for fisheries marine habitats based on petroleum oil rigs. SEAFDEC/TD will also support activities related to surveys, monitoring, and marine environmental and oceanographic studies, as well as the dissemination of study results to local communities, in



collaboration with DOF Thailand. The original MOU for this research project was signed on 19 December 2022, and this MOU will extend the original MOU for a period of three more years.

- **Faculty of International Maritime Studies, Kasetsart University, Sriracha Campus, Thailand**

On 14 July 2025, SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) signed the “**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Academic Cooperation between SEAFDEC and the Faculty of International Maritime Studies, Kasetsart University, Sriracha Campus.**” The objectives of the cooperation are to: 1) cooperate in academic research and development through collaborative research; 2) exchange technical information and promote other technical cooperation as mutually agreed; 3) exchange knowledge through seminars, workshops, and training; 4) promote human capacity building through exchange of academics, researchers, and university students. This MOU is valid from the date of signature for a period of five years.

Remarks: The Active collaboration between SEAFDEC and other organizations (including the agreements signed during May 2025–May 2026) appears in **Appendix 1**.

Required Consideration by the Council

- To take note of the establishment of collaborative arrangements with other organizations

Active collaboration between SEAFDEC and other organizations
(including Agreements signed during May 2025–May 2026)

Organization	Arrangement title	Duration/Expiration
International/Regional Organizations, Non-member Governments, and Donors		
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)	Since 2007, no expiry
	JAIF Project: Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia	2024 – 31 March 2026
	JAIF Project: Development of stock assessment methods and strengthening of resources management measures for tropical anguillid eel in Southeast Asia	Since 2020, extension until 31 May 2026
Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans (DF), Canada	Contribution Agreement under the “Sustainable Fisheries Contribution Program”	8 April 2025 – 31 March 2026
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	LOA with regard to the organization of a Regional Workshop on Introduction from the Sea with Southeast Asian and East Asian countries	January – August 2026
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	FIRMS Partnership Agreement	Since 2004, no expiry (updated Annex 2 in 2025), no expiry
	MOU for Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)	Since 2004, no expiry
	Partnership Agreement Providing for Cooperation in the Preparation and Publication of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)	Since 2013 (with updated TOR in 2024), no expiry)
	OPA for the Implementation of the Project “Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)”	18 July 2025 – 30 June 2030
	OPA for the Implementation of the Project “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 Project)”	1 September 2023 – 30 April 2028
	LOA for provision of funds in support of a “Regional Capacity Building Workshop for strengthening SEAFDEC and its Members’ capacity in responding to SoSI-FIRMS & SDG 14.4.1 Data Calls	30 June – 15 October 2025
	LOA for Provision of Mixed Stock Fisheries in the Asia Pacific	1 December 2025 – 31 July 2026
	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	Grant Agreement to implement the project Strengthening Regional Capacity to Combat IUU Fishing and Promote Safe, Fair and Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia

Organization	Arrangement title	Duration/Expiration
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	SEAFDEC being Strategic Partner in the OceanLitter Programme (under IMO and FAO)	Since March 2026
Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH)	Extension of MOU between INFOFISH and SEAFDEC	5 October 2025 – 4 October 2030
Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and Pacific (NACA)	Agreement	Since 1999 (no expiry)
Embassy of the United States of America, Bangkok	Award Reinstated (using remaining budget from the USAID SEAFish Project)	19 August 2025 until 2026
World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US)	Grant Agreement between WWF-US and SEAFDEC Project “Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture”	26 April 2024 – 31 December 2028
Agencies of SEAFDEC Member Countries		
Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Universitas Airlangga (FPK-UNAIR), Indonesia	MOU between SEAFDEC and FPK-UNAIR	4 June 2025 – 3 June 2030
Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science of Diponegoro University (FPIK UNDIP), Indonesia	MOU between SEAFDEC and FPIK UNDIP	5 June 2025 – 4 June 2030
Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS), Japan	Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement between Aquaculture Department of SEAFDEC and JIRCAS	June 2024 – March 2026
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Project	1 January 2025 – 31 December 2026
	ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia	1 June 2024 – 31 May 2027
Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC), Japan	Implementing Agreement for Tropical Ocean Climate and Fisheries Resources Study between SEAFDEC and JAMSTEC	1 April 2025 – 31 March 2028
Gifu Prefecture, Japan	Extension of MOU between Gifu Prefecture and SEAFDEC	6 July 2021 – 5 July 2026
Research Institute for Applied Mechanics, National University Corporation Kyushu University (RIAM, KYUSHU)	Agreement on Academic Cooperation between RIAM, KYUSHU and SEAFDEC	1 May 2023 – 30 April 2028
Fisheries Research and Education Agency (FRA), Japan	Extension of Arrangement of Scientific and Technical Cooperation between FRA and SEAFDEC	7 July 2023 – 6 July 2028
Nagano University, Japan	Extension of MOU for Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Nagano University and SEAFDEC	29 July 2024 – 28 July 2029

Organization	Arrangement title	Duration/Expiration
Kagoshima University, Japan	Extension of Arrangement for Academic and Educational Cooperation between SEAFDEC and Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University	26 August 2024 – 25 August 2029
Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT), Japan	Extension of Arrangement for Academic and Educational Cooperation between SEAFDEC and TUMSAT	1 April 2025 – 31 March 2030
Kyoto Prefectural University (KPU), Japan	Memorandum of Understanding for Scientific and Educational Cooperation between KPU and SEAFDEC	23 June 2025 – 22 June 2030
Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University (FFS-HU), Japan	Extension of Arrangement for Scientific, Educational, and Technical Cooperation between SEAFDEC and FFS-HU	29 January 2026 – 28 January 2031
University of Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Malaysia	MOU between SEAFDEC and UMT	24 September 2024 – 23 September 2029
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Caraga (BFAR Caraga), Philippines	MOA between SEAFDEC/AQD and BFAR Caraga (BFAR), Philippines	28 May 2025 – 29 November 2025
BFAR RFO 11 and CBlue Aquafarm Ventures Inc., Philippines	Tripartite MOA between SEAFDEC/AQD and BFAR RFO 11 and CBlue Aquafarm Ventures Inc., Philippines	16 June 2025 – 25 April 2026
Local Government of the Municipality of New Washington Aklan, Philippines	MOA between SEAFDEC/AQD and Local Government of the Municipality of New Washington Aklan, Philippines	29 August 2025 – 31 December 2028
Local Government of the Municipality of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, Philippines	MOA between SEAFDEC/AQD and Local Government of the Municipality of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, Philippines	1 March 2025 – 31 December 2027
National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, Philippines	MOA between SEAFDEC/AQD and National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, Philippines	1 June 2025 to 31 May 2026
Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), Thailand	MOU between SEAFDEC and DMCR	31 May 2021 – 30 May 2026
Faculty of Natural Resources, Prince of Songkla University (FNR-PSU), Thailand	MOU between SEAFDEC and FNR-PSU	1 May 2025 – 30 April; 2030
Faculty of International Maritime Studies, Kasetsart University, Sriracha Campus, Thailand	MOU for Academic Cooperation	14 July 2025 – 13 July 2030
DOF Thailand and the PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP), Thailand	MOU for a Research Project on Rehabilitation of Fisheries Habitats in the Oil Rig Platform in the Gulf of Thailand.	19 December 2022 – 18 December 2028

OPERATION OF SEAFDEC TRAINING AND RESEARCH VESSELS

Executive Summary

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) operates two training and research vessels, M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2, both constructed with financial support from the Government of Japan in 1993 and 2004, respectively. These vessels serve four main purposes: (1) training cruises, (2) research cruises, (3) charter cruises, and (4) other activities. Their primary objectives are to provide intensive hands-on training at sea, facilitate technology transfer, and support national fisheries resources and the marine environment assessment upon request by SEAFDEC Member Countries and other relevant agencies. Over the years, SEAFDEC/TD has provided technical assistance and research facilities through these vessels, with M.V. SEAFDEC completing 115 cruises and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 completing 76 cruises.

M.V. SEAFDEC

- No cruises were conducted by M.V. SEAFDEC in 2025.

M.V. SEAFDEC 2

In 2025, M.V. SEAFDEC 2 conducted five (5) cruises, totalling 63 service days:

- Two shipboard training cruises on research methods for the collection and analysis of marine debris and microplastics (28 January and 20 December 2025).
- A marine environment and fisheries resource survey to evaluate the impacts of microplastics on fisheries in the Gulf of Thailand (10 February–14 March 2025).
- A sea trial to test navigation and engine equipment in the Gulf of Thailand (7–8 August 2025).
- A biomass and oceanographic survey along the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia (2–27 September 2025).

Through these operations, SEAFDEC/TD supported the collection of fisheries and environmental data from 51 stations in the Gulf of Thailand. In addition, hydroacoustic data were collected along 30 transects and environmental data from 30 stations along the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

For the shipboard training cruises, a total of 31 participants joined the program, which aimed to strengthen capacity in research methods for the collection and analysis of marine debris and microplastics.

Additionally, navigation and engine equipment were tested to ensure the operational readiness and performance of ship engine and survey instruments prior to field operations.

I. Introduction

SEAFDEC/TD operates two (2) training and research vessels, M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which were constructed with financial support from the Government of Japan. Over the past decades, SEAFDEC Member Countries have faced challenges related to coastal fisheries resources depletion. To address seafood supply issues and reduce fishing pressure on coastal fisheries resources within their national waters, SEAFDEC Member Countries have been focusing on developing effective management strategies based on scientific data and enhancing the capacity of fisheries officers in fisheries resource and environmental survey methodologies.

To meet the needs of SEAFDEC Member Countries, SEAFDEC/TD has collaborated closely with national, sub-regional, and regional partners, to conduct research surveys on fisheries resources and marine environment. Furthermore, SEAFDEC/TD has prioritized strengthening human resource capacity in areas such as fisheries resource exploration, marine environmental research, fishing technology, navigation, marine engineering, onboard fish handling, and related disciplines. These efforts are facilitated through the use of SEAFDEC vessels, which are funded either by SEAFDEC Member Countries or through charter arrangements.

The utilization of the SEAFDEC’s vessels could be grouped into four (4) categories: (1) training cruises, (2) research cruises, (3) charter cruises, and (4) other activities.

M.V. SEAFDEC

Since 1993, M.V. SEAFDEC has supported SEAFDEC Member Countries in conducting shipboard operations in the waters of Southeast Asia and adjacent areas, including the Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, and Timor Sea. Over the course of 115 cruises, the vessel has accumulated a total of 2,585 service days. The number of service days per year has ranged from 0 to 195 days, with zero utilization recorded in 2015, 2021, 2023 and 2025 while the highest recorded utilization was 195 days in 1994. On average, the vessel has been in operation at sea for 78 service days per year.

M.V. SEAFDEC has primarily been utilized for research cruises, which accounted for 55.20 % of its total usage. Additionally, the vessel has supported training cruises (28.20 %), charter cruises (11.91 %), and other activities (4.68 %). The number of service days is illustrated on **Fig. 1**, while a detailed breakdown of service days and utilization percentages by category for M.V. SEAFDEC is provided in **Table 1**.

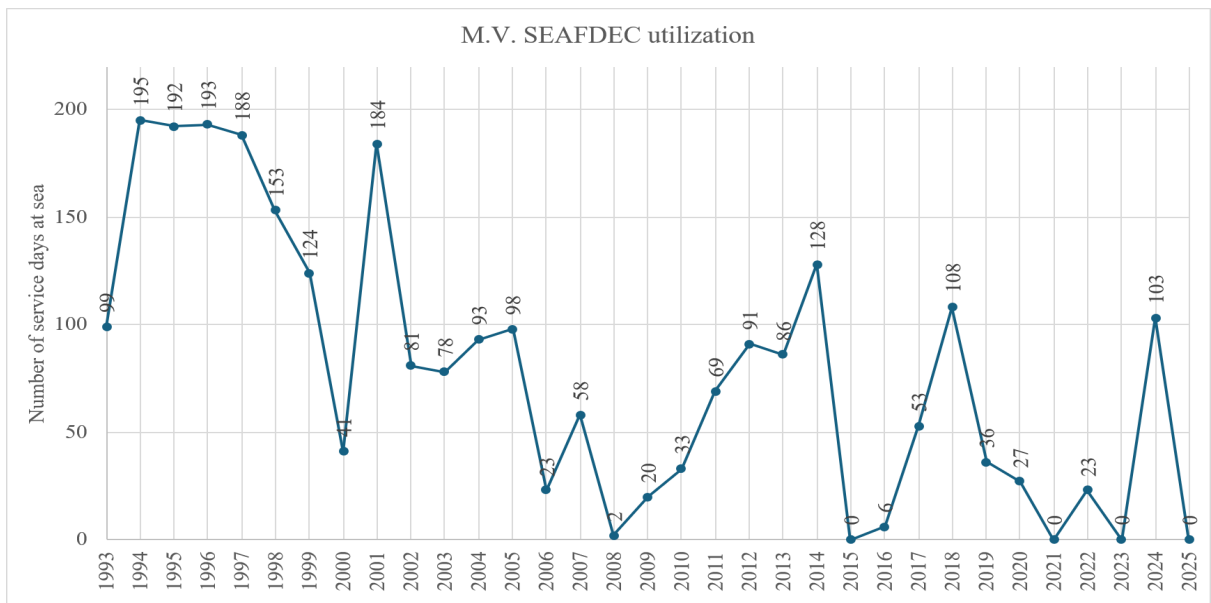


Figure 1: Number of service days of M.V. SEAFDEC from 1993 to 2025

Table 1: The number of service days and the percentage composition by category of M.V. SEAFDEC utilization

Year	Number of service days separated by categories				Total number of days at sea
	Training	Research	Charter	Others	
1993	95			4	99
1994	127	8		60	195
1995	139	53			192
1996	83	110			193
1997	83	56		49	188
1998	43	109		1	153
1999	49	75			124
2000		40		1	41
2001	108	76			184
2002		81			81
2003		77		1	78
2004		93			93

Year	Number of service days separated by categories				Total number of days at sea
	Training	Research	Charter	Others	
2005		98			98
2006			23		23
2007		58			58
2008			2		2
2009			19	1	20
2010	1		30	2	33
2011		49	20		69
2012		75	16		91
2013		86			86
2014	1	104	23		128
2015					0
2016		6			6
2017		15	37	1	53
2018		108			108
2019		20	16		36
2020			27		27
2021					0
2022			22	1	23
2023					0
2024		30	73		103
2025					0
Sub-total	729	1427	308	121	2585
Percentage composition of the utilization by category	28.20 %	55.20 %	11.91 %	4.68 %	100 %

M.V. SEAFDEC 2

Since 2004, M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has supported SEAFDEC Member Countries in conducting shipboard operations in Southeast Asia, accumulating a total of 1,714 service days across 76 cruises. The vessel was primarily used for research cruises, which accounted for 88.04 % of its total utilization, followed by training cruises (7.76 %), charter cruises (3.44 %), and other activities (0.76 %). The number of service days and the utilization percentage by country for M.V. SEAFDEC 2 since 2004 are presented in **Table 2**.

The number of service days per year has ranged from 3 to 204 days, with the lowest utilization recorded at 3 days in 2021 and the highest at 204 days in 2005. The annual service days are illustrated in **Fig. 2**. Notably, the vessel's operational days were significantly reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022. On average, M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has been operational for 77.91 days per year. Thailand, Malaysia, and Brunei were the top three countries where M.V. SEAFDEC 2 conducted operations, representing 63.01 % of the vessel's total utilization by country.

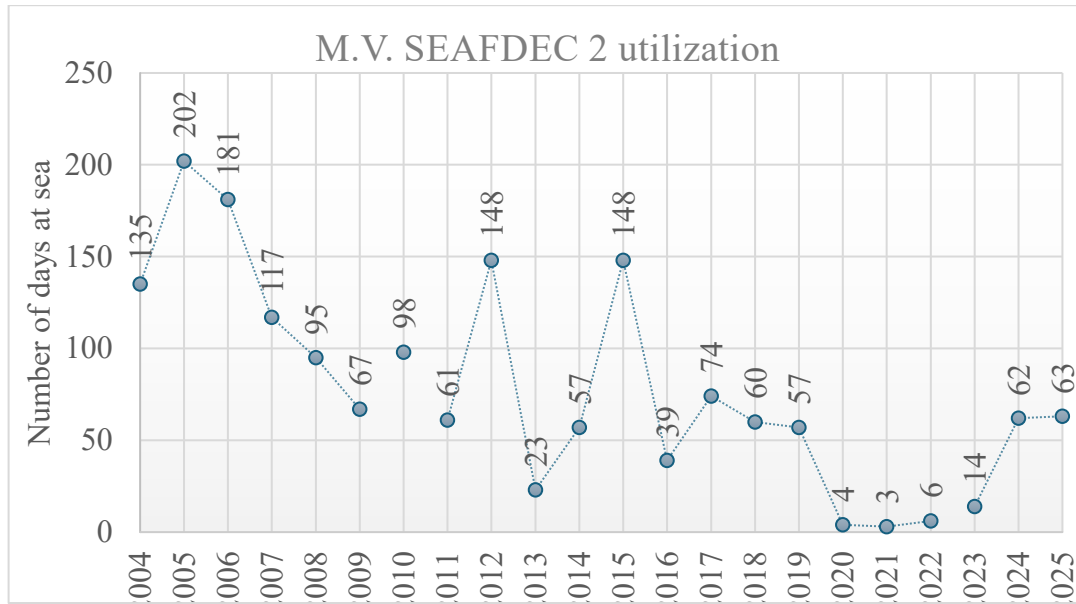


Figure 2: Number of service days of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 from 2004 to 2025

Table 2: Number of service days of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 utilized in the water in SEAFDEC Member Countries

Year	BRN	KHM	IDN	MYS	MMR	PHL	THA	VNM	Total days
2004	51	8	9	8	9	8	34	8	135
2005	23	9	0	63	25	24	28	30	202
2006	29		22	29		31	40	30	181
2007					43	32	42		117
2008	31						64		95
2009	37		30						67
2010	41			45			12		98
2011	37						24		61
2012							3	145	148
2013							23		23
2014			22	13		18	4		57
2015			22	100		18	8		148
2016				35			4		39
2017							5	69	74
2018		22					38		60
2019				25			32		57
2020							4		4
2021							3		3
2022							6		6

Year	BRN	KHM	IDN	MYS	MMR	PHL	THA	VNM	Total days
2023							14		14
2024	50						12		62
2025				26			37		63
Sub-total	299	39	105	344	77	131	437	282	1714
Percentage composition of the utilization by countries	17.44	2.28	6.13	20.07	4.49	7.64	25.50	16.45	100

II. Utilization of the Training/Research Vessels of SEAFDEC Training Department in 2025

M.V. SEAFDEC

No cruises were conducted by M.V. SEAFDEC in 2025.

M.V. SEAFDEC 2

In 2025, SEAFDEC/TD supported the collection of fisheries and environmental data from 51 stations in the Gulf of Thailand. In addition, hydroacoustic data were collected along 30 transects and environmental data from 30 stations along the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

For the shipboard training cruises, a total of 31 participants joined the program, which aimed to strengthen capacity in research methods for the collection and analysis of marine debris and microplastics.

Additionally, navigation and engine equipment were tested to ensure the operational readiness and performance of ship engine and survey instruments prior to field operations. The summary information of M.V. SEAFDEC 2's utilization is provided in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2025

Utilizing agency and cruise number	Utilizing category	Duration	Area	Achievement
SEAFDEC/TD, Cruise 72-1/2025	Training	28 Jan. 2025	Upper part of the Gulf of Thailand	Shipboard training with building capacity in research methods for the collection and analysis of marine debris and microplastics was conducted to A total of 27 participants.
SEAFDEC/TD, Cruise 73-2/2025	Research cruise	10 Feb.–14 Mar. 2025	Gulf of Thailand within Thai EEZ	Marine environment and fishery resource survey and evaluate the impacts on microplastic on fisheries were carried out. Fisheries data from 46 stations and environmental data from 51 stations and floating debris from 60 tracts were collected during a 33-day cruise.
SEAFDEC/TD Cruise 74-3/2025	Others (Sea trial)	8–9 Aug. 2025	Eastern part of the Gulf of Thailand	Sea trial was carried out to test the navigation, engine and oceanographic equipment to ensure the operational readiness and performance of ship engine

Utilizing agency and cruise number	Utilizing category	Duration	Area	Achievement
				and oceanographic equipment prior to field operations.
SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Cruise 75-4/2025	Research cruise	2–27 Sep. 2025	West coast of Peninsular, Malaysia	Biomass and oceanographic survey was carried out with hydroacoustic data from 30 transects and environmental data from 30 stations were collected during a 26-day
SEAFDEC/TD, Cruise 76-1/2025	Training	28 Jan. 2025	Upper part of the Gulf of Thailand	Shipboard training with building capacity in research methods for the collection and analysis of marine debris and microplastics was conducted to A total of 27 participants.

III. Operations of the Training/Research Vessels of SEAFDEC Training Department in 2026

M.V. SEAFDEC

SEAFDEC plans to conduct two (2) cruise utilizing M.V. SEAFDEC. Detailed information about the cruise is provided in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Plan to utilize M.V. SEAFDEC in 2026

Requesting agency	Utilizing Category	Duration	Area	Propose of the cruise
JAMSTEC	Charter cruise	Jun. 2026 (tentatively)	The Indian Ocean	Maintenance and deployment of oceanographic moorings, as part of the Research Moored Array for African-Asian-Australian Monsoon Analysis and Prediction (RAMA) program
National Disaster Warning Center	Charter cruise	November 2026 (tentatively)	The Indian Ocean	Tsunami buoy warning system deployment

M.V. SEAFDEC2

SEAFDEC plans to conduct five cruises utilizing M.V. SEAFDEC 2. Detailed information for each cruise is presented in **Table 5**.

Table 5. Plan to utilize M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2025

Requesting agency	Category	Duration	Area	Purpose of the cruise
DOF, Myanmar	Research	12 Feb–2 Apr. 2026	Coastal waters of Tanintharyi Region	Collaborative research survey on fisheries resources and the environment in the coastal waters of Tanintharyi Region, Myanmar, 51 days survey duration.
SEAFDEC/TD	Training cruise	May 2026 (tentatively)	Eastern part of the Gulf of Thailand	5 days shipboard training on the principle of Hydroacoustic calibrating and operating by Quantitative Echosounder EK80
DOF, Brunei Darussalam	Research	Sep. 2026 (tentatively)	Brunei water	Collaborative research survey on marine resources in the Waters

Requesting agency	Category	Duration	Area	Purpose of the cruise
				of Brunei Darussalam, 36 days survey duration

The annual operation plans of M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the year 2026 are summarized in **Table 6**.

Table 6. Tentative operation program of M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2026

Utilizing agency	Month, 2026											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
M.V. SEAFDEC												
JAMSTEC												
National Disaster Warning Center												
M.V. SEAFDEC 2												
DOF, Myanmar												
SEAFDEC/TD												
DOF, Brunei Darussalam												

IV. Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2025;
- Take note of the plan to utilize M.V. SEAFDEC in 2026; and
- Approve the proposed plan of utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2026

DISPOSAL PLAN OF M.V. SEAFDEC

I. Introduction

At the 55th Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC in 2023, the Council Director for Japan raised concerns regarding the financial support for maintaining SEAFDEC research vessels using the budget from the Government of Thailand, which is increasing year by year. He further suggested that SEAFDEC consider conducting a study on the future use of M.V. SEAFDEC. In response to the Council’s recommendation, TD reported on the “Prospective Use of the Research and Training Vessels of the Training Department and the Trend of Use of the Budget for M.V. SEAFDEC” at the 56th Meeting of the Council in 2024. The Council provided guidance to TD to develop a disposal plan for M.V. SEAFDEC and requested TD to develop the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the acquisition of a new research and training vessel.

The “Disposal Plan of M.V. SEAFDEC” was therefore developed by TD and proposed during the 57th Meeting of Council in 2025. Following the Council’s approval of the Disposal Plan, TD developed the framework for the disposal of M.V. SEAFDEC. Subsequently, TD also developed the criteria for selecting a recipient Member Country and announced with an application form for expressions of interest to all Member Countries. During the 48th Program Committee Meeting in 2025, TD reported on the achievements of the disposal process in 2025 and proposed additional activities to support the completion of this transition throughout 2026.

II. Progress of the Disposal of M.V. SEAFDEC

Following the disposal workflow of the M.V. SEAFDEC during 2025–2029, which was approved by the SEAFDEC Council at its 57th Meeting (**Appendix 1**), the progress made by TD during May 2025–May 2026 and the proposed activities from May 2026 to May 2027 are as follows:

a. Progress Activities from May 2025 to May 2026

From May 2025 to May 2026, the disposal process of M.V. SEAFDEC progressed from Council approval and developing criteria for selection of candidate recipient Member Countries. The official announcement and application form for the Recipient Member Countries of the M.V. SEAFDEC were shared with the Member Countries. At present, Myanmar and the Philippines have expressed interest. Myanmar has completed a seaworthiness inspection, and the application form is currently under preparation. The Philippines is currently proceeding with an ocular inspection. In parallel, TD has developed the draft Terms of Reference for the Selection Committee. The detailed progress is provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Progress Activities from May 2025 to May 2026

Timeline	Actions	Remark
May 2025	The Councils approved Disposal Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC in the 57 th CM	
May–Aug 2025	TD developed the criteria for selection of candidate recipient Member Countries	
Nov 2025	Reporting on the progress of disposal processes in the 48 th PCM	
	TD officially informed the Member Countries of the planned disposal of the M.V. SEAFDEC and requested them to consider accepting the vessel.	Timeline by the end of 15 Feb 2026
30 Dec 2025	TD received an official letter from the Myanmar Department of Fisheries regarding a seaworthiness inspection of the M.V. SEAFDEC.	
9 Feb 2026	Myanmar delegates visited SEAFDEC/TD to inspect the seaworthiness of the M.V. SEAFDEC at SEAFDEC/TD in Samut Prakan, Thailand	

Timeline	Actions	Remark
16 Feb 2026	TD received an official communication from Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Philippines of interest regarding the M.V. SEAFDEC.	
Mar 2026	TD received official letter from the Department of Fisheries Myanmar to delay submission of the Application Form.	
Mar–Apr 2026	TD prepared the draft Terms of Reference of the selection committee to consider the candidate Recipient Member Countries	Appendix 2
May 2026	Technical Working Group of the BFAR, Philippines visited TD for the ocular inspection of the M.V. SEAFDEC	Tentative during 14–16 May 2026
19–21 May 2026	Reporting on the progress of disposal process in the 58 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.	

b. Proposed Activities from May 2026 to May 2027

It is proposed that the process for selecting the Recipient Member Countries of the M.V. SEAFDEC will take place between May 2026 and May 2027. This phase will begin with the establishment of the Selection Committee, the finalization of its Terms of Reference (TOR), and the evaluation of applications from interested Member Countries. Upon receipt of Application Forms by TD, the Selection Committee will review and evaluate the submissions to consider the M.V. SEAFDEC Recipient Member Countries. This recommendation will then be submitted for SEAFDEC Council approval. Progress regarding the handover will be reported during the 59th Council Meeting, with the objective of completing the entire disposal process by 2029.

If no applications are received by the initial deadline, the submission period will be extended until the 59th Council Meeting. Detailed proposed activities are provided in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Proposed Activities from May 2026 to May 2027

Timeline	Actions	
19–21 May 2026	58CM SEAFDEC Council to approve the establishment of the Selection Committee with National Coordinators serving as members, together with the TOR of the Selection Committee	
30 July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of the TOR of the Selection Committee (in case the TOR has not yet been approved at the 58CM) Deadline for countries having an interest in receiving the M.V. SEAFDEC to submit the Application Form 	
	TD receives the Application Form	TD does not receive the Application Form
Aug.–Sep. 2026	Selection Committee members to review, evaluate, and assess the Application Form(s) received	Extend the deadline for submission of the Application Form until the 59 th Council Meeting
Oct 2026	Summary of the views from the Selection Committee members on the Application Form(s) received	
16–18 Nov 2026	Reporting on the views from the Selection Committee at the 49PCM, and request the NCs, as the Selection Committee, to make the final decision on the M.V. SEAFDEC Recipient Member Countries	
Nov.–Dec. 2026	TD to seek approval from the SEAFDEC Council on the result of the Selection Committee <i>ad referendum</i>	

Timeline	Actions	
April–May 2027 (Tentative)	Reporting on the progress and seeking approval on the handover process at 59CM (expect to be completed by 2029)	TD to report the progress to the 59CM

c. Draft Terms of Reference of the Selection Committee for Recipient Member Country of M.V. SEAFDEC

As referred to **Table 1**, TD drafted the Terms of Reference for the Selection Committee to identify the most suitable Recipient Member Country for the M.V. SEAFDEC. The proposed composition of the Committee will comprise SEAFDEC National Coordinators from Member Countries that do not submit an application for the vessel. The details of the TOR are provided in **Appendix 2**. In this connection, TD would like to request the SEAFDEC Council, at its 58th Meeting, to consider and approve the establishment of the Selection Committee and TOR. Following approval, TD will proceed with the subsequent steps as outlined in **Table 2**.

It should, however, be noted that in proceeding with further steps for the disposal of the M.V. SEAFDEC prior to handover process, TD will continue to receive the proposed cruise plans for utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC, which is usually scheduled and confirmed year by year, to be considered and reported to the Council Meeting. SEAFDEC is currently coordinating with the agencies requesting to use the M.V. SEAFDEC to develop the cruise plan for 2026. There are two (2) potential cruises scheduled for 2026 as follows:

- 1) Chartering Cruise to support Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC). The cruise is for the Recovery and Deployment of m-Triton Buoy Moorings in the Indian Ocean (Tentatively scheduled for the 3rd quarter of 2026)
- 2) Chartering Cruise to support National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) under the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of Thailand (Tentatively scheduled for the 4th quarter of 2026)

III. Acquisition of New Research and Training Vessel

With reference to the discussion held at the 56th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (56CM) in 2024 regarding the request from Thailand and supported by the Council, TD was requested to prepare the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the acquisition of new research and training vessels that are more suitable for the region. The Council also requested the Government of Japan to consider providing financial support for the acquisition of a new research and training vessel for SEAFDEC.

In response, during the 57CM in May 2025, Japan acknowledged the request and explained that, due to its current budgetary constraints and grant aid policies, it would be difficult to provide direct financial assistance for procuring a new vessel. However, Japan expressed its willingness to support a consultancy to conduct a basic survey on the potential acquisition of a new research and training vessel.

Following to the response made by Japan, the Fisheries Agency of Japan, in collaboration with MarinoForum21, Fisheries Engineering Co., Ltd., and SEAFDEC, conducted a “Discussion and Interview on the Introduction of a Replacement Vessel for M.V. SEAFDEC” from 14 to 17 October 2025 at the SEAFDEC Training Department and the SEAFDEC Secretariat in Thailand.

The report of the discussion details the design and general arrangement of a replacement fisheries research and training vessel for Southeast Asia. The vessel is designed with a gross tonnage of approximately 404 GT and an overall length of 40 meters, powered by a 1,200 kW main diesel engine. It will be equipped with various oceanographic instruments, including a CTD, thermo-salinograph, and various samplers and nets. Additionally, the deck machinery is designed to support diverse fishing operations, including bottom and pelagic trawling, tuna longlining, and automatic squid jigging. Advanced monitoring systems, such as a scientific echosounder and underwater video recording, are also included in the specifications. Report on

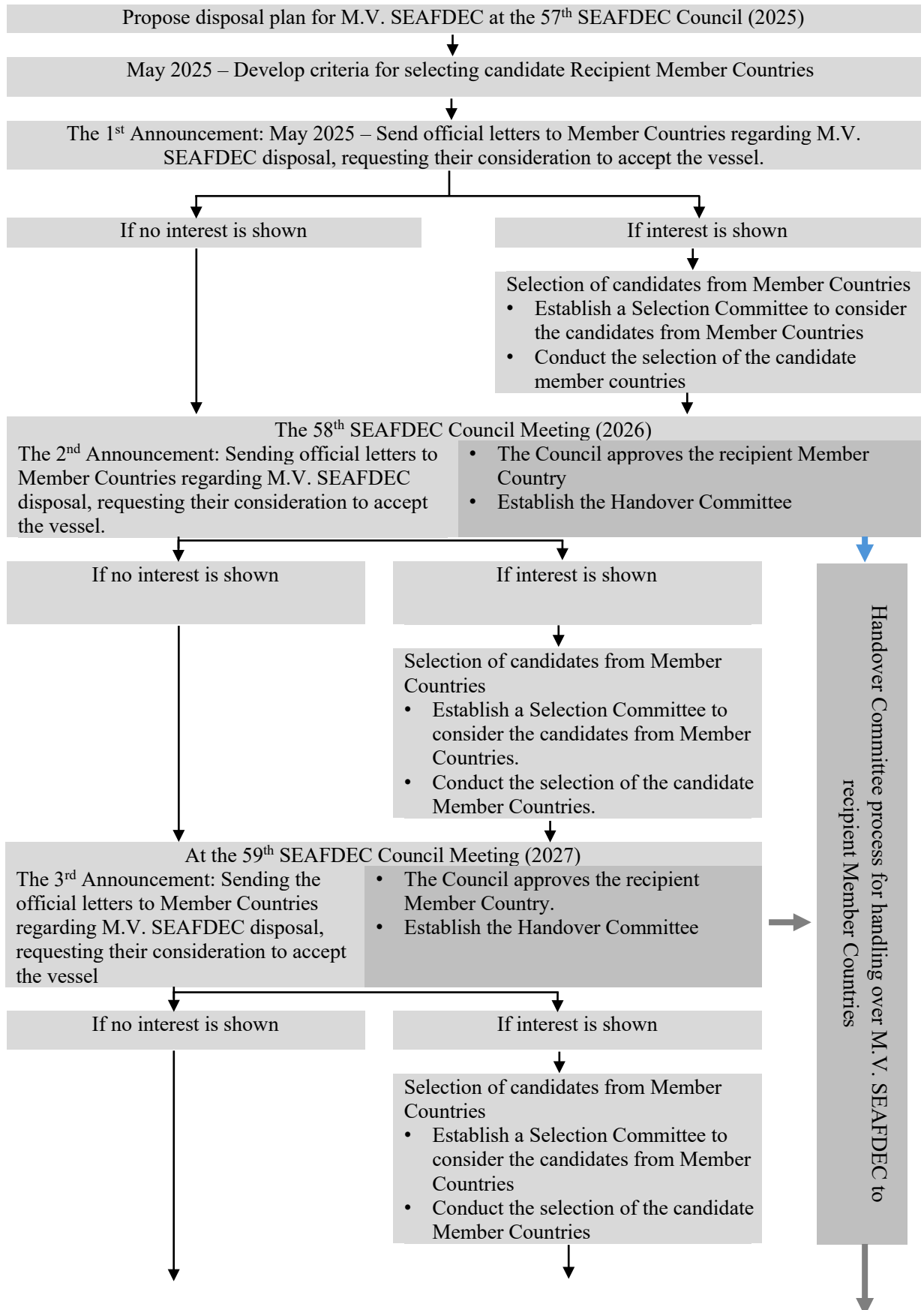


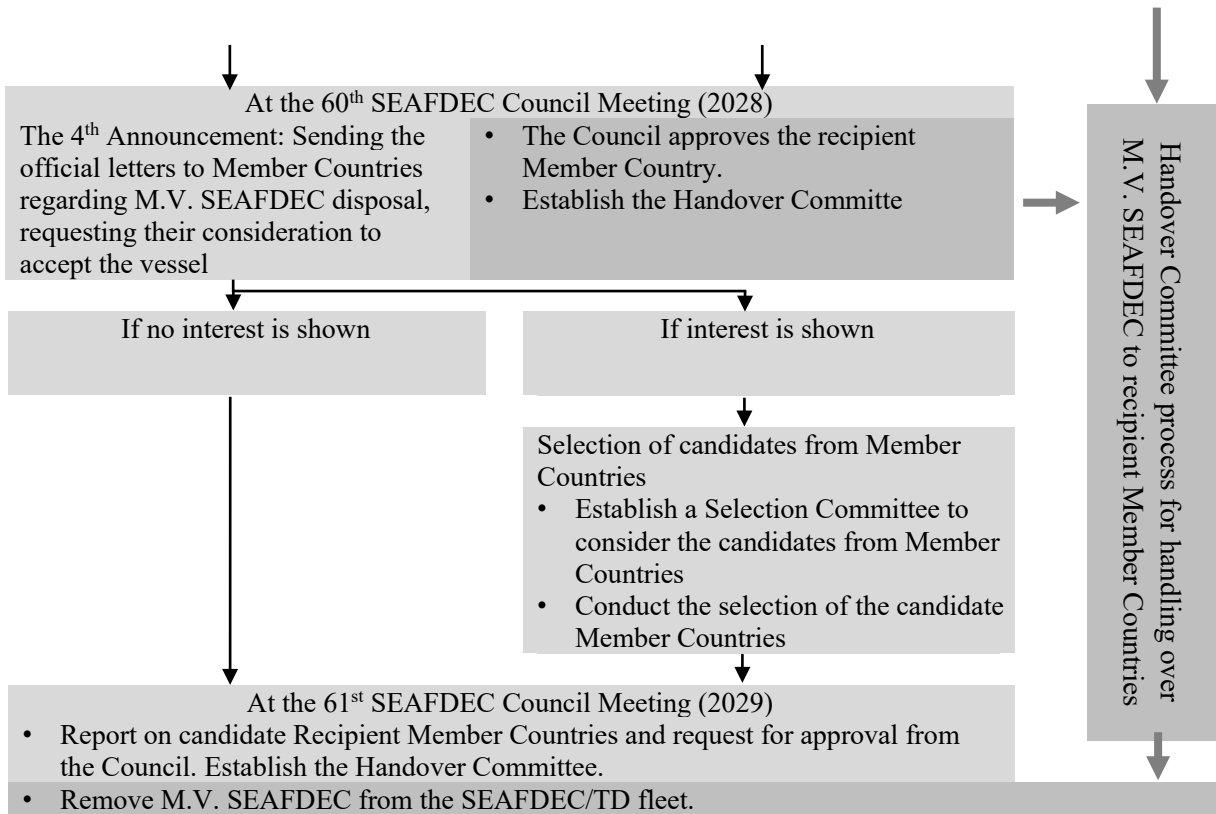
the Basic Survey for the Introduction of Replacement Vessel for Southeast Asia is enclosed as **Appendix 3**.

IV. Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note of the progress made by TD on the disposal of the M.V. SEAFDEC from May 2025 to May 2026
- Consider supporting or providing comments on proposed procedures from May 2026 to May 2027
- Approve the establishment of the Selection Committee with National Coordinators serving as members, together with the TOR of the Selection Committee
- Take note of the Report on the Basic Survey for the Introduction of Replacement Vessel for Southeast Asia and provide guidance on the acquisition of a new vessel

Disposal Workflow for M.V. SEAFDEC







(DRAFT) TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)
Selection Committee for Recipient Member Country of M.V. SEAFDEC

SEAFDEC Training Department (TD)

1. Background

The M.V. SEAFDEC is a research and training vessel originally granted by the Government of Japan to SEAFDEC over thirty (30) years ago. Due to its age, increasing maintenance burden, and declining utilization, the vessel has been decommissioned from SEAFDEC operations but remains technically operational. In line with the disposal plan approved at the 57th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (2025), the Training Department (TD) has been tasked with facilitating the responsible transfer of the vessel to an interested SEAFDEC Member Country.

TD has developed a Framework for the Selection of the Recipient Member Country and has officially invited SEAFDEC Member Countries to submit applications. The disposal plan covers the period 2025–2029 and prioritizes the transfer of the vessel to an eligible Recipient Member Country that can utilize it effectively for fisheries research, training, and regional cooperation. In the event that more than one Member Country applies, the Selection Committee (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Committee’) shall be established, the Selection Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) shall be established to ensure a fair, transparent, technically sound, and merit-based selection process. These Terms of Reference (TOR) define the Committee’s mandate, composition, responsibilities, decision-making procedures, and timeline. All procedures shall comply with SEAFDEC rules, regulations, and applicable international standards.

2. Objectives

The Selection Committee shall pursue the following objectives:

- 2.1. Evaluate applications submitted by SEAFDEC Member Countries for the transfer of the M.V. SEAFDEC, based on predefined eligibility and evaluation criteria.
- 2.2. Ensure the selection process is transparent, equitable, objective, and consistent with SEAFDEC policies and its regional cooperation mandate.
- 2.3. Assess the technical, operational, institutional, and financial readiness of each applicant with a view to ensuring that the vessel continues to be utilized effectively for fisheries research, human resource development, and fisheries management in Southeast Asia.
- 2.4. Recommend the most suitable Recipient Member Country to the SEAFDEC Council for final approval.

3. Composition of the Selection Committee

The Selection Committee shall be established by the SEAFDEC Training Department and comprises the following members:

Role	Representation
Chairperson and Member	SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Thailand
Vice-Chairperson and Member	SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Japan
Members	National Coordinator from SEAFDEC Member Countries
Secretary	Representative from SEAFDEC Training Department



Note: Any Member Country(s) that has submitted an application for the M.V. SEAFDEC shall not be represented in the Committee to avoid conflicts of interest.

4. Scope of Work and Responsibilities

The Selection Committee shall undertake the following tasks:

- 4.1. Application Review
 - 4.1.1. Review all submitted applications and supporting documents from interested Member Countries.
 - 4.1.2. Verify completeness and compliance of applications against the Application Framework requirements, covering: General Information, Rationale for Request, Technical and Operational Readiness, Utilization Plan, Commitment and Sustainability, and Regional Cooperation.
 - 4.1.3. Assess each applicant's ability to operate and maintain the vessel without commercial or military use.
- 4.2. Technical and Operational Assessment
 - 4.2.1. Evaluate infrastructure availability (port, dock, maintenance facilities, and fuel supply).
 - 4.2.2. Review the availability of qualified crew and research staff.
 - 4.2.3. Assess institutional arrangements for research and training activities.
- 4.3. Sustainability and Commitment Review
 - 4.3.1. Examine the letter of endorsement from the competent authority of the applicant country.
 - 4.3.2. Review the financial commitment to cover operating and maintenance costs.
 - 4.3.3. Verify assurances that the vessel will not be used for commercial or military purposes.
- 4.4. Regional Cooperation Potential
 - 4.4.1. Assess the applicant's willingness to share research results and contribute to SEAFDEC's regional initiatives.
- 4.5. Shortlisting (if applicable)
 - 4.5.1. Develop a shortlist of qualified candidate Member Countries in cases where multiple eligible applications are received.
 - 4.5.2. Request additional information or clarification from applicants where necessary.
 - 4.5.3. Conduct consultations, interviews, or site verifications as required.
- 4.6. Final Selection and Recommendation
 - 4.6.1. Conduct the final evaluation and ranking of candidate Member Countries.
 - 4.6.2. Prepare a ranked recommendation report identifying the selected recipient, including full justification and evaluation summary.
 - 4.6.3. Submit the final selection report to the SEAFDEC Council through the TD Head for approval.
- 4.7. Reporting
 - 4.7.1. Reporting the update including the preliminary result (if any) of the selection process to the 48th Program Committee Meeting (November 2026).
 - 4.7.2. Reporting the most suitable Recipient Member Country to the SEAFDEC Council in the 59th Meeting of the Council.
 - 4.7.3. Coordinate with the SEAFDEC to ensure timely communication of outcomes to all applicant Member Countries.

5. Decision-Making Process

- 5.1. A quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds of the Committee members.
- 5.2. The Committee shall strive for consensus in all decisions.
- 5.3. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be made by simple majority vote. Each member shall have one vote. In the event of a tie after voting, the Chairperson shall exercise a casting vote.
- 5.4. All meetings shall be documented through Minutes of Meeting (MoM), including any dissenting opinions.
- 5.5. The Committee shall adopt a standardized scoring sheet to ensure consistency in evaluation across all applications.

- 5.6. The evaluation process shall be fully documented to ensure transparency and accountability.
- 5.7. Confidentiality of all submitted applications must be maintained throughout the process.

6. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

- 6.1. Any Member Country that has submitted an application for the M.V. SEAFDEC shall not be represented in the Committee to avoid conflicts of interest.
- 6.2. Any member with a direct or indirect interest in an applicant country shall recuse themselves from related deliberations and voting.
- 6.3. Application documents shall be treated as confidential and used solely for evaluation purposes.

7. Deliverables

The Selection Committee shall produce the following outputs:

- 7.1. Completed evaluation report for each applicant Member Country.
- 7.2. Shortlist of qualified candidate Member Countries (if applicable).
- 7.3. Final Selection Report, including:
 - 7.3.1. Recommended Recipient Member Country and full justification.
 - 7.3.2. Evaluation summary and ranking.
- 7.4. Formal presentation of the selection results to the SEAFDEC Council.
- 7.5. Minutes of Meeting for all Committee sessions.

8. Secretary Support

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) shall serve as the Secretary to the Selection Committee and shall:

- 8.1. Organize and schedule Committee meetings (physical or virtual).
- 8.2. Compile, distribute, and manage application documents and supporting materials.
- 8.3. Provide technical information on the M.V. SEAFDEC (maintenance history, operational manuals, survey reports) as needed.
- 8.4. Record and distribute Minutes of Meeting.
- 8.5. Provide technical and administrative support throughout the selection process.
- 8.6. Facilitate communication between the Committee and Applicants Member Countries.

9. Duration and Dissolution

The mandate of the Selection Committee shall remain valid until one of the following conditions is met:

- 9.1. The SEAFDEC Council approves the Recipient Member Country and official communication is made to all applicant countries; or
- 9.2. The selection process is formally concluded or extended as per Council guidance; or
- 9.3. All post-selection clarifications required by the Council are completed.

10. Approval

Terms of Reference shall be endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council prior to implementation. Any amendments to these TOR shall require Council approval.

**Drafted Evaluation Criteria**

The Selection Committee shall finalize and apply the criteria established under the approved Framework for the Selection of the Recipient Member Country, including but not limited to:

1. Eligibility Requirements (Pass/Fail)

Before scored evaluation, applicants must satisfy all of the following eligibility conditions. Failure to meet any one condition shall render the application ineligible for further review.

Eligibility Condition	Status	Remarks
1. The applicant is a SEAFDEC Member Country or an eligible institution (fisheries authority, national government agency, university, or research institute) within a Member Country.	Pass / Fail	
2. The applicant demonstrates the capacity to operate and maintain the Vessel including the budget to operate and maintain the Vessel.	Pass / Fail	
3. The applicant commits that the Vessel will not be used for commercial or military purposes.	Pass / Fail	
4. A complete application has been submitted with all required sections (General Information, Rationale, Technical Readiness, Utilization Plan, Commitment, Regional Cooperation).	Pass / Fail	
5. An official Letter of Endorsement from the competent authority has been provided.	Pass / Fail	

2. Scored Evaluation Criteria

Applications that pass all eligibility requirements shall be evaluated using the following scored criteria. The maximum total score is 100 points. The Selection Committee shall score each criterion independently, and scores shall be aggregated to produce a final ranking.

Criterion	Sub-criteria / Evidence Required	Max. Score	Score Awarded
1. RATIONALE FOR REQUEST			
1.1. National Importance	1. Clear demonstration of how the Vessel supports national fisheries development and food security 2. Evidence of existing fisheries research or training gaps that the Vessel would address 3. Alignment with national fisheries policies or development plans		
1.2. Institutional Need	1. Documented challenges in fisheries resources management or marine research 2. Explanation of why current resources are insufficient 3. Previous support received from SEAFDEC (demonstrates engagement)		
Sub-total — Rationale		(15)	

Criterion	Sub-criteria / Evidence Required	Max. Score	Score Awarded
2. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY			
2.1. Organizational Profile	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandate and functions clearly aligned with fisheries research and training 2. Established organizational structure with dedicated fisheries/research division 3. Track record of managing research or training programs 		
2.2. Human Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adequate number of technical personnel (navigators, marine engineers, researchers) 2. Evidence of qualified crew available for vessel operation 3. Availability of scientific staff to conduct research or training 		
2.3. Existing Fleet / Experience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of research and training vessels currently in operation 2. Experience in managing and operating research/training vessels 3. History of vessel-based fisheries surveys or training programs 		
Sub-total — Rationale		(20)	
3. TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL READINESS			
3.1. Port & Dock Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Availability of suitable port and docking facilities 2. Access to dry-dock or maintenance yard for vessel upkeep 3. Proximity of facilities to primary area of vessel operations 		
3.2. Maintenance & Fuel Supply	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to maintenance services (mechanical, electrical, hull) 2. Reliable fuel supply chain at or near the operating port 3. Established maintenance schedule or institutional SOP for vessel upkeep 		
3.3. Research & Training Facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Availability of onboard or shore-based laboratory/research facilities 2. Institutional arrangements for conducting research and training activities 3. Partnerships with universities, research institutes, or SEAFDEC departments 		
Sub-total — Rationale		(20)	
4. UTILIZATION PLAN			
4.1. Clarity of Intended Use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific and realistic description of activities (e.g., stock assessments, surveys, training cruises) 2. Alignment of planned activities with SEAFDEC’s regional research priorities 3. Evidence that planned activities cannot be effectively conducted without the Vessel 		



Criterion	Sub-criteria / Evidence Required	Max. Score	Score Awarded
4.2. Three-Year Activity Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detailed and credible outline of activities for the first three (3) years 2. Annual targets with measurable indicators (number of surveys, trainees, outputs) 3. Realistic and achievable plan based on available resources 		
Sub-total — Rationale		(15)	
5. UTILIZATION PLAN			
5.1. Financial Capacity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidence of budget allocation or funding source for operating and maintenance costs 2. Demonstration of institutional financial sustainability 3. Absence of unresolved financial obligations related to previous SEAFDEC grants 		
5.2. Institutional Commitment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Official Letter of Endorsement from the highest competent authority 2. Explicit confirmation that the Vessel will not be used for commercial or military purposes 3. Government or institutional policy supporting long-term fisheries research 		
Sub-total — Rationale		(20)	
6. REGIONAL COOPERATION			
6.1. Commitment to Regional Cooperation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Willingness to share research data and results under SEAFDEC regional programs 2. History of participation in SEAFDEC initiatives, meetings, and joint activities 3. Commitment to make vessel available for SEAFDEC joint research or training activities 		
Sub-total — Rationale		(10)	
Grand Total		100	



**Report on the Basic Survey
for the Introduction of Replacement Vessel for Southeast Asia**

Contents

	Page
1. Introduction/Background	2
2. Objective	3
3. Methods	3
4. Expected Output	4
5. Report on the Basic Survey for the Introduction of Replacement Vessel for Southeast Asia	4
6. Fishing gear and Methods required by SEAFDEC Member Countries	14
7. High-priority research and training contents	18
8. Specifications required of replacement vessel for Southeast Asia	20
9. Design Outline of the New MV SEAFDEC by Fisheries Engineering Co., Ltd.	30
10. General Arrangement Plan of SEAFDEC Vessel	44

Report prepared by

SEAFDEC Training Department and Fisheries Engineering Co., Ltd

March 2026



**Report on the Basic Survey
for the Introduction of Replacement Vessel for Southeast Asia
SEAFDEC Training Department and Fisheries Engineering Co., Ltd
March 2026**

1. Introduction/Background

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an autonomous intergovernmental organization established on 28 December 1967 following the agreement reached at the Second Ministerial Conference for Economic Development of Southeast Asia held in Manila, Philippines, in April 1967. SEAFDEC was created to promote the development of fisheries in Southeast Asia through the rational utilization of fisheries resources, contributing to regional food security. Its activities focus on the transfer of appropriate technologies, research, training, and information dissemination to strengthen sustainable fisheries development in the region.

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) was established in 1968 and is hosted by the Government of Thailand. The Department is located in Samut Prakan Province and serves as a regional center for fisheries training, research, and technology transfer. Initially, TD focused on developing modern fishing technologies and strengthening human resources for marine capture fisheries in Southeast Asia. Over time, in response to changes in fisheries resources and environmental conditions, TD has expanded its focus to include sustainable coastal fisheries management, responsible fishing practices, and the promotion of offshore fisheries development. These efforts aim to ensure sustainable resource utilization, reduce fishing pressure in coastal areas, and support the livelihoods of coastal communities in SEAFDEC Member Countries.

To support its research and training programs, SEAFDEC/TD has operated research and training vessels for fisheries resource surveys, marine environmental monitoring, and capacity development to SEAFDEC Member Countries. The research vessel M.V. SEAFDEC was donated by the Government of Japan in 1993 and has been used extensively for regional training programs and fisheries resource surveys. However, after more than 30 years of operation, the vessel has reached the stage where maintenance costs are significantly increasing. Technical limitations have also emerged, including outdated research equipment and sampling gear. In addition, the vessel's hull size (1,178 GT) is not well suited for coastal resource surveys, which have become increasingly important for fisheries management in the region. The vessel also faces operational challenges due to aging infrastructure and difficulties in procuring spare parts that are no longer manufactured.

Another vessel, M.V. SEAFDEC 2, which has been granted ed by the Government of Japan in 2004, has exceeded 20 years of service. Although the vessel continues to play an important role in supporting fisheries research and training activities in the region, the aging condition of the vessel highlights the growing need for long-term planning regarding research and training vessel capacity within SEAFDEC.

Concerns regarding the future utilization and maintenance burden of M.V. SEAFDEC have been raised during several meetings of SEAFDEC governing bodies. At the 45th and 46th Meetings of the Program Committee, the Japanese delegate expressed concerns regarding the aging vessel and encouraged SEAFDEC/TD to consider appropriate measures for its future management. At the 55th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Council Director for Japan reiterated concerns regarding the financial burden associated with maintaining aging research vessels. In response, SEAFDEC/TD prepared a report on the prospective use of its research and training vessels and the trends in operational budgets for submission to the Council.

Subsequently, at the 57th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Council acknowledged the disposal plan for M.V. SEAFDEC and encouraged SEAFDEC/TD to consider the procurement of a new research and training vessel that would better meet the needs of the Southeast Asian region. During the meeting, the Council Director for Japan informed that the Fisheries Agency of Japan had conducted internal consultations regarding possible support. Although direct financial assistance for constructing a new vessel may be constrained by current budgetary conditions and grant aid policies, Japan indicated its willingness to support a consultancy study to conduct a basic survey on the possible development of a replacement vessel.

With the support of the Fisheries Agency of Japan, SEAFDEC/TD conducted the *Discussion and Interview Regarding the Introduction of a Replacement Vessel for M.V. SEAFDEC* from 14–17 October 2025. The objective of this survey was to identify key issues related to the construction of a replacement vessel and to gather technical inputs on the optimal design and functions required for a future research and training vessel.

The findings from this survey highlight the continued importance of a dedicated research and training vessel to support fisheries resource surveys, marine environmental monitoring, and regional capacity development programs in Southeast Asia. In this regard, it is recommended that SEAFDEC/TD and Member Countries explore potential options for the development of a new vessel. These options may include identifying alternative funding sources, establishing partnerships with development agencies, or developing cost-sharing mechanisms among SEAFDEC Member Countries to ensure the sustainable implementation of research and training activities in the future.

The development of a modern research and training vessel would significantly strengthen SEAFDEC's capacity to support SEAFDEC Member Countries on the fisheries research, promote sustainable fisheries management, and enhance regional human resource development, thereby contributing to long-term food security and sustainable fisheries in Southeast Asia.

2. Objective

To identify various issues related to Operation of SEAFDEC Research Vessel.

To conduct basic survey for the introduction on the replacement training and research vessel for Southeast Asia.

3. Methods

- 1) Review of the secondary data from the SEAFDEC Publications i.e. Working paper in the 56th Council Meeting, Standard Operating Procedure of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and Basic Design Study Report on the Project for Construction of a Fisheries Research & Training Vessel (M.V. SEAFDEC 2)
- 2) Primary data collection by methods as follows:
 1. Semi-structure interviews with SEAFDEC staff both technical and policy officers,
 2. Direct observation M.V. SEAFDEC, and
 3. Focus group discussions on the arrangement and design of research and training vessel.

4. Expected Output

Draft Basic Survey Plan for the Introduction of SEAFDEC Replacement Vessel.

5. Report on the Basic Survey for the Introduction of Replacement Vessel for Southeast Asia¹

1. M.V. SEAFDEC

1.1 Current Status of the Vessel

Overall current situation is able to operate according to the requests for SEAFDEC Member Countries or agencies. However, the list of poor conditions as follows.

¹ Reference

1. 56CM_Agenda9.4.1 Prospective Use of M.V. SEAFDEC.pdf
2. 56CM_Agenda9.4.2 Prospective Use of M.V. SEAFDEC2.pdf
3. 56CM_WP09.4.1 MV SEAFDEC 25 Apr 2024.pdf
4. 56CM_WP09.4.2 MV SEAFDEC2.pdf
5. 57CM_WP09.3_Disposal of M.V. SEAFDEC
6. Chart as Admin Order 30 Apr 2025 plus JTF staff
7. JICA. 2003. Basic Design Study Report on the Project for Construction of a Fisheries Research & Training Vessel for the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC). Japan International Cooperation Agency, Japan.
8. SEAFDEC. 2004. Standard Operating Procedures for M.V. SEAFDEC2 (Revised Edition). SEAFDEC Training Department, Phrasamutchedi, Samut-Prakarn, 10290, Thailand.



1.1.1 Structural and Safety Deficiencies

1. Deck Steel Plate Corrosion:

This is the most pressing issue, as it represents a fundamental structural weakness. It directly compromises the deck's load capacity, creating a high risk of equipment failure and crew injury during operations. Since temporary fixes such as patch welding are no longer effective, a complete and costly structural rebuild is required.

2. Water Pipeline Corrosion:

Leaks in both freshwater and seawater pipelines are a major problem. They lead to a loss of essential resources, and, more critically, the risk of contamination of the freshwater supply, posing a significant health hazard.

3. Electrical Grounding System Issues:

An unreliable grounding system is an extreme safety risk. It can cause dangerous electrical faults, leading to potential fires, equipment damage, or even electrical shock for the crew.

4. Operational and Functional Failures

5. Water Osmosis System:

The desalination plant is non-functional; membrane filters remain usable, but the vessel must rely on external water sources.

6. Navigation Electronic System:

The vessel's navigation electronic system is operational but unstable due to issues with the junction box and grounding of the electrical lines.

7. Fishing Aid Equipment:

The vessel's fishing aid equipment is compromised due to the failure of the radio buoy system (both GPS buoy and Direction buoy), SONAR, and (paper) echo sounder used for fishing operations, which hindrance to operate purse seine fishing operation.

8. Weather Data Collection Equipment Malfunction:

The vessel's weather data collection equipment malfunctions, including sensors for humidity, seawater and air temperature.

9. Deteriorated Electronic Circuit Boards:

The deterioration of the vessel's electronic equipment leads to unreliable performance and frequent malfunctions. This is a major underlying reason why many other systems, including navigation and fishing aids, are non-operational, indicating an overall state of disrepair in the vessel's electronics. (Case Study of the trouble of Control Pitch Propeller)

10. Fish Freezing System Malfunction:

The vessel's fish freezing system is malfunctioning, preventing proper preservation of fish and samples. (Air blast and brine tank failure)

1.1.2 Maintenance and Documentation Problems

1. Maintenance Difficulties:

The reliance on frequent, temporary repairs that fail to restore structural integrity indicates a fundamental flaw in the maintenance approach. The vessel is in a state of corrective maintenance (fixing problems after they occur) rather than preventive maintenance (preventing problems from happening), which is a costly and ineffective strategy.

2. Unreliable Electrical Blueprints (CPP Case):

Inaccurate schematics and documentation for the electrical system make it extremely difficult to troubleshoot and repair issues correctly. This poses a significant logistical challenge, increasing the time and cost of all electrical work and complicating efforts to address grounding issues and deteriorated circuit boards.

3. Outdated Scientific Data Collection Equipment:

Some scientific data collection equipment, such as the scientific echo sounder, is outdated and the scientific staff are not trained to use it, reducing the accuracy and reliability of collected research data. All scientific and oceanographic equipment is portable from Research Division.

1.2 Detailed history and background leading to the decision to decommission, especially operational technical problems

From the beginning of TD, the first vessel acquired was M.V. Paknam, a 386-ton stern trawler-type survey/training vessel granted by the Government of Japan in 1969. M.V. Paknam served as a training vessel for developing human resources and promoting modern fishing technologies and marine engineering. During the 1970s, to promote the exploitation of offshore fisheries resources in particular skipjack tuna and other species in the fishing ground of international waters and offshore waters within the EEZs of SEAFDEC Member Countries. The second vessel, M.V. Platoo, was donated from the Government of Japan to TD in 1980 to conduct coastal training and research in Southeast Asia. M.V. SEAFDEC was built as a replacement for M.V. PAKNAM, granted by the Government of Japan in 1993.

During the 2000s' the fishery resources and the marine environment have been massively pressured not only by increases in population and fishing capacities but also by irresponsible fishing. Thus, to maintain a stable supply of fish and marine products in the ASEAN region while also maintaining sustainable fisheries, efforts must be directed to sustainable resource utilization and environmental protection. Implementation of marine fisheries resource and environmental research over the broad expansion of the ASEAN region will enable SEAFDEC Member Countries to obtain a good understanding to utilize marine fisheries resources in their waters and to formulate a research and training plan to develop the capacity of the local fishers adequately on the utilization of marine fisheries resources through two training and research vessels, namely 1) M.V. SEAFDEC and 2) M.V. SEAFDEC 2.

At the 45th Meeting of the Program Committee, a Japanese delegate expressed his concern about the M.V. SEAFDEC that was granted by the Government of Japan to SEAFDEC more than thirty years ago and that if SEAFDEC finds that the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC is difficult or creates negative impacts on SEAFDEC activities, SEAFDEC may need to consider appropriate handling of this research vessel. His concern was reiterated in the 46th Meeting of the Program Committee that the maintenance of the M.V. SEAFDEC, which was constructed more than 30 years ago, could be a burden for TD. He therefore urged SEAFDEC to consider the future utilization of the vessel and what would SEAFDEC need to do with the vessel in the future.

At the 55th Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC, the Council Director for Japan expressed concern about the Government of Japan for the financial support to maintain the SEAFDEC research vessels. To respond to recommendation of the Councils, SEAFDEC prepares the Prospective Use of the Research and Training Vessels of the Training Department and the Trend of Use the Budget for M.V. SEAFDEC to report to the 56th Councils to seek consideration and direction guidance from the Councils to improve our efficiency to support fisheries resources and environmental research survey for SEAFDEC Members Countries.

Referring to the working document preparation for the 56th Council, TD considered the present issues of the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC, as follows.

1.2.1 Operational issues

1. Large scale purse seine is strictly restricted by RFMO compared to the last two decades that made SEAFDEC/TD and Member Countries difficult to design for training and research program to promote tuna fisheries offshore of MCs' EEZ and high seas by using M.V. SEAFDEC.



2. M.V. SEAFDEC must operate specific Oceanographic surveys only on the Starboard side. Can not operate both sides to save operation time. M.V. SEAFDEC is difficult to operate the towing gear and instrument such as bongo net, neuston net, and etc. But it can be trawl by altering the position and the direction of sling boom.
3. Difficult to control the survey position and direction when the vessel uses at low speed.
4. Accessibility to the research vessels, promote and improve to be available for other governmental sectors or private sectors (as long as benefits belong to national and/or regional level)
5. Limit of satellite internet communication during shipboard survey
6. Limit of vessel monitoring system or real time monitoring camera system.
7. M.V. SEAFDEC for her maintenance cost fee too high because of the deterioration with her age.
8. M.V. SEAFDEC for her high fuel expenditure and operational cost make AMS difficult to design the periodical and continuous surveys.
9. M.V. SEAFDEC for her high fuel fee and operational costs from TD to distant research areas such as the Philippines, Indonesia hesitate AMS to requested.

1.2.2 Policy issues

1. The purpose of M.V. SEAFDEC is to replace M.V. Pakam that had served as training vessel for the region for more than 20 years, since 1970s. In addition, M.V. SEAFDEC specifically constructed for promotion of the modern fishing technology to utilize the pelagic fisheries resources in the international waters and offshore fisheries resource surveys, in particular skipjack and tuna resources.

2. Considering the trend of fisheries situation since 2000s' that the fisheries production is gradually declining, fisheries direction aims to promote sustainable fisheries resource utilization and environmental protection. SEAFDEC research and training programs are intended to disseminate appropriate technology for utilizing fishery resources through the assessment of fishery resources and development of human resources in its member countries. With that M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was constructed in 2004 with objectives to implement fisheries research and fishery training programs in coastal waters off Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Based on these activities for these countries, it is expected that there will be an expansion in resource survey areas, increase in the number of research days devoted to coastal fishery stocks, increase in the number of sailing days for fishery training, and increase in the number of trainees accommodated from these countries.

3. Refer to the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC during the past 10 years, Charter cruises are supported to non-fisheries agencies *i.e.* National Disaster Warning Center and Department of Marine Coastal Resources of Thailand. SEAFDEC Training Department identifies the major operational hindrances of M.V. SEAFDEC to support SEAFDEC Member Countries including;

a) M.V. SEAFDEC designs for tuna purse seining that are difficult to operate the towing gear and instrument such as trawl net, plankton net, neuston net. Oceanographic surveys are conducted only on the starboard side so that the survey cannot save the operation time. To support fisheries resources survey, trawling is always operated for collecting catch samples for abundance and composition research study. M.V. SEAFDEC, however, is not designed for towing such gears from the stern deck.

b) Due to restrictions management by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations compared to previous 2000's, it is less priority to promote skipjack and tuna fisheries or tuna resource survey in offshore and high seas at present.

Considering the limited capacity of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to efficient implement fisheries research and fishery training programs in offshore area, the operation on M.V. SEAFDEC is essential to support Member Countries to implement offshore fisheries resource and marine research survey in Southeast Asia region. However, with the vessel designed that does not support the fisheries resource survey in particular demersal resources and small pelagic fisheries resources, SEAFDEC propose the consideration to put M.V. SEAFDEC out of commission and replace with a new research vessel that suitable for offshore fisheries resources and marine environmental survey and training program for fisheries officers or researchers in Southeast Asia.

The SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) is preparing to acquire a new research vessel to replace the aging M.V. SEAFDEC, which has served the region for over 30 years. As fisheries research and management challenges in Southeast Asia grow increasingly complex, the new vessel will play a critical role in advancing SEAFDEC's mission to promote sustainable fisheries and support scientific research and capacity-building efforts.

The new research vessel is designed to address pressing fisheries issues such as climate change, overfishing, and marine biodiversity conservation. Shifting marine ecosystems and fisheries resources in the region call for advanced platforms capable of conducting stock assessments, environmental monitoring, and climate change research. These efforts are essential to securing long-term food security, conserving marine ecosystems, and enhancing regional cooperation in fisheries management.

The vessel will also serve as a hub for regional fisheries studies, supporting scientific research and training programs. It will provide tools for stock assessments of key species, environmental monitoring, and studies on climate change impacts on fisheries and coastal ecosystems. By fostering the next generation of fisheries scientists and managers, the vessel will strengthen regional expertise and cooperation in sustainable fisheries management.

Over the next 20 years, this vessel will be vital to SEAFDEC's ability to respond to emerging fisheries challenges and support effective resource management. The vessel's design and capabilities will align with SEAFDEC's goals to monitor and manage fisheries resources sustainably, enhancing resilience against climate change and environmental degradation.

1.2.3 Financial burdens

To maintain the safety and efficiency of M.V. SEAFDEC in supporting SEAFDEC Member Countries SEAFDEC/TD separates four (4) main expenditure refer to financial report of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 includes 1) Repair and Maintenance Expenditure; 2) Periodic maintenance expenditure; 3) Insurance Expenditure; and 4) Maintenance for Scientific Instruments.

The overall expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC from 2014 to 2023 was 1,724,444.22 USD. The overall maintenance expenditure was found in the years that M.V. SEAFDEC conducted Periodic Maintenance including dry-docking in the years 2017, 2020, and 2022. TD estimated the overall expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC from 2025 to 2028, amounting between 747,945.29 USD and 926,062.94 USD.

a) Repair and Maintenance Expenditure

Repair and maintenance expenditure is the expenditure that is prepared for daily maintenance of the vessels including the annual inspection (or so-called 'annual survey'). The annual inspection is necessary to be conducted to renew the certification as required by the Marine Department of Thailand's regulation and to maintain the vessel readiness to support SEAFDEC Member Countries and other SEAFDEC missions. The total repair and maintenance expenditure from 2014 to 2023 was 668,960.35 USD or 38.8 % of total expenditure. Referring to an interview with the Master of M.V. SEAFDEC, the fluctuation of the repair and maintenance expenditure is associated with the conditions of various sections of the vessel including hull, engines, instruments navigation, fishing, etc. SEAFDEC/TD estimated the repair and maintenance expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC from 2024 to 2028, amounting to 209,500.00 USD

b) Periodic maintenance expenditure

The periodic maintenance expenditure has been prepared to support periodic maintenance of M.V. SEAFDEC including dry-docking for the ship survey/inspection under the relevant regulations required by the Marine Department of Thailand which stipulate that the vessels need to undergo the special check and dry-docking at least twice within 5 years. During 2014–2023, M.V. SEAFDEC conducted four (4) dry-dockings in the years 2015, 2017, 2020, and 2022, respectively. The total periodic maintenance expenditure from 2014 to 2023 was 1,009,779.79 USD or 58.6 % of the total expenditure. The highest periodic maintenance dry-docking expenditure occurred for a special survey in 2022 at 380,411.28 USD. The lowest periodic maintenance dry-docking expenditure for the intermediate survey occurred in 2015 amounting to 92,778.69 USD.



The trend of dry-docking expenditure for the intermediate survey and special surveys that planned to conduct during 2024–2028 is increasing. SEAFDEC estimated the total periodic maintenance expenditure during 2024–2028 as 570,588.24–746,000.00 USD. Referring to the interview with the Master of M.V. SEAFDEC, SEAFDEC/TD considers the high maintenance costs due to its age and outdated research equipment and fisheries resources sampling gear.

c) Insurance Expenditure

Total insurance expenditure from 2014 to 2023 was 45,704.08 USD or 2.6 % of the total expenditure. The trend of insurance expenditure that plans to be conducted during 2024–2028 is estimated within the range between 4,100 to 4,300 USD/Year with total insurance expenditure as 21,010.00 USD.

SEAFDEC/TD summary financial issues is from 2 main categories.

1) The operational expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC is considered a high operational expenditure. The operational expenditure directly affects the affordability of SEAFDEC Member Countries that plan to utilize M.V. SEAFDEC. SEAFDEC/TD considers that the gradually reducing utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC is caused by the fuel cost and the high fuel consumption of the vessel. The information from the Ship and Fleet Section of TD reveals that the estimated fuel consumption of the main engine and electric generators of M.V. SEAFDEC is 11,000 liters/24 hours (estimated expense 900–950 USD/24 hour). The high fuel cost together with the large consumption rate causes the overall operational expenditure to be high. As a result, SEAFDEC Member Countries confront the financial difficulties of planning the cruise surveys by using M.V. SEAFDEC. In addition, the navigation from SEAFDEC/TD located in Thailand to the distant research areas of SEAFDEC Member Countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, and Myanmar consumes large volumes of fuel that leads to massive costs of the overall expenditures.

2) The maintenance expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC directly affects the management of SEAFDEC vessels. The number of service years of M.V. SEAFDEC is the major hindrance to vessel maintenance. During the past ten (10) years, from 2014 to 2023, the total expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC was 1,724,444.22 USD. The estimation of the total expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC is between 801,098.24 - 976,510.00 USD to support the overall maintenance cost of M.V. SEAFDEC from 2024 to 2028. Referring to the interview with the Master of M.V. SEAFDEC, the high maintenance costs are due to her age and outdated research equipment and fisheries resources sampling gear. Furthermore, the spare parts of the main engine, auxiliary engine, navigation equipment, or specific parts, etc., have been out of supply or unavailable due to their product discontinuation. In general, these engine and navigation spare part manufacturing companies produce the spare parts for around 20 years before they cease production. Hence, the deterioration of M.V. SEAFDEC age is directly related to the overall maintenance cost that has increased annually since 1993.

1.3 Past operational details

Since 1993, M.V. SEAFDEC has been utilized for 2,601 days: 729 days for training, 1,427 days for research surveys, 324 days for charter, and 121 days for other purposes.

Four (4) main agencies which include the SEAFDEC Training Department, the Department of Coastal Marine and Resources, Thailand (DMCR), the Department of Fisheries, Thailand, and the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), Thailand utilized the M.V. SEAFDEC.

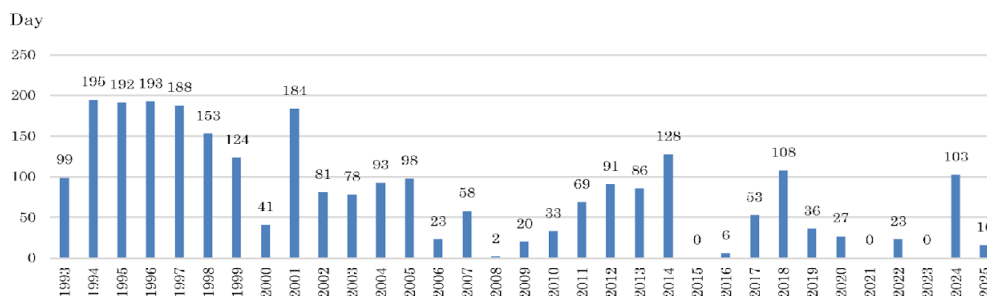


Figure 1. Number of Service Days of M.V. SEAFDEC from 1993 to 2025 (2,601 days)

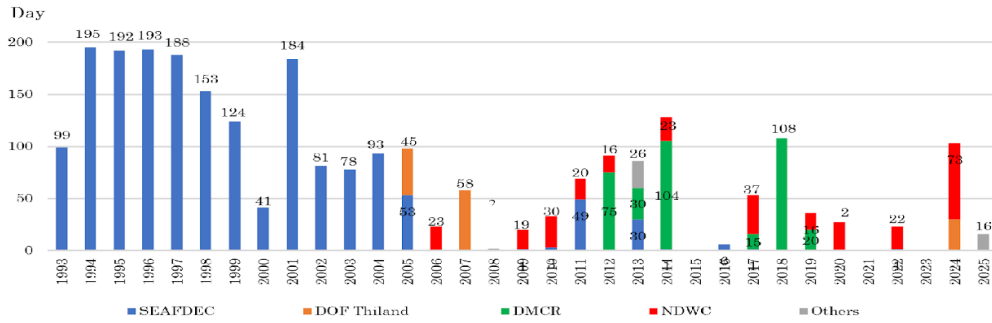


Figure 2. Number of Service Days of M.V. SEAFDEC from 1993 to 2025 separated by agencies

During 2014 to 2025, the vessel was most utilized by Government of Thailand, *i.e.* Department of Coastal Marine and Resources (247 days) and the National Disaster Warning Center of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of Thailand (198 days) and Department of Fisheries (30 days). Oncoming year 2026, Thailand by DOF, DMCR and JAMSTEC of Japan has contacted to TD for fisheries or oceanographic surveys by M.V. SEAFDEC in 2026. Expected 90 days will be operated in 2026.

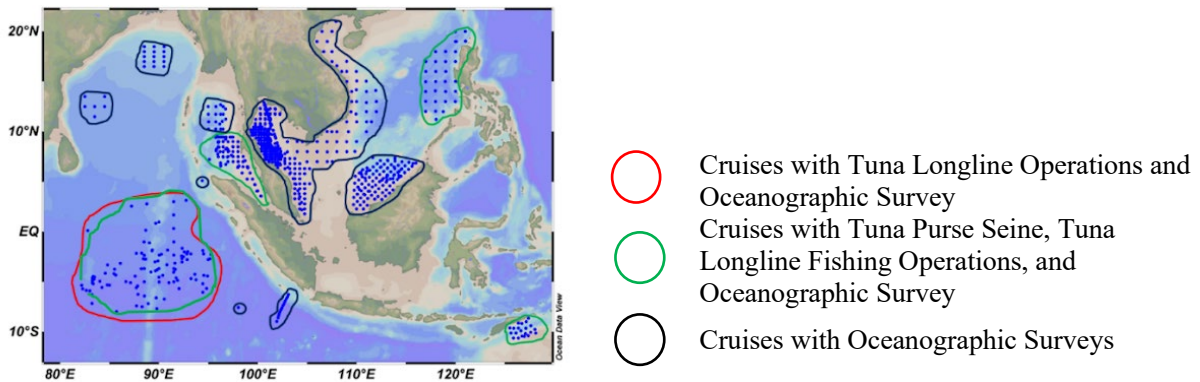


Figure 3. Stations of Survey and Fishing Cruises of M.V. SEAFDEC from 1993 to 2024

2. M.V. SEAFDEC 2

2.1 Current Status of the Vessel

In 2002, the Government of Japan approved the construction of a research and training vessel, namely “M.V. SEAFDEC 2,” along with the procurement of the requisite fishing gear, fishing deck machinery, and survey equipment. This vessel is designed to conduct fishery resource and oceanographic research surveys, shipboard training on related topics such as fishing technology, marine engineering and marine environmental issues in SEAFDEC Member Countries. M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has been engaged in the survey under the Japan’s Grant Aid Scheme for Eligible Countries since 2004. To achieve these activities and to ensure the benefit of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 given to SEAFDEC Member Countries, Eligible countries and operational committee was established to consider the utilization and plan of the cruise of M.V. SEAFDEC 2. SEAFDEC reported in the Due to budget constraints in 2006 the meeting of Eligible Countries and Operation Committee is ceased, however utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the national fisheries resources program requested by member countries are maintained. In 2007, funding support to the operation of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was mainly from the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) and the cost-shared policy on the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2. The proposed operation plan for the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 will be endorsed at the annual SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting.

M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is the research and training vessel having 211 gross tonnages (international) of 32.5 m long and 7.2 m wide. The accommodation space of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is available for 37 persons, including 15 crew members and 22 researchers/trainees onboard.



The main fishing gear are trawl (bottom and pelagic), longline, squid jigging, and drift gill net. The vessel is also equipped with new technologies of oceanographic instruments, navigation, and marine electronic equipment. This vessel will be utilized to implement fisheries research and fishery training program in the coastal waters of SEAFDEC Member Countries as requested.

The status of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has been in normal operation for member countries throughout its more than two decades of service. (referred to the condition of the after-cruise service for surveys in Brunei Darussalam waters, in 2024).

Although the main engine and navigation systems have been refreshed and a new model of acoustic instrument (Simrad EK-80) installed, the overall vessel efficiency has declined, and the maintenance is facing costly and higher costs time to time. This is coupled with the limited and difficult procurement of maintenance for equipment and spare parts to maintain operational readiness and safety, including prompt inspections for ship licensing/certificate, as the equipment is no longer produced by the manufacturer.

2.2 Detailed history and background leading to the decision to decommission, especially operational technical problems

2.2.1 Technical problems

The technical and facilities onboard as the issues are directly impacted to the operation and affected SEAFDEC Member Countries that plan to utilize M.V. SEAFDEC 2.

- 1) Limited sea margin. (Vessel size)
- 2) Limited sea ability (Limit operation during moderate sea and bad weather condition)
- 3) Limited working days at sea (not more than 7–10 Days)
- 4) Limited number of crew and researchers.
- 5) Limited capability to operate large-scale fisheries resource survey.
- 6) M.V. SEAFDEC 2 cannot be operating with large-scale Oceanographic equipment.
- 7) Wet laboratory is not convenient for conduct sample processing after sampling.
- 8) Limited capability to operate large-scale fisheries resource survey (cont.)
- 9) Dry laboratories and Acoustic laboratory are too narrow space.
- 10) Acoustic laboratories are not convenience to continue monitor and control acoustic system survey for longtime.
- 11) Freezing room system is not convenient for long cruise research with a lot of fish samples.
- 12) Limited comfort factors
- 13) Service aged 20 years old (High maintenance cost due to the service year of both research vessels)

2.2.2 Financial burdens

To maintain the safety and efficiency of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in supporting SEAFDEC Member Countries, SEAFDEC/TD reported to the Councils in the 56 Council Meeting in 2024. SEAFDEC/TD separates four (4) main expenditure refer to financial report of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 includes 1) Repair and Maintenance Expenditure; 2) Periodic maintenance expenditure; 3) Insurance Expenditure; and 4) Maintenance for Scientific Instruments.

The overall expenditure of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 during the past ten (10) years from 2014 to 2023 was 1,450,803.02 USD. The estimated budget in 2024 is 461,407.00 USD. The trend of the overall expenditure that plans to be conducted during 2025–2029 is increasing. Estimated overall expenditure during 2025–2029 would be 1,067,437.10 USD

a) Repair and maintenance expenditure

Repair and maintenance is the expenditure prepared for annual maintenance of the vessels that include the annual inspection (or so-called annual survey) to renew the certification as required by the Marine Department of Thailand and to maintain the vessel's readiness to support SEAFDEC Member Countries and other SEAFDEC missions.

Total repair and maintenance expenditure during 2014–2023 was 446,396.83 USD. The repair and maintenance expenditure fluctuates during 2014–2020 but tends to increase after the year 2021. Referring to the interview with the Master of M.V. SEAFDEC 2, it is difficult to estimate the repair and maintenance expenditure because it depends on the condition of various sections of the vessel, however, the age of the vessel will certainly increase the repair and maintenance expenditure. SEAFDEC/TD estimates the total repair and maintenance expenditure during 2025–2029, to be 417,000.00 USD

b) Periodic maintenance expenditure

This expenditure has been prepared to support periodic maintenance of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 that includes dry-docking for the ship survey/inspection under the relevant regulations required by the Marine Department of Thailand which stipulate that the vessels need to undergo the special check and dry-docking at least twice within a 5 year-period.

Total expenditure for periodic maintenance with dry-docking from 2014 to 2024 is 917,697.00 USD. The lowest periodic maintenance expenditure, 15,234.00 USD, was spent for installation of the hydroacoustic instrument SIMRAD EK80 in the year 2021. In case of the periodic maintenance with dry-docking for ship survey/inspection, the lowest expenditure of periodic maintenance was in 2014 at 69,044.00 USD. The highest expenditure of periodic maintenance is 369,058.00 USD, to spend in the year 2024.

The trend of dry-docking expenditure for the intermediate survey and special survey that plans to be conducted during 2025–2029 is increasing. SEAFDEC estimates the total periodic maintenance expenditure during 2025–2028 as 542,857.10 USD

c) Insurance expenditure

The total insurance expenditure from 2014 to 2023 is 84,542.00 USD. Insurance expenditure was the highest in the year 2014 (9,859.00 USD) and lowest in the year 2021 (7,266.00 USD). SEAFDEC estimates the total periodic maintenance expenditure during 2025-2029 as 50,640.00 USD.

d) Maintenance for scientific instruments

The periodic maintenance expenditure has been also prepared to support the maintenance or calibration of scientific instruments that need periodic calibration and maintenance by their companies *e.g.* CTD, TSG, and PRR. to maintain and ensure the accuracy of their functions. Total maintenance of the scientific instruments expenditure from 2014 to 2023 is 44,246.00 USD. The trend of insurance expenditure that plans to be conducted during 2024–2028 is increasing. SEAFDEC estimates total maintenance of the scientific instrument expenditure during 2024–2028 as 56,940.00 USD.

SEAFDEC/TD summary financial issues are possible to increase by the maintenance expenses for M.V. SEAFDEC 2. It is necessary to appropriately increase the reserved budget of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 since 2025.

2.2.3 Past and Future operational plans

Since 2004, M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has supported SEAFDEC Member Countries in conducting shipboard operations in Southeast Asia, accumulating a total of 1,651 service days across 71 cruises. The vessel was primarily used for research cruises, which accounted for 87.78 % of its total utilization, followed by training cruises (7.92 %), charter cruises (3.57 %), and other activities (0.73 %). The number of service days and the utilization percentage by country for M.V. SEAFDEC 2 since 2004 are presented in Table.

The number of service days per year has ranged from 3 to 204 days, with the lowest utilization recorded at 3 days in 2021 and the highest at 204 days in 2002. The annual service days are illustrated in Fig. 2. Notably, the vessel's operational days were significantly reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022. On average, M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has been operational for 82.56 days per year. Thailand, Malaysia, and Brunei were the top three countries where M.V. SEAFDEC 2 conducted operations, representing 62.4 % of the vessel's total utilization by country.

The total number of utilization days of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 from 2004 to 2025 is 1,717 days.

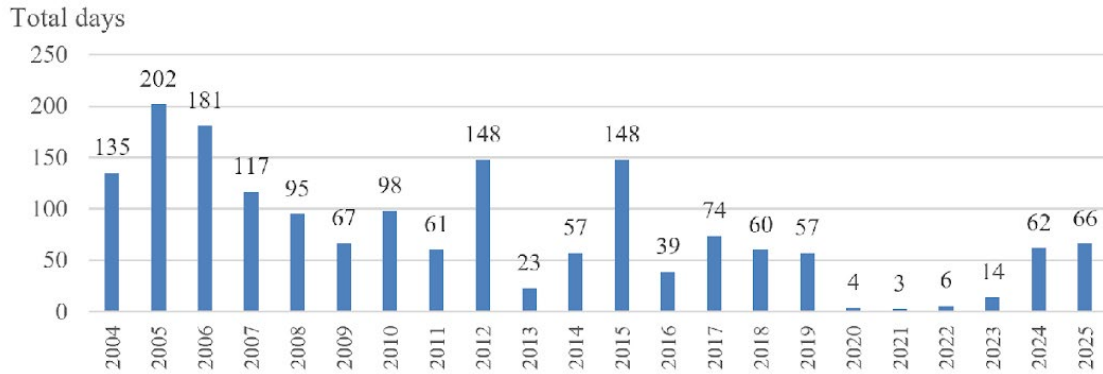


Figure 4. Number of Service Days of M.V. SEAFDEC from 2004 to 2025 (1,717 days)

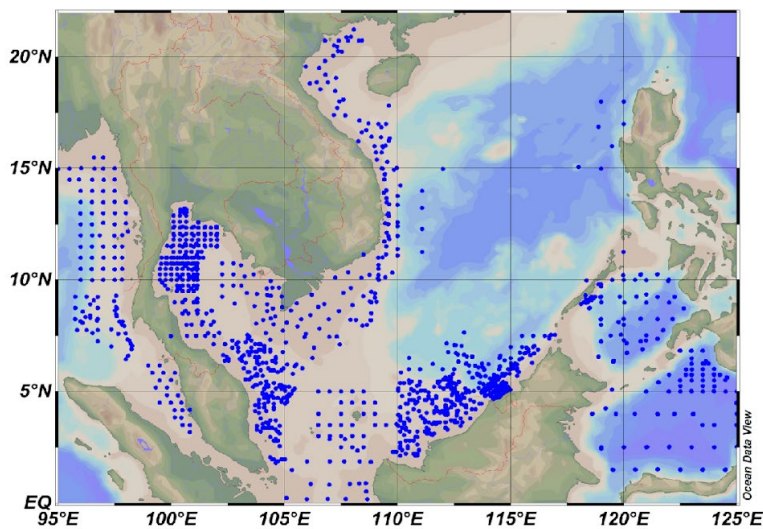


Figure 5. Stations of Fisheries Research Survey by M.V. SEAFDEC 2 from 2004 to 2024

6. Fishing gear and Methods required by SEAFDEC Member Countries

SEAFDEC reviewed the Questionnaire on the Utilization of SEAFDEC Research Vessels and Plan of National Fisheries Resource Research Survey of SEAFDEC Member Countries during 2025–2029 that SEAFDEC/TD sent to Member Countries in early 2024, six (6) of ten (10) SEAFDEC Member Countries have national plans to conduct the fisheries resource and oceanographic research survey in their waters during 2025–2029. There is not any specific fishing gear identify in the Questionnaire. The information appeals that fishing gear for pelagic fisheries resources survey and demersal fisheries resources survey is required by SEAFDEC Member Countries. For the training for fisheries officers of SEAFDEC Member Countries, Bottom Trawl, Midwater Trawl (Pelagic Trawl), Bottom Longline, Pot/Trap are top 4 fishing gear types and followed by Tuna Longline (Bottom Longline). Details of 7 Fishing Gear types are described as follows.

6.1 Bottom Trawl

A trawl net, which is operated by dragging or towing the flexible net through the water by fishing craft. In particular, a pair of otter boards operates from the stern of the vessel. Bottom trawl is operated by drawing the net along the seabed to scoop up fish on or near the bottom, depending on manner in which the gear is constructed and rigged, its operating characteristic can be altered for use on various types of bottoms and for many species of fish.

1. One set of bottom trawls while interchanging 2 cod-ends with different net mesh sizes will be used.
2. Two (2) ground gear *i.e.* 2.1) Hard bottom seabed, and 2.2) Flat bottom seabed
3. Knotted polyethylene nets to facilitate local sourcing of materials and repair services after the delivery.
4. Net scale will be determined considering net resistance standing for a main engine and towing power.
5. Hydroacoustic sensors (Trawl Monitor) are installed at the head line of trawl net and at the otter boards to measure trawl net depth, distance to the bottom, fish schools passing the net opening, and distance between the otter boards. Measured data are then sent by wireless to the vessel to allow observation of trawl net condition in the bridge so that taking the trawl net mouth right to the fish school. In order to improve the accuracy of catch rate surveys, it is highly desirable to clarify the condition of trawl net deployment. This monitor helps in the development of fishing techniques as well, since, a determination can be made as to how net openings and trawling speed vary, based on changes in currents and vessel speed, after net casting.
6. TV camera is set at the mouth of the trawl net, and a timer is set to start operating when trawl net is cast. The equipment shall be of recording pre-set type, battery driven, suitable for sea depth 100 m.
7. Hybrid otter board that are applicable with midwater trawl and bottom trawl
8. Trawl fishing gear machinery, for use in both bottom and pelagic trawl operations, will require the following equipment.
 - a. Two (2) trawl winches tow two lines of trawl warp. Each winch will be of capacity to wind trawl warp wire of 1,500 m to tow trawl at 400 m deep, *i.e.* warp length = tawing depth x 3 + allowance, and installed at port and starboard sides of the vessel.
 - b. One (1) net drum winch to wind trawl net.
 - c. One set with a capacity to wind either bottom trawl or pelagic trawl net will be provided.
 - d. Two (2) Cod-end net winches for lifting the cod end from the sea to deck. Two sets will be required for alternate use.
 - e. Slipway door to close the stern slipway to prevent accidental falls and to prevent shipping water. Speedy operations are required with an oil hydraulic system.

6.2 Pelagic trawl (Or Midwater Trawl)

A trawl net which are operated by dragging or towing the flexible net through the water by a fishing vessel. In particular, a pair of otter board is operated from the stern of the fishing vessel. Class of Mid-water trawl, to catch pelagic fish in the middle layer (middle layer means the water layer in between the first few meters below the surface and the first few meters above the seabed). Usually, mid-water trawl is carried out on the high sea.

1. One set of pelagic trawls will be employed.
2. Knotted polyethylene nets to facilitate local sourcing of materials and repair services after the delivery.
3. Towing speed will be set at 5 knots, based on the swimming speed of mid-water fish.
4. Net scale will be determined considering net resistance standing for a main engine and towing power.
5. Hybrid otter board that are applicable with midwater trawl and bottom trawl

6.3 Tuna Longline (or Pelagic Longline)

Tuna Longline (or Pelagic Longline) is normally not anchored to the sea bottom but drift freely in the sea. Between the end (marker) buoys, the mainline is suspended in the sea by floats and float lines attached at intervals. Pelagic longline is mainly used in high-sea longline fisheries for pelagic species such as tunas, swordfish and marlin but also used in coastal waters for species such as Spanish mackerel, Sailfish and etc.

1. Number of hooks are 1,000 hooks might be necessary for catching
2. The main line lengths 50 km, hanging 1,000 hooks.
3. Main line reel and branch line reel to completion of line hauling operations.
4. The monofilament line diameter used for main line between 4–5 mm
5. The monofilament line diameter used for branch line is 1.5–2.0 mm



6. At least two (2) radio buoys shall be prepared and attached at the both ends of drifting gillnet, to locate the position of drifting gillnet and its drifting direction and distance.
7. GPS Buoys will be used to observe the deployment of pelagic longline gear in the water. Buoys are attached to both ends as well as the middle of the line. They are used to establish the present position of the long line and to observe how the main line deploys (spreads out) after casting under the influence of such factors as current and wind direction. It is also essential when searching for severed lines en route. Buoys shall be attached with self-calling radio equipment)
8. At least two (2) radar reflector buoys shall be prepared and attached at the both ends of drifting gillnet, to locate the position of drifting gillnet and its drifting direction and distance
 - a. Fishing system patterned is Fiji, Australia Tuna Longliner, with the following equipment to be carried:
 - b. No installation of line hauler for hauling the mainline. But mainline is haul by a mainline spool which hauls and storing mainline purpose. One set of Mainline spool contain 60 km will be installed in the stern working deck. Mainline spool can
 - c. Buoy line reel is a winch to haul buoy line and driven by hydraulic oil. In the longline operation aiming at big-eye tunas, longline is set at deep sea depth therefore buoy line is 50 m or longer and requires power equipment to save manpower and time.
 - d. Branch line reel is installed to wind branch line and driven by hydraulic oil. Branch line is driven by hydraulic oil pipe. One set will be installed in the bow. Branch lines in pelagic longline fishing are over 15 m long, so that a power equipment is required to wind them in a circular pattern.

6.4 Bottom longline (vertical longline)

Bottom longline that SEAFDEC operated is a kind called Bottom Vertical Longline. The mainline is suspended at some distance above the bottom, depending on the length of the branch line. Thus, the main line does not touch the bottom whereas the branch line do. If some obstacle at the bottom catches the branch line, only that particular lines get damaged or lost, without a risk to the rest of the gear. In this type of gear, hooks are places between the sea bottom and the main line so that the fish, which dwell near or at the bottom, are caught.

1. Mainline, 6,250 m, shall contain 250 branch lines (at least).
2. One branch line shall contain 6–8 hook lines that double length of hook line must equal or less than interval distance of each other in order to avoid entangling.
3. At least 1,500 hooks shall be deployed in an operation.
4. At least two (2) radio buoys shall be prepared and attached at the both ends of drifting gillnet, to locate the position of drifting gillnet and its drifting direction and distance
5. At least two (2) radar reflector buoys shall be prepared and attached at the both ends of drifting gillnet, to locate the position of drifting gillnet and its drifting direction and distance

6.5 Drifting Gillnet

Gillnet and entangling nets, in which the fish are gilled, entangled or enmeshed in the netting, which may be hanging as a single (gillnet), double or triple (trammel) net. The net may be used singly or attached end-to-end in fleet and different netting types and mesh size may be intermixed. The drifting gillnet is the net that drifting freely of attached to the craft and floating at or near surface.

1. Number of net panels should be at least 10 pieces.
2. The total length of net panels is at least 1,000 m, shall be deployed in an operation.
3. Net depth is 8–10 m, at hanging are requested.
4. Mesh size is 100–150 mm, both monofilament or multifilament is required.
5. At least two (2) radio buoys shall be prepared and attached at both ends of drifting gillnet, to locate the position of drifting gillnet and its drifting direction and distance
6. At least two (2) radar reflector buoys shall be prepared and attached at both ends of drifting gillnet, to locate the position of drifting gillnet and its drifting direction and distance
7. Net hauler Winch to haul up sinker rope of drift gill net. One set will be installed in the bow. The diameter and shape of a drift gillnet sinker rope is quite different from longline mainline so that line hauler cannot be used hauling gill net.

8. Net transfer pipe About 350 mm diameter pipe to transfer gill net from the bow to the working area in the stern.
9. Power roller small winch to pull gill net from the end of transfer pipe.
10. Net stowage gillnet will be regularly stowed in a bin formed at stern deck and prepared for net setting operation.

6.6 Deepsea Trap/Pot

Trap/pot is device that aquatic animals can move voluntarily in and out through the opening. Some types of them have non-return device(s) at the entrance. Target species are shrimp and crab. Creatures are enticed into the trap/pot either by bait or because the pot appears to provide some form of comfortable space. Trap/pot could be deployed in single unit or in multi-pieces by attaching each trap/pot with the mainline (longline model).

1. A Mainline at least, shall contain 50 trap/pot and Series of mainline could be deployed in an operation depend on characteristic of fishing ground.
2. The tensile force of the main line must be high, necessitating the use of lines as thick as 22 mm.
3. At least 100 trap/pots shall be deployed in an operation and number of trap/pot shall be constant in every operation during a research cruise.
4. Interval distance shall be 25 or 30 meters. Main rope length of 3,000 m, with 100 crab traps set 30 m intervals, together with another 100 traps.
5. Interval distance shall be constant in every operation.
6. At least two (2) radio buoys shall be prepared and attached at the both ends of drifting gillnet, to locate the position of drifting gillnet and its drifting direction and distance
7. At least two (2) radar reflector buoys shall be prepared and attached at the both ends of drifting gillnet, to locate the position of drifting gillnet and its drifting direction and distance
8. Hauling operation by Capstan Winch to wind up the mainline. One set of capstan will be placed on the bow. Since a high-power capacity is required, Bottom longline hauler cannot fulfil the requirement for lifting rope of deep-sea pots.

6.7 Automatic Squid Fishing

Automatic Squid Fishing is one of the most advanced technique and most selective fishing gear for harvesting both coastal and deep-sea squid. In Southeast Asia, deep-sea squid important marine resources. Only few countries such as Viet Nam, the Philippines have harvested this squid for local market by very simple technique of pole and line fishing gear nearby surface with luring lamp method.

SEAFDEC has initiated to use automatic squid fishing gear for studying the resources of the squid in the region since 1998. According to recent investigations and studies, it had been found that Purple back Flying Squid is still under exploited resource. However, fishing ground and many information aspects concerned to the purple-back flying squid need to be investigated more.

1. Automatic squid fishing machine would be installed on the vessel All total of 8 hook lines with 20–25 jigs per line are
2. Effective sea depth to harvest the squid deep to 250–300 m depend upon the desired depth setting from each machine.
3. Luring lamps are set into two lines along the starboard side and port side. Each line has 6 bulbs of 2-kilowatt Halogen lamp setting above the machine.
4. Sea anchor or drifting gillnet will be operated from the foredeck of the vessel whenever wind or/and current has affected the fishing operation.

7. High-priority research and training contents

Regarding the Questionnaire on the Utilization of SEAFDEC Research Vessels and Plan of National Fisheries Resource Research Survey of SEAFDEC Member Countries during 2025–2029 that SEAFDEC/TD sent to Member Countries in early 2024, six (6) of ten (10) SEAFDEC Member Countries have national plans to conduct the fisheries resource and oceanographic research survey in their waters

during 2025–2029. The result of the questionnaire survey as the 5-Year National Plans for Fisheries Resource and Oceanographic Research Survey during 2025–2029 is presented in the table below.

Countries	Year	National plans
Cambodia	2025	Oceanographic survey, Fish larvae survey, Fisheries resource survey (Stock assessment)
	2029	Oceanographic survey, Fish larvae survey, Fisheries resource survey (Stock assessment)
Malaysia	2025	Demersal fisheries resources survey
	2026	Pelagic fisheries resources survey by using hydroacoustic equipment
	2027	Pelagic fisheries resources survey by using hydroacoustic equipment
	2028	Demersal fisheries resources survey
	2029	Pelagic fisheries resources survey by using hydroacoustic equipment
Myanmar	2026	Fisheries resources and oceanographic research survey
	2028	Fisheries resources and oceanographic research survey
Philippines	2025	Demersal Stock Assessment
	2026	Demersal Stock Assessment
	2027	Fisheries Oceanographic Survey
Philippines	2028	Demersal Stock Assessment
	2029	Demersal Stock Assessment
Thailand	2025	Research Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment
Viet Nam	2025	Fisheries Resources Survey in shoals and seamounts in the Southern Sea of Viet Nam

2) Promotion of fishing gear and the training program related with the topics of the fisheries resources and environmental/oceanographic survey

In addition to the fisheries resource and oceanographic research survey, the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 has the efficiency to provide human resources development for SEAFDEC Member Countries. The results of the questionnaire survey reveal that SEAFDEC Member Countries are interested in promoting or conducting training programs using three (3) fishing gear types *i.e.* bottom trawl, bottom longline, and pot (or trap). Furthermore, M.V. SEAFDEC 2 can support human resources development and research on fishing technology, fisheries resources, and oceanography/environment. The promotion of fishing gear or conducting the training programs is presented in below table.

Countries	PS	BT	MWT	TLL	BLL	GN	P/TR	Light	Drg
Cambodia		√	√						
Malaysia					√		√		
Myanmar		√	√		√	√	√	√	
Philippines	√	√		√	√		√		
Thailand		√	√	√	√		√		
Viet Nam		√	√						√

PS: Purse seine

BT: Bottom Trawl

MWT: Midwater Trawl

TLL Tuna Longline

BLL: Bottom Longline

GN: Gillnet

P/TR: Pot or Trap

Light: Light Fishing

Drg: Dredge

Research/training program related to the fisheries resources and environmental and oceanographic surveys interested by SEAFDEC Member Countries is presented in Table 3.

Table below show the five (5) topics with three (3) priorities identified by the questionnaire the results are presented as follows.

Topics	Priority
1. Training on fishing technology (included acoustic data analysis)	1
2. Fisheries resource exploration	2
3. Research on fishing technology	2
4. Research on oceanography/environment (including tuna and tuna liked species fishing)	2
5. Training on oceanography/environment	3

8. Specifications required of replacement vessel for Southeast Asia

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) requires a modern replacement research vessel to support multidisciplinary oceanographic and fisheries research across Southeast Asia and adjacent waters. The new vessel is intended to:

Rationale for a New SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessel

8.1 Aging and Limited Capability of the Existing Vessel. The current SEAFDEC training and research vessel, M.V. SEAFDEC, has been in operation for over 30 years and has served the region with distinction for several decades. While it has contributed immensely to regional fisheries development, training, and research, the vessel's age has led to increased maintenance costs, reduced operational reliability, and limitations in accommodating modern scientific equipment and research activities. The acquisition of a new vessel is therefore essential to ensure safety, enhance operational efficiency, and sustain SEAFDEC's mandate in supporting regional fisheries development.

8.2 Advancement of Fisheries Research and Technology. Fisheries science and marine technology have advanced significantly. Modern research now requires more precise instruments, automated sampling systems, hydroacoustic and oceanographic sensors, and energy-efficient propulsion systems. A new vessel designed with these technologies would greatly enhance SEAFDEC's research capacity in areas Included;

1. Fishery resources assessment
2. Oceanographic and ecosystem studies
3. Marine biodiversity monitoring
4. Fishing gear and technology innovation

8.3 New research vessel will incorporate modern technologies, including dynamic positioning, advanced laboratory systems, and environmentally friendly propulsion, to meet current and future research requirements. The new vessel should enhance regional scientific capabilities by enabling long-duration oceanographic surveys and advanced fisheries research.

8.4 New research vessel will support the sustainable management of marine resources through accurate, high-quality data collection as well as provide safe, comfortable, and fully equipped living and working conditions for up to 40 personnel during extended missions.

8.5 Strengthening Regional Training Capacity. SEAFDEC's Training Department plays a crucial role in capacity building for fisheries officers, researchers, and students across Southeast Asia. A new vessel would provide a modern, safe, and well-equipped platform for practical training in navigation, seamanship, fishing operations, resource assessment, and environmental monitoring — all essential for sustainable fisheries management in the region.

8.6 Supporting Regional and International Collaboration. A modern research and training vessel would also serve as a shared regional platform, enabling collaborative projects among SEAFDEC Member Countries, universities, and partner organizations. This would strengthen SEAFDEC's role as a regional



center of excellence in fisheries training and research, enhancing data exchange, joint expeditions, and policy development toward sustainable fisheries.

Furthermore, Member Countries have expressed the continued need for a capable research vessel to support long-term fisheries resources and environmental surveys within their respective waters. Such collaborative efforts will provide consistent and comparable data across the region, supporting effective fisheries management, conservation planning, and sustainable utilization of marine resources.

8.7 Addressing Emerging Issues and Regional Priorities. The fisheries sector now faces new challenges, including:

1. Climate change impacts on marine ecosystems
2. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing
3. Marine debris and pollution monitoring
4. Offshore and deep-sea resource exploration

A modern, multipurpose vessel would enable SEAFDEC to conduct relevant studies and provide science-based recommendations that align with the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Strategy and global frameworks like the SDGs.

In particular, the new vessel would provide the essential platform for Member Countries to conduct continuous and systematic surveys of fisheries resources and marine environments. These activities are critical for maintaining updated scientific information that supports proper management of fisheries resources, sustainable development of the sector, and the long-term health of marine ecosystems in the region.

8.8 Enhancing SEAFDEC's Visibility and Regional Leadership

A new, state-of-the-art and cutting-edge vessel would symbolize SEAFDEC's commitment to innovation, scientific excellence, and regional cooperation. It would serve not only as a working platform but also as a floating showcase of SEAFDEC's capabilities and leadership in sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia.

The replacement vessel will thus strengthen SEAFDEC's capacity to conduct fisheries and marine science research in the region while ensuring crew safety, environmental compliance, and operational efficiency.

8.9 Mission Capability

1. The vessel shall support multidisciplinary oceanographic and fisheries research, including:
2. Physical, chemical, biological, and geological studies.
3. Fisheries research operations, including trawling, acoustic surveys, and biological sampling.
4. Deployment and recovery of scientific moorings, buoys, nets, and Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs).
5. Operation of multiple onboard laboratories: wet, dry, chemical, and acoustic labs.

8.10 Accommodation and Capacity

1. The vessel shall comply with the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC, 2006), providing safe and comfortable living conditions for all personnel.
2. Complement: 36–40 persons
3. Cabins: Single and double cabins, providing 6–8 m² per person.
4. Sanitary Facilities: Adequate toilets and showers, separated by gender.
5. Medical Facilities: Dedicated medical room with isolation capability (negative pressure and HEPA filtration).
6. Galley & Mess: Hygienic facilities for 36–40 persons, including dry and cold storage.
7. Recreation: Recreation room, TV/common room, reading space, and internet access.
8. Laundry: Capacity sufficient for the full complement.
9. HVAC: Fully tropicalized with independent exhaust systems for laboratories.

8.11 Performance

1. Service speed: 10–12 knots; transit speed: 13–14 knots (maximum).
2. Range: $\geq 6,000$ nautical miles.
3. Draft: ≤ 5.0 m for port accessibility across Southeast Asia.
4. Bollard Pull: Sufficient for trawl and net operations.

8.12 Deck & Handling Equipment

1. Knuckle-boom cranes for RHIB, net, and gear handling.
2. Stern A-frame for CTD rosettes, trawls, and oceanographic equipment.
3. Winches adequate for trawl, CTD, and mooring operations.
4. Codend roller and net-handling system included.

8.13 Navigation & Communication Systems Compliant with SOLAS and IMO standards, including:

1. Dynamic Positioning: DP1
2. GMDSS: Sea Area A3
3. Integrated Bridge System: X-band and S-band ARPA radars, ECDIS, AIS, satellite compass, gyro, and magnetic compass
4. Positioning systems: GPS/DGPS/GNSS
5. Autopilot (track control), echo sounder, speed log
6. GMDSS radio suite: Navtex, Inmarsat-C, MF/HF/VHF14.7. Satellite communications for operational connectivity

8.14 Engine & Propulsion Systems

1. Two medium-speed marine diesel main engines, IMO Tier II/III compliant (MARPOL Annex VI).
2. Twin-screw propulsion (FPP or CPP) with bow thrusters supporting DP operations.
3. Diesel generators sized for full operational load, plus independent-fuel emergency generator.
4. Future-ready for hybrid/alternative fuel (*e.g.*, LNG or battery systems) in line with IMO GHG Strategy.

8.15 Anti-Rolling Systems

1. Anti-roll U-tanks or active water transfer systems.
2. Bilge keels for passive damping.
3. Active fin stabilizers with gyro control.
4. Optional gyroscopic stabilizer for zero-speed operations.

8.16 Safety & Survivability

1. Full SOLAS compliance (Ch. II-1, II-2, III).
2. Lifeboats, RHIBs, and rescue boats provided.
3. HVAC systems capable of tropical operations and independent ventilation for laboratories and medical isolation.
4. Compliance with fire protection, detection, and life-saving appliances.

8.17 Scientific & Laboratory Equipment

1. Fish Stock Assessment

Target area	Equipment	Need
Fish stock assessment	SIMRAD EK80, Modern scientific	There is a critical need to equip our survey vessel with a modern scientific echo sounder with a motion sensor for accurate acoustic data for fish stock assessments in

Target area	Equipment	Need
	echo sounder with a motion sensor	<p>Southeast Asian Waters. The use of advanced scientific echo sounders enables direct, quantitative evaluation of fish stocks by allowing the vessel to conduct continuous acoustic observations along extensive survey lines. This technology is essential for efficiently and accurately assessing fish populations over large areas during resource surveys in these regions. Equipping the vessel with a modern scientific echo sounder will ensure rapid, reliable, and comprehensive fish stock assessments, supporting sustainable fisheries management</p> <p>Modern scientific echo sounder shall transmit 3 frequencies, 38 kHz, 120 kHz, and 200 kHz. In addition, using the same model (Simrad EK80) with M.V. SEAFDEC 2 ensures operational consistency, allowing for direct comparison and integration of survey results. In addition, research and technical personnel are already trained and experienced in operating and maintaining the Simrad EK80 system, which reduces the need for additional training and minimizes the risk of operational errors.</p>

2. Primary production Research

A portable reflectance radiometer (PRR), a quantum sensor for photosynthetically active radiation (PAR), digital flowrate meter and spectrophotometer have been requested for primary production surveys.

Data on chlorophyll distribution is indispensable to this research. Satellites equipped with sensors measuring sea color, such as the technical satellite “Midori” (the ADEOS satellite, NASDA), and SeaWiFS satellite (NASA) are vital for providing chlorophyll distribution information on a global scale. At SEAFDEC as well, where MFRDMD in Malaysia has been registered as the SeaWiFS receiving center, considerable interest has developed in obtaining chlorophyll information.

Data on nutrients and the photosynthesis layer directly control growth, distribution, and productivity. Nutrients such as nitrate, phosphate, silicate, and ammonium are essential for building proteins, nucleic acids, and chlorophyll. The photosynthetic layer is the sunlit zone and its depth determines where phytoplankton can survive and produce organic matter.

Target area	Equipment	Need
Chlorophyll distribution	Portable reflectance radiometer	<p>Information on chlorophyll distribution delivered by satellite is indispensable to primary marine production research. However, it is necessary, before using this information, to do field measure of sea color (that is to say, it acquires ground truth) and correct satellite data using portable reflectance radiometer.</p>
Water nutrient	Spectrophotometer	<p>Spectrophotometer is an essential analytical instrument used to determine the concentrations of dissolved nutrients in seawater samples collected during surveys. Nutrients play a crucial role in stimulating primary production growth and driving biogeochemical cycles</p>
Photosynthesis layer	Quantum sensor for photosynthetically active radiation	<p>In order to learn the vertical distribution of adiation in the wave band (350 – 700m), which is photosynthetically active, this instrument will be carried on the Plan Vessel to observe the seasonal variation of horizontal and vertical</p>

Target area	Equipment	Need
		chlorophyll distributions as well as to estimate carbon sequestration.

3. Oceanographic environment survey

The oceanographic environment survey is intended to inform us about the fishing ground environment, which is understood to represent their practical attitude. Observations should be conducted to a depth of 750 meters, as the environmental properties remain almost constant below this depth, making further measurements unnecessary.

Target area	Equipment	Need
Oceanographic structure	CTD, seabird 911plus with auxiliary sensor including pH, DO, PAR and Fluorescence SBE 32 Carousel Water Sampler (1.7 L for 12 bottles) (equipment should be able to deploy up to 750-meter depth)	CTD-Carousel water sampler is a basic equipment for studying the oceanographic environment. The combination of these instruments allows simultaneous measurement of physical and chemical parameters of seawater in real time and collects the water sample at specific layer.
	Van Dorn (1,5 and 10L)	A set of Van Dorn bottles is used to collect water samples when sea conditions are too rough to deploy the SBE 32 Carousel Water Sampler. This procedure helps prevent the risk of CTD cable breakage.
	Thermosalinometer	A supplemental method for use in areas where it is difficult to estimate distributions between stationary observation points by interpolation. When obtaining horizontal distributions of conservative concentrations, the gaps will be filled by interpolation, but, when the distributions within these intervals change as a result of eddies and the similar factors, it may be impossible to cope with the situation. To deal with such circumstances, it is found necessary to equip the Plan Vessel with instrument for continuous observation of water temperature and salinity. The apparatus shall be direct sampling from non-contaminated seawater supply system.
	Doppler current profiler	An 11-layer Doppler current profiler, which provides a rough idea of vertical current distribution as one of the elements determining oceanographic structure.
Fishing methods	Water temperature and depth recorder for longline fishing	A recorder for water temperature and depth for longline fishing has been requested to permit local observations. This will provide data on actual depths of the positions of branch lines and will be used to study their relationship to fish catch rates via comparisons with oceanographic structure, such as the distribution of thermocline. This type of survey is found as being oriented to fishing technique development rather than oceanographic environment. The cost effectiveness of the recorder is outstanding, and so it is deemed appropriate for this Plan. The apparatus shall be of fitted type to pelagic longline fishing branch lines, and 4 sensors will be provided.
	Seabed mapping sonar	Seabed mapping sonar measures seabed geography employing sonar technology and shows the result in

Target area	Equipment	Need
		perspective view or in-depth contour map, which will be useful to study formation of fishing ground. There are two types of seabed mapping sonars, <i>i.e.</i> towed underwater transducer type and keel transducer type. The towed type is preferable, as it can be deployed from a small boat, making it suitable for operations in shallow areas. The sonar shall be able to emit ultrasonic cross-fan-beam from the transducer, 150 degrees of sweeping width as maximum.
Bottom sediment survey	Smith-McIntyre grab and core sample	Gathering sedimentary pebbles, sand, and mud, distribution of sea bottom sediments can be derived as part of an oceanographic study. Also, after bringing back the sample materials, trace metals and petroleum hydrocarbons can be detected in the sediment, thereby contributing to environmental research. The Plan Vessel will carry a Smith-McIntyre grab and core sample, equipment should be performed effectively from coastal areas to a depth of 150 meters.
	Sieve	For measuring the distribution of particle diameters, the Plan Vessel shall carry a set of sieve.

4. Biological survey

A thorough understanding of the biological community, particularly through the assessment of phytoplankton, zooplankton, fish larvae, etc. is fundamental to the formulation of a sustainable fisheries management strategy. As primary producers and the foundation of the marine food web, phytoplankton transform solar energy into organic matter that supports virtually all higher trophic levels. Zooplankton, in turn, act as the essential conduit transferring this energy from primary producers to larger consumers. The productivity, structure, and health of these planktonic communities therefore determine, to a large extent, the ocean's capacity to sustain fish populations.

Assessment of fish larvae provides a critical indicator of reproductive success and recruitment dynamics. Such information is indispensable for forecasting stock abundance and setting scientifically sound harvest limits. Meanwhile, benthic organisms serve as a principal food source for demersal species.

Consequently, biological assessment functions as an essential diagnostic tool for effective fisheries governance. It equips managers to proactively identify issues, safeguard critical habitats such as nursery grounds, and evaluate the effects of environmental change. This scientific foundation is crucial for evidence-based decision-making, and the resulting ecosystem-based approach is imperative for securing the long-term sustainability of fisheries resources.

Target area	Equipment	Need
Distribution of plankton	Phytoplankton net (20um)	It is used to filter the water sample for collecting phytoplankton
	Zooplankton net (330um)	It is used to filter the water sample for collecting zooplankton
	Digital flowrate meter	The use of a digital flowmeter is indispensable for this study. It provides an accurate measurement of the seawater volume pumped through the sampling pipe, which is a critical parameter for the quantitative estimation of plankton abundance.
Fish larvae	Bongo net (330 and 500 um) with flow meter	Fish larvae samples are collected obliquely from the surface to a depth of 150 meters or 5 meter above seafloor using a Bongo net. This net is fitted with flowmeters at the mouth to calculate the filtered water volume, which is necessary for density estimates.

Target area	Equipment	Need
	Real-time depth monitoring system	A real-time depth monitoring system is essential for oblique tows conducted close to the seafloor primarily to ensure both operational safety and data integrity.
	Mocness (330 um)	Traditional plankton like bongo nets remain open during both descent and ascent, which can result in sample contamination between different depth layers. The MOCNESS system minimizes this problem by enabling precise collection of zooplankton and ichthyoplankton samples from discrete depth strata.
	In situ filtration pump (330 um)	The in situ filtration pump is an essential tool for directly collecting fish larvae and other relevant, such as zooplankton and microplastics, from the water column at specific depths and locations. Unlike traditional net sampling, which integrates water over a range of depths, this method allows for targeted collection and greater accuracy.
Taxonomy	Stereo and compound microscope	Both stereo microscopes and compound microscopes are essential tools for identification of primary and secondary producer, particularly zooplankton and fish larvae. It is fundamental to understanding fish population dynamics, recruitment patterns, and marine ecosystem health.

5. Laboratory Equipment and utensils

For laboratory work on the Plan Vessel following laboratory equipment and utensils are necessary.

Target area	Equipment	Need
Nutrient measing	Balance	Balances of 200g and 200kg weighing capacity shall be provided
	Cool storage (adjustable from 4 to -35 °C)	Cool storage is essential for preserving water samples for nutrient analysis to ensure accuracy. Nutrients such as nitrate, nitrite, ammonium, phosphate, and silicate must be preserved immediately after collection to maintain sample integrity and ensure that measurements reflect true in situ conditions.
	Glass utensils	A set of glass utensils shall be provided for specimen treatment and titration.

6. Data processing

For processing, analyzing and recording, following data processing apparatus are necessary on board the Plan Vessel.

Equipment	Need
Personal computer	The computer attached to CTD and Thermosalinometer, Water Analyzer for downloading and recording data outputted from the measurement equipment, while not operating the equipment, might be used commonly to compile and edit survey data on board the Plan Vessel.
Ship Data Server	To process data of GPS information, wind direction and velocity, air temperature, water temperature, water depth, etc. for output to observation data, a ship data server shall be provided aboard the Plan Vessel. The server shall have LAN connection with other onboard computers.



7. Oceanographic winch and Spare parts

Equipment	Need
Oceanographic winch	Oceanographic winch is essential equipment for safely and efficiently deploying and retrieving oceanographic instruments and sampling gear during marine surveys.
Spare parts	Spare parts attached to each equipment shall be prepared in a scope to cover media of records and consumable items necessary for one research voyage.

8.18 Environmental Systems

Compliant with MARPOL Annexes I, IV, V, VI:

1. Sewage treatment plant for 36–40 persons, 30-day capacity.
2. Bilge/oily water separator with 15 ppm monitoring.
3. Ballast water treatment system (IMO BWM Convention).
4. Solid waste segregation and storage for 30 days.
5. Type-approved incinerator.
6. Freshwater system: Reverse osmosis plant sized for 36–40 persons, 30 days (potable supply for accommodation, galley, medical, and laboratories).

8.19 Regulatory Compliance

The vessel shall comply with:

1. MARPOL (Annexes I, IV, V, VI)
2. IMO SPS Code
3. ILO/IMO MLC, 2006
4. SOLAS (Ch. II-1, II-2, III, IV, V, XI-2)
5. ISM Code (IMO Res. A.741(18))
6. ISPS Code (SOLAS XI-2)
7. Load Line Convention (1966/1988 Protocol)

Compliance shall cover construction, stability, subdivision, fire safety, navigation, pollution prevention, crew accommodation and welfare, safety management, and security requirements.

8.20 Conclusion

The replacement research vessel is a critical asset to strengthen SEAFDEC’s capacity in conducting multidisciplinary oceanographic and fisheries research across Southeast Asia. By integrating advanced scientific equipment, modern laboratories, and environmentally compliant systems, the vessel will:

1. Enable long-duration and high-quality research missions to support sustainable fisheries management and marine ecosystem conservation.
2. Ensure the safety, comfort, and well-being of all personnel during extended missions at sea.
3. Comply fully with international safety, environmental, and operational standards, ensuring both regulatory adherence and operational efficiency.
4. Provide a flexible and future-ready platform capable of accommodating emerging technologies, alternative fuel solutions, and advanced research instrumentation.
5. In summary, the design and construction of this vessel will not only enhance SEAFDEC’s scientific capabilities but also contribute significantly to the sustainable management of the region’s marine resources and the advancement of oceanographic knowledge.

9. Design Outline of the New MV SEAFDEC

Fisheries Engineering Co., Ltd
1 December 2025

Note that this Design Outline was developed with reference to the “(Zero DRAFT) M.V. SEAFDEC Basic Survey Plan for the Introduction of a Replacement Vessel.” The specification requirements in the Zero Draft have been adjusted as reasonably practicable.

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
1.	Fundamental condition		
	Vessel type	Single deck with long forecastle (same as M.V. SEAFDEC), vertical bow (but with bulbous bow in the forefoot), single screw, single engine	Vertical bow for less breaking waves at bow end thereby less bubble stream to echo sensors. Note that single screw is proposed. Refer to 3. (1) Propulsion system.
	Vessel purpose	Fisheries research / training and fisheries / oceanographic research	Same as M.V. SEAFDEC 2
	Fishing Gear	Bottom trawl, pelagic trawl, and other minor fishing, <i>i.e.</i> tuna longline, bottom vertical longline, drift gillnet, deep-sea trap/pot, automatic squid jigging	No purse seining
	Flag	Thailand	
	Operation	SEAFDEC	
	Classification	ClassNK	
	Rules to apply	Thai Marine Department rules ClassNK rules IMO Special Purpose Ship Code (SPS code) MLC (Maritime Labour Convention) 2006 No IMO GHG control rule apply	SPS code applies as far as reasonably practicable. Note however that the Code applies to vessels of 500 tons and above. SOLAS need not be referred to here, as the SPS incorporates relevant SOLAS provisions. MLC 2006 applies as far as reasonably practicable. No IMO GHG control regulations are currently applicable. Refer also to Appendix.

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
2.	Main Particulars		
	Length overall	40.00 m	
	Length bet pp	35.50 m	
	Breadth	9.00 m	
	Depth to upper deck	3.50 m	
	Draft	2.90 m	
	Normal trim	0.60 m	
	Gross tonnage	404 tons	
	Complement	Crew 14 + Scientist/Instructor 4 + Trainee 18 Total 36 persons	
	Fuel oil tank	75 kℓ	Capacity to be adjusted to match the intended cruising duration.
	Fresh water tank	20 m ³	Same.
	Fish hold	20 m ³	Capacity to match intended purpose.
	Deadweight	120 t	M.V. SEAFDEC 2 deadweight capacity is 107 tons.
3.	Propulsion and power system		
	(1) Propulsion system	1 - Main diesel engine ab. 1,200 kW Medium speed 4 cycle diesel Output power ab. 1200 kW x ab. 900 rpm Gearbox output rev. 300 rpm Specific fuel oil consumption ab. 190 g/kW/h The main engine drives hydraulic oil pumps (like M.V. SEAFDEC 2).	Engine power necessary to maintain a sea speed comparable to that of M.V. SEAFDEC 2.
		1 - Controllable pitch propeller (CPP)	When main engine driven hydraulic oil pump is working, main engine must run at rated revolution, and ship speed must be adjusted by CPP.
		NOx control type Tier II. SOx control using low sulphur diesel oil.	SEAFDEC refers to Tier III, but Tier III is required only for the Emission Control Area (ECA), e.g. Baltic Sea, North Sea, North America to control NOx emission. To achieve Tier III, not only

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
		Single engine single screw system	<p>compliant engine but also aux equipment is necessary, <i>e.g.</i> SCR (Selective Catalytic Solution using urea) together with urea supply system.</p> <p>In the ECA, not only NO_x control, but also stringent SO_x control is required. Large scrubber is necessary.</p> <p>Twin screw system (2 main engines and 2 shafts) is required by SEAFDEC.</p> <p>Negative aspects: Shipbuilding cost of a twin screw system is high. Maintenance costs are also significant.</p> <p>Scientists generally prefer single-screw systems because towed gear like plankton nets might get caught in twin propellers.</p> <p>Wider engine room is necessary to accommodate the twin screw system.</p> <p>Positive aspects: Propeller efficiency is higher by ab. 10 %, resulting in ab. 0.25 knot faster.</p> <p>Twin screw systems provide turning force in the stern, thereby stern thruster not very essential.</p> <p>Redundancy in the main propulsion system.</p> <p>Most of oceanographic research vessels are of single screw configuration from above aspects. Justification is necessary for twin screw configuration.</p>
(2)	Electric power supply	2 - Diesel generators (DG) each ab. 130 kVA (104 kW) No emergency generator.	The emergency source of power in blackout condition is from accumulated battery not from emergency generator.

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
		DG capacity will be determined in the detail design summarizing onboard e. consumer loads. Generally one DG should carry all e. loads without parallel operation.	
	(3) Manoeuvring system	Rudder: high lift Becker rudder (flap rudder) Lateral thruster Bow thruster 70 kW The lateral thruster is designed based on a wind speed of 20 knots and a crabbing speed of 0.25 m/s.	Schilling rudder is recommended instead of flap rudder adopted in M.V. SEAFDEC 2. The Schilling rudder allows up to 70 degrees helm angle to both sides, generating lateral force with minimal advance force. For maneuvering including crabbing, bow and stern thrusters are necessary. Joystick single lever control will allow simple operation. If DP (dynamic positioning) is intended, Class standard for DP is very high. Thrusters' power will have to be determined assuming sea state. Justification is required for necessity of installing a stern thruster, e.g. necessity of crabbing operation. Justification is further required for employing a DP system in sea operations, e.g. any operation that demands maintaining absolute geographic coordinates, rather than positions relative to the sea.
	(4) Hydraulic oil pump driven by the main engine	Oil hydraulic system driven by the main engine supplying oil power to trawl winches, net winch, cod winch, crane, windlass, CTD winch, oceanographic winch, tuna longline spool, net hauler, A frame, etc.	Winches on deck may either be driven by: 1) Hydraulic oil from hydraulic oil pump driven by torngly, case 1) is proposed.
4.	Speed	Sea speed 12.5 knots on calm sea Service speed 12.0 knots On design draft of 2.9 m, 85 % engine load and with 15 % sea margin Fuel oil consumption ab. 4.8 t/day	Speed based on MARIN database. Sailing range is basing on continuous 85 % engine load for 11 days. SEAFDEC requires a cruising range of 6,000 nautical miles (22 days).

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
		<p>Shared shower room for Captain and Chief Eng Wash basins and washing machines</p> <p>WCs are vacuum suction system, with holding tank and treatment system, allowing retaining in the tank or discharging treated water overboard.</p> <p>Galley with an IH range and cooking appliances and equipment. Mess room 20 seats Duty mess room 6 seats Food server facility with food and soup warmer for self-service Walk-in provision chambers</p>	
10.	Air conditioning	<p>Central air conditioning for accommodation and engine monitor room. The system may be divided into zones <i>e.g.</i> (tank top and upper deck) and (F'cle deck and wheelhouse). Harbor use separate unit for wheelhouse. No heating system.</p>	
11.	Laboratories	<p>Laboratories 1 - Wet lab, 13.8 m² >9.6 m² M.V. SEAFDEC 2 1 - Dry lab/Acoustic lab, 11.0 m² >5.8 m² M.V. SEAFDEC 2</p> <p>Equipment For Primary production research 1 - Reflectance radiometer 1 - Spectrophotometer 1 - Quantum meter</p> <p>For Oceanographic environmental survey 1 - CTD, Seabird 911 plus, with aux sensors pH, DO, PAR, Fluorescence, mounted on SBE32 carousel with 1.7 lit water sampler x 12 bottles 2 - Van Dorn bottle 1 - Thermo-Salinograph</p> <p>For Fishing 4 - Temperature and depth recorder</p>	

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
		<p>For Bottom sediment survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Smith-<McIntire grab and core sampler 1 - Sieve <p>For Biology survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Phytoplankton net 1 - Zooplankton net 1 - Digital flowrate meter 1 - Bongo net to collect plankton/larva 1 - Realtime depth monitoring system 1 - Moccus, 5 nets, sea depth 500 m, towed by CTD winch 1 - In situ filtration pump 1 - Microscope, compound 1 - Microscope, stereo <p>Lab equipment and utensils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Balance, for 200 g and 200 kg 1 - Freezer 1 set - Glass utensils 	
12.	Deck machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Windlass 1 - Steering gear 2 - Capstans, aft for mooring, hydraulic 1 - Capstan, fore for fishing, hydraulic 1 - Crane, knuckle boom, ab. 11kN at 8mR, hydraulic 1 - A frame in the stern end, fitted with towing block 1 - Stern gate at top of stern slipway, hydraulic 1 - Small A frame at starboard side oceanographic port to handle CTD carousel, etc. 	<p>Similar system as M.V. SEAFDEC 2</p> <p>Windlass capacity depending on rule</p>
13.	Fishing machinery and gears	<p>Trawl, bottom and pelagic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 - Trawl warp winches, 400 m sea depth, 1,500 m x 20 mm+φ warp 1 - Net winch, 4.5 m³+ 2 - Cod end winch 2 set - Bottom trawl net and pelagic trawl net 	<p>Trawl warp size depending on net size towed by main engine thrust power.</p> <p>Net winch capacity depending on net size.</p> <p>Fishing gears similar to M.V. SEAFDEC 2's.</p>

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
		<p>1 set – Otter boards, common for bottom and pelagic</p> <p>Tuna longline 1 - Monofilament line spool, 50 km Branch line reel, buoy line reel, longline caster, interval timer, radio buoy, GPS buoy, etc. 1 set - Tuna longline gears</p> <p>Bottom vertical longline To use capstan in the fore fishing deck. 1set - Bottom vertical longline gears</p> <p>Drift gillnet 1 - Net hauler 1 set - draft gillnet and gears</p> <p>Deepsea trap/net To use capstan in the fore fishing deck. 1 set - Deepsea trap/net gears</p> <p>Squid jigging 8 - Automatic squid jigging machines Squid lure lamp, LED</p>	
14.	Fire safety and lifesaving	<p>Fire hydrant and portable fire extinguishers Automatic fire detection for engine room and accommodation No lifeboat but inflatable liferafts: 36p x 2 + 18p x 1 A rescueboat, solid type, ab.4.5 m, outboard motor, handled by gravity davit</p>	<p>SPS regulations are applied as far as reasonably practicable.</p> <p>No fixed CO2 fire extinguisher for engine room as M.V. SEAFDEC 2.</p> <p>No lifeboat is required under SPS (as SOLAS) for ships less than 85m in length, however 2 x 100 % plus 50 % life rafts must be carried.</p> <p>SPS (as SOLAS) requires the rescue boat to be launched by gravity davit, whereas M.V. SEAFDEC 2 rescue boat is handled by the crane.</p>

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
15.	Navigation aids	Magnet compass Gyro compass Satellite compass Autopilot GPS ECDIS Two radars, X band, solid state Wind meter Speed log Airhorn Navigation echo sounder Searchlight AIS VDR Public addressor Engine rev meter Helm indicator CCTV camera system Navigation data collection system BNWAS Engine control system etc.	Listed equipment covers IBS standard. Satellite compass as a backup of gyro compass.
16.	Fishery electronic equipment	Scanning sonar, retractable Fish finder Direction finder to find radio buoy GPS buoy indicator Trawl monitor with a set of net sensors Underwater video to record trawl mouth	Type of Sonar will have to be identified. M.V. SEAFDEC 2 sonar is of 5,000 m range and transducer stroke 1.2 m. Type of fish finder will have to be identified too.
17.	Radio apparatus	A3 GMDSS suite including MF/HF radio, VHF radios, Inmarsat C, EPIRB, SART, two-way VHF. Inmarsat FB for voice and internet. Onboard UHF transceivers.	

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
18.	Oceanographic research electronic equipment	Scientific echo sounder: SIMRAD EK80, 38/120/200kHz ADCP Seabed mapping sonar Satellite sea surface data acquisition system	<p>Two types of satellite sea surface data, <i>i.e.</i> ocean temperature and ocean color, are utilized to estimate fish aggregation zones and chlorophyll distribution, respectively. Satellite data are calibrated using in-situ measurements collected by a research vessel.</p> <p>M.V. SEAFDEC 2 is equipped with onboard instrumentation to acquire NOAA satellite ocean temperature data, but no onboard equipment to acquire satellite ocean color data. Color data might have been obtained in the laboratory ashore.</p> <p>SEAFDEC is requested to specify which onboard satellite data acquisition system is intended.</p>
19.	Engine room machinery		
	(1) Main engine	Ab. 1,200 kW at 900 rpm Gearbox output rev. ab. 300 rpm Specific fuel oil consumption ab. 190 g/kW/h	
	(2) Propeller	Controllable pitch D ϕ = 2.20 m Highly skewed	
	(3) E. generator	1- Main engine driven, gearbox mount Ab. 250 kVA to cover bow and stern thruster of total 140 kW Converter/Inverter system to output 60Hz power under varying shaft rev. Ship speed control by CPP limiting engine rev. below 1/4 load. 1- Diesel generator Ab. 130 kVA Parallel running for load shift between two generators available.	
	(4) Hydraulic oil pump	Power output taken from fore end of the main engine. Clutch and step up gear. Besides, one e. motor driven hydraulic oil pump to use cranes in the harbor.	

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
(5)	Cooling water system	2 - Central freshwater coolers, titanium plate 2 - Low temp cooling SW pumps 2 - High temp cooling SW pumps	Central cooling water system is provided for the main engine, generator engine, and air conditioning units to minimize the use of seawater piping and thereby reduce the risk of marine corrosion.
(6)	Oil purifier	1- LO fine filter or centrifuge purifier	
(7)	Pumps	1 - FO service pump 1 - FO transfer pump 2 - Fire/Bilge/General service pumps 1 - SW service pump 2 - FW service pumps 1 - FW transfer pump 1 - SW service pump 1 - LO service pump 1 - Main engine LO standby pump 1 - Gearbox LO standby pump 1 - CPP oil pressure standby pump 1 - Sludge/waste oil discharge pump Etc.	
(8)	Compressed air	2- Main air compressors 1- Emergency air compressor 2- Main air reservoir 1- Aux air reservoir	
(9)	Anti-pollution	1- Oily water separator 1- Vacuum toilet pumps (1 in standby) 1- Toilet sewage treatment tank for 36 p.	Toilets are installed on different decks and in distant locations, including the tanktop accommodation area designated for trainees. Sewage from these toilets must be collected and treated to discharge overboard as clean water. However, gravity-based piping is not suitable for discharging sewage from widely dispersed toilets. To address this issue, a vacuum toilet system is adopted. This system allows small-diameter piping, which can be laid horizontally or even upward. The proposed system includes two vacuum pumps: one working and the other in standby.

No.	Headline	Specification	Discussions
	(10) Fresh water generator	1- Reverse Osmosis 5 tons/day	
	(11) Refrigeration system	2 - Refrigeration compressors Complete with condenser, accumulator, etc. 1 - Freezing chamber, -25 deg C 1 - Fish hold, -25 deg C, grid coil or air circulation	What type freezing chamber, air-blast freezing or?
	(12) Hot water system	2- Hot water tanks to serve showers and galley 2- Hot water circulation pumps	
	(13) Engine monitor room	1- Engine monitor console with 2 monitors 1- Main switchboard, comprising 2 generator panels, synchro panel, 220 V feeder panel, group starter panel 1- Shaft generator converter/inverter panel No engine control from the engine monitoring room. No unmanned engine room system.	

International Rules and Regulations

1. IMO MARPOL Annex VI GHG Control

Under the current IMO regulatory framework, GHG reduction measures such as the EEDI (Energy Efficiency Design Index) and CII (Carbon Intensity Indicator) apply primarily to cargo ships and other large commercial vessels, sailing from port to port. 400 tons fisheries research vessel is outside the scope of IMO's mandatory GHG regulations. Nevertheless, in line with global decarbonization efforts and operational efficiency goals, the new SEAFDEC vessel will have to be designed to minimize fuel consumption. There are following options for fuels other than fossil fuels or low GHG emissions, but all seem difficult for the new vessel:

- LNG, hydrogen, and ammonia are explosive gases that require stringent safety measures against leakage. They also necessitate large onboard tanks due to their high-pressure and low-temperature storage requirements.
- Methanol is a liquid at ambient temperature and pressure, but its volumetric energy density is low, requiring approximately twice the tank volume compared to conventional fuel oil.
- Biofuel can be stored in standard fuel oil tanks and is easy to handle. However, the market capacity for stable biofuel supply remains limited.
- Battery systems are not practical for vessels operating long in the sea, as the required battery volume is excessively large and difficult to accommodate onboard.

2. Special Purpose Ships (SPS) Code

The SPS Code is an international safety standard that applies to ships carrying more than 12 special personnel in addition to the crew. These personnel are neither passengers nor crew members, but are on board to perform specific tasks related to the ship's purpose, such as scientists on a research vessel or trainees.

The SPS Code serves as an alternative to the SOLAS Convention for special purpose ships. Like SOLAS, it applies to vessels of 500 gross tons and above. The SPS Code is derived from SOLAS regulations, with modifications that reflect the unique operational and structural characteristics of special purpose vessels. Accordingly, SOLAS does not apply in addition to the SPS Code for such ships.

For the new SEAFDEC vessel being below 500 gross tons, the SPS Code will be applied as far as reasonably practicable. However, certain requirements may be difficult technically or budgetary, and exemptions may therefore need to be considered. Examples include the requirement for full double bottom, subdivision for damage stability, installation of lifeboats that occupy excessive space, and stringent fire safety provisions.

3. The Maritime Labour Convention (MLC)

MLC is an international treaty concerning the working and living conditions of seafarers. Thailand has ratified the MLC, and Thai-flagged vessels of 500 gross tons or more engaged in international voyages are required to carry a Maritime Labour Certificate demonstrating compliance.

The planned SEAFDEC vessel is under 500 gross tons; therefore, compliance with the MLC is not mandatory. However, MLC accommodation standards will be applied as far as reasonably practicable, recognizing the difficulty of meeting certain provisions, *e.g.* particularly those concerning area of sleeping rooms on small vessels.

It should also be noted that the MLC applies to seafarers; trainees are not subject to its provisions.

4. International Safety Management (ISM) Code

ISM Code is a part of SOLAS and applies to passenger vessels and cargo vessels of 500 gross tons and above engaged on international voyages.



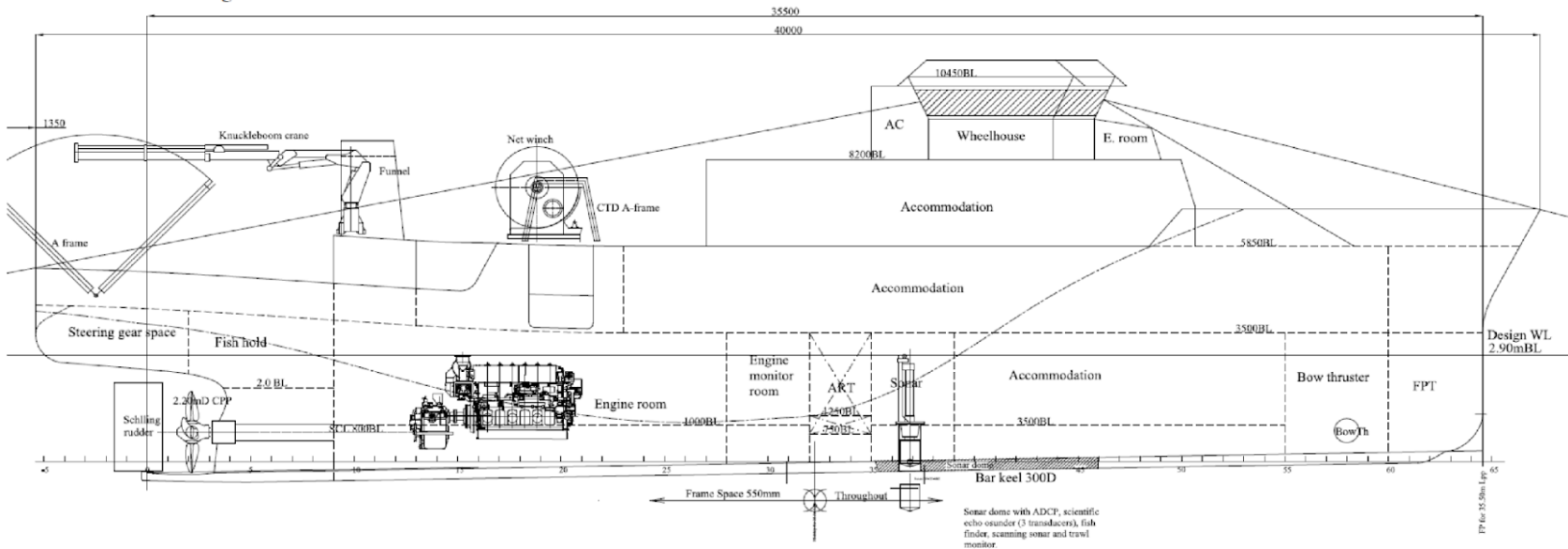
Safety Management Manual (SMM), prepared in accordance with the ISM Code specifies safety policy, responsibilities, operation procedures, audits and document control. It is generally developed by the vessel operator or owner, with technical input sometimes provided by the shipbuilder. The SMM is reviewed and approved by the flag State or classification societies.

10. General Arrangement Plan of SEAFDEC Vessel (Page 1)

length overall 40.00 m
 Length bp 35.50 m
 Breadth 9.00 m
 Depth 3.50 m
 Design draft 2.90 m
 Gross tonnage 404 tons

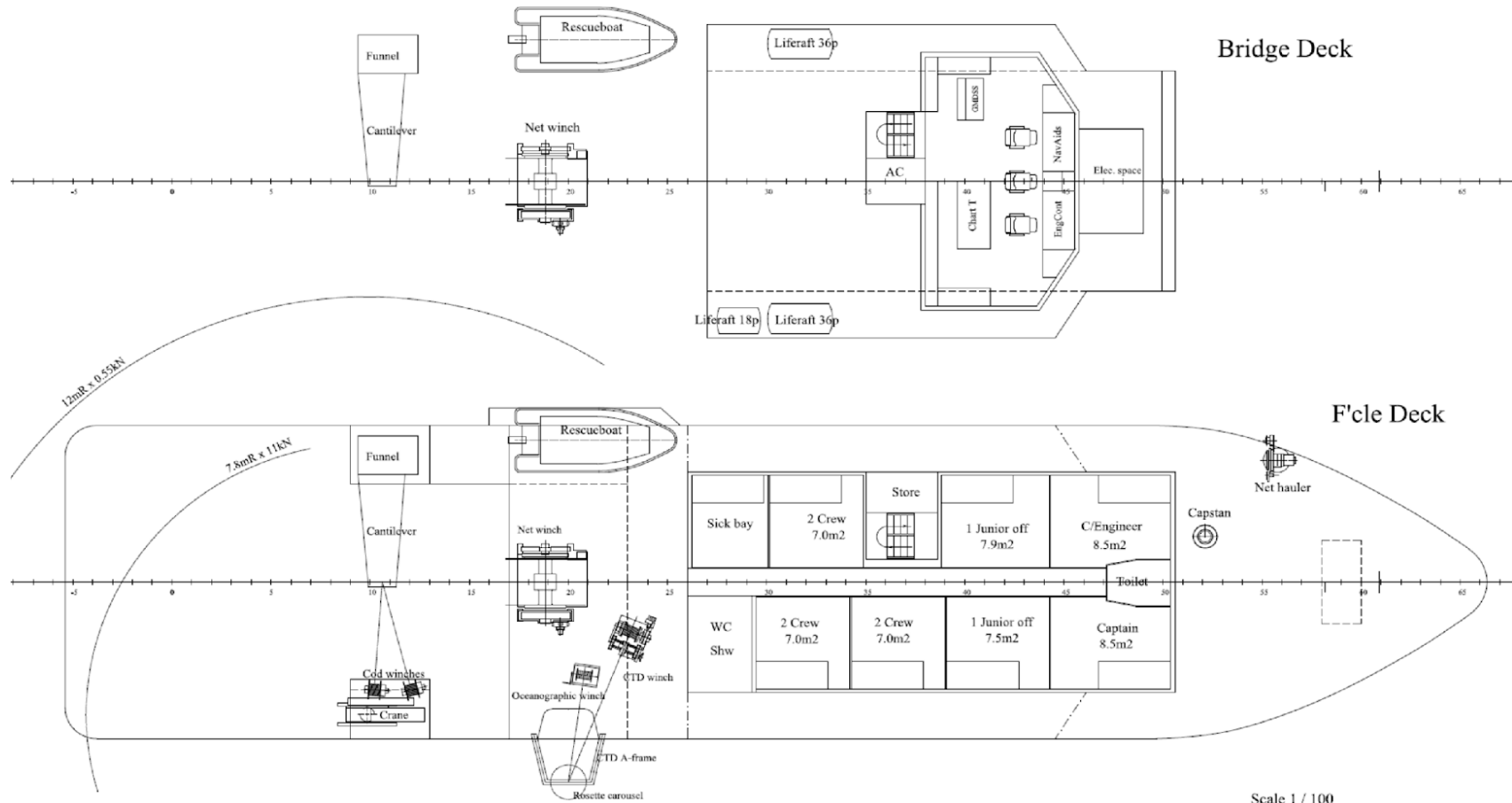
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN OF NEW SEAFDEC

Dec. 2025 Fisheries Engineering Co., Ltd.

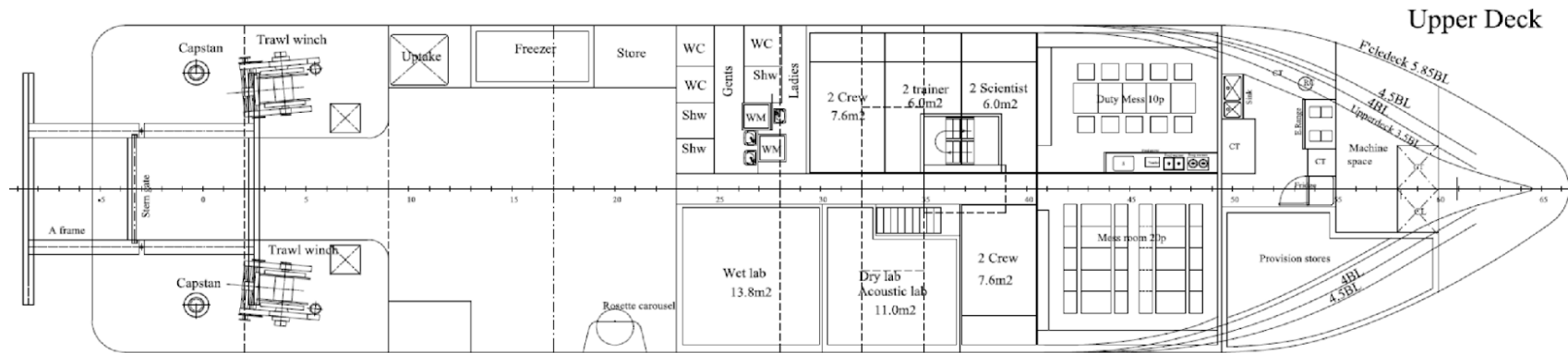


Scale 1 / 100
 when printed on A3 paper

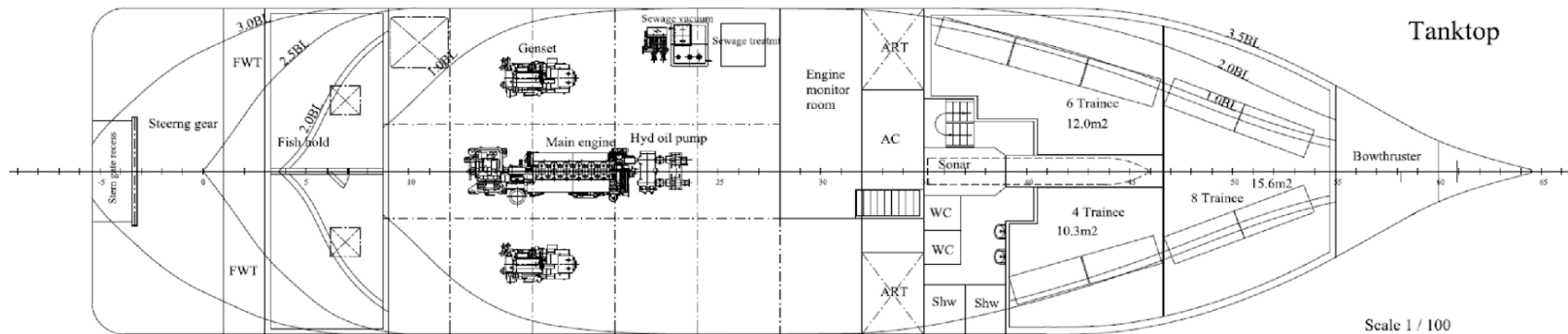
General Arrangement Plan of SEAFDEC Vessel (Page 2)



General Arrangement Plan of SEAFDEC Vessel (Page 3)



Upper Deck



Tanktop

Scale 1 / 100
when printed on A3 paper

**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
(MID-TERM REVIEW 2025)**

I. Background

Adopted in 2020, the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for The ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030) serve as a strategic framework comprising 88 Plan of Actions across six components to ensure sustainable fisheries for food security in Southeast Asia until 2030. To track progress, SEAFDEC Member Countries agreed on a monitoring and evaluation system consisting of baseline information (2021), a mid-term review (2025), and a final evaluation (2029), aimed at assessing implementation, identifying gaps, and providing recommendations.

As part of the ongoing monitoring process, SEAFDEC organized the RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Mid-term Review of the Implementation on 18 February 2025 (online) to initiate the monitoring and evaluation process for the Mid-term Review 2025. The Workshop examined the monitoring and evaluation framework, baseline results, template, and indicators, and agreed on the timeframe for compiling the information of mid-term review.

Drawing on inputs from ASEAN Member States, SEAFDEC Secretariat analyzed the results of mid-term review and convened the RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Validation of the Results of Mid-term Review of the Implementation on 19–20 August 2025. The workshop provided a platform to share and validate the results before their submission to the forthcoming 58th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2026.

II. Preparation of the Mid-term Review 2025

In August 2025, the SEAFDEC Secretariat organized RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Validation of the Results of Mid-term Review of the Implementation in Thailand, attended by representatives from eight ASEAN Member States, to validate the mid-term review of the RES&POA-2030 implementation. The Workshop assessed progress, identified challenges and best practices, and refined the draft Mid-Term Review 2025 report. Participants acknowledged the achievements of AMSs in implementing the RES&POA-2030 through national and regional analyses, which also highlighted key challenges and best practices. The Workshop further agreed to provide supplementary information and finalized the outline of the Mid-Term Review 2025 report.

The draft Mid-Term Review 2025 report was submitted to the Forty-eighth Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee (48PCM) and the Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (28FCG/ASSP) in November 2025. During such meetings, Lao PDR has committed to providing its baseline information to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by December 2025 to ensure its inclusion in the analysis of the Mid-Term Review 2025 report. Based on the discussion, due to a lack of initial baseline data of Viet Nam, the Meeting agreed that data of Viet Nam will be excluded from the regional comparative analysis, although its mid-term data will still be utilized for independent national-level assessments. **Appendix 1** shows the Final draft Report of the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030. The timeframe to completing the Mid-Term Review 2025 report is described in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Timeframe of the Mid-term Review 2025 Report

Activities	By	Period
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEC circulated the revised template and original inputs to AMS (20 August)• AMS resubmitted their inputs to SEC• SEC prepared a draft report of the workshop and circulated to all participants (with companies to all SEAFDEC National Coordinators) for comments and finalization	SEC	Aug 2025
Participants submitted comments on workshop report to SEC	AMSs	Sep 2025
SEC revised the Draft Mid-term Review Report and circulated it to all participants and National Coordinators (NCs) for further comments	SEC	Sep 2025
NCs provided comments/confirmation on the Draft Mid-term Review 2025 Report to SEC	NCs	Oct 2025
SEC submitted the revised draft of the Mid-term Review 2025 report to the meetings of 48PCM and 28FCG/ASSP	SEC	Oct 2025
48PCM and 28FCG provide feedback for improvement of the final draft of the Mid-term Review 2025 Report	SEC	Nov 2025
SEC submit the final draft to the 58 th Council Meeting	SEC	May 2026
Upon approval by the 58 th Council Meeting, the report will be further submitted to the ASEAN mechanism	ASEC	Jul 2026

III. Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note the updates and approve of the final draft report of the Mid-term Review 2025.
- Support the submission of the final draft Report of the Mid-term Review 2025 to the ASEAN mechanism

REPORT OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RES&POA-2030

Executive Summary

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for The ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030), adopted in 2020, serves as a comprehensive policy framework with 88 Plan of Actions across six components to guide sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia until 2030. These components include Planning and Information, Fisheries Management (Marine and Inland), Aquaculture, Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, Fish Trade, and Regional and International Policy Formulation. A mid-term review (2025) is a key phase in the monitoring and evaluation roadmap endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council in 2021. Its objectives are to assess implementation levels nationally and regionally, identify gaps, challenges, and lessons learned, and provide recommendations to strengthen the RES&POA-2030's implementation. The mid-term review process commenced with a regional workshop in February 2025 and was followed by a validation workshop in August 2025 to review and finalize preliminary results based on inputs from ASEAN Member States (AMSs).

The mid-term review utilized a standardized survey template that included key indicators and challenges for each Plan of Action (POA). AMSs were requested to rate each key indicator on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 5 (excellent level), explaining their criteria and challenges. The analysis combined quantitative and qualitative methods, using descriptive statistics to identify trends and patterns, compare progress between the 2021 baseline and 2025 mid-term review, and identify gaps, recommendations, and best practices at both national and regional levels. Ten AMSs (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) submitted data for the mid-term review 2025. Due to the absence of baseline data for Viet Nam, its 2025 mid-term review results will not be included in the regional comparative analysis between the baseline and mid-term periods.

Regionally, the implementation of the 88 POAs shows a positive trend: 57 % of POAs are implemented at a Good (45 %) or Excellent (12 %) level. 25 % are at a Fair level. Only 9 % are at Limited or Not at all (3 %) implemented while 6 % are Not Applicable. For Component A. Planning and Information, strong legal frameworks and stakeholder inclusion are positives, but data harmonization for international species remains a challenge. Component B. Fisheries Management, both marine and inland, is marked by excellent regional cooperation and innovative actions against IUU fishing, yet it struggles with adopting energy-efficient gear and assessing subsidy impacts. Inland fisheries specifically suffers from a lack of comprehensive policies, leading to weak monitoring and enforcement. Component C. Aquaculture is effectively integrated into rural development plans; however, a major hurdle is the domestic production of disease-resistant broodstock, forcing a reliance on imports. For Component D. the Utilization and Component E. Fish Trade, quality management systems are a strength, but gaps persist in hygienic handling standards and consistent eco-labeling for products. Finally, Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation stands out as the highest-rated component due to successful participation in developing sustainable fisheries policies.

Comparison of Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review (2025) at Regional Level, a positive trend of overall performance is observed, most significant improvements were seen in Components A, B, B2, C, D, and F. Specific improvements include enhanced data collection systems, adoption of EAFM, reduced bycatch, advanced disease diagnostics, optimized utilization technologies, and increased participation in international fora.

I. Introduction and Objectives

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030) was adopted by the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Senior Officials and Ministers in 2020. This RES&POA-2030 serves as a policy framework and direction to guide the region's fisheries development towards sustainability, while enhancing the contribution of fisheries to food security and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region from 2021–2030. The Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 comprises six components: Planning and Information, Fisheries Management, Aquaculture, Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, Fish

Trade, and Regional and International Policy Formulation. These components outline 88 actions designed to guide ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries implement relevant programs, projects, and activities both national and regional levels through appropriate ASEAN–SEAFDEC mechanisms.

To ensure effective implementation, the SEAFDEC Council endorsed a roadmap for monitoring and assessment during its 53rd Meeting in 2021. This roadmap includes three key phases: baseline information (2021), mid-term review (2025), and final evaluation (2029). The objectives of the monitoring and evaluation process are: 1) to assess the level of implementation at regional and national levels, 2) to identify gaps, challenges, and lessons learned, and 3) to provide recommendations to strengthen the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. The baseline assessment, conducted in 2021, was approved by the SEAFDEC Council at its 55th Meeting in 2023, with the findings also being reviewed through the ASEAN mechanism.

As part of the approved roadmap, the SEAFDEC Secretariat conducted the mid-term review of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 in 2025. It was kicked off with the RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on the Mid-term Review of the Implementation on 18 February 2025 *via* a virtual platform. The workshop was attended by representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam; as well as officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments (TD, AQD, MFRD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD), along with the Regional Fisheries Policy Network members. The Workshop agreed on the timeframe for compiling information and submitting inputs for the mid-term review using the survey template developed by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

In addition, the RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Validation of the Results of Mid-term Review of the Implementation the Mid-term Review of the Implementation (Validation Workshop) on 19 to 20 August 2025 had reviewed the preliminary results of mid-term review then gave more information on challenges of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 to the SEAFDEC Secretariat for compilation in this report.

The report was formally submitted to the 48th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee and the 28th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership in November 2025. During these sessions, Lao PDR committed to providing its baseline information by December 2025 to ensure its data was fully integrated into the mid-term review analysis. Conversely, due to a lack of initial baseline data, Viet Nam was excluded from the regional comparative analysis, though its mid-term data remains utilized for independent national-level assessments. After accommodating such suggestion, this report provides information of the mid-term review of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 by AMSs in 2025 including the comparison of such implementation between baseline 2021 and mid-term review 2025.

II. Methodology

2.1 Information compilation

The survey template including key indicators and challenges for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030 for three periods (*i.e.* in 2021 for baseline information, 2025 for mid-term review, and 2029 for final evaluation). The template was composed of a table with five columns *i.e.* column 1: POA-2030 no., column 2: Key indicators, column 3: Rating, column 4: Criteria used for rating, and column 5: Challenges. Each Plan of Action (POA) was designated with 1–2 key indicators. The AMSs were requested to rate each key indicator of all POAs using common criteria (*e.g.* policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others). Each key indicator was rated as 1 = not at all, 2 = at a limited level, 3 = at a fair level, 4 = at a good level, and 5 = at an excellent level. If the key indicator is not applicable to the country, it was indicated as N/A. The SEAFDEC National Coordinators are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of RES&POA-2030 as well as coordination with agencies to gather information for the survey, which due date to submit to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by April 2025. As of May 2025, all AMSs submitted their first version of inputs to the SEAFDEC Secretariat. As per suggestion during the Validation Workshop, AMSs resubmitted their inputs to the Secretariat in September 2025.

2.2 Analysis

Based on the abovementioned template, this enables the standardized process for analysis by combining both quantitative and qualitative methods to monitor the implementation of POA-2030. On the quantitative side, the calculation is based on the average scores for POAs with more than one key indicator, as well as the mode, which shows the most prevalent type of rating score. Then, the ratings of all actions of the POA-2030 were analyzed using descriptive statistics, *i.e.* frequency and mode to identify trends and patterns across different components and countries. This also facilitates comparison of progress over time, specifically between the Baseline Information (2021) and the Mid-term Review (2025), allowing to track improvements in the implementation. Qualitatively, the template requires AMSs to explain the bases for each rating in Column 4, providing essential context that supports interpretation of the numerical scores. In addition, AMSs could explain challenges on its implementation in Column 5.

At the national level, gaps in each component were identified from the indicator with the low rating scores *i.e.* 1–2 including implementation challenges mentioned by respective AMS. In addition, best practices in each component were identified from the indicator with the high rating scores *i.e.* 4–5. Comparisons between Baseline Information (2021) and Mid-term Review (2025) are made by examining the improvement in rating scores, reflecting the implementation status of the respective country. Together, the quantitative and qualitative data collected through this template provide a comprehensive picture of progress, gaps, and opportunities for enhancing the effectiveness of the RES&POA-2030 at both national and regional levels.

At the regional level, gaps in each component were identified from the indicator (s) with the highest numbers of low rating scores *i.e.* 1–2 (among AMSs) as well as implementation challenges mentioned by AMSs. In addition, best practices in each component were identified from the indicator (s) with the highest numbers of high rating scores *i.e.* 4–5 (among AMSs). Comparisons between Baseline Information and Mid-term Review are made by examining the improvement in rating scores, reflecting the implementation status across multiple AMSs.

It should be noted that the comparative analysis includes nine ASEAN Member States (AMSs)—Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand—as these were the countries that submitted both Baseline Information (2021) and Mid-term Review (2025). As Baseline Information for Viet Nam is unavailable, its data is excluded from the regional analysis.

III. Results and Discussion

3.1 National analysis

3.1.1 Brunei Darussalam

3.1.1.1 Overall implementation

For Brunei Darussalam (**Figure 2**), the POAs were in overall implemented at a fair level. The POAs under Components A and B1 were implemented at a good level, while POAs under Components C, D, and E were implemented most frequently at a fair level. In addition, POAs under Components B and B2 were implemented averagely at a limited level. Moreover, the country implemented the POA under Component F at a fair level.

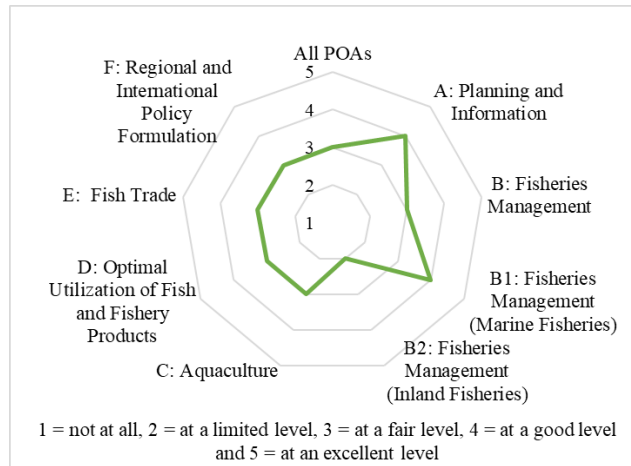


Figure 2 Overall implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by Brunei Darussalam

3.1.1.2 Mid-term review by component

As shown in **Figure 3**, the implementation status of the country’s POAs was varied: 33 % were good, 47 % were fair, 17 % were limited, and 3 % remained unimplemented.

While overall performance is decent, there are significant variations across different components. Components A, B and B1 are performing well, while Component B2 is a clear area of concern that requires immediate attention. The other components show a range of performance, from the consistently fair Component F to the more variable Components D and E. Below are detail discussion in each component.

Component A. Planning and Information

As shown in **Figure 3**, the Component A shows a good level of implementation. More specifically, about 60 % of the POAs were implemented at good level. Approximately 30 % of the POAs were implemented at fair level, and 10 % at limited level.

- *Challenges*

Brunei Darussalam’s fisheries management faces critical challenges in data, enforcement, and resource management. Data collection is problematic as it’s manual, covers less than 10 % of small-scale fishers, and infrequent sampling risks skewed catch data. The manual compilation and analysis of data in Excel further constrains timely reporting, a problem exacerbated by the irregular submission of production data by fisheries and aquaculture operators. Technical limitations mean species-specific stock assessments and reporting on bycatch and discards are yet to be fully implemented. Operational constraints include adverse weather and organizational commitments that hinder scheduled joint law enforcement patrols. Furthermore, the capacity to monitor sea operations, boat slipways, wet markets, and supermarkets is limited by the scarcity of patrol boats and enforcement personnel. Key resource management challenges involve the delayed recalculation of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) pending new resource surveys.

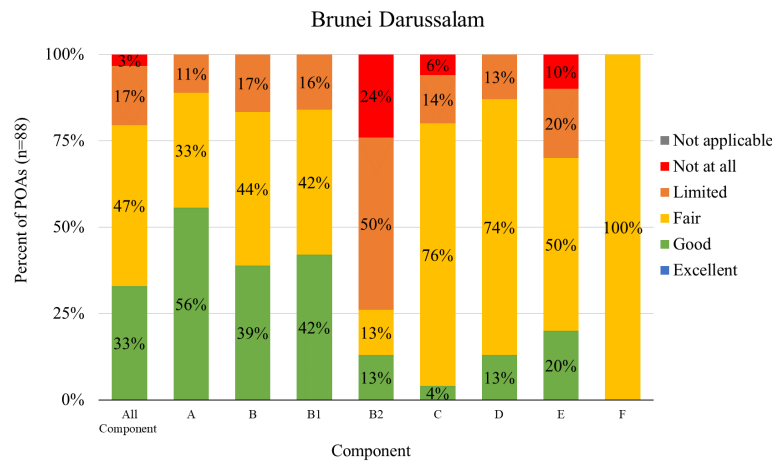


Figure 3 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by component of Brunei Darussalam

- *Best practices*

The country employs a comprehensive strategy for fisheries management, centered on the Fisheries Sector Roadmap 2025-2030 and aligned with the national Food Industry Road Map and Economic Blueprint. This framework uses production data and KPI targets to guide both aquaculture and capture fisheries development. Resource sustainability is a major focus, enforced by setting the exploitation limit at the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) of 21,300 metric tons and dedicating Marine Protected Areas. Conservation measures include a moratorium on fishing in Zone 1, a ban on landing sharks and fins, implementation of the Brunei Good Aquaculture Practices (BGAqP), and mandating selective gear like the 51 mm square mesh for trawl nets. Management is further supported by fishing ground zonation and Artificial Reef deployment. For enforcement, Brunei conducts joint patrols against IUUF and collaborates with international bodies *e.g.* SEAFDEC and FAO, as well as partners on coral reef monitoring. Data is shared across government agencies, academic institutions, and through community engagement to ensure coordinated oversight.

Component B. Fisheries Management

This component shows strong results, with Good and Fair statuses around 83 % of the POAs and 17 % at limited level.

- *Challenges*

Brunei Darussalam faces several challenges across enforcement, resource management, and technology adoption in its fisheries sector. The limited availability of patrol boats and enforcement personnel severely restricts the coverage of sea operations, monitoring of boat slipways, and consistent surveillance, compounded by joint patrols being cancelled due to unfavorable weather. Resource assessment is hindered by the failure to recalculate the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and the limited research vessels and researchers available for comprehensive stock surveys, especially in deeper waters. Logistical and financial constraints limit academic research projects. Technologically, there's suboptimal use of GPS and Fish Finder among small-scale fishers, and operations still rely heavily on manual labor for onboard tech. Furthermore, the sector struggles with non-compliance from trawl operators unwilling to adopt alternative gear and the difficulty in addressing lost nets and traps due to a lack of gear marking protocols. Finally, jurisdictional overlaps and differing operational procedures among agencies create challenges in harmonizing enforcement efforts.

- *Best practices*

Brunei Darussalam maintains a robust and evolving legislative and policy structure for fisheries management, centered on the Fisheries Act (Chapter 61) and the Brunei Darussalam Fishery Limit Act. This framework is continuously reviewed and supported by the Fisheries Sector Roadmap. Conservation is enforced through several key measures, including the designation of Marine Protected Areas, a Moratorium

on fishing in Zone 1, strict control over commercial bottom trawlers, and restricting fishing effort via Total Allowable Effort (TAE) quotas and the mandatory 51 mm square mesh size for trawl nets. Aquaculture is managed under the Brunei Good Aquaculture Practices (BGAqP). Enforcement is supported by a National Plan of Action on IUU, joint patrols, and technology like the Electronic Catch Documentation System (eCDS). The country encourages sustainable practices through training on GPS and Fish Finder technologies, while also addressing small-scale fishers' needs by expanding their fishing access in Zone 1.

Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

For this component, 42 % indicates good and fair levels of implementation. Around 16 % of the POAs were rated as limited level.

- *Challenges*

Local commercial fishing vessels face challenges in adopting and integrating new technologies such as the Automatic Identification System (AIS). There is a low level of awareness and understanding regarding the use of new equipment, leading to resistance to adopt new systems due to perceived complexity or unclear benefits. There is a lack of specialized legal personnel with expertise in international fisheries law or regional instruments. National legal frameworks may not be fully harmonized with regional standards.

- *Best practices*

Several best practices are for examples key measures on enforcement include the National Plan of Action to combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUUF), joint patrols with other agencies, and the development of the Electronic Catch Documentation System (eCDS). Commercial trawlers are required to use the Automatic Identification System (AIS), and all landings are restricted to designated ports like the Muara International Fish Landing, where port-in/out activities are monitored. In resource management, the country sets exploitation at the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY), utilizes Marine Protected Areas, and deploys Artificial Reefs. Conservation is further supported by a Moratorium on fishing in Zone 1 and specific enhancement programs like the Giant Freshwater Prawn restocking. Internationally, the country actively participates in bodies like ASEAN and SEAFDEC, engages in bilateral cooperation (*e.g.* with Viet Nam via a Hotline for information-exchange), and does not provide any fisheries subsidies, demonstrating commitment by accepting the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

For this component, 13 % of the POAs were implemented at good and fair levels, while 50 % were implemented at a limited level and 24 % were not implemented at all.

- *Challenges*

The country focuses on marine capture fisheries, though the country identifies low rating scores on following aspects. The country lacks comprehensive policies and institutional support for inland fisheries with efforts mainly focus on freshwater prawn restocking program (POA-40). Stakeholder awareness of inland fisheries' importance for food security and habitat restoration is limited as the Department of Fisheries prioritizes marine fisheries (POA-41). Inter-agency coordination on inland water use conflicts remains weak, relying on general environmental committees (POA-43a). Critical research on inland species' migration patterns and spawning grounds is absent (POA-44a) as is ecosystem health management (POA-44b). While some planning exists through environmental committees (POA-46a), implementation capacity is limited (POA-46b), with responsibilities scattered across non-specialized agencies. Development of practical indicators for inland fisheries management is minimal, involving meteorological and disaster agencies (POA-47).

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates effective management of invasive species in inland ecosystems. The country has a strong legal framework, including Fisheries Act regulations, CITES standards, and domestic best practices.

Mobile Technical Units enhance outreach and compliance, demonstrating Brunei Darussalam's commitment to biodiversity preservation (POA-42).

Component C. Aquaculture

For this component, 4 % indicates a good level of implementation. About 76 % of the POAs were rated as fair, while 14 % were implemented at a limited level, and 6 % were not implemented at all.

- *Challenges*

There is inadequate infrastructure and facilities to comply with the operational requirements of aquaculture operations, including biosecurity measures and risks (POA-48). The country demonstrates minimal capacity in broodstock and seed production, relying entirely on imports rather than domestic production of quality seeds (POA-54). Support policies for aquaculture stakeholders remain underdeveloped, with only basic encouragement of value-chain participation rather than comprehensive frameworks (POA-56). Feed efficiency practices are limited, marine fish farms use trash fish as feed, which may not have good quality or freshness (POA-64). Regarding biotechnology adoption, Brunei's cautious approach to GMOs is reflected in restricted trials of all-male prawns and GIFT tilapia, suggesting nascent but constrained R&D efforts in genetic applications (POA-69).

- *Best practices*

The country has established robust protocols including the Brunei Good Aquaculture Practices (BGAqP), disease surveillance program. For international trade, the country implements Aquatic Animal Health verification processes to meet importing countries' requirements, along with a National Residue Monitoring Programme and traceability system (POAs-55, 56, 59, 60). Management also includes Zoning for aquaculture, conducting carrying capacity assessments, and supporting industry recovery via the Shrimp Recovery Program, with consistent engagement and capacity building for farmers (POA-68).

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

For this component, 13 % of the POAs were implemented at a fair level, while 74 % were implemented at a fair level and 13 % were at a limited level.

- *Challenges*

The country has limited implementation primarily related to production capacity, certification, and business capability. Small-scale enterprise and cottage industries struggle to meet market demand due to limited production capacity stemming from conventional methods and restricted operating areas. This is compounded by a lack of essential certifications such as Halal, GMP, and HACCP. Furthermore, many processing companies and SMEs face difficulties with financial commitments required to obtain and maintain certifications. Business-side challenges also include the lack of participation in training programs by dedicated staff and difficulties for some SMEs in meeting the requirements for grant applications.

- *Best practices*

There is the primary financial support as a grant from the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), with the Department of Fisheries providing application guidance to SMEs. Additionally, the sector is exploring partnerships with banks to develop more diverse and tailored financial packages. Basic infrastructure is also directly provided to support the farms.

Component E. Fish Trade

For this component, 20 % of the POAs were implemented at a good level, while 50 % were implemented at a fair level, 20 % were implemented at a limited level, and 10 % were not implemented at all.

- *Challenges*

The country faces significant challenges on regulatory compliance among importers and exporters. Many are not fully aware of or do not correctly understand the specific requirements for fish licenses. This lack of clarity and knowledge frequently leads to misinterpretations of the regulations, resulting in non-compliance. There is limited data collection at the end of the supply chain (*i.e.*, distributor for the finished products direct to the consumers).

- *Best practices*

The country adheres to international trade regulations through its comprehensive legal framework for fish trade, including the Fisheries Act, CITES regulations, WTO standards, and quality controls through the Halal Certificate and Label Order, Public Health Act, Halal Meat Act, and Wildlife Protection Act (POA-81).

Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

For this component, 100 % of the POAs were implemented at a fair level.

The POA under this component was implemented at a fair level. The country actively participated in various international fora *e.g.* SEAFDEC, ASEAN (AMAF, ASWGF, RPOA-IUUF, AN-IUU), APEC, Bilateral Cooperation, FAO, BIMP-EAGA.

3.1.1.3 Comparison between Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review 2025

Figure 4 showed the comparison of the implementation of POAs through ratings between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Brunei Darussalam. Between 2021 to 2025, most POAs are projected to see improvement, with a shift from ‘Limited’ and ‘Not at all’ ratings to ‘Good’ rating. Significant improvements observe in Components A. Planning and Information, B. Fisheries Management, B1 Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries), C. Aquaculture, and D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products while there is consistent in Components B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries) and F. Regional and International Policy Formulation (**Figure 5**).

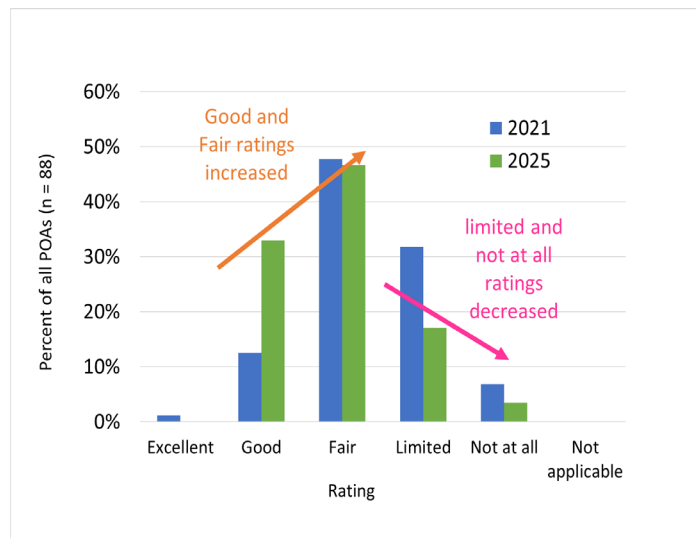


Figure 4 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Brunei Darussalam: all components

For **Component A. Planning and Information**, a strong projected improvement is shown in 2025 as the country’s capacity to develop a plan towards sustainable fisheries has improved *i.e.* “Fisheries Sector Roadmap 2025–2030” covering aquaculture and capture fisheries. The country manages its fisheries resources sustainably by maintaining the Maximum Sustainable Yield (21,300 mt), conserving resources through Marine Protected Areas (1,208.07 sq. km.) and Artificial Reef deployment, and implementing

recent advances such as the Redelineation of Fisheries Zonation and a Coral Reef Monitoring Program. Scientific efforts are supported by a Marine Resource Assessment Survey with SEAFDEC and a Giant freshwater prawn restocking program.

For **Component B. Fisheries Management**, progress is seen in aligning the Fisheries Act (Chapter 61) and policies with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM). To support small-scale fishers and improve efficiency, the country expanded their fishing access in Zone 1 (from 0–3 to 0–7 nautical miles) and encouraged the widespread adoption of GPS and Fish Finder technology through capacity-building training from the Department of Fisheries (DOF). Furthermore, crew allowance is now based on strict safety manning requirements to ensure safe operations and prevent incidents. DOF also provides information on import requirements to access overseas markets and market promotion through business matching program. DOF is advancing international cooperation, continuing its work with SEAFDEC on tuna stock assessment. A key achievement is its acceptance as an observer to major regional fisheries bodies, the IOTC and WCPFC.

For **Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)**, the country’s progresses in actively combating illegal fishing through the continued implementation of its National Plan of Action and joint patrols, with key measures including mandating the Automatic Identification System (AIS) on vessels and developing an Electronic Catch Documentation System (eCDS). The country is also committed to sustainable resource management by assessing fish stocks, promoting a shift away from trawling, and undertaking habitat restoration for coral reefs, seagrass, and mangroves. A major recent development is the formal acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in February 2024, officially codifying that the country provides no subsidies to its fisheries sector.

For **Component C. Aquaculture**, the country is enhancing its aquaculture sector by strengthening environmental oversight through mandatory impact assessments and by reviewing its Good Aquaculture Practices to emphasize sustainability. Key initiatives include the Shrimp Recovery Program, a dedicated Biosecurity Section, and the promotion of modern technology like Recirculating Aquaculture Systems and the Internet of Things for remote farm monitoring. To ensure a reliable supply, the country audits overseas shrimp hatcheries and provides local farmers with technical advice and basic infrastructure support.

For **Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products**, the country is being modernized through the adoption of technologies like GPS, IoT for remote monitoring, and online systems for licensing and electronic catch documentation. Financial support is primarily provided through a grant from the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB), with the Department of Fisheries guiding SMEs through the application process. The country is also exploring partnerships with financial institutions to create more diverse and tailored financial packages for businesses.

For **Component E. Fish Trade**, the country continues to implement its national standards through the Brunei Good Aquaculture Practices (BGAqP) and the Electronic Catch Documentation System (eCDS) to ensure compliance. The country also provides technical guidance, training, and capacity building in product development and packaging to assist producers, particularly in meeting certification and commercialization requirements.

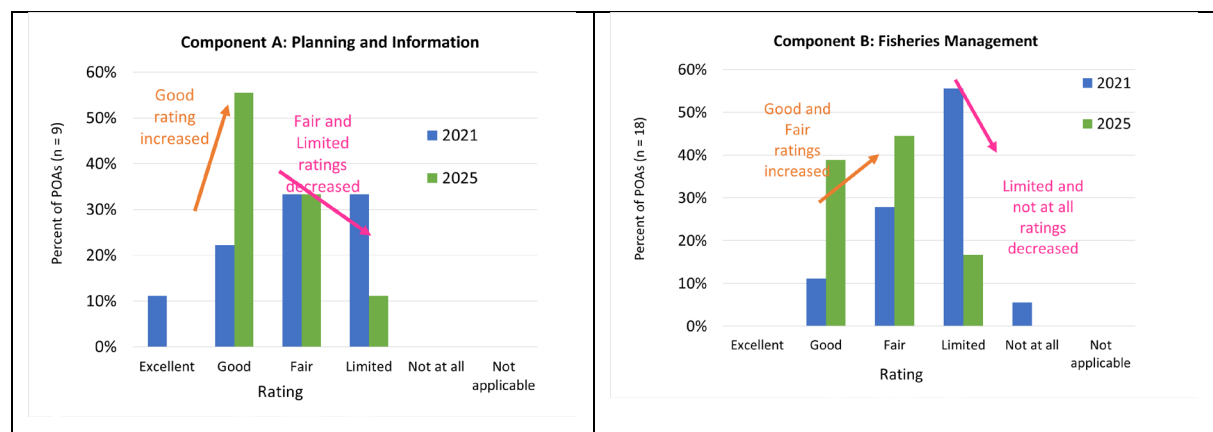




Figure 5 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Brunei Darussalam: Components A-F

3.1.1.4 Summary

Brunei Darussalam’s overall implementation of the Plan of Action (POA) is rated as ‘fair,’ with performance varying significantly across different components. The country demonstrates considerable strengths in planning especially the launch of the Fisheries Sector Roadmap 2025-2030, the enforcement of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (21,300 mt), and mandatory use of Marine Protected Areas. For enforcement, the country implements the National Plan of Action to combat IUU Fishing (NPOA-IUUF), uses joint patrols, and requires the Automatic Identification System (AIS) for commercial trawlers. The Aquaculture sector utilizes Brunei Good Aquaculture Practices (BGAqP), biosecurity measures, and promotes modern Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and IoT.

Despite these best practices, the sector faces critical challenges in data and capacity. Data collection is problematic as it is manual, covers less than 10 % of small-scale fishers, and suffers from irregular submission of production data, constraining timely reporting. Operational capacity is limited by a scarcity of patrol boats and enforcement personnel, which restricts sea operation coverage and monitoring of

slipways, often compounded by adverse weather. Resource assessment is hindered by the delayed recalculation of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and limited research vessels for deeper waters.

Progress from 2021 to 2025 is projected, the country has demonstrated strong progress by establishing a strategic Fisheries Sector Roadmap and aligning its Fisheries Act with sustainable management principles, supported by robust conservation efforts like maintaining the Maximum Sustainable Yield and combating illegal fishing. The country is simultaneously modernizing its sector through technology, including electronic catch documentation and GPS, while enhancing aquaculture sustainability with biosecurity programs and advanced farming systems.

3.1.2 Cambodia

3.1.2.1 Overall implementation

For Cambodia (Figure 6), all POAs were in overall implemented at a limited level. The POAs under Components A, B, B1, and B2 were implemented averagely at a good level, while POAs under Component C were implemented at a fair level. In addition, the POAs under Components D and E were implemented averagely at a limited level. Moreover, the country implemented the POA under Component F was implemented averagely at an excellent level.

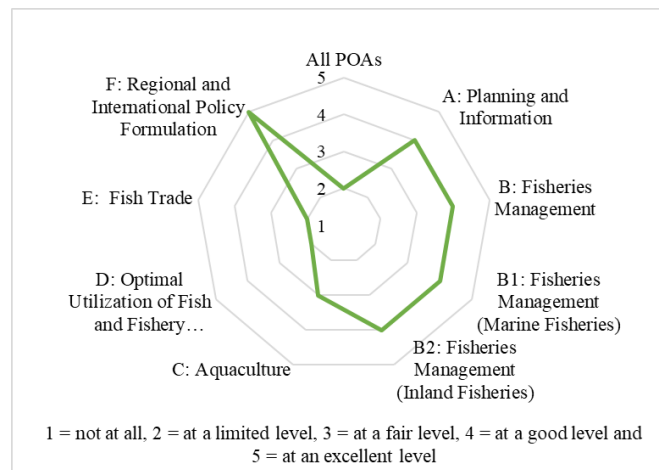


Figure 6 Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by Cambodia

3.1.2.2 Mid-term review

Figure 7 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 1 % were rated excellent, 26 % good, 27 % fair, 32 % limited, 13 % were not yet implemented, and 1 % was not applicable. Implementation status varies significantly across Components, with Inland Fisheries (B2) and Planning and Information (A) showing the strongest performance, achieving 100 % and 88 % Good/Fair ratings, respectively. The greatest challenges are seen in Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products (D) and Fish Trade (E), where 88 % and 90 % of POAs, respectively, are rated Limited or Not at all. Other core areas, including general Fisheries Management (B and B1) and Aquaculture (C), show mixed results, with roughly one-third to over half of POAs falling into the Limited or Not at all ratings. Component F (Policy Formulation) is fully rated Excellent, suggesting full achievement in that single POA).

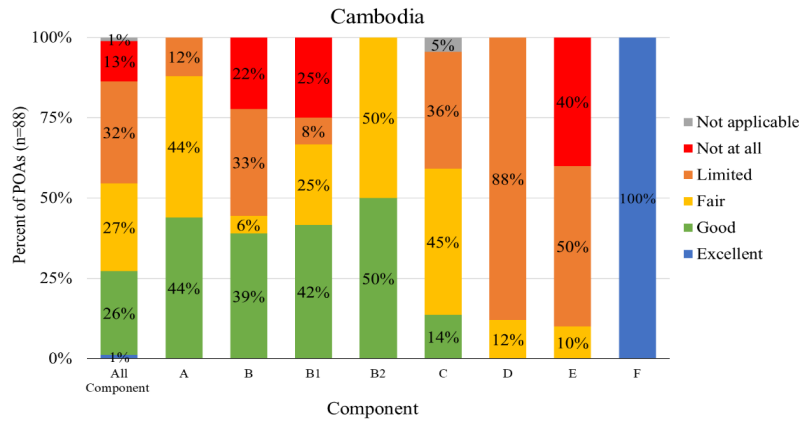


Figure 7 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by component of Cambodia

Component A. Planning and Information

For this component, the country’s implementation of POAs, shown in **Figure 7**, was primarily good (44 %) and fair (44 %), while about 12 % were implemented at a limited level.

- *Challenges*

The country’s Fisheries Administration (FiA) faces challenges on limited technical capacity and resources, particularly in data management and research. FiA struggles with the collection, harmonization, and management of fisheries statistical data and lacks sufficient staff and budget to conduct fish stock assessments or specialized scientific research, especially in marine sectors. Consequently, FiA requires technical assistance and capacity building from international bodies such as SEAFDEC and FAO to improve staff expertise in stock assessment, data collection methods, and fishery information management systems.

- *Best practices*

Cambodia’s best practice involve comprehensive, integrated planning supported by several strategic documents, including the Agriculture Strategic Development Plan (2024–2028). Key plans include maintaining wild catch, establishing sustainable coastal and marine fisheries management, marine fisheries management, inland fisheries management, and aquaculture strategic development plans. The FiA maintains capacity through trainings for central and provincial staff, sharing relevant statistics and fisheries-related data between the fisheries agency and other authorities, and applying simple and practical indicators for planning, monitoring, and evaluation (POAs-1, 2, 7, and 8).

Component B. Fisheries Management

Figure 7 showed the implementation status of the country’s POAs: 39 % were rated good, 6 % fair, 33 % limited, and 22 % were not yet implemented.

- *Challenges*

The FiA and Community Fisheries (CFis) struggles with limitations in capacity, budget, and specialized skills across many areas. Key challenges include the limited capacity of CFis in fisheries and microcredit (POA-15-17), and lacks energy-efficient fishing technologies (POA-18). There are less prioritized activities concerning the sufficiency of capable fishing crew and workers, or programs for new crew members and workers in the fishing industry (POA-19a&b). There is also limited budgets and techniques for the implementation of good and appropriate employment practices (POA-20) and capacity to address conflict of fisheries resources (POA-21). Efforts to explore underutilized fishery resources sustainably are limited as lack of budget and skilled officers (POA-22). The Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines remain unimplemented (POA-23a), while FiA is amending the law on fisheries and considering the implementation of SSF (POA-24). FiA is collaborating with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to collect fisheries value chain data, but this effort remains limited and requires additional budget

for promotion (POA-23). FiA's capacity is limited by a lack of budget and skilled officers to effectively assess and manage critical issues *e.g.* climate change and aquatic pollution on fisheries and aquaculture (POA-25-26). Furthermore, FiA is currently awaiting the implementation of the GoT-Fish Project to bolster its operational capabilities. (POA-27).

- *Best practices*

The country maintains proactive policy updates, evidenced by its 5-year Agriculture Strategic Development Plan (ASDP) reviews and ongoing legislative revisions to the Fisheries Law (POA-10). Strategic planning is comprehensive, with multi-year conservation frameworks including a 10-year fisheries master plan, NPOA-IUU (2025–2029), and management plans for marine/inland fisheries with the assistance from EU (POA-11). The country actively combats illegal fishing through international agreements (UNFSA, PSMA, RPOA-IUU, AN-IUU) and technology (SMART-application for monitoring) (POA-12). The country ensures robust governance through the establishment and regular review of key instruments, such as the Statement of Marine Fisheries Policies Management, in collaboration with development partners (POA-13). FiA champions an extensive co-management approach, actively involving 516 CFIs and NGOs in management activities, and is focused on strengthening the capacity of its 200 strong CFIs (39 % of the total) while piloting the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) with partners *e.g.* SEAFDEC and WorldFish Center (POAs-14–16).

Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

As illustrated in **Figure 7**, the implementation status of the country's POAs was varied: 42 % were good, 25 % were fair, 8 % were limited, and 25 % were remained unimplemented.

- *Challenges*

The country faces significant challenges on budget and skilled personnel deficit that restricts FiA's ability to participate consistently in regional and bilateral meetings when there are fund support, in particular regional frameworks and tools for combating IUU fishing which needs more assistance from SEAFDEC and FAO (POA-29–31). FiA lacks budget and skilled officers to monitor and implement flag State program (POA-32b). Environmental concerns are unaddressed, with no bycatch mitigation efforts (POA-34). The country has no activities on fisher safety and working conditions (POA-38) as well as assessment of the impact of subsidies on small-scale fisheries (POA-39).

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates strong marine fisheries management practices, actively combating IUU fishing through initiatives *e.g.* the NPOA IUU 2025–2029 (POA-28). The country is also collaborating with ASEAN states, FAO, and SEAFDEC (POA-29), promoting resource enhancement through Marine Fisheries Management Areas (POA-35), maintaining fisheries refugia sites (POA-36), and enhancing coastal habitat management through critical habitat restoration *e.g.* mangroves, coral reefs, seagrasses (POA-37).

Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

The country's implementation of POAs, shown in **Figure 7**, was primarily good (50 %) and fair (50 %).

- *Challenges*

The primary challenges are limitations in budget and skilled human resources, which restrict its ability to fully implement plans and manage inland water bodies. This lack of capacity hinders crucial activities such as conducting necessary research on the impacts of invasive species (POA-42) and manmade structures (*e.g.*, dams) on inland ecosystems, and developing appropriate mitigation measures for those impacts (POA-45). While conflict resolution mechanisms are established and partnerships are in place (*e.g.*, with Vietnam, EU, FAO, UNIDO), the limited participation of relevant stakeholders (POA-43a) and the dependence on available budget for research and ecosystem improvement necessitate more sustained assistance from development partners *e.g.* FAO and SEAFDEC (POA-44b).

- *Best practices*

The country has established comprehensive policies and institutional frameworks, with detailed catch data and strategic development plans (POA-40). Stakeholder awareness of inland fisheries is robust, with National Fish Day celebrations and community-led conservation areas (POA-41). The country excels in research and development, with scientific studies informing policy decisions (POA-44a). Effective coordinated planning for inland water bodies is evident (POA-46a).

Component C. Aquaculture

Figure 7 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 14 % were rated good, 45 % fair, 36 % limited, and 5 % were not yet implemented.

- *Challenges*

The country confronts pervasive challenges across its aquaculture and resource management programs, primarily rooted in severe limitations of both budget and human resources. This shortage directly restricts the adoption of advanced technologies and the implementation of responsible strategies (POAs-51, 52). Furthermore, it impedes research and development (R&D) for aquaculture and prevents the efficient utilization of aquafeeds (POAs-53, 64). Even the promotion of good quality broodstock and seeds is currently constrained by the availability of funding (POA-54). FiA's capacity is also limited in its ability to prevent, control, and diagnose serious aquatic animal diseases and participate effectively in regional warning systems (POAs-60-62). Crucially, the lack of capacity hinders essential risk assessments of exotic species and GMO products (POAs-65, 69), creating a strong dependency on technical assistance from FAO and SEAFDEC.

- *Best practices*

The country's best practices in aquaculture, reflected in its high ratings for comprehensive policy and support implementation. These practices include establishing a robust legal framework with an Improved Chapter on Aquaculture Management in the New Fisheries Law and the revised National Strategy Plan for Aquaculture Development (NSPAD) 2016-2030 (POA-48). Furthermore, FiA actively complements and supports farmers and stakeholders by promoting and extending small-scale aquaculture development, with support documented by national research institutions and Development Partners (POA-56). Finally, FiA improves human resource capabilities through extensive training, including Training of Trainers (TOT), farmers, and students in aquaculture technology, often in collaboration with international partners *e.g.* SEAFDEC/ AQD and NACA (POA-66).

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 7**, was predominantly rated as limited (88 %) while a smaller proportion were considered fair (12 %).

- *Challenges*

The country has established a Food Technology Research and Innovation Platform (FTRIP) but still struggles with applying technologies to optimize catches and farmed products (POA-70). Efforts to promote traditional fish products remain limited, with only basic support for fish processors (POA-71). These require technical assistance from FAO, SEAFDEC, and ASEAN Member States (AMS) (POAs-70-71). Quality and safety management systems exist but are not yet robust enough to enhance global competitiveness (POA-72a), and their adoption by small and medium enterprises remains partial (POA-72b). Training programs for post-harvest technologies and food safety are available but insufficient (POA-74). Financial support is also a challenge, as limited budgets restrict the ability to support micro-credit systems for enterprise development (POA-75). FiA's capacity is limited to adopt hygienic handling standards and guidelines for handling fish and fishery products (POA-77).

- *Best practices*

The country's efforts include establishing Technical Guidelines/Regulations for official control to promote quality and safety management systems that support the competitive position of ASEAN products (POA-72a). Additionally, FiA has set up GHP/GMP/HACCP guidelines and a quality seal certification system to improve quality management and market competitiveness for small and medium enterprises (POA-72b), while also strengthening its legislative framework through a final draft of the Value Chain Development Strategy (POA-73).

Component E. Fish Trade

Figure 7 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 10 % were rated fair, 50 % limited, and 40 % were not yet implemented.

- *Challenges*

The country is still limited capacity to implement international standards on trading of fish and fishery products though establishing protocol of the importing requirements for export of farmed aquatic (POA-78) and limited capacity to properly adopt regional standards such as ASEAN GAqP (POA-79). While basic SPS measures are applied, implementation of trade-related standards remains limited requiring assistance from FOA, SEAFDEC, and AMSs (POA-80), as does alignment with international laws such as CITES and WTO through national regulations (POA-81). FiA is improving regulations to engage private sector engagement in trade (POA-83), and support programs for small-scale producers to achieve only limited success in helping them meet quality standards (POA-84) or access broader markets (POA-85). The application of traceability system is limited (POA-86), and development of branding or eco-labeling is also limited (POA-87).

- *Best practices*

The country is proactive in collaboration with AMSs and SEAFDEC towards common positions that could be reflected in international fish trade.

Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

The country's implementation of POA under this component, shown in **Figure 7**, was primarily excellent (100 %). The country is active and comprehensive participation in all major fisheries-related international fora and technical committees, including those under FAO/COFI, WTO, CITES, and ASEAN, to effectively promote and defend the ASEAN's regional interests at the global level.

3.1.2.3 Comparison between Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review 2025

Figure 8 showed the comparison of the implementation of POAs through ratings between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Cambodia indicated a positive trend in high-level indicators, with a decrease in low-rated indicators. The improved performance is prevalent in Components B. Fisheries Management, B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries), B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries), and C. Aquaculture, while there is consistent in D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, E. Fish Trade, F. Regional and International Policy Formulation (**Figure 9**). More information on the progress of each component is explained below.

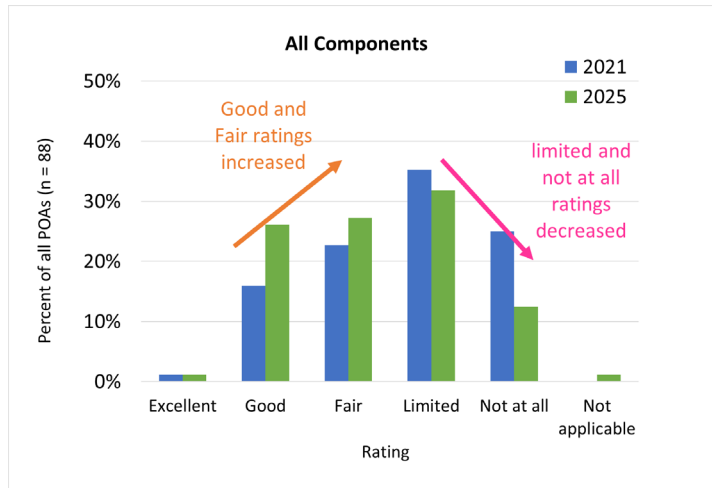


Figure 8 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Cambodia: all components

For Components B. Fisheries Management, the country updated the Agriculture Sector Development Program while the fisheries law is under the amendment process. The country also reported the increased number of strong Community Fisheries (CFis) showing the expansion of fisheries co-management and enhancement of community capacity. FiA showed initial efforts in addressing climate change and aquatic pollution by collaborating with relevant partners on a climate adaptation project and plastic issue.

On Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries), the country updated the National Plan of Action to combat IUU fishing (2025-2029) and established Marine Fisheries Management Areas with protection and conservation plans for marine habitats. The country is strengthening its resource management efforts by updating marine fishing gear regulations, supporting the established fisheries refugia, and collaborating with partners on programs to enhance resources through artificial reefs, restocking, and habitat restoration. Furthermore, FiA actively participates in consultative dialogues and bilateral meetings with neighboring countries *e.g.* Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines to harmonize legal and regulatory frameworks.

For Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries), the country enhanced research and development in understanding aquatic animal migration patterns, spawning and nursery grounds, and published several scientific studies *e.g.* larvae drift from upstream to downstream and acoustic telemetry for fisheries management plans as well as improved its efforts in monitoring and assessing the impacts of man-made structures on inland waterways. Concurrently, FiA is strengthening law enforcement and regulatory frameworks by issuing official proclamations to ban fishing for endangered species *e.g.* the Giant Barb and Giant Mekong Catfish and developing research guidelines with international partners *e.g.* FAO.

For Component C. Aquaculture, the country is pursuing a comprehensive, policy-driven approach to sustainable aquaculture, formalizing its commitment through an Improved Chapter on Aquaculture Management in the New Fisheries Law and the revised National Strategy Plan for Aquaculture Development (NSPAD). This strategy, which is being promoted through inter-ministerial cooperation and vocational training, prioritizes small-scale aquaculture development and food security while emphasizing the implementation of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) and environmental safeguards. Furthermore, FiA actively supports and conducts R&D through a network of national research institutes, focusing on areas *e.g.* disease diagnosis and biosecurity with support from partners such as EU-funded projects and international organizations *e.g.* WOA and NACA.

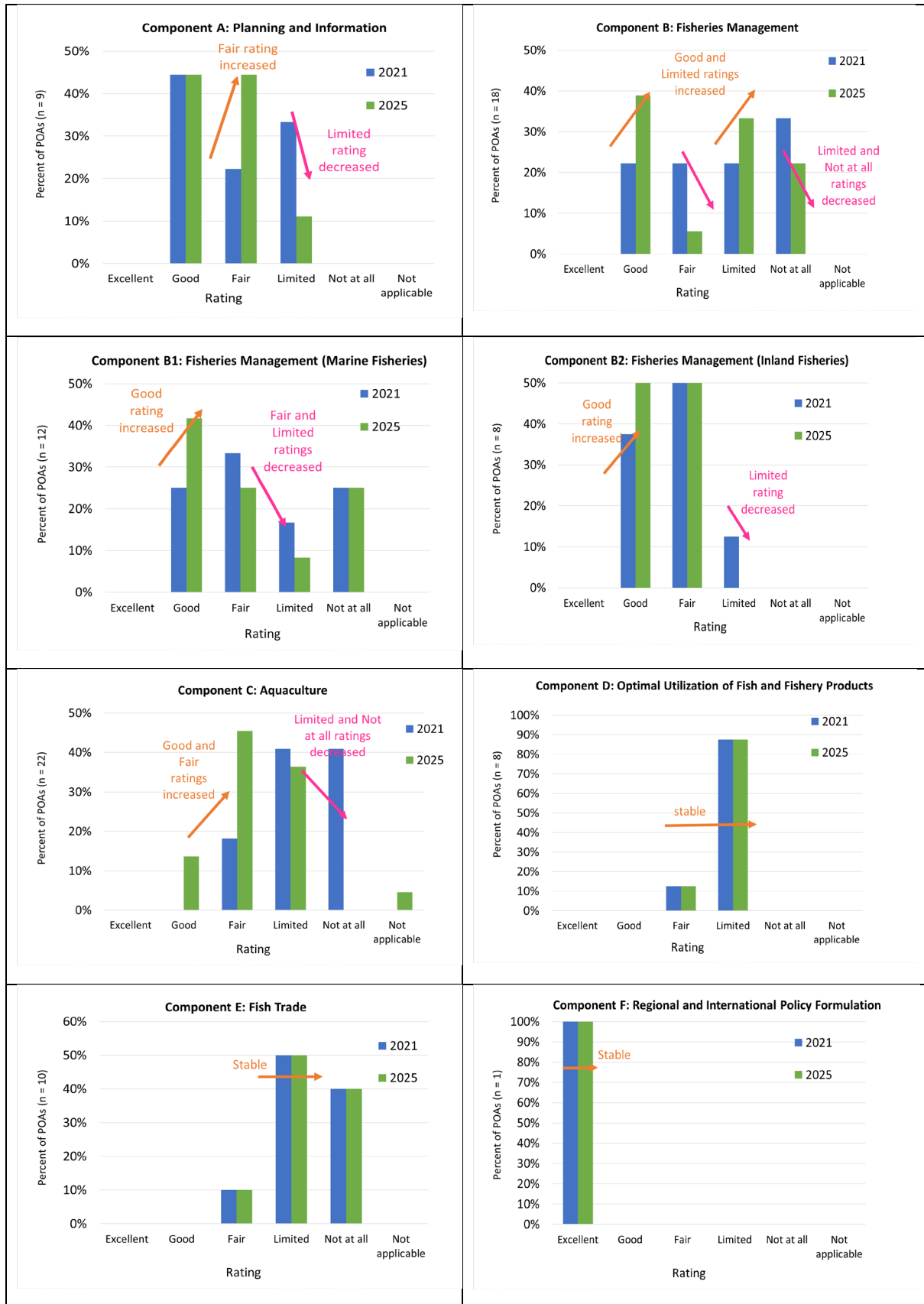


Figure 9 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Cambodia: Components A-F

3.1.2.4 Summary

Cambodia’s overall implementation of the POAs is rated as limited, though it demonstrates high performance in several key areas, particularly on actively participation in all major global forums (FAO/COFI, WTO, ASEAN) to promote regional interests. Best practices are built upon comprehensive, integrated planning (A), a robust legal framework, and an extensive co-management approach involving 516 Community Fisheries. Furthermore, the country implements strong anti-IUU frameworks and supports aquaculture through training, R&D, and the promotion of small-scale development.

The most pervasive challenge across all components is a severe deficit in budget, technical capacity, and skilled human resources, which hinders specialized functions *e.g.* fish stock assessments and essential R&D. This shortage has led to the complete or near-complete neglect of critical areas in fisheries management, such as SSF Guidelines implementation, fisher safety, and the assessment of subsidies. The major challenges are concentrated in post-harvest and fish trade, where a lack of capacity restricts the ability to adopt technologies, implement international standards, traceability systems, and hygienic handling guidelines, necessitating sustained external assistance.

Progress from 2021 to 2025 is positive, the highlights are driven by several advancements include the promulgation of the Fisheries Law and the expansion of co-management, marked by an increased number of “strong Community Fisheries.” The country established Marine Fisheries Management Areas (MFMA) and updated its NPOA IUU (2025–2029), while on inland fisheries, the country improved its scientific R&D and strengthened law enforcement against fishing endangered species. On aquaculture the country formalized its commitment by adopting the Improved Chapter on Aquaculture and a revised strategic plan, supported by active R&D and training networks.

3.1.3 Indonesia

3.1.3.1 Overall implementation

For Indonesia (Figure 10), all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Components A–C, and E were implemented at a good level. In addition, the POAs under Components D and F were implemented averagely at an excellent level.

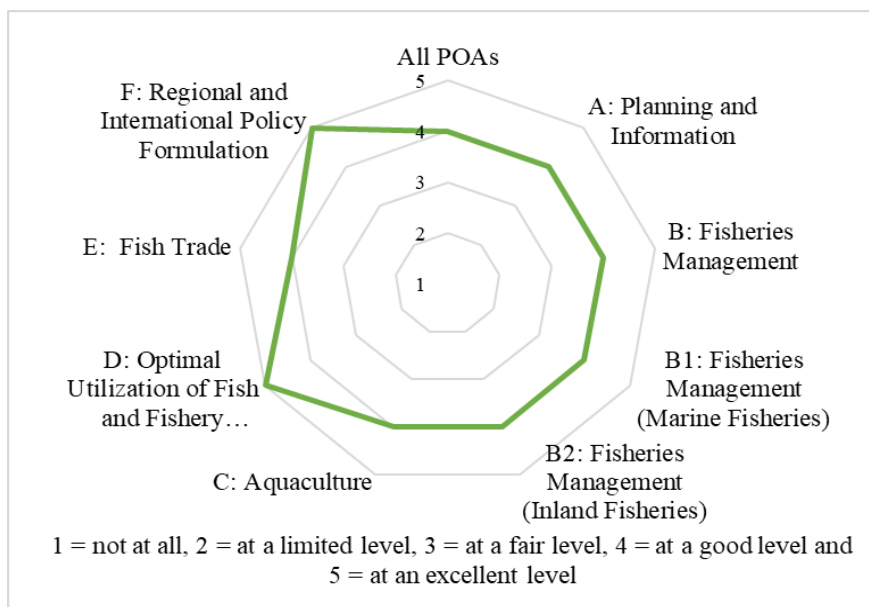


Figure 10 Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by Indonesia

3.1.3.2 Mid-term review

Figure 11 shows the implementation status of the country’s POAs: 20 % were rated excellent, 70 % good, 6 % fair, and 4 % were not applicable.

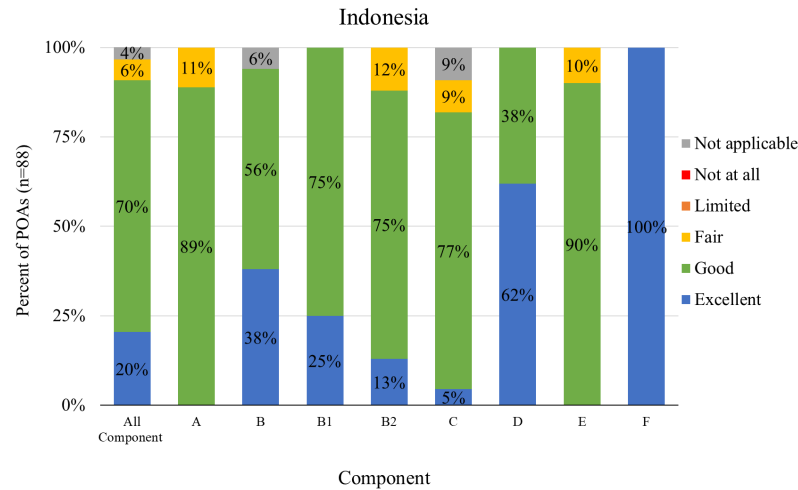


Figure 11 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by component of Indonesia

Component A. Planning and Information

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 11**, was predominantly rated as good (89 %) while a smaller proportion was considered fair (11 %).

- *Challenges*

A primary obstacle is the continued absence of a single, unified operational master plan that fully integrates marine capture, inland capture, and aquaculture sub-sectors, preventing the planning from reaching an “excellent” level. There is a need to upgrade fisheries planning and management by more broadly adopting advanced tools *e.g.* Harvest Control Rules, and the intrinsic difficulty in species-specific data collection due to the country’s multi-species tropical environment. Additionally, the country encounters difficulty in obtaining verified data for a wide array of protected species (such as sharks, rays, and sea turtles). Furthermore, the existing systems for setting reference points and applying indicators need further refinement to achieve broader species coverage, enable real-time application, and allow for more detailed species-specific assessments.

- *Best practices*

Indonesia has adopted the Blue Economy as its overarching policy framework, guiding integrated planning across marine capture fisheries, inland fisheries, and aquaculture through five strategic policies. This approach is reinforced by regulations such as quota-based fisheries management and Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for all 11 Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs), developed with multi-stakeholder involvement. The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) demonstrates strong institutional and technical capacity in sustainable fisheries planning which establishes biological reference points, Total Allowable Catch (TAC), and exploitation levels for key fish stocks.

To enhance transparency and data-driven decision-making, Indonesia has implemented a One Data policy, supported by a web-based platform for data validation and dissemination, including public access to fisheries data, including information on protected and CITES-listed species. The country has also shifted from qualitative to science-based indicators, using measurable metrics like MSY and TAC for fisheries management. Internationally, the MMAF actively engages in regional forums such as CTI-CFF, sharing research and best practices on sustainable fisheries, marine conservation, and climate adaptation, reinforcing its commitment to collaborative and evidence-based fisheries governance.

Component B. Fisheries Management

The country's implementation of POAs, shown in **Figure 11**, was primarily excellent (38 %), good (56 %), and 6 % were not applicable.

- *Challenges*

The key challenges identified in the Fisheries Management component focus heavily on governance, community involvement, and national scaling. A significant hurdle is the fragmented legal basis for co-management, which results in community participation being often ad hoc and prevents formalized decision-making roles for local groups nationwide (POA-16). The adoption of energy-efficient technologies and advanced crew optimization technologies remains limited, mainly due to restricted financing, a lack of standardized regulations, and poor outreach, hindering national scaling (POAs-18-19). Though efforts to collect comprehensive, sex-disaggregated fisher data are ongoing and have yet to fully cover all business actors (POA-23b). Furthermore, the country faces a substantial challenge in environmental compliance, as the progress towards the ambitious 70 % national marine litter reduction target by 2025 was significantly behind schedule as of 2021 (POA-26).

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates outstanding fisheries governance, especially in policy responsiveness (POA- 10), conservation planning (POA-11), IUU fishing prevention (POA-12), comprehensive fisheries policies (POA-13), and ecosystem-based management (POA-14). The country excels through timely legal updates (e.g., quota-based fishing regulations), full coverage of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) across all 11 zones, and advanced surveillance (VMS tracking 5,500+ vessels). The country's small-scale fisheries are strongly supported via financial programs (microcredit schemes) and gender-inclusive data systems (POA-23b), while international trade benefits are fairly distributed (POA-24). The fishing ports provide various information for fishers (POA-24). The country raises awareness among youth in coastal areas through climate resilience initiatives such as replanted Coastal Vegetation (POA-25). The country has committed to reducing marine litter by 70 % by 2025 (POA-26), and actively engaged in bilateral and multilateral for a regarding marine fisheries (POA-27).

Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 11**, was predominantly rated as good (75 %) and excellent (25 %).

- *Challenges*

Despite strong ratings in combating IUU fishing, key challenges lie in translating policy and frameworks into practical, adopted programs. A significant hurdle is the delayed formal adoption of the *Fisheries Refugia* program, an approach designed for resource enhancement, as the government's recommendation is still in the finalization stage (POA-35). Another challenge concerns the practical application of regional anti-IUU frameworks, specifically needing further study on the effective utilization of the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) tool (POA-30). Furthermore, there's an administrative challenge in confirming compliance with international labor and safety standards, as the Ministry needs internal verification of the ratification status of key conventions e.g. International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) of ILO (POA-38).

- *Best practices*

The country achieves excellent performance in combating IUU fishing through comprehensive measures (POA-28). The country shows outstanding regional cooperation via active participation in RPOA-IUU, AN-IUU, RFMOs, and bilateral patrol (POA-29), maintains strong capabilities across multiple domains: utilizing regional IUU frameworks (POA-30); legal engagement in fisheries dialogues (POA-31); implementing port State measures (POA-32a); fulfilling flag State responsibilities through the BBNJ Agreement (POA-32b); researching fishing gear impacts (POA-33a); developing eco-friendly fishing gear (POA-33b); bycatch mitigation aligned with RFMO standards (POA-34); resource enhancement through

habitat restoration and conservation monitoring (POA-35); applying fisheries refugia concepts (POA-36); and sustainably managing coastal habitats via innovative conservation financing (POA-37). The country adheres to international labor standards (POA-38) and considers the assessment of the impact of subsidies given to small-scale fisheries (POA-39).

Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

Figure 11 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 13 % were rated excellent, 75 % good, and 12 % fair.

- *Challenges*

The primary challenges for inland fisheries management are uneven institutional and human resource capacity across regions and significant limitations in monitoring, assessing, and mitigating the negative impacts of man-made structures on inland waterways. These issues are compounded by coordination challenges among multiple implementing institutions (POA-46b).

- *Best practices*

The country has established a robust legal and institutional framework, creating 14 specialized Inland Fisheries Management Areas using ecosystem-based approaches and community co-management (POA-40). Stakeholder awareness initiatives (POA-41), invasive species control (POA-42), inter-agency coordination (POA-43a), and ecosystem sustainability efforts are also evident (POA-44b).

Component C. Aquaculture

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 11**, was predominantly rated as good (77 %), a smaller proportion were considered excellent (5 %), fair (9 %), while also 9 % were considered not applicable.

- *Challenges*

The main challenge is in applying the precautionary approach to safeguard the environment from aquaculture intensification, which is the lack of a formal, dedicated government program for it, while there are promising proposals for cooperation coming from the private sector (POA-68).

- *Best practices*

The country has strong performance in its aquaculture sector, key practices include sustainable aquaculture programs led by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), such as aquaculture village initiatives and cluster-based modeling for shrimp, crab, milkfish, and saline tilapia (POA-48). The country actively follows ASEAN guidelines for responsible aquaculture (POA-49) and maintains strong inter-ministerial coordination to integrate aquaculture into rural development (indicator 50). The country employs advanced technologies for high-value species *e.g.* shrimp and lobster (POA-51) and enforces environmental regulations, including wastewater treatment for aquaculture operations (POA-52). Research and development (R&D) efforts focus on climate-resilient species and aquatic genetic resources, supported by collaborations with FAO (POA-53). The country also implements biosecurity measures through national strategies and FAO projects (POAs-55 & 61). Financial incentives, such as Fish Farmers' Corporations, improve access to credit (POA-58), while policies like the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) ensure responsible antibiotic use (POA-63). Indonesia participates in regional disease warning systems (POA-62) while climate change adaptation strategies are integrated into fisheries laws (POA-67). The country conducts risk assessments for GMOs under strict regulatory frameworks (POA-69).

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 11**, was predominantly rated as excellent (62 %) and good (38 %).

- *Challenges*

There is the need to improve the practical implementation and field monitoring of hygienic fish handling practices onboard fishing vessels and at marketplaces (POA-77). The government is focusing on strengthening monitoring and enforcement to ensure full compliance, particularly across small-scale landing sites and traditional markets.

- *Best practices*

The country excels in technology adoption with mobile Tech-transfer and Information (ATI) Cars that provide processing equipment and education directly to communities (POA-70). Traditional fish products are actively promoted through the national “Proud to use Made in Indonesia’s Stuff” program (POA-71). The country maintains robust quality and safety systems, evidenced by Government Regulation No. 57/2015 on Quality Assurance and comprehensive cold chain infrastructure support for SMEs (POAs-72a,72b). Effective coordination exists among marine and fisheries agencies through harmonized policies (POA-73). Extensive training programs implement Good Hygienic Practices across the value chain (POA-74). Financial support is available through partnerships with banks for fisheries businesses (POA-75). Employment practices fully comply with national and international standards (POA-76). The country implements strong fish handling guidelines onboard vessels and in markets, supported by certification schemes and facility improvements (POA-77).

Component E. Fish Trade

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 11**, was predominantly rated as good (90 %) and fair (10 %).

- *Challenges*

The key challenges on regional harmonization and the full operationalization of domestic systems. A significant hurdle is achieving a common ASEAN position on major international trade issues, such as fisheries subsidies and the US Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), which hampers unified regional representation in forums *e.g.* the WTO (POA-82). Domestically, the traceability system is still voluntary and relies on business actors for data validation (POA-86). Additionally, developing a formal eco-labeling framework for the domestic market is still in the study phase (POA-87).

- *Best practices*

The country effectively implements regional ASEAN standards such as GAqP and Shrimp GAP for international trade (POA-79), while robustly applying SPS/TBT measures through systems *e.g.* STELINA for traceability and quality assurance (POA-80). National laws align well with international agreements including CITES, evidenced by comprehensive regulations on endangered species trade and sustainable fisheries management (POA-81). The country maintains good cooperation with ASEAN members on trade positions despite challenges in achieving consensus (POA-82), while actively engaging private sector stakeholders in fisheries improvement programs (POA-83). Small-scale producers receive substantial support through certification programs, capacity building, and market access initiatives (POAs-84,85). The country has developed advanced traceability through the STELINA digital system (POA-86) and progresses in eco-labeling with compliance to global standards and national framework development (POA-87).

Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

The country’s implementation of POA under this component, shown in **Figure 11**, was primarily excellent (100 %).

3.1.3.3 Comparison between Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review 2025

Figure 12 showed the comparison of the implementation of POAs through ratings between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Indonesia indicated a positive trend in excellent rating, while a decrease in good and not at all ratings. The improved performance is prevalent in Components B. Fisheries

Management, B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries), B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries), C. Aquaculture, and E. Fish Trade, while there is consistent in Components D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and F. Regional and International Policy Formulation (**Figure 13**). More information on the progress of each component is explained below.

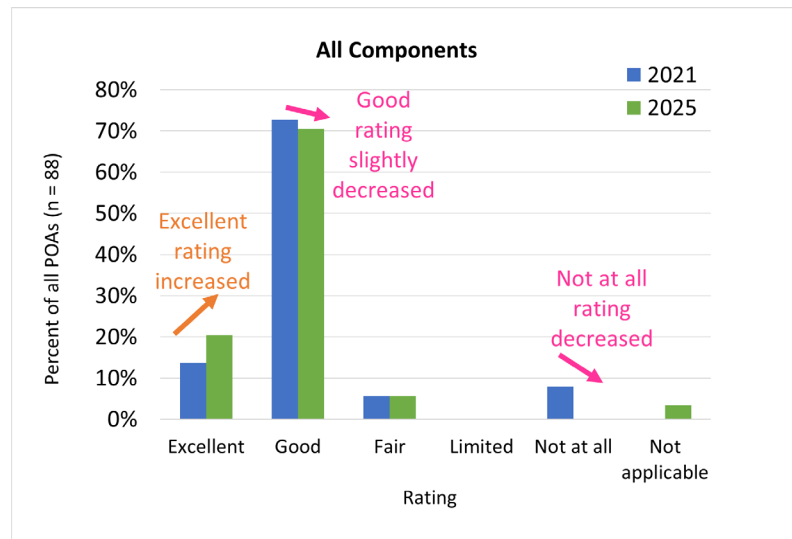


Figure 12 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Indonesia: all components

For Component B, key areas of progress include the timely updating of national policies, plans, the implementation of comprehensive measures to combat illegal fishing, and the institutionalization of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) as the national standard. International cooperation on managing shared fish stocks also improved. While many areas advanced, several indicators maintained a rating of 4, highlighting ongoing efforts in fisher capacity building, community participation, and the application of good employment practices. In addition, the collection of sex-disaggregated data remains a challenge, not yet covering the entire population.

For Component B1, the country noted the signing of the BBNJ Agreement as a relevant action and a key improvement was seen in the development of environment-friendly fishing practices. In addition, the country had advanced in extensive habitat restoration, biophysical monitoring, the establishment of conservation areas and OECMs, and innovative sustainable funding mechanisms.

For Component B2, the country has made significant strides in inland water management, especially on inter-agency coordination and establishing foundational regulations, centered on designated management areas and governed by regulations that facilitate multi-stakeholder coordination, zoning, and licensing. Key frameworks include the use of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and a system of local and ministerial regulations that prohibit destructive practices and govern auction procedures. The country is also actively implementing conservation efforts through projects like IFish (involving restocking and fish passage construction) and utilizing fish *refugia* under the SPEECTRA program, supported by existing training centers and certification programs to build human resource capacity.

For Component C, the country's key progress includes the significant improvement in implementing aquatic biosecurity measures and programs to regulate the movement of aquatic organisms, supported by partnerships with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

For Component E, the country excels in quality and safety management systems, actively facilitating infrastructure such as cold chains for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and maintaining high coordination with control agencies *e.g.* the National Standardization Agency (BSN). Furthermore, the commitment to technology transfer is demonstrated through mobile Tech-transfer and Information (ATI) Cars that reach various regions. The only subtle area for continued focus, as indicated by ongoing strengthening efforts, is the on-the-ground implementation and monitoring of hygienic fish handling practices at small-scale landing sites and traditional markets.



Figure 13 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Indonesia: Components A-F

3.1.3.4 Summary

Indonesia demonstrates strong overall implementation of its POAs, with performance rated from good to excellent across most components. Key best practices include the adoption of the Blue Economy as the overarching policy framework, which guides integrated planning across all sub-sectors. The country demonstrated strong institutional capacity supports the development of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for all 11 Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) and the implementation of a One Data policy for transparency. The Marine Fisheries component excels in combating IUU fishing and developing eco-friendly fishing practices. The post-harvest activities using mobile Tech-transfer and Information (ATI) Cars to bring processing equipment and education directly to communities.

The primary challenges involve lacks a unified operational master plan and struggles to get verified data for protected species. On fisheries management, decentralized co-management is challenged by the need for strengthening coordination with stakeholders, and the country is significantly behind its marine litter reduction target. Furthermore, the formal adoption of key programs *i.e.* Quota-based Fishing policy and the use of the precautionary approach in aquaculture (specifically for measuring carrying capacity) are extended.

3.1.4 Lao PDR

3.1.4.1 Overall implementation

For Lao PDR (**Figure 14**), all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Components A, B, B2, and D were implemented averagely at a good level, while POAs under Component B1 were not applicable for the country. In addition, the POAs under Components C and E were implemented at a fair level, while the POA under Component F was implemented at an excellent level.

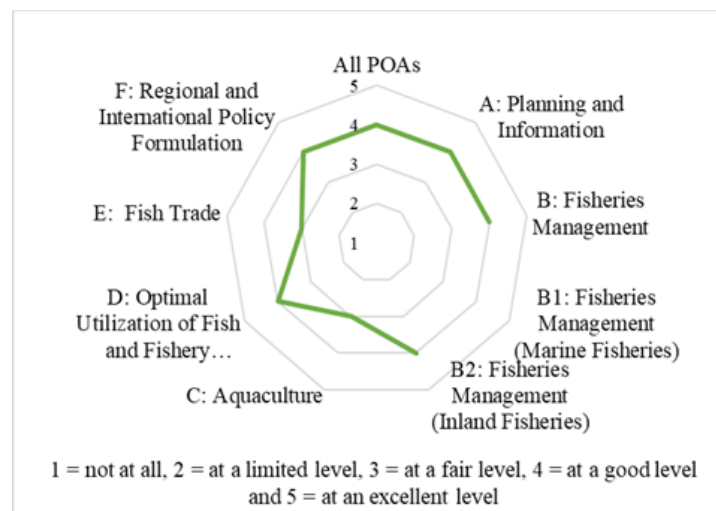


Figure 14 Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by Lao PDR

3.1.4.2 Mid-term review

Figure 15 shows the implementation status of the country's POAs: 51 % were rated good, 30 % fair, and 19 % were not applicable.

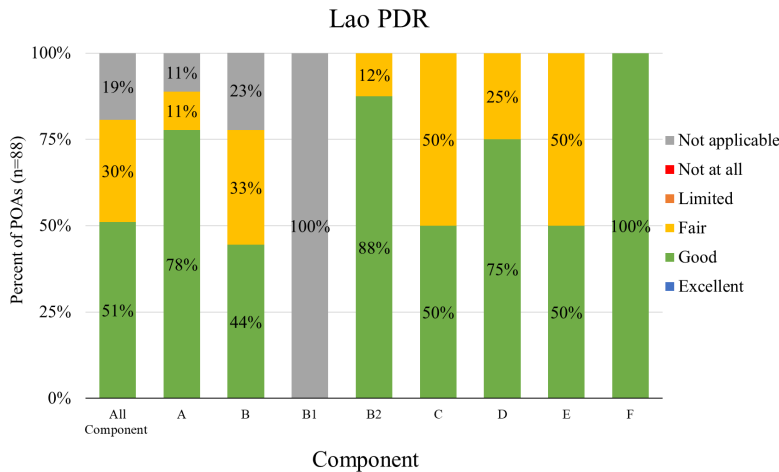


Figure 15 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by component of Lao PDR

Component A. Planning and Information

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 15**, was predominantly rated as good (78 %) while a smaller proportion were considered fair and not applicable (11 %).

- *Challenges*

There is a significant lack of species-level data collection for internationally concerned or endangered species. Additionally, the country faces inadequate capacity to establish scientific reference points (benchmarks) for managing fish stocks.

- *Best practices*

The country has successful integration of sub-sector planning is guided by the Lao Fisheries Strategic Implementation Plan and the Livestock and Fisheries Development Plan 2021–2025 and there is high performance in sharing statistics between agencies and regional institutions.

Component B. Fisheries Management

Figure 15 showed the implementation status of the country’s POAs: 44 % were rated good, 33 % fair and 23 % were not applicable.

- *Challenges*

The main gaps persist in implementation of comprehensive fisheries management policies. In addition, fisheries organizations and local communities continue to lack the capacity needed to effectively support the socio-economic well-being of fishers.

- *Best practices*

The progress is noted in the timeliness of updating national policies and legal frameworks through stakeholder consultation. The country has successfully implemented measures to prevent unauthorized and illegal fishing practices.

Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

As illustrated in **Figure 15**, the implementation status of the country’s POAs in this component was predominantly rated as not applicable.

- *Challenges*

The POAs are not applicable for the country.

- *Best practices*

The POAs are not applicable for the country.

Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

The country's implementation of POAs, shown in **Figure 15**, was primarily good (88 %) and fair (12 %).

- *Challenges*

The primary obstacle is the insufficient mitigation of man-made structures (such as dams) that impact inland waterways. There is also a need for more practical, simple indicators to monitor floodplain fisheries at the community level.

- *Best practices*

This is a high-performing area (80 % “Good” rating) due to strong coordination with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and best practices include high stakeholder awareness of habitat restoration and the successful implementation of closed/open season regulations.

Component C. Aquaculture

Figure 15 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 50 % were rated good, and 50 % rated fair.

- *Challenges*

The sector suffers from the low use of modern technologies, such as full-cycle breeding. Funding is insufficient for research and development in biosecurity and disease control, and there is a lack of micro-credit systems for small aquaculture businesses.

- *Best practices*

Effective management has established robust coordination to integrate aquaculture into broader rural development initiative and multi-purpose land use strategies.

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

The country's implementation of POAs, shown in **Figure 15**, was primarily good (75 %) and fair (25 %).

- *Challenges*

There are still only moderate efforts directed toward examining and managing the impacts of climate change and aquatic pollution (such as microplastics) on fishery products.

- *Best practices*

The country excels in promoting and preserving the diversity of traditional fish products. It has also established effective legislation and coordinated mechanisms for product traceability throughout the value chain.

Component E. Fish Trade

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 15**, was predominantly rated as good (50 %) and fair (50 %).

- *Challenges*

Adherence to international trade standards (SPS/TBT measures) is only moderate. Specific weaknesses include poor branding and eco-labeling of Lao products and limited support for small-scale producers to meet strict international safety standards.

- *Best practices*

The country has successfully developed national laws and regulations on the trading of species in accordance with international laws. Efforts to assist small-scale producers in accessing national and regional markets are also rated highly.

Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

The country’s implementation of POA under this component, shown in **Figure 15**, was primarily good (100 %).

3.1.4.3 Comparison between Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review 2025

Figure 16 showed the comparison of the implementation of POAs through ratings between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Lao PDR indicated a positive trend in good rating, while a decrease in fair and limited ratings. The improved performance is prevalent in Components A. Planning and Information, B. Fisheries Management, B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries), C. Aquaculture, D. Optimal Utilization of Fish, and E. Fish Trade, while there is consistent in Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation and there is not applicable for Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries) (**Figure 17**). More information on the progress of each component is explained below.

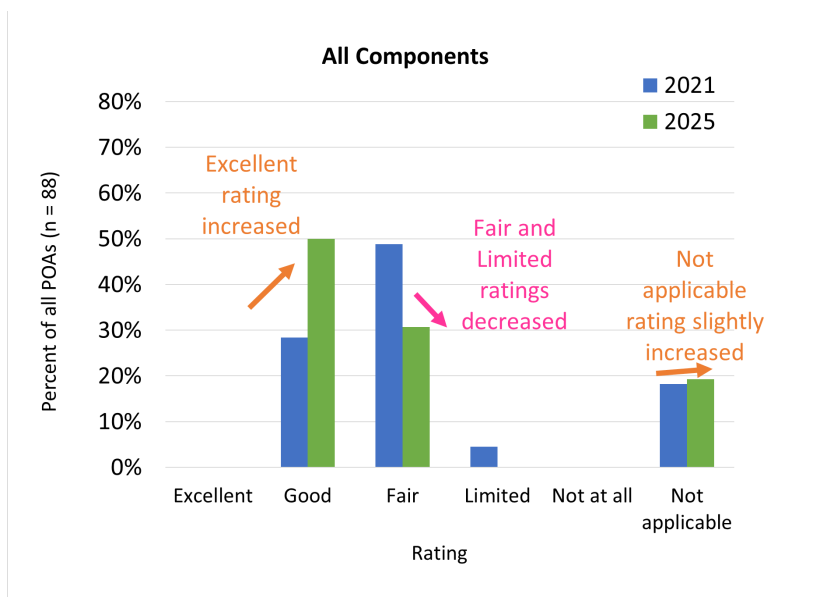


Figure 16 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Lao PDR: all components

On **Component A. Planning and Information**, the country improved integration of planning for capture fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors, supported by the Lao Fisheries Strategic Implementation Plan and the Livestock and Fisheries Development Plan 2021-2025. While there were challenges with limited data collection at the species level, particularly for endangered aquatic species or those of international concern.

Furthermore, there is an inadequate national capacity to establish critical benchmarks or reference points for managing fish stocks.

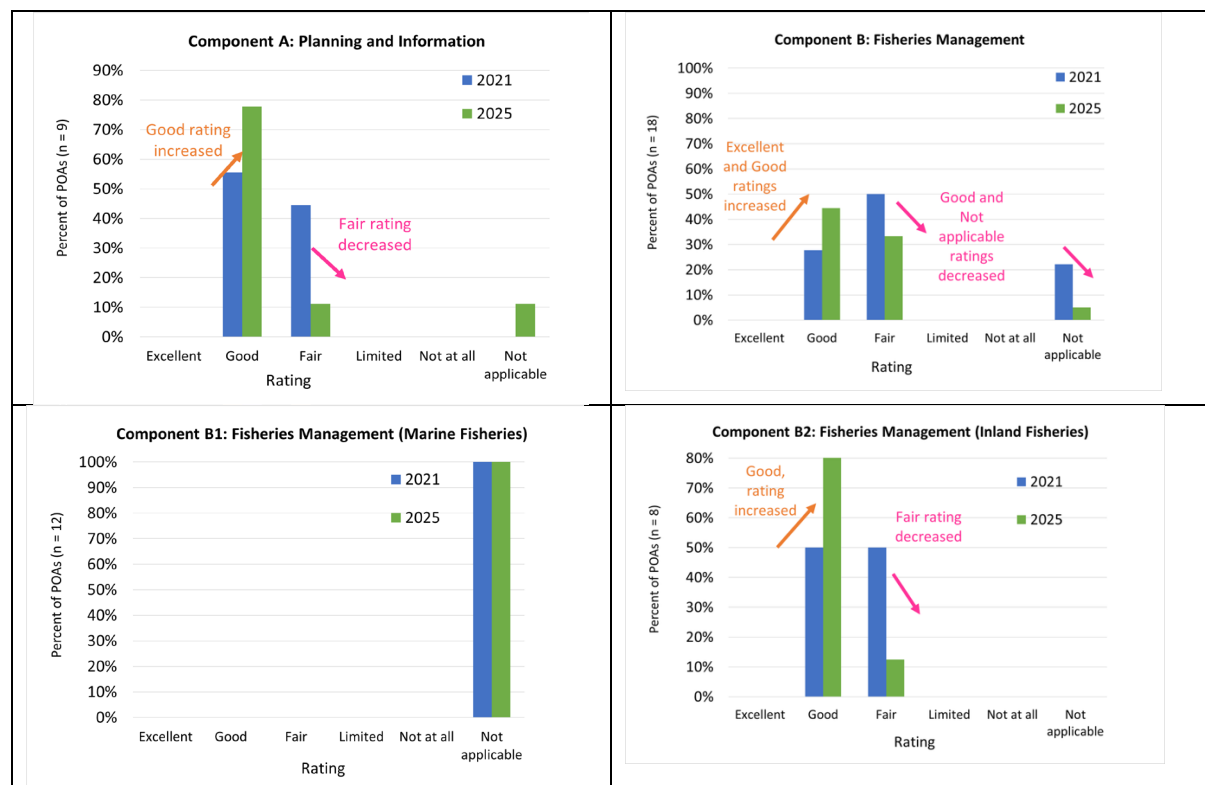
On **Component B: Fisheries Management**, the country improved in participation of local communities in fisheries management, and there is better implementation of measures to combat illegal fishing. While significant gaps remained in implementing comprehensive fisheries management policies and the capacity of local communities to address the well-being of fishers.

On **Component B2: Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)**, the progress included coordination through the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and heightened awareness among stakeholders regarding the need to rehabilitate habitats for food security. While the primary challenges are specific to inland ecosystems, such as the insufficient mitigation of man-made structures (like dams or irrigation) that impact waterways and a lack of simple indicators for monitoring floodplain fisheries.

On **Component C: Aquaculture**, there was better coordination among national agencies to integrate aquaculture into rural development, and biosecurity measures have seen improvement. While the sector was slowed by a low adoption rate of modern technologies, such as full-cycle breeding. While there were insufficient funding for research and development (R&D), and a lack of financial incentives or micro-credit systems for aquaculture small businesses.

On **Component D: Optimal Utilization of Products**, there were significant strides in promoting traditional fish products and implementing legislation for product traceability. Despite the higher ratings, moderate efforts are still needed to expand programs for assessing and adapting to climate change and aquatic pollution.

On **Component E: Fish Trade**, the country has enhanced its engagement in international laws regarding the trading of aquatic species and developed common positions with other ASEAN Member States. Adherence to international trade standards remains only “moderate”. Small-scale producers continue to face hurdles in meeting safety and quality standards, and there was a noted lack of effective branding and eco-labeling for Lao fisheries products.



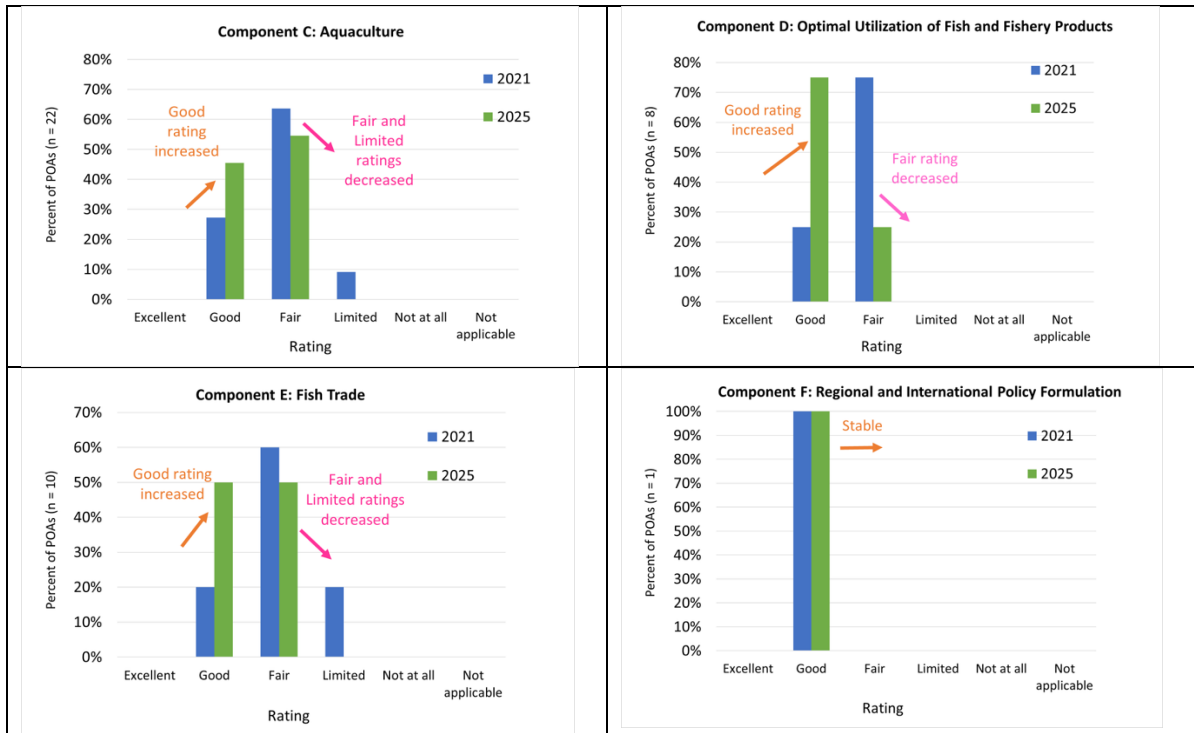


Figure 17 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Lao PDR: Components A-F

3.1.4.4 Summary

Lao PDR has demonstrated a positive trajectory in implementing the RES&POA-2030, with 51 % of its Programs of Action (POAs) rated at a “Good” level. Key successes include strong coordination with the Mekong River Commission for inland fisheries, effective implementation of closed-season regulations, and the integration of fisheries planning into national strategic development plans. The country also excels in preserving traditional fish products and establishing legislation for product traceability throughout the value chain.

Despite these advancements, significant challenges remain, particularly regarding technical capacity and infrastructure. The country faces critical gaps in species-level data collection for endangered aquatic life and lacks the scientific benchmarks necessary for effective fish stock management. The aquaculture sector is hindered by a low adoption rate of modern breeding technologies and insufficient funding for biosecurity research, while the inland fisheries sub-sector struggles to mitigate the impacts of man-made structures like dams. Furthermore, small-scale producers continue to face hurdles in meeting international trade standards due to limited support for branding, eco-labeling, and safety certifications.

3.1.5 Malaysia

3.1.5.1 Overall implementation

For Malaysia (**Figure 18**), all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Components A and F were implemented averagely at an excellent level, while POA under Component B–E were implemented averagely at a good level.

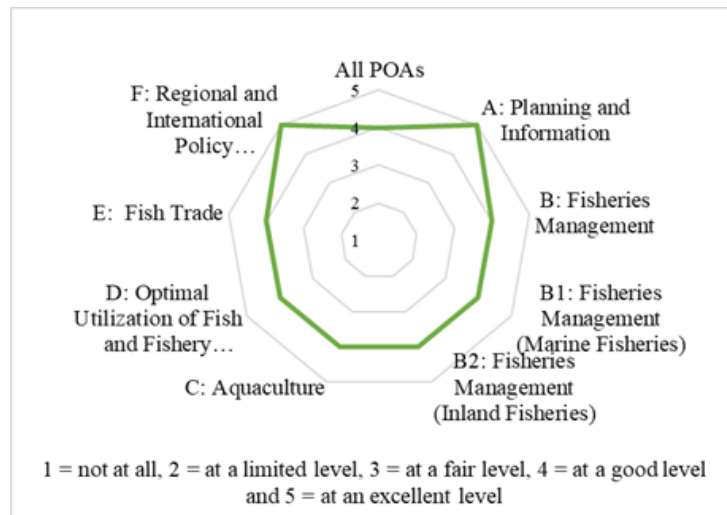


Figure 18 Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by Malaysia

3.1.5.2 Mid-term review

Figure 19 shows the implementation status of the country's all POAs: 25 % were rated excellent, 63 % good, and 12 % fair.

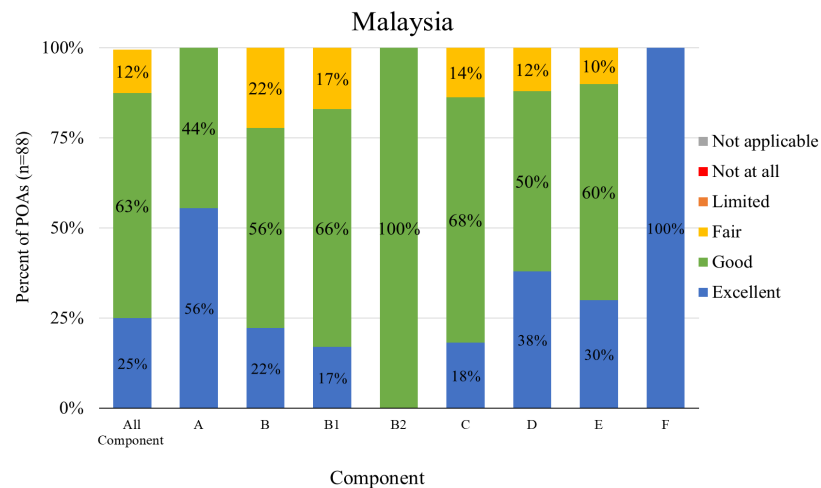


Figure 19 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by component of Malaysia

Component A. Planning and Information

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 19**, was predominantly rated as excellent (56 %) and good (44 %).

- *Challenges*

No specific challenges were identified in this Component.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates strong integration and planning for sustainable fisheries across marine, inland, and aquaculture sectors supported by comprehensive legal frameworks such as Fisheries Act 1985 and strategic plan *e.g.* Fisheries Strategic Plan 2021-2030 and National Agrofood Policy 2021–2030 (NAP 2.0). The Department of Fisheries Malaysia develops science-based plans, conducts stock assessments, and implements species-specific reference points. The country also monitors and manages aquatic species of

international concern, collaborating with NGOs and universities as well as strengthening bilateral and multilateral partnerships that could enhance its fisheries management framework (POAs 1, 2, 4, 5a&b, 7, 8, and 9).

Component B. Fisheries Management

As illustrated in **Figure 19**, the implementation status of the country's POAs was varied: 22 % were excellent, 56 % were good, 22 % were fair.

- *Challenges*

No specific challenges were identified in this Component.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates strong fisheries governance, achieving high ratings across key indicators. The Department of Fisheries ensures timely policy reviews (POA-10), robust conservation planning (POA-11), species-specific management plans, and IUU fishing countermeasures (POA-12). The country excels in comprehensive policy implementation supported by the Fisheries Act 1985 and state-level regulations (POA-13). The country prioritizes fisher welfare through community programs (POA-15) and financial incentives for small-scale fishers (POA-17). Technological adoption optimizes crew efficiency (indicators 19a&b), and employment practices comply with international standards (POA-20). Conflict resolution is facilitated by zoning systems and multi-stakeholder collaboration (POA-21). The country actively explores underutilized resources (POA-22), promotes gender-inclusive data (POA-23b), and equitable trade benefits (POA-24). The country addresses climate resilience through the Climate Change Action Plan (POA-25a&b). Regionally, the country actively participates in international platform (POA-27).

Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

Figure 19 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 17 % were rated excellent, 66 % good, and 17 % fair.

- *Challenges*

There is a need for subsidies management including assessment of the requirements of subsidies by small-scale fisheries.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates strong performance in regional cooperation for marine fisheries management through active participation in RPOA-IUU and AN-IUU, joint patrols with Indonesia (PATKOR OPTIMA), and robust vessel monitoring systems (POA-29). The country also excels in resource enhancement with seasonal fishing closures, artificial reef deployments, and grouper fry protection (POA-35). The country maintains good implementation across multiple areas: comprehensive IUU combatting measures including electronic monitoring and a national action plan (POA-28); effective use of regional frameworks like RFVR and e-ACDS development (POA-30); active legal participation in fisheries dialogues (POA-31); capable port and flag State implementation (POA-32a&b); research on fishing gear impacts including TED use (POA-33a); promotion of eco-friendly practices (POA-33b); bycatch mitigation through mesh size regulations (POA-34); establishment of two fisheries refugia sites (POA-36); and careful assessment of fisheries subsidies (POA-39).

Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 19**, was predominantly rated as good (100 %).

- *Challenges*

No specific challenges were identified in this Component.

- *Best practices*

The country has established a robust policy framework through state-specific Fisheries Regulations, complemented by national strategies including the Fisheries Strategic Plan 2030 and Inland Fisheries Strategic Plan 2021-2025 (POA-40). The country promotes conservation through sanctuaries and fingerling restoration programs (POA-41) while actively addresses invasive species through a dedicated National Action Plan and multi-agency Technical Committee (POA-42). Inland water resource management falls under the purview of state governments, with the DOF providing technical advice (POA-43a). Research efforts focus on critical species' biology and ecology to inform management plans, supported by mandatory environmental impact assessments for development projects near inland waters (POA-44a&b). The country demonstrates effective inter-agency coordination, with state governments managing resources through various Fisheries Rules and Acts, while federal agencies provide technical support (POA-46a&b). The country employs practical monitoring systems such as web-based flood alerts and climate action plans, ensuring adaptive management of inland and floodplain fisheries (POA-47).

Component C. Aquaculture

Figure 19 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 18 % were rated excellent, 68 % good, and 14 % fair.

- *Challenges*

No specific challenges were identified in this Component.

- *Best practices*

Malaysia has implemented comprehensive policies and programs to promote sustainable aquaculture, including domestic regulations and national strategies like the Aquaculture Strategic Plan 2021-2030 (POA-48). The country aligns its Good Aquaculture Practice (GAqP) standards with ASEAN benchmarks (POA-49), ensuring aquaculture integration into rural development (POA-50). Advanced technologies such as Recirculating Aquaculture Systems, Artificial Intelligence, and IoT are adopted for high-value species like grouper and shrimp (POA-51) while responsible aquaculture measures enforced through MyGAP certification and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) awareness programs (POA-52). Research and development are prioritized under the 12th Malaysia Plan, focusing on broodstock, feed, and fish health (POA-53). Biosecurity measures include MyGAP certification, invasive alien species surveillance, and a National Action Plan on Invasive Alien Species (POA-55) while supportive policies for farmers are guided by the National Agrofood Policy 2021-2030 (POA-56) and employment practices adhere to stringent labor standards (POA-57). Financial incentives such as government grants and micro-credit schemes are available (POA-58), and the movement of aquatic organisms is strictly regulated through Import Risk Assessments and MAQIS inspections (POA-59). Disease control is managed via surveillance systems and contingency plans (POA-60), supported by ISO-accredited laboratories for advanced diagnostics (POA-61).

The country participates in regional disease warning systems (POA-62), enforces prudent antibiotic use (POA-63). Human resource development includes targeted training programs for farmers (POA-66), and climate change mitigation follows the National Policy on Climate Change 2.0 and the Climate Disaster Resilience Index (CDRI) Programme (POA-67). The country manages GMO risk assessment under the Biosafety Act 2007 (POA-69).

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

As illustrated in **Figure 19**, the implementation status of the country's POAs was varied: 38 % were excellent, 50 % were good, and 12 % were fair.

- *Challenges*

No specific challenges were identified in this Component.

- *Best practices*

The country actively promotes technology adoption through FIDTEC and mechanized harvesting systems like fish pumps and conveyor belts to improve efficiency (POA-70). Traditional fish products are preserved through NAP 2.0 policy support and modern processing techniques including vacuum packaging (POA-71). Malaysia excels in quality assurance with robust certification programs (MeSTI, GMP, HALAL, HACCP) and ISO-accredited laboratories (POA-72a,72b). Extensive training programs enhance post-harvest skills and food safety knowledge (POA-74). Financial support is well-developed through micro-credit schemes and capacity building initiatives (75). Employment practices meet high standards through comprehensive labor laws and regulations (POA-76). Fish handling protocols follow strict hygiene standards onboard vessels and in markets (POA-77).

Component E. Fish Trade

Figure 19 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 30 % were rated excellent, 60 % good, and 10 % fair.

- *Challenges*

The country promotes the branding and eco-labeling of its fishery products through compliance with national quality and safety certifications such as MyGAP, MeSTI, GMP, HALAL, and HACCP. However, the level of uptake for external eco-labeling programs remains at the voluntary stage.

- *Best practices*

The country excels in regional cooperation, actively participating in ATIGA, RCEP and ASEAN+1 agreements to implement international trade standards (POA-78). The country maintains good implementation of ASEAN standards through revised national aquaculture practices aligned with regional benchmarks (POA-79), while showing excellent compliance with international trade standards through WTO engagement (POA-80). The country's legal framework is robust, with regular reviews to ensure alignment with international laws including CITES requirements (POA-81). The country actively collaborates with AMSs to develop common trade positions (POA-82) and effectively engages private sector stakeholders through regular consultations (POA-83). Support for small-scale producers is comprehensive, including GAqP training, FIDTEC programs, and government grants (POA-84), complemented by market access initiatives under NAP 2.0 and domestic consumption campaigns (POA-85). The country has established good traceability systems, transitioning from paper-based to electronic documentation for supply chain validation (POA-86).

Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

The country's implementation of POA under this component, shown in **Figure 19**, was primarily excellent (100 %).

3.1.5.3 Comparison between Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review 2025

Figure 20 showed the comparison of the implementation of POAs through ratings between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Malaysia. Between 2021 to 2025, the improved implementation found in nearly all Components, as the performance ratings moved up to "Good" and "Excellent," with a decrease in fair and limited ratings. The improved performance is prevalent in Components A. Planning and Information, B. Fisheries Management, B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries), B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries), C. Aquaculture, and D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products while there is consistent in Components E. Fish Trade and F. Regional and International Policy Formulation (**Figure 21**). More information on the progress of each component is explained below.

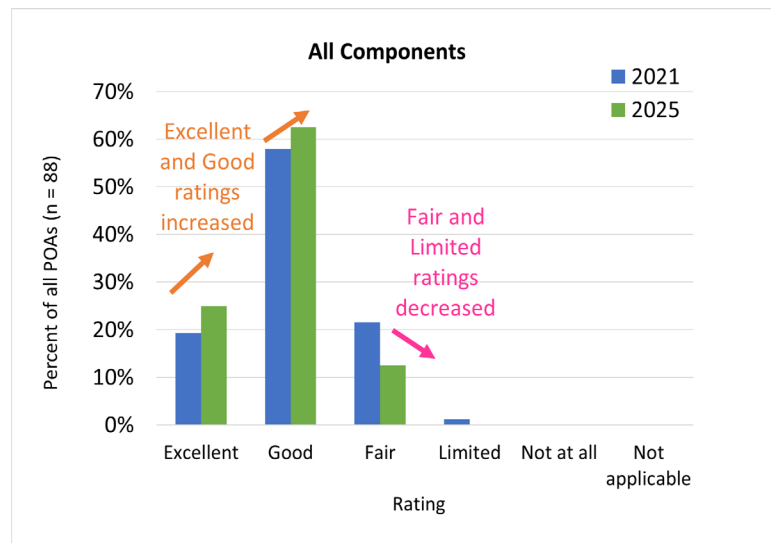


Figure 20 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Malaysia: all components

On **Component A. Planning and Information**, the country expanded Fisheries (Riverrine) Regulations across 12 states. The capacity to collect data and statistics improved through a new MyFirst (web-based) system. The country also enhanced its capacity to establish reference points providing scientific stock status analysis for 46 species. Furthermore, the country improved capacity for data collection, and stock assessment surveys were planned for 2024-2025.

For **Components B. Fisheries Management**, the country is in the process of reviewing the Fisheries Act, as well as expanding its implementation of Inland Fisheries Aquaculture Rules and will publish the fisheries management plan categorized by group of species and areas by end of 2025. The country also actively adopted energy-efficient technologies in its fishing vessels to enhance sustainability, reduce operating costs, and improve the livelihoods of fishers for example using fuel efficient modern diesel engines, and fishing gear, onboard energy systems, as well as application of a Fish Site Identification System can reduce fuel and time costs in fish locating. In addition, the country published SSF Guidelines in national language and implemented programs in relation to the SSF Guidelines and collection of yearly data for fishers including gender disaggregation.

On **Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)**, the country formalized the National Plan of Control and Inspection and strengthened bilateral cooperation to enhance its maritime enforcement. The country progressed in resource enhancement including development of regulations for the fisheries *refugia* sites.

For **Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)**, the country progressed in institutional improvements, with comprehensive policies supported by a web-based system for Fisheries Resource Management System (MyFiRSt) and e-Lesen System which aimed to streamline the licensing process for fisheries and aquaculture activities. The country is implementing programs to address invasive alien species, such as pleco, which pose threats to native species. The new Climate Change Action Plan for the Fisheries Sector (2024-2030) was introduced to inform the use of practical indicators for inland/floodplain fisheries, ensuring coordinated planning and management and monitoring of waterway impacts.

For **Component C. Aquaculture**, the country has continuous training for laboratory staff and develop of a web-based GIS application for mapping of management and monitoring of fisheries biosecurity activities (bioDOF-Map). The country put efforts into mitigating climate change impacts through the adoption of the Climate Change Action Plan for the Fisheries Sector (2024-2030).

On **Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products**, the country improved its post-harvest technologies by introducing mechanized harvesting technologies (e.g. fish pumps and hydraulic cranes) and new post-harvest solutions such as mobile processing units and solar-drying. The country

maintained high standards for quality and safety by providing extensive capacity building and short courses on food safety, certification programs, and product packaging, ensuring entrepreneurs are equipped for larger domestic and international markets.



Figure 21 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Malaysia: Components A-F

3.1.5.4 Summary

The country demonstrated strong overall implementation of the POAs, achieving excellent and good ratings in several Components. The country's best practices included strong integration of the three fisheries sub-sectors (marine, inland, and aquaculture) supported by comprehensive legal frameworks *e.g.* the Fisheries Act 1985 and Fisheries Strategic Plan 2021-2030. Key best practices also included strong science-based planning, comprehensive policies to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, and active regional cooperation. Furthermore, excels in promoting sustainable aquaculture through advanced technologies (*e.g.*, AI, IoT) and Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP), while ensuring high standards for fish product quality and safety through various certification schemes (MeSTI, HALAL, HACCP).

The country's implementation was notably smooth, with reporting no major challenges in most Components except on marine fisheries, where managing subsidies for small-scale fisheries needs improvement, and on fish trade, where despite strong national branding, there is low adoption of international eco-labeling programs by producers.

Between the 2021 baseline and the 2025 mid-term review, Malaysia demonstrated significant progress. Key advancements were driven by enhanced digital and scientific capacity, including the launch of the MyFiRSt data management and e-Lesen licensing systems, alongside expanded scientific stock assessments for 46 species. Governance was strengthened through the ongoing review of the Fisheries Act and the adoption of energy-efficient fishing technologies, while new policies such as the Climate Change Action Plan (2024-2030) and a formalized National Plan of Control and Inspection reinforced climate resilience and maritime enforcement. Furthermore, the introduction of mechanized harvesting and mobile processing units modernized post-harvest operations, boosting efficiency and product quality.

3.1.6 Myanmar

3.1.6.1 Overall implementation

For Myanmar (**Figure 22**), all POAs were in overall implemented at a limited level. The POAs under Components A, B, B1, B2, and F were implemented averagely at a fair level, while POAs under Component C were implemented averagely at a limited level. In addition, the POAs under Components D and E were implemented at an excellent level.

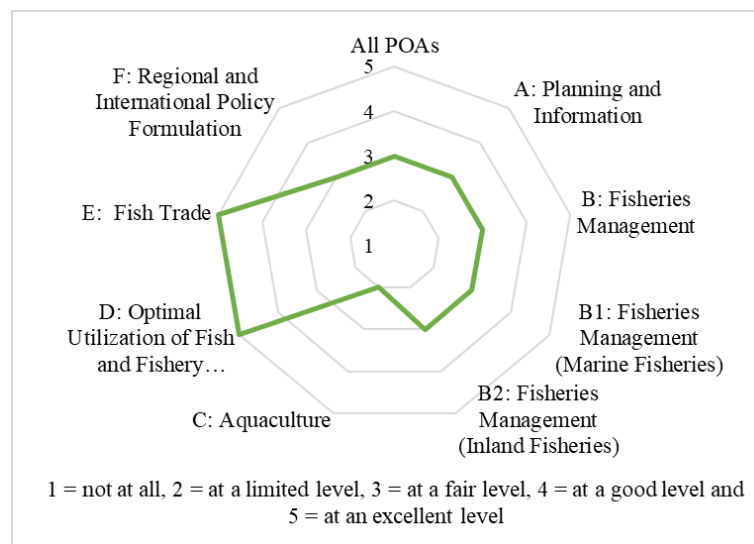


Figure 22 Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by Myanmar

3.1.6.2 Mid-term review

Figure 23 showed the implementation status of the country's all POAs: 6 % were rated excellent, 5 % good, 51 % fair, 28 % limited, 9 % not implemented, and 1 % were not applicable.

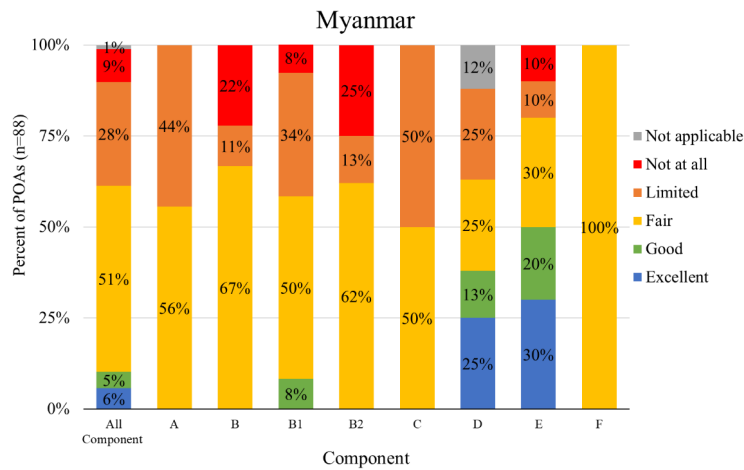


Figure 23 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by component of Myanmar

Component A. Planning and Information

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 23**, was predominantly rated as fair (56 %) and limited (44 %).

- *Challenges*

Myanmar faced significant challenges in its planning and information systems for fisheries management. The Department of Fisheries has not yet established a master plan for integrated planning across marine capture fisheries, inland fisheries, and aquaculture sub-sectors. Additionally, the country lacks Standard Operating Procedures to harmonize data collection methods for species of international concern, representing a critical area requiring immediate attention and improvement.

- *Best practices*

There are no defined a rating of 4 or 5 in this Component.

Component B. Fisheries Management

Figure 23 showed the implementation status of the country’s POAs: 67 % were rated fair, 11 % limited, and 22 % were not yet implemented.

- *Challenges*

The country’s challenges included limited access to energy-efficient technologies, and inadequate implementation of climate change adaptation measures. The challenge also included the lack of a national trading policy for small-scale fisheries products destined for the international market and difficulty in fully implementing the SSF Guidelines, although it issues directives to exporters to ensure compliance with international market requirements. Additionally, the country struggled with gender-disaggregated data collection, fair trade benefit distribution, and pollution management, reflecting systemic institutional and resource constraints across the sector.

- *Best practices*

There are no defined a rating of 4 or 5 in this Component.

Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

As illustrated in **Figure 23**, the implementation status of the country's POAs was varied: 8 % were good, 50 % were fair, 34 % were limited, and 8 % remained unimplemented.

- *Challenges*

The country's challenges persist in port and flag state responsibilities due to limited inspection systems, limited data management, and insufficient inter-agency collaboration. The country demonstrated limited involvement of legal officers in international dialogues and requires external support *e.g.* SEAFDEC to conduct fisheries law training to combat IUU fishing. There is a lack of technical expertise and funding to develop environmentally-friendly fishing practices, conduct research on impacts of various fishing gear types and methods on aquatic ecosystems. Furthermore, compliance with international standards needs to be reviewed regarding the sanitation inspection of onboard fishing vessels, and the assessment of fisheries subsidies has not yet been implemented.

- *Best practices*

The country established a strong regulatory and cooperative framework to combat IUU fishing. Key mechanisms included the use of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), the NPOA-IUU, Port State Measures (PSM), and engagement in bilateral cooperation such as the MoU with Thailand. Regarding bycatch mitigation, the country is actively enforcing regulations, notably requiring the installation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in trawl nets and conducting related inspection and awareness programs. For sustainable management of coastal habitats, the country relies on collaborative projects involving the Department of Fisheries, the Forest Department, and NGOs.

Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

Figure 23 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 62 % were rated fair, 13 % limited, and 25 % were not yet implemented.

- *Challenges*

The country's inland fisheries sector faced severe systemic challenges, primarily due to the absence of a unified national policy framework and fragmented governance structures where each region and state operate under its own freshwater fisheries laws. This fragmentation also hindered involvement in transboundary cooperation and contributed to limited capacity in developing practical management indicators.

- *Best practices*

The Department of Fisheries maintained coordination with other government bodies and sustains ecosystem health by managing close/open seasons and utilizing leasable/auction fisheries to protect aquatic habitats. Additionally, awareness programs are conducted to promote rehabilitation and conservation for local food security.

Component C. Aquaculture

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 23**, was predominantly rated as fair (50 %) and limited (50 %).

- *Challenges*

The country's aquaculture sector faced challenges with weak policy implementation and a major legal gap where no specific law regulates aquatic biosecurity despite existing aquaculture legislation. The sector is significantly constrained by infrastructure and capacity deficits, lacking advanced biosecurity measures and essential facilities such as a dedicated quarantine facility for importing live aquatic animals. Furthermore,

the quality assurance for disease-free fish and shrimp seeds is limited, and although diagnostic capability exists, a development plan for disease surveillance is needed.

- *Best practices*

The country aligned its National Good Aquaculture Practices with ASEAN and EU guidelines. The country supported R&D through collaboration with the Department of Livestock and Aquaculture Research (DLAR) and international universities to develop breeding and culture technologies for key species. Robust biosecurity and disease control are implemented through an ISO-accredited lab, a Disease Control Unit, and the development of a National level emergency plan.

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

As illustrated in **Figure 23**, the implementation status of the country's POAs was varied: 25 % were excellent, 13 % were good, 25 % were fair, 25 % were limited, and 12 % were not applicable.

- *Challenges*

The country faced significant challenges with quality and safety management for SMEs which requires ongoing technical support and expansion of facilities. Furthermore, the implementation of good employment practices is pending final publication of guidance, and hygienic fish remains challenged in the informal sector such as hygienic handling onboard traditional fishing vessels and at local marketplaces due to limited infrastructure and low levels of awareness.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrated commendable efforts in optimizing fish utilization and post-harvest sector for technology applicability and the implementation of quality and safety management systems for global markets. This is driven by the Department of Fisheries' objectives to implement advanced techniques and has established robust technical regulations for export and import products, supported by extensive capacity-building programs provided by international partners such as FAO, and EU.

Component E. Fish Trade

Figure 23 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 30 % were rated excellent, 20 % good, 30 % fair, 10 % limited, and 10 % were not yet implemented.

- *Challenges*

The country's fish trade sector faced significant challenges with weak standardization and low market development. The full and mandatory application of regional/ASEAN standards is still limited level. A significant gap exists in Branding and Eco-Labeling due to the lack of an official national eco-label and the need for policy development in this area.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates excellence in international fish trade through its robust implementation of WTO-aligned SPS/TBT measures under Directive-8/2018 and active cooperation with ASEAN partners to establish common trade positions. The country also excels in engaging the private sector, particularly through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), to address trade-related issues and sustain regional and international market access.

Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

The country's implementation of POA under this component, shown in **Figure 23**, was primarily fair (100 %). The DOF plays an active role in international policy for endangered species *i.e.* CITES. The DOF is strengthening its research and management capacity through joint research projects with Japan.

3.1.6.3 Comparison between Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review 2025

Figure 24 showed the comparison of the implementation of POAs through ratings between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Myanmar. Between 2021 to 2025, the improved implementation found in all Components (**Figure 25**). More information on the progress of each component is explained below.

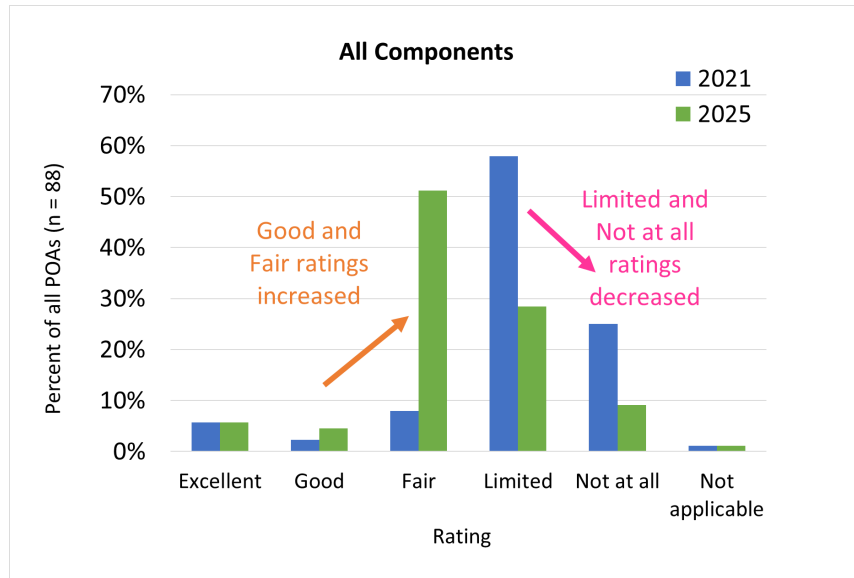


Figure 24 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Myanmar: all components

The country has shown notable progress in Component A (Planning and Information), with significant improvements in its capacity for sustainable fisheries planning, largely due to external technical support and capacity-building initiatives. However, the foundational gaps remain, as the country still lacks an integrated master plan and not yet developed standardized procedures for data collection.

The country has demonstrated consistent improvement across most POAs under Component B. Fisheries Management, with eight out of fourteen assessed areas showing a positive rating increase from 2021 to 2025. Key advancements include enhanced policy review processes, stronger IUU fishing countermeasures through VMS and regional cooperation, and improved implementation of ecosystem-based management approaches. However, the country regressed in implementing Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines.

The country has demonstrated significant progress in Component B1 (Marine Fisheries) especially in combating IUU fishing through enhanced measures including VMS, NPOA-IUU, and formalized regional cooperation such as its MoU with Thailand. The country also improved its regional engagement and utilization of anti-IUU tools, and networks such as RPOA-IUU and adopting systems such as RFVR and eACDS.

The country's implementation of POAs under Component B2 (Inland Fisheries) showed limited and mixed progress, with some improvements in stakeholder awareness, strong legal provisions against invasive species, and invasive mitigation. However, capacity building for human resources and institutions remains stagnant at a limited level, hindering effective governance.

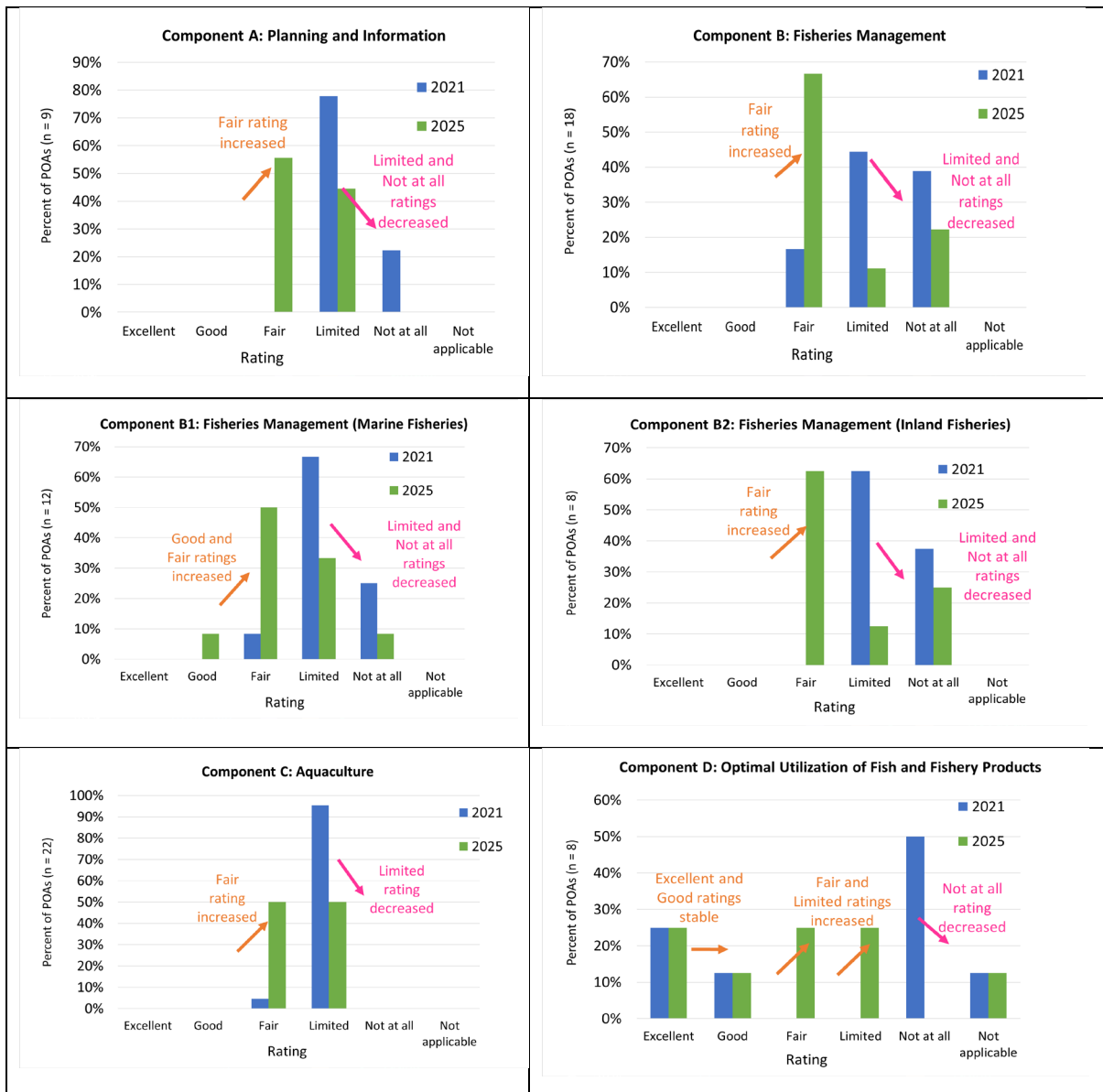
The country has demonstrated consistent progress in implementation of POAs under Component C. Aquaculture, especially on aligning national practices with regional standards, enhancing laboratory capabilities. However, significant constraints persisted, as the overall policy framework, regulation of animal movement, and prudent antibiotic use remained limited. The most critical gaps continue to be the inefficient usage of aquafeeds and the failure to conduct risk assessments for Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

For Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, the country has shown significant improvement in technology applicability to optimize utilization, the implementation of quality and safety

management systems for global markets, and the promotion of training programs as well as promoting traditional fish products and supporting SMEs. The country also strengthened its regulatory framework, advancing coordinated mechanisms across the fish value chain by implementing additional plans for residue monitoring, traceability, and emergency response. However, the implementation of good employment practices and basic hygienic handling capabilities remained severely lacking.

For Component E. Fish Trade, the country has improved its cooperation with ASEAN Member States in implementing international fish trade standards, while maintaining strong national regulations aligned with WTO-SPS agreements. However, support for small-scale producers and development of traceability systems is still limited.

For Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation, the country has increased its engagement in international fisheries for a by actively contributing to CITES voting and collaborating on joint research projects with Japan.



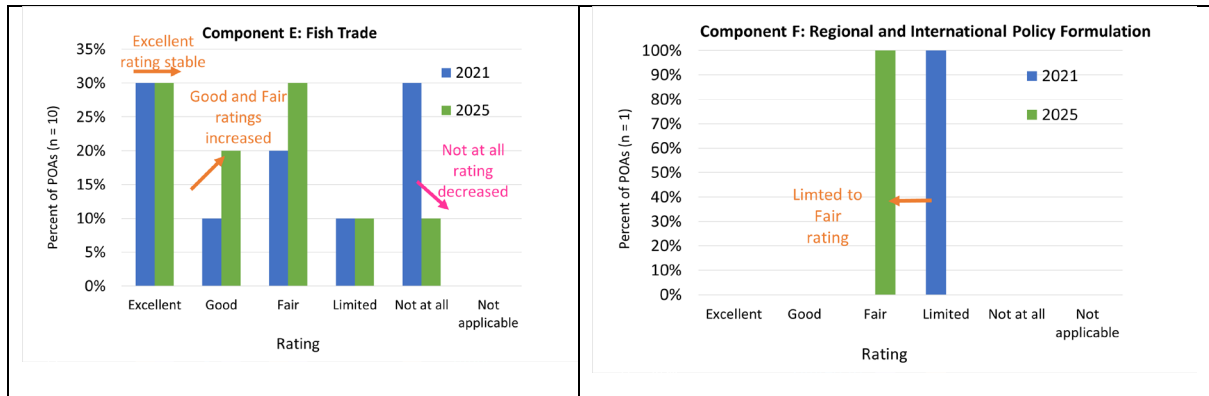


Figure 25 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Myanmar: Components A-F

3.1.6.4 Summary

The country’s overall implementation of the RES&POA-2030 remains at a limited level with performance varying significantly by component. The country demonstrated notable best practices in specific, targeted areas. These include establishing a strong regulatory framework to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing using Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) and Port State Measures, and aligning its National Good Aquaculture Practices with ASEAN and EU guidelines. Furthermore, Myanmar excelled in the optimal utilization of fish products for the export sector, implementing advanced quality and safety management systems, and demonstrated excellence in international fish trade compliance by aligning with WTO standards and actively participating in regional partnerships such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The country faced systemic challenges across nearly all components, rooted in institutional, resource, and infrastructural constraints. Critical gaps included the lack of an integrated national master plan for fisheries, severe limitations in financial support, energy-efficient technologies, and climate change adaptation, and persistent deficits in inspection systems and technical expertise for marine fisheries. The inland fisheries sector was hampered by fragmented governance and a lack of a unified policy, while aquaculture struggled with weak policy implementation and major biosecurity legal gaps. Challenges also included poor hygienic handling and employment practices in fish utilization.

3.1.7 Philippines

3.1.7.1 Overall implementation

For the Philippines (**Figure 26**), all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level.

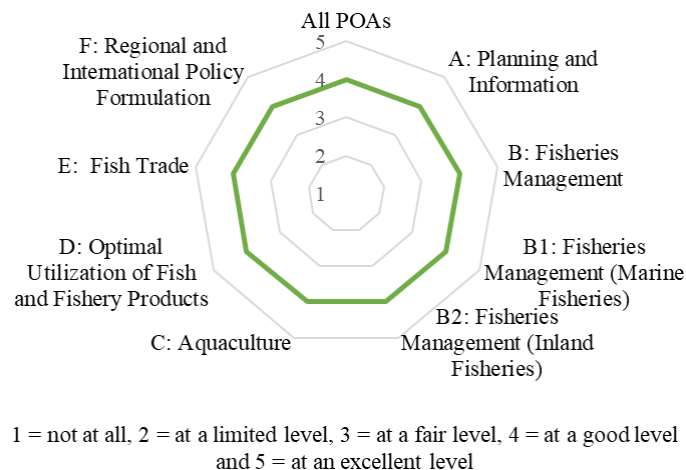


Figure 26 Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by Philippines

3.1.7.2 Mid-term review

Figure 27 showed the implementation status of the country’s all POAs: 19 % were rated excellent, 73 % good, and 8 % fair.

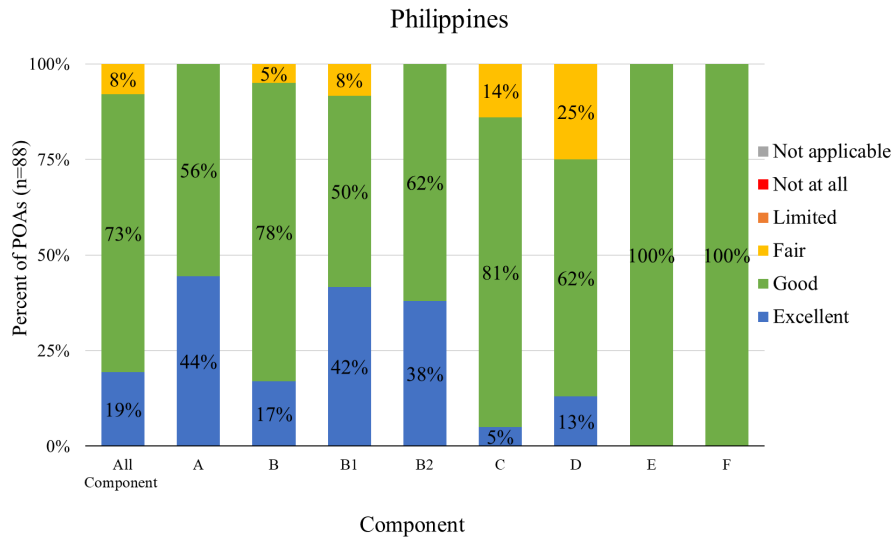


Figure 27 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by component of Philippines

Component A. Planning and Information

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in Figure 27, was predominantly rated as excellent (44 %) and good (56 %).

- *Challenges*

The country possesses a robust scientific framework for fisheries management, including established reference points and data collection systems. However, its effectiveness is hindered by a lack of political will to formally adopt science-based measures and a need for more regional personnel to ensure data sufficiency. While information sharing is rated “Good,” further harmonization with regional mechanisms is needed.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates exemplary fisheries management through comprehensive, well-integrated policies and robust data systems. The country demonstrates excellent integration through its alignment with the Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan (CNFIDP) and the presence of Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). The country has a good capacity to establish reference points for the management of fish stocks, collect data on aquatic species under international concern, and apply Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to harmonize/standardize data collection methods (POAs-1–9).

Component B. Fisheries Management

Figure 27 showed the implementation status of the country’s POAs: 17 % were rated excellent, 78 % good, and 5 % fair.

- *Challenges*

The country reported its challenges including jurisdictional conflicts between national and municipal waters, overlapping agency mandates, and weak enforcement capacities, particularly in remote areas. Furthermore, the sustainability of fisheries is hindered by fragmented social protection for fishers, inadequate adaptive strategies for climate change, and ongoing struggles to fully implement ecosystem-based approaches and stakeholder engagement across all sub-sectors. Specifically, the country lacks baseline data on marine litter, Abandoned, Lost, or Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), and microplastics, and needs to translate international commitments into robust domestic programs.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates strong in policy responsiveness (POA-10), with Fishery Management Areas (FMAs) being crucial for conservation efforts (POA-11) and robust IUU fishing countermeasures (POA-12). It also implements ecosystem-based approaches (POA-14), institutionalizing community participation through Fisherfolk and Aquaculturist Resource Management Councils (FARMCs) (POA-16). Support for small-scale fishers is robust, with financial literacy programs (POA-17) and energy/fuel-efficient fisheries technologies such as Payao systems (POA-18). The country supports training programs to ensure a sufficient number of capable fishing crew and workers (POA-19a), in accordance with its provisions on labor and relevant international instruments (POA-20). The country established Fishery Management Boards to serve as a platform for resolving resource use conflicts (POA-21). The M/V DA-BFAR is utilized for deep-sea fisheries exploration and collect critical data for science-based management decisions (POA-22). The country adopted the National Plan of Action for Small-scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) 2025–2035 which serves as a guide for maintaining and supporting the rights of small-scale fisheries in the country (POA-23a) while all applicable systems including FishR system are collecting sex-disaggregated data (POA-23b). The country promotes participation in local, national, and international seafood trade fairs and exhibits (POA-24). The country launched its Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation - Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategic Plan 2024-2030, along with an Operations Manual providing technical guidance (POA-25a) while plans to implement the FishCORE project to integrate smart fishing practice (POA-25b). The country demonstrates strong international cooperation through its continuous catch data Logsheet and compliance to CMMs in WCPFC (POA-27).

Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

Figure 27 shows the implementation status of the country's POAs: 42 % were rated excellent, 50 % good, and 8 % fair.

- *Challenges*

The country reported its challenges in harmonizing and scaling its regional IUU combatting tools, as systems such as the RFVR and ACDS remain fragmented, exclude small-scale vessels, and lack full national interoperability and timely data updates. Capacity limitations persist in port State measures, with inconsistent inter-agency coordination, inadequate port infrastructure, and limited reach of PSMA implementation to only a few designated ports. Furthermore, resource enhancement and habitat management efforts are hampered by short-term projects, weak monitoring and evaluation frameworks, lack of standardized protocols, and uneven regional implementation, despite existing initiatives.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates best performance in combating IUU fishing through its NPOA-IUU, advanced IMEMS monitoring system, and strategic MCS operations (POA-28); regional cooperation via active participation in SEAFDEC, WCPFC and other international bodies (POA-29); legal framework development with BFAR's Legal Office driving policy formulation (POA-31); and bycatch mitigation through comprehensive observer programs and mandatory excluder devices (POA-34). The country maintains good implementation across multiple domains: utilization of regional IUU tools including RFVR and electronic documentation (POA-30); port State measures with trained inspectors across major ports (POA-32a); flag State responsibilities (POA-32b); eco-friendly fishing practices such as sail-powered vessels and fuel-efficient technologies (POA-33b); resource enhancement through artificial reefs and habitat

rehabilitation (POA-35); fisheries refugia via extensive MPA networks (POA-36); coastal habitat management with strong DENR-BFAR convergence (POA-37); and safety standards compliance through observer programs and developing labor regulations (POA-38).

Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 27**, was predominantly rated as excellent (38 %) and good (62 %).

- *Challenges*

The country reported implementation of inland fisheries management is hindered by limited resources, insufficient technical capacity, and significant regional disparities in enforcement, particularly at the local government level. While national initiatives and sanctuary declarations exist, effective execution requires greater inter-agency coordination, enhanced funding, and strengthened local capacity to bridge persistent governance and operational gaps (POA-45b).

- *Best practices*

The country implements comprehensive policies and programs with supported by legal frameworks (POA-40), employing ecosystem approaches to fisheries management. Stakeholder awareness is fostered through capacity-building initiatives (POA-41), while invasive species control utilizes advanced tools such as Aquatic Species Invasiveness Screening Kit (POA-42). The country excels in inter-agency coordination (POA-43a) and transboundary cooperation (POA-43b), actively participating in regional networks. Research efforts (POA-44a) through NFRDI and Fisheries Enhancement of Inland Waters inform management decisions, while ecosystem health maintenance (POA-44b) is supported by EIAs and climate adaptation plans. The country shows robust monitoring of infrastructure impacts (POA-45a) and excellent mitigation capacity (POA-45b) through GAqP and Biodiversity-Friendly Agricultural Practices standards. Coordinated water body management features species-specific conservation measures (POA-46a), supported by capable institutions including BFAR's nationwide network (POA-46b). Practical management indicators are implemented through Fisheries Enhancement of Inland Waters guidelines and National Irrigation Administration's water management (POA-47).

Component C. Aquaculture

Figure 27 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 5 % were rated excellent, 81 % good, and 14 % fair.

- *Challenges*

The country stated significant challenges in integrating aquaculture into rural development due to fragmented jurisdiction, overlapping agency mandates, and inconsistent policy implementation across government levels. Inconsistent enforcement, limited technical capacity, and regional disparities hinder the full adoption of responsible and environmentally sustainable aquaculture practices. While biosecurity initiatives are underway, broader challenges persist in antibiotic stewardship, AMR monitoring, and advancing risk assessment for emerging technologies such as GMOs.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates strong aquaculture practices, implementing poverty-reduction programs such as Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) that have benefited 20,118 members across 30 provinces (POA-48). The country actively aligns with ASEAN standards through finalizing its GAqP Fisheries Administrative Order and developing 18 Philippine National Standards for various species (POA-49). Excellent inter-agency coordination is achieved through the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act and joint memoranda among four key departments (POA-50). Advanced technologies are being developed, including disease detection labs and mariculture park optimizations (POA-51), while environmental sustainability is ensured through GAqP-based farm registration and a National Residue Control Program (POA-52). Significant R&D investments occur through programs such as HatchPro and

MARIDEP (POA-53), complemented by robust broodstock development including legislated hatcheries and SPF/SPR import guidelines (54). Biosecurity measures are strengthened through WOA and FAO collaborations addressing TiLV (POA-55), while farmer support policies follow comprehensive commodity roadmaps (POA-56). Employment practices comply with labor laws extended to fisheries workers (POA-57), and financial incentives include GAqP certification benefits and Landbank loan programs (POA-58).

The country has strict aquatic organism controls implement Aquatic Species Invasiveness Screening Kit and permit systems (POA-59), with effective disease surveillance following WOA/NACA standards (POA-60). Diagnostic capabilities feature ISO-accredited labs and international proficiency testing (POA-61). Feed innovation research focuses on plant proteins and copra meal alternatives (POA-64). Human capacity building occurs through mandated extension services (66), while climate adaptation uses zoning through FishCoRe and water monitoring (POA-67). Environmental safeguards include carrying capacity assessments and EIAs guided by Philippines National Standards (POA-68).

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

Figure 27 showed the implementation status of the country's POAs: 13 % were rated excellent, 62 % good, and 25 % fair.

- *Challenges*

The country reported its challenges in incomplete product traceability and certification systems that are not yet implemented across the entire fish value chain, limiting comprehensive quality control. While post-harvest training programs and food safety management systems exist at a fair level, the effort to promote and conduct training programs to upgrade technical skills could be extended.

- *Best practices*

The country promotes technology adoption through nationwide Feed Mills and training programs on fish processing and handling (POA-70). The country excels in preserving traditional fish products with comprehensive Philippine National Standards and continuous training programs (POA-71). Quality and safety systems are well-established through the Food Safety Act of 2013, certification programs (HACCP, GMP, Halal), and a Farm to Fork regulatory system (POA-72a, 72b). Financial support is available through BFAR's credit matching activities and government financing institutions (POA-75). Employment practices comply with the Labor Code and minimum wage regulations (POA-76). Fish handling standards are maintained through guidelines for post-harvest facilities, ongoing registration systems for transport vehicles, and upgraded Community Fish Landing Centers (POA-77).

Component E. Fish Trade

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 27**, was predominantly rated as good (100 %).

- *Challenges*

The country reported some concern in finalizing regional cooperation, as several key memoranda with other ASEAN member states remain in the negotiation phase, and the development of a fully integrated traceability system is still underway, with an ongoing development of regulation on the registration of transport vehicles for fish and fishery/aquatic products.

- *Best practices*

The country is enhancing cooperation with ASEAN Member States (AMSs) by amending FAO-aligned policies and negotiating MOUs to align with international fish trade standards (POAs-78, 79). It adheres to WTO and international standards, with ongoing updates to trade-related regulations (POA-80) and CITES-compliant species trade rules (POA-81). The country actively engages in multilateral and bilateral discussions with AMSs to strengthen common trade positions (POA-82) and collaborates with the private sector through stakeholder meetings and post-harvest support (POA-83). Small-scale producers benefit from

commercialization assistance, trade fair participation, and initiatives like the KADIWA program to improve market access (POAs-84, 85). Traceability systems, including AqFGIS and e-CDTS, are continually updated (POA-86), while eco-labeling remains voluntary, supported by biodiversity-friendly practices (POA-87).

Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

The country’s implementation of POA under this component, shown in **Figure 27**, was primarily good (100 %).

3.1.7.3 Comparison between Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review 2025

Figure 28 showed the comparison of the implementation of POAs through ratings between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Philippines. Between 2021 to 2025, the improved implementation found in most of Components (**Figure 29**). More information on the progress of each component is explained below.

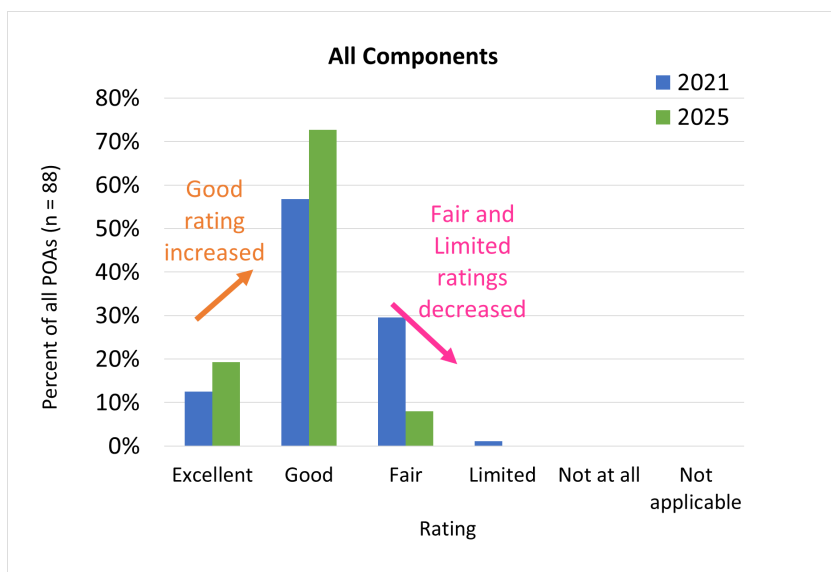


Figure 28 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Philippines: all components

For **Component A**, the country has achieved excellent integration in fisheries planning through institutionalized management areas and new national strategies, while also making a major leap in data collection for international species from fair to excellent. The country further enhanced its data sharing and operational systems, though some regional information frameworks continue to develop at a good level.

For **Component B**, the country has shown notable progress across multiple fisheries management implementation, with six out of twelve assessed areas improving their ratings from the baseline to the mid-term review. Key advancements include the formal adoption of the National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries, the development of a structured national program (CONMIRA) for exploring underutilized resources, and enhanced climate change adaptation tools and strategic plans. The country also improved its implementation of energy-efficient technologies, crew training programs, fair benefit distribution, and employment practices, demonstrating a strengthened, more comprehensive approach to sustainable fisheries management.

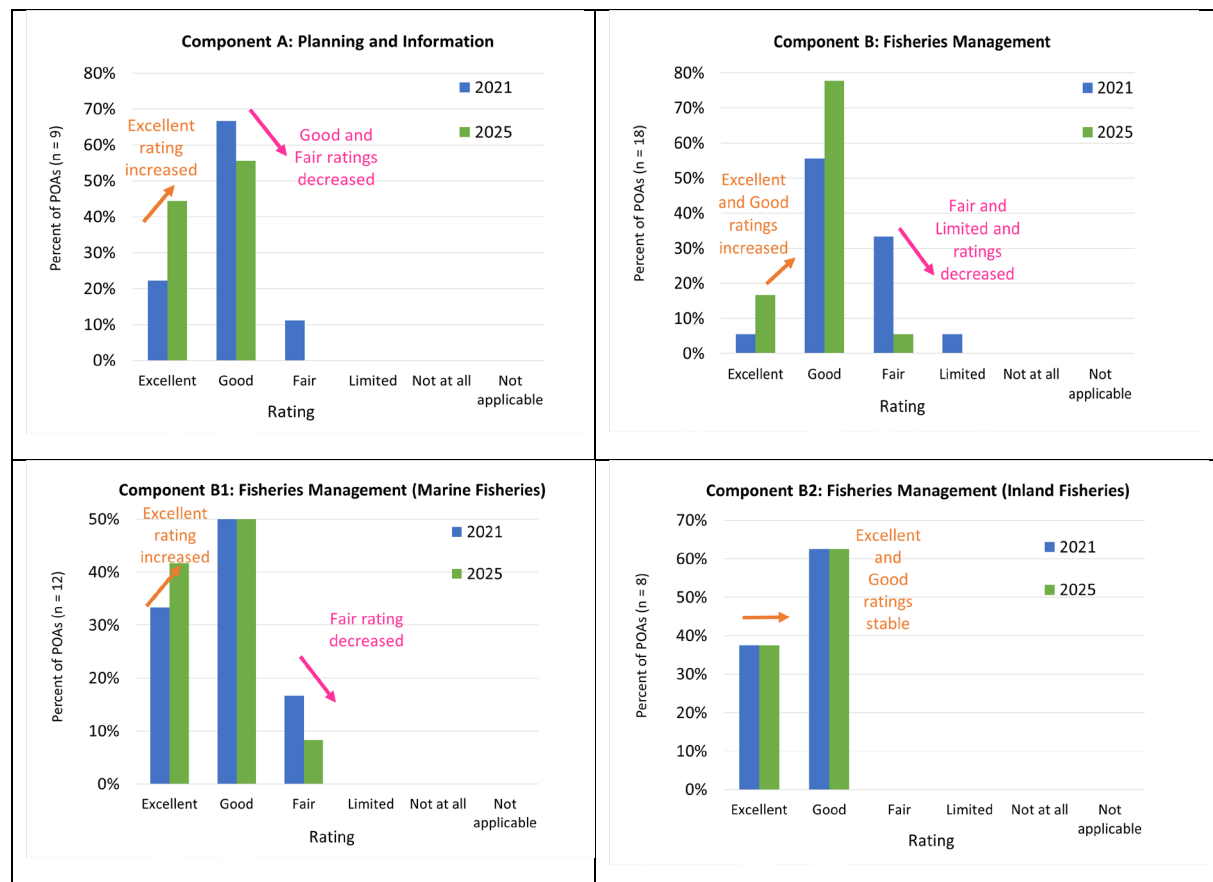
For **Component B1**, the country has maintained its excellent performance in combating IUU fishing and engaging internationally, while also advancing its legal integration and bycatch mitigation efforts. The country demonstrated progress by formally involving legal officers in policy dialogues and expanding its suite of environment-friendly fishing technologies and habitat management programs.

For **Component B2**, the country demonstrated incremental progress by enhancing its Fisheries Enhancement of Inland Waters (BASIL) program with targeted capacity-building, adopting scientific risk assessment tools for invasive species, and strengthening inter-agency coordination and international engagement for transboundary issues.

For **Component C**, the country demonstrated significant progress in key areas such as implementing ASEAN guidelines, biosecurity measures, disease control, and sustainable practices. The country enhanced its efforts through targeted programs *e.g.* SAAD Phase II, expanded R&D initiatives, and strengthened regulatory frameworks including farm registration and quality certification linked to financial incentives. Additionally, the adoption of advanced technologies for disease detection, climate-resilient zoning, and biodiversity-friendly codes of practice reflects a more comprehensive and proactive approach to sustainable aquaculture development.

For **Component D**, the country has shown marked progress in optimizing fish utilization, advancing in technology adoption and handling standards through new feed mills, infrastructure guidelines, and enhanced training programs. The country achieved an excellent rating in promoting traditional products by establishing numerous national standards and made a significant leap in supporting SMEs with a comprehensive legal framework and certification systems for quality and safety management.

For **Component E**, the country has advanced its fish trade capabilities by improving cooperation with ASEAN members and aligning national policies with international standards. The country also enhanced support for small-scale producers through expanded market access initiatives such as trade fairs and the program designed to enhance the livelihoods of Filipino fishermen and strengthen the country’s fish supply by establishing a direct link between producers and consumers. The country has also promoted eco-labeling and biodiversity-friendly practices to strengthen product branding and sustainability.



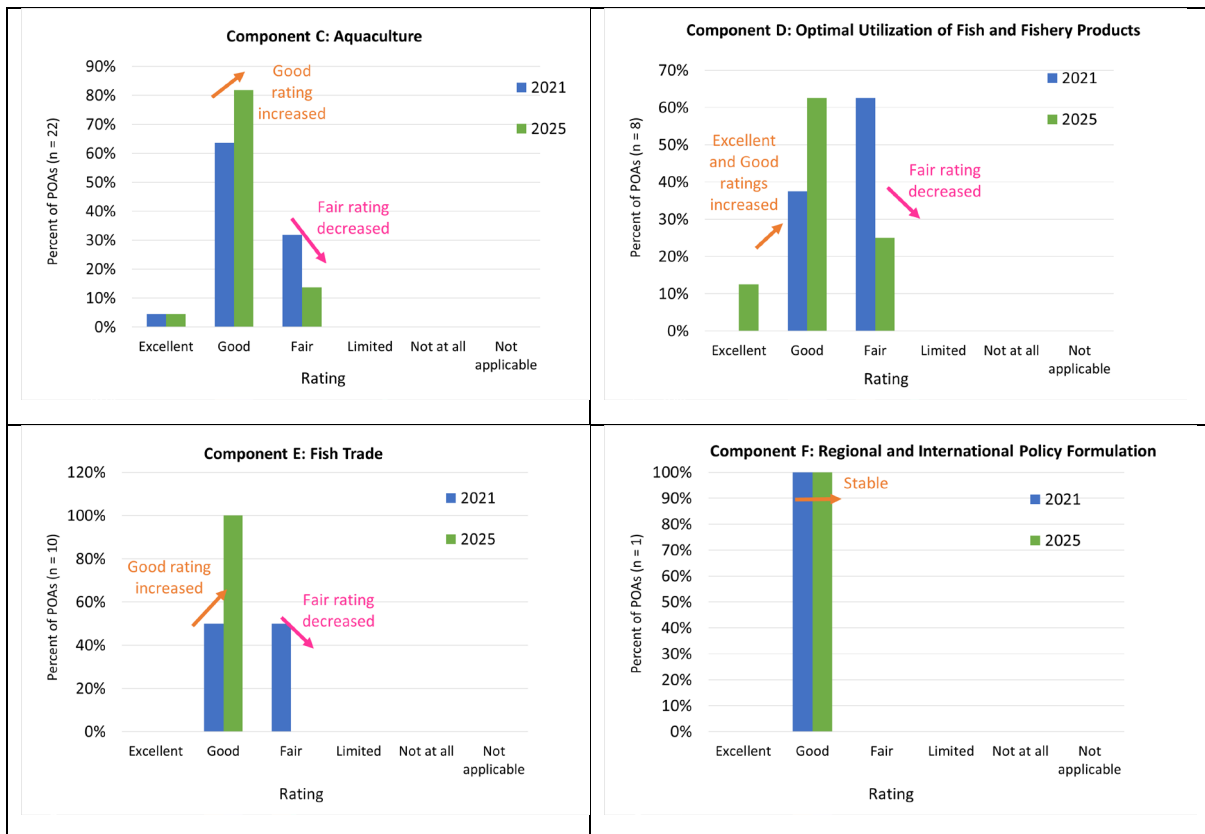


Figure 29 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Philippines: Components A-F

3.1.7.4 Summary

The Philippines has achieved a high level of overall implementation. The country’s success is built on a foundation of excellent, integrated fisheries planning and strong governance, particularly in combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing with advanced systems and comprehensive bycatch mitigation programs. Furthermore, the country maintains high standards in fish utilization and trade by rigorously enforcing international food safety and trade agreements.

Despite strong overall implementation, the country faced significant hurdles in coordination and the full adoption of systems. Key issues include a lack of political will to formalize science-based fishing rules, overlapping agency mandates that create inefficiencies, and critical data gaps in marine pollution. Furthermore, the country struggled with fragmented regional tools to combat illegal fishing, incomplete traceability and eco-labeling systems, and slow progress on monitoring antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture.

The country demonstrated significant improvement across nearly all Components from 2021 to 2025. Key advancements included achieving excellent integration in fisheries planning, formally adopting a national plan for small-scale fisheries, and strengthening its legal and operational frameworks for combating illegal fishing. Progress was also marked in aquaculture through aligned regional standards and enhanced biosecurity, as well as in fish utilization and trade via better technology, quality systems, and support for small-scale producers.

3.1.8 Singapore

3.1.8.1 Overall implementation

For Singapore (**Figure 30**), all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Components A, C, D, and F were implemented averagely at a good level, while POAs under Components

B, B1, and E were implemented averagely at a fair level. In addition, the POAs under Component B2 were not applicable for the country.

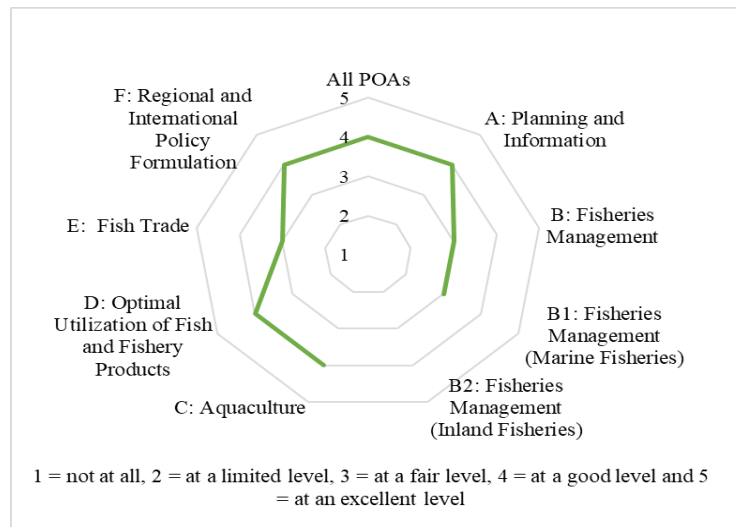


Figure 30 Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by Singapore

3.1.8.2 Mid-term review

Figure 31 shows the implementation status of the country’s POAs: 2 % were rated excellent, 42 % good, 30 % fair, 1 % limited, and 25 % were not applicable.

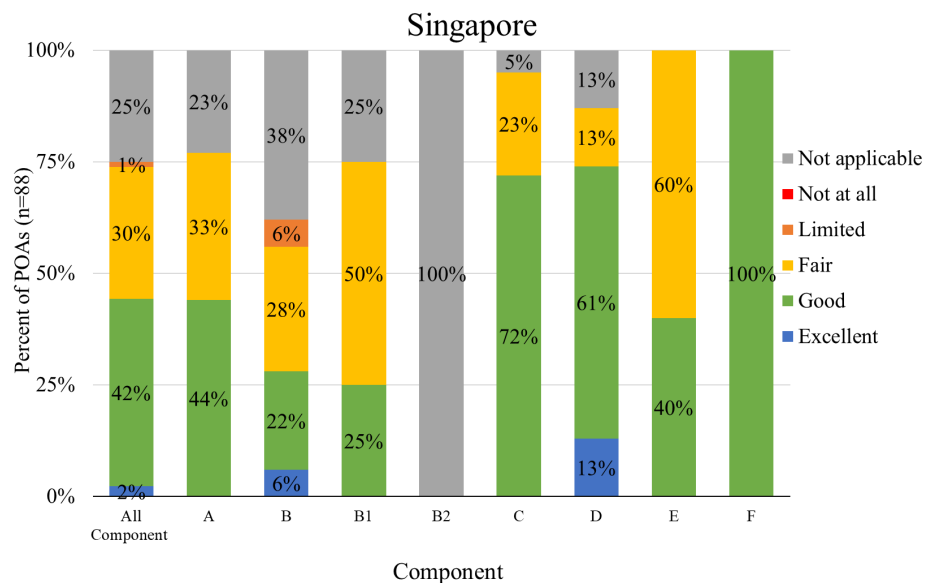


Figure 31 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by component of Singapore

Component A. Planning and Information

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 31**, was rated as good (44 %), fair (33 %), and not applicable (23 %).

- *Challenges*

There are no indicators in this Component that receive a rating of 1 or 2. In addition, the country’s implementation of POAs under this Component reflects its unique context as a city-state with limited

domestic fisheries. Its main challenges are a “Fair” level of data sufficiency, as local production statistics are not as comprehensive as in larger nations, and similarly limited data sharing, which occurs primarily for national food security reporting rather than broader inter-agency use.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates strong fisheries and aquaculture management, despite limited capture fisheries. The Singapore Aquaculture Plan (SAP) focuses on sustainable seafood production, aligns with international standards, and promotes knowledge sharing through research partnerships and international participation. The country’s commitment to sustainable aquaculture development and international cooperation demonstrates its commitment to technology and collaborative governance (POAs-1, 2, 6, and 9).

Component B. Fisheries Management

As showed in **Figure 31**, the implementation status of the country’s POAs was varied: 6 % were excellent, 22 % were good, 28 % were fair, 6 % were limited, and 38 % were not applicable.

- *Challenges*

The main challenge is fishing vessels primarily use traditional manual methods, with minimal technological optimization for crew operations.

- *Best practices*

The country proactively updates policies (POA-10), aligning with international standards *e.g.* the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) to combat IUU fishing. Enforcement measures are robust, featuring a licensing system for commercial vessels, Coast Guard patrols, and multi-agency collaboration to prevent illegal fishing (POA-12). The country excels in employment practices, enforcing comprehensive labor laws under the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) to ensure fair working conditions, safety, and dispute resolution for fishers (POA-20). Despite limited fisheries conflicts, the country maintains an excellent conflict-resolution framework through clear licensing, maritime zoning, and inter-agency coordination (SFA, MPA, Police Coast Guard) (POA-21). Data transparency is prioritized, with sex-disaggregated statistics systematically collected by the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and reported to the FAO (POA-23b).

Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 31**, was rated as good (25 %), fair (50 %), and not applicable (25 %).

- *Challenges*

There are no indicators in this Component that received a rating of 1 or 2.

- *Best practices*

Despite its limited commercial sector, the country combats IUU fishing through Port State Measures, active information sharing with ASEAN members, mandatory AIS vessel tracking, and participation in catch documentation schemes (POA-28), active regional engagement via participation in AN-IUU and RPOA-IUU initiatives, demonstrating commitment to collaborative fisheries management (POA-29), and employs a comprehensive, science-based approach through its Nature Conservation Masterplan and Marine Conservation Action Plan, featuring innovative programs like coral reef restoration, and climate resilience research (POA-35).

Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 31**, was rated wholly as not applicable (100 %).

- *Challenges*

There are no indicators in this Component that received a rating of 1 or 2.

- *Best practices*

The POAs are not applicable for the country.

Component C. Aquaculture

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 31**, was rated as good (72 %), fair (23 %), and not applicable (5 %).

- *Challenges*

There are no indicators in this Component that received a rating of 1 or 2.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates strong aquaculture practices, implementing sustainable programs through the Singapore Food Story R&D Programme to enhance food security (POA-48). The country adheres to environmental guidelines by incorporating ASEAN GAqP standards into its national framework (POAs-49, 52). Advanced technologies like Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and automated monitoring are widely adopted to improve farming efficiency (POA-51). Robust R&D is conducted at the Marine Aquaculture Centre, focusing on genetics, nutrition, and animal health (POA-53). Quality broodstock production has advanced through selective breeding programs and climate-resilient hatchery systems (POA-54). Supportive policies include GAqP training for farmers developed with educational institutions (POA-56). Employment practices comply with comprehensive labor laws enforced by MOM (POA-57). Financial incentives such as the Agri-food Cluster Transformation Fund encourage industry growth (POA-58). Strict licensing and health certification regulate aquatic organism movement (POA-59). Disease control capabilities are strong, with ISO-accredited diagnostics at the Centre for Animal and Veterinary Sciences (POA-61). Research on alternative protein sources for aquafeeds is actively pursued (POA-64). Workforce development includes specialized aquaculture training programs (POA-66). Climate resilience is prioritized through controlled-environment farming and environmental assessments (POA-67). A precautionary approach guides aquaculture expansion, with rigorous site evaluations (POA-68). GMO oversight is managed by the Genetic Modification Advisory Committee for safe development and use (POA-69).

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

As illustrated in **Figure 31**, the implementation status of the country's POAs was varied: 13 % were excellent, 61 % good, 13 % were fair, and 13 % were not applicable.

- *Challenges*

There are no indicators in this Component that received a rating of 1 or 2.

- *Best practices*

The country actively promotes food waste valorization, supporting companies that convert fish by-products into valuable goods like soup ingredients (POA-70). The country excels in food safety with stringent standards, an integrated safety system, and regional training programs (POA-72a), while effectively extending these quality systems to SMEs through SFA guidance (POA-72b). The country maintains good traceability practices, aligning with international catch documentation schemes while working to formalize these in legislation (POA-73). Skills development is supported through comprehensive guidelines on cold chain management and food handling (POA-74). Employment standards are robustly enforced under the Employment Act and Workplace Safety regulations (POA-76). Fish handling protocols are well-established, with clear hygienic guidelines for food handlers and practical preservation methods for small-scale fishers (POA-77).

Component E. Fish Trade

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 31**, was predominantly rated as good (40 %) and fair (60 %).

- *Challenges*

There are no indicators in this Component that received a rating of 1 or 2.

- *Best practices*

The country implements the ASEAN GAqP standard through its Singapore GAqP, ensuring alignment with regional aquaculture practices (POA-79). Its fish trade regulations follow a risk-based approach for aquatic animal health and food safety, with SPS measures developed in compliance with the WTO-SPS agreement (POAs-80, 81). Additionally, Singapore promotes sustainability through its SG Clean & Green (C&G) Standards for Aquaculture, which encourage smart farming, resource efficiency, and circular resource management. Farms meeting Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP) and sustainable criteria receive a three-star C&G certification, assuring consumers of fresh, safe, and environmentally friendly products (POA-87).

Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

The country’s implementation of POA under this component, shown in **Figure 31**, was primarily good (100 %). The country actively participates in key international fisheries forums and technical committees, including the FAO, COFI, and other related platforms, to engage in global fisheries governance.

3.1.8.3 Comparison between Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review 2025

Figure 32 showed the comparison of the implementation of POAs through ratings between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Singapore. Between 2021 to 2025, the improved implementation found in Components A. Planning and Information, B. Fisheries Management, B1 Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries), and C. Aquaculture (**Figure 33**). More information on the progress of each component is explained below.

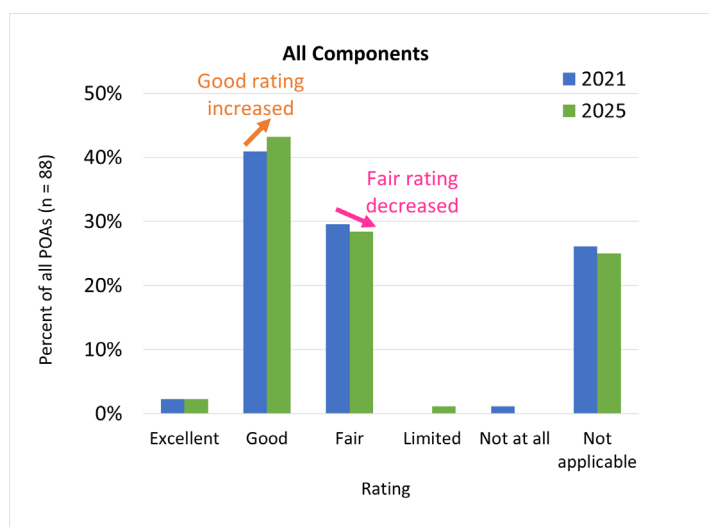


Figure 32 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Singapore: all components

On **Component A. Planning and Information**, fishing vessel numbers remain minimal in the country, due to limited marine fisheries activities. The country launched the Singapore Aquaculture Plan (SAP) in 2024, aimed at developing the aquaculture industry’s capacity for sustainable local seafood production. The plan includes space and infrastructure planning, regulations, research, innovation, ecosystem development,

demand offtake and promotion. The Aquaculture Sensing Network (ASN) is a network of water quality sensors in aquaculture zones to monitor and provide operational insights on various water quality parameters.

For **Components B. Fisheries Management**, Singapore maintains sufficient and competent fishing crew for its current small-scale fishing operations. The existing workforce demonstrates the necessary competency and adequately meets the operational needs of our fishing fleet. However, there is limited scope for expansion or succession planning given the small size of the industry.

On **Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)**, the country actively engages in regional and sub-regional consultative platforms through its officers, who contribute to discussions on fisheries management frameworks relevant to Singapore’s context.

For **Component C. Aquaculture**, the Singapore Food Story (SFS) R&D Programme was launched to advance research in sustainable urban food production, future foods, food safety science and innovation. Aquaculture, as one of the four key domains, focuses on research and development initiatives to drive technological advancement and industry transformation in Singapore’s aquaculture sector.



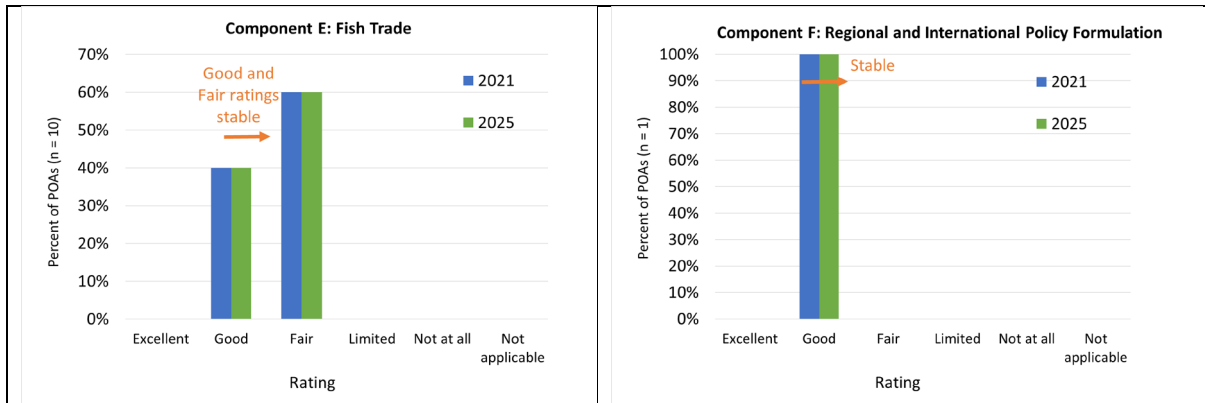


Figure 33 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Singapore: Components A-F

3.1.8.4 Summary

The country has achieved a good overall level of implementation for the RES&POA-2030, reflecting its unique context as an urbanized city-state with minimal domestic capture fisheries and a strategic focus on aquaculture. Best practices are concentrated in its forward-looking, high-technology aquaculture and stringent food trade regulations. This includes launching the Singapore Aquaculture Plan (SAP) for sustainable production, integrating ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) into its national framework, and implementing the Agri-food Cluster Transformation (ACT) Fund for industry growth. The country also excels in conflict resolution through excellent maritime zoning and inter-agency coordination, and maintains robust employment standards under the Ministry of Manpower (MOM).

Across other Components, challenges are focused on limitations in scale and harmonization rather than systemic failure (no indicator received a rating of 1 or 2). On planning, challenges include limited data sufficiency and data sharing primarily restricted to national food security reporting. On fisheries management is challenged by the local fleet’s continued reliance on traditional manual fishing methods with minimal technological optimization for crew operations. On marine fisheries and fish trade, improvements could be done on utilization of regional IUU tools and full harmonization with ASEAN standards. On aquaculture and optimal utilization of fishery products, the challenges are minimal, primarily revolving around the expansion of existing systems such as financial incentives for the post-harvest sector.

3.1.9 Thailand

3.1.9.1 Overall implementation

For Thailand (**Figure 34**), all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Component A, B1, B2, C, and D were implemented averagely at a good level, while POAs under Components B, E, and F were implemented averagely at an excellent level.

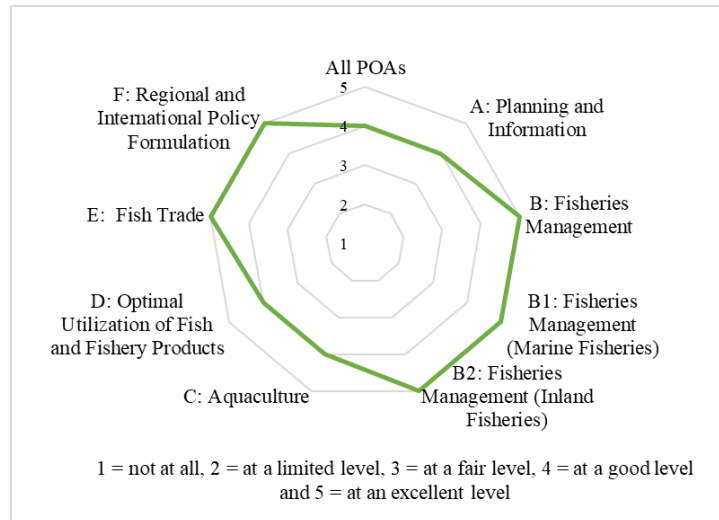


Figure 34 Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by Thailand

3.1.9.2 Mid-term review

Figure 35 shows the implementation status of the country’s POAs: 39 % were rated excellent, 52 % good, 6 % fair, 2 % limited, 1 % remained unimplemented.

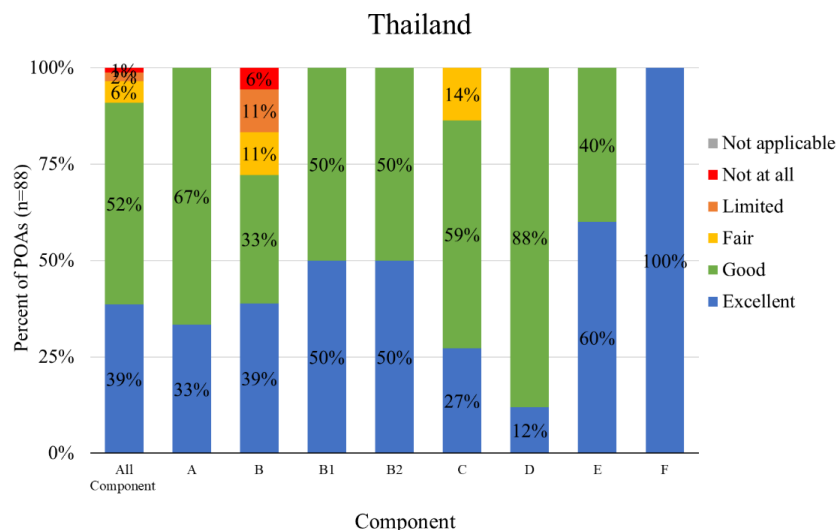


Figure 35 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by component of Thailand

Component A. Planning and Information

Figure 35 showed the implementation status of the country’s POAs: 33 % were rated excellent, and 67 % good.

- *Challenges*

The country faces challenges in planning and information management despite having comprehensive fisheries policies and management plans covering marine, inland, and aquaculture sectors. The integration and interlinkage of data remain insufficient, with fisheries statistics often lacking in detail, particularly regarding species-specific, biological, and socioeconomic information. Data-sharing mechanisms among relevant agencies are still limited. Furthermore, a shortage of human resources and scientific budget constraints hinder the development of modern, reliable databases to effectively support evidence-based policy decisions.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates comprehensive and integrated fisheries management, achieving excellent ratings in policy integration and data sharing. It has strong capacity in sustainable planning, species-level data collection, and fish stock management. Thailand excels in international cooperation through regional projects and knowledge exchanges, maintaining good standards in protected species, data harmonization, and performance monitoring. The country's strength lies in its systematic approach combining policy integration, scientific resource management, technological systems, and active regional collaboration to achieve sustainable fisheries (POAs-1–4, 5b, 6–9).

Component B. Fisheries Management

As showed in **Figure 35**, the implementation status of the country's POAs was varied: 39 % were excellent, 33 % good, 11 % fair, 11 % limited, and 6 % were not applicable.

- *Challenges*

The main challenges in fisheries management include limited manpower, budget, and coordination, as well as outdated and insufficiently detailed fisheries and biological data, especially for species of international concern. Community and stakeholder participation is still weak in certain areas. Labor skill development remains inadequate, with heavy dependence on migrant workers creating risks in labor rights and competitiveness. In addition, the adoption of modern technologies and alternative energy in fisheries remains limited. These factors continue to pose difficulties in integrating legal frameworks, science-based measures, and multi-stakeholder participation for sustainable management of both marine and inland resources.

- *Best practices*

The country advances in timely policy review (POA-10), with structured five-year updates and inclusive stakeholder consultations through the Thailand National Fisheries Committee. Fisheries management plans (POA-11) are robust, supported by legal frameworks and multi-level committees that address overexploitation and emerging challenges. Thailand also maintains stringent measures against illegal fishing (POA-12), employing advanced monitoring systems and severe penalties while adhering to international agreements. Comprehensive fisheries policies (POA-13) and ecosystem-based management approaches are effectively applied (POA-14), with active community participation in conservation and restoration efforts (POA-16). The government enhances fisher well-being through financial support, gender inclusion, and certification programs (POA-15), while also providing micro-credit incentives to small-scale fishers (POA-17). Employment practices (POA-20) meet high international standards, ensuring worker rights and welfare. Conflict resolution is facilitated through provincial committees and volunteer programs (POA-21), and small-scale fisheries are supported via sustainable initiatives and climate adaptation research (POA-23a).

Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 35**, was predominantly rated as excellent (50 %) and good (50 %).

- *Challenges*

The challenges were discussed in the previous Component.

- *Best practices*

The country has established an outstanding system to combat IUU fishing featuring advanced monitoring technologies (VMS, AIS, EM&ERS), stringent enforcement with severe penalties, and full compliance with international agreements (POA-28). The country plays a pivotal regional role as the center for AN-IUU (POA-29) and through active participation in RPOA-IUU, while effectively utilizing regional frameworks such as ACDS and RFVR (POA-30). The country excels in port State measures with 26 designated ports and robust inspection protocols (POA-32a), and shows outstanding performance in resource enhancement

(POA-35) through artificial habitats, stock enhancement programs, and the innovative Fisheries Refugia Project (POA-36). The country maintains good implementation in several areas: legal officer engagement in regional dialogues (POA-31); flag State responsibilities (POA-32b); research on fishing gear impacts (POA-33a) and eco-friendly practices (POA-33b); bycatch mitigation (POA-34); coastal habitat management through EAFM and community collaboration (POA-37); labor standards compliance via comprehensive legislation (POA-38); and subsidy assessment with safeguards against overfishing (POA-39).

Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 35**, was predominantly rated as excellent (50 %) and good (50 %).

- *Challenges*

The challenges were discussed in the previous Component.

- *Best practices*

The country demonstrates outstanding performance in policy implementation through its Inland Fisheries Action Plan 2023–2027 and ecosystem-based approaches in Mekong communities (POA-40). The country shows motivating stakeholder awareness with massive annual fish releases (801 million in 2024) and community engagement projects (POA-41). While invasive species control (POA-42) is robust (Rating 4), the country excels in inter-agency water coordination (POA-43a) through its National Water Resources Committee. Comprehensive research informs management decisions (POA-44a), supported by strong ecosystem conservation efforts (POA-44b). The country leads in monitoring infrastructure impacts (POA-45a) through innovative fish passage designs and maintains solid mitigation capacity (POA-45b). Coordinated planning (POA-46a) features nationwide seasonal closures, while practical management indicators (POA-47) are implemented through action plans and EAFM.

Component C. Aquaculture

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 35**, was rated as excellent (27 %), good (59 %), and fair (14 %).

- *Challenges*

Although Thailand has developed policies and measures to support aquaculture, challenges persist, including disease outbreaks, competition over water and land use with other sectors, and limitations in technology and research for improving breeding, feed, and environmentally friendly farming methods. Legal frameworks and farm regulatory mechanisms need strengthening to prevent environmental impacts. Standards such as GAP and traceability systems still require continuous development, with additional human and financial resources needed to ensure competitiveness in global markets and long-term sustainability of Thai aquaculture.

- *Best practices*

The country implements effective sustainability programs such as the BCG Economy Model and freshwater species action plans to enhance food security (POA-48), while strictly adhering to environmental standards through GAP certification and residue monitoring (POAs-49,52). The country excels in technology adoption with widespread use of RAS systems, AI monitoring, and nanobubble technology (POA-51), supported by strong R&D in genetics and alternative feeds (POA-53). The country leads in broodstock quality with SPF/SPR certification programs (POA-54) and maintains robust disease control through ISO-certified diagnostics and regional warning systems (POAs-60-62). Farmer support includes financial incentives, cooperatives, and training programs (POAs-56,58,66), while employment practices meet international labor standards (POA-57). Environmental protection measures feature GIS monitoring and climate-resilient technologies (POAs-67,68), complemented by strict regulations on aquatic organism movement (POA-59) and responsible antibiotic use (POA-63).

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 35**, was predominantly rated as excellent (12 %) and good (88 %).

- *Challenges*

The country faces challenges in the utilization of fish and fishery products include high post-harvest losses and insufficient investment in infrastructure, storage, and processing technologies in some areas, which results in missed opportunities for value addition. Although food safety and product quality standards have improved, further human and financial resources are required to align with international requirements. Small-scale operators also face barriers in accessing knowledge, technology, and financial support, which hinders the sustainable development of the fish processing industry.

- *Best practices*

The country promotes advanced technologies including power blocks on fishing vessels, super-intensive aquaculture systems, and by-product valorization for aquafeeds (POA-70). Traditional fish products are preserved through comprehensive training programs enhancing quality standards and global market competitiveness (POA-71). The country excels in quality management with excellent certification schemes (GAP, ISO) and ISO-accredited laboratories supporting global market positioning (POA-72a), while effectively extending these systems to SMEs through GMP implementation and product certification programs (POA-72b). Robust legislation including the Royal Ordinance on Fisheries ensures traceability and safety throughout the value chain (POA-73). Capacity building is prioritized through export-focused training programs and adoption of the BCG Economy Model (POA-74). Financial access is facilitated through BAAC loan programs with special terms for fishers and aquaculturists (POA-75). Employment practices comply with international labor standards, with ongoing efforts to eliminate forced labor (POA-76). Strict hygiene standards are implemented across vessels, ports and markets with emphasis on cold chain management (POA-77).

Component E. Fish Trade

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 35**, was predominantly rated as excellent (60 %) and good (40 %).

- *Challenges*

Thailand's fish trade faces challenges from increasingly stringent trade regulations and nontariff measures, particularly in traceability and sustainability certification. While legal frameworks and measures exist, stronger mechanisms are needed to build trust among trading partners. Meanwhile, global market volatility, price fluctuations, and competition from other Asian producers impose high costs on Thai operators. Budgetary and human resource limitations further constrain the development of modern trade mechanisms, such as online marketing, branding, and access to new markets—tools that are essential for maintaining competitiveness.

- *Best practices*

The country actively collaborates with ASEAN Member States (AMSs) through frameworks such as ASWGF and ASEAN Seafood Alliance to develop international trade standards (POA-78) and has successfully integrated ASEAN GAqP and Shrimp GAP into national standards such as TAS 7401-2022 for marine shrimp farms (POA-79). Thailand strictly implements WTO-aligned SPS/TBT measures and FTA obligations (POA-80) while ensuring CITES compliance through updated national laws (POA-81). It fosters regional cooperation via ASEAN, SEAFDEC, and CITES to harmonize trade policies (POA-82) and engages the private sector through initiatives *e.g.* the Shrimp Cluster Project and Shrimp Board (POA-83). Small-scale producers benefit from capacity-building programs, training, and certification support (indicator 84), alongside market access initiatives such as the “Fisherman Shop” project (indicator 85). The country employs robust traceability systems, including CDS and FSW, for supply chain transparency (POA-86) and

promotes sustainability through eco-labeling, including Organic Aquaculture and “Green Flag Fishery Products” certifications (POA-87).

Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

The country’s implementation of POA under this component, shown in **Figure 35**, was primarily excellent (100 %).

- *Challenges*

In regional and international policy formulation, Thailand faces challenges from diverging interests and priorities among ASEAN countries and in global fora, which complicates cooperation. Despite having supporting laws and policies, limited expertise and budget for participation in meetings and negotiations remain key obstacles. Additionally, Thailand must adapt to evolving rules, measures, and regulations from international organizations such as FAO, SEAFDEC, IOTC, and WTO. Failure to respond in a timely manner may affect Thailand’s credibility and position in global fish trade.

3.1.9.3 Comparison between Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review 2025

Figure 36 showed the comparison of the implementation of POAs through ratings between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Thailand. Between 2021 to 2025, the improved implementation found in Components A. Planning and Information, B. Fisheries Management, C. Aquaculture, and E. Fish Trade (**Figure 37**). More information on the progress of each component is explained below.

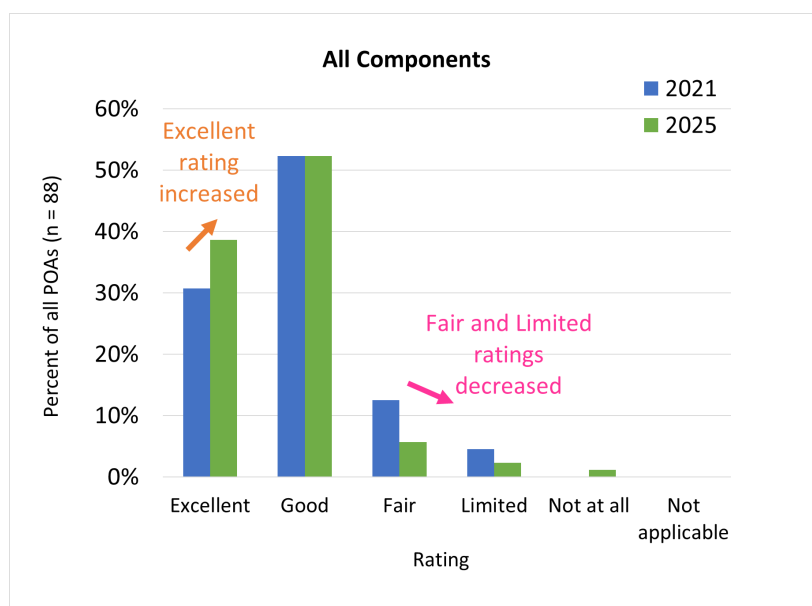


Figure 36 Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 between Baseline Information 2021 and Mid-term Review 2025 of Thailand

The country has demonstrated substantial progress in **Component A. Fisheries Planning and Information**, marked by significant upgrades to its data collection systems, the adoption of advanced stock assessment methods like MSY and TAC, and enhanced data sharing with domestic and international partners. However, the country continues to struggle with key challenges, including insufficiently integrated data systems, a lack of detailed species-specific and socio-economic statistics, and limited inter-agency data-sharing mechanisms. These efforts are further hampered by persistent constraints in human resources and scientific funding, which impede the development of robust, evidence-based policymaking.

For **Components B, B1 and B2**, the country has made notable progress in fisheries management by establishing a multi-level governance structure and improving community well-being through various support projects, though it regressed in adopting energy-efficient technologies due to budget constraints.

The country continues to face significant challenges, including limited manpower and funding, outdated biological data, weak stakeholder participation, and a heavy reliance on migrant labor. Furthermore, efforts in inland fisheries, such as managing invasive species and installing fish passages, show improvement but are still hampered by the overarching issues of coordination and resource limitations.

For **Component C**, the country has progressed in aquaculture by adopting advanced technologies like Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and enhancing its disease diagnostic capabilities to meet international standards. However, the sector continues to face significant challenges, including persistent disease outbreaks and intense competition for water and land resources. Further development is hindered by limitations in research for breeding and feed, the need for stronger regulatory frameworks to mitigate environmental impacts, and a continuous requirement for more resources to improve standards like GAP and traceability systems.

While the country has maintained its already high performance in the optimal utilization of fish products (**Component D**), demonstrating consistent strength in food safety and quality standards, it faces ongoing challenges. Significant obstacles include high post-harvest losses and insufficient investment in modern processing infrastructure, which limit value addition opportunities. Furthermore, small-scale operators struggle to access the necessary knowledge, technology, and financial support, hindering the sector’s sustainable development and full alignment with international market requirements.

The country has strengthened its fish trade sector (**Component E**) by improving private sector engagement through initiatives like the Shrimp Cluster Project, which enhances collaboration and competitiveness across the supply chain. However, the industry faces mounting pressures from stringent international regulations on traceability and sustainability, as well as global market volatility and intense regional competition. These challenges are compounded by limited resources, hindering the development of modern trade mechanisms needed to maintain Thailand’s competitive edge.

Thailand has consistently maintained its strong level of engagement in regional and international policy formulation (**Component F**). However, it faces challenges from diverging international interests, limited expertise, and budgetary constraints that hinder its ability to adapt to evolving global regulations and maintain its position in the fish trade.



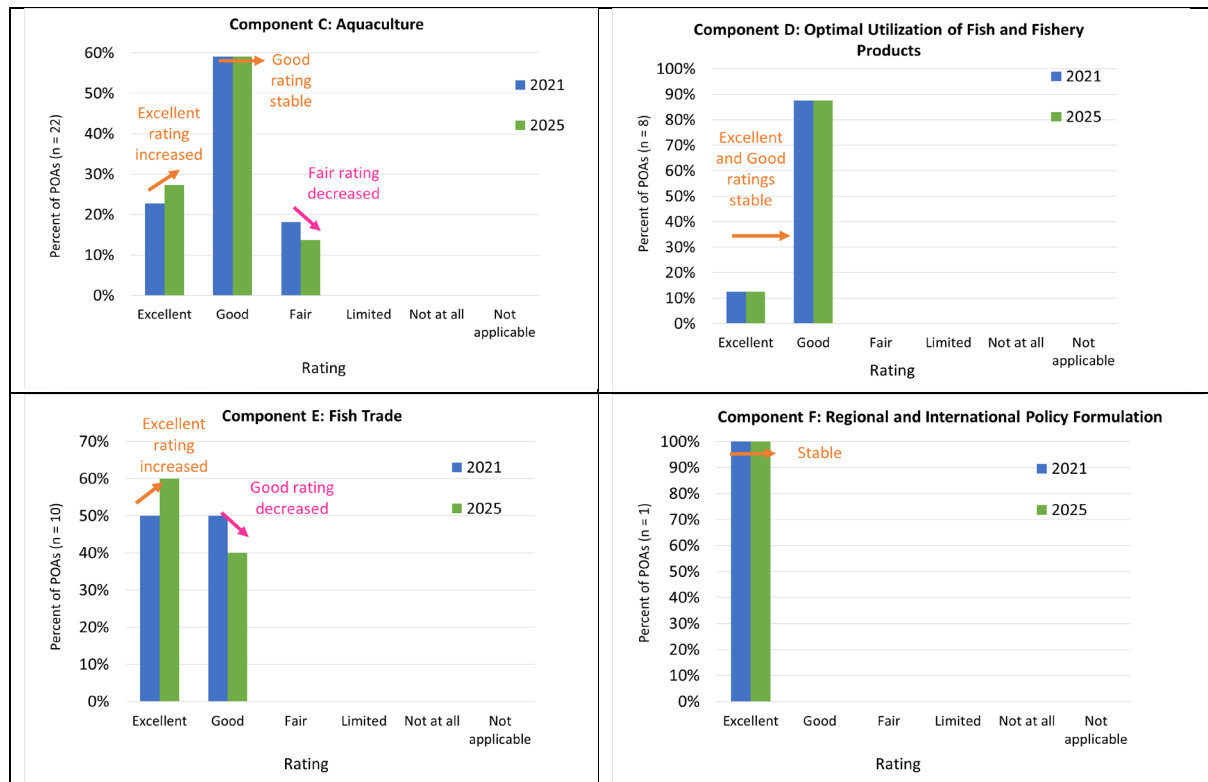


Figure 37 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of Thailand: Components A-F

3.1.9.4 Summary

Thailand, under the 2025 Midterm Evaluation of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES & POA – 2030, continues to face multifaceted challenges in fisheries development and management. Key issues include fragmented and insufficiently detailed data for planning and policy decisions, limited human and financial resources, and gaps in coordination among agencies. Fisheries management struggles with weak stakeholder participation, labor skill constraints, reliance on migrant workers, and limited adoption of new technologies and alternative energy. In aquaculture, disease risks, competition over resources, and underdeveloped technology and regulatory frameworks hinder sustainable growth. Post-harvest losses, inadequate infrastructure, and barriers for small-scale operators restrict value addition and product competitiveness. Fish trade is further challenged by stringent international requirements, global market volatility, and limited capacity to adapt to modern trade mechanisms. At the regional and international levels, differences in priorities among countries, combined with resource constraints and the need to comply with evolving global rules, continue to test Thailand’s ability to maintain credibility and competitiveness in the global fishery sector.

3.1.10 Viet Nam

3.1.10.1 Overall implementation

For Viet Nam (**Figure 38**), all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Component A, B, B2, and D were implemented averagely at a fair level, while POAs under Components B1, C, and E were implemented averagely at a good level. In addition, the POA under Component F was implemented at an excellent level.

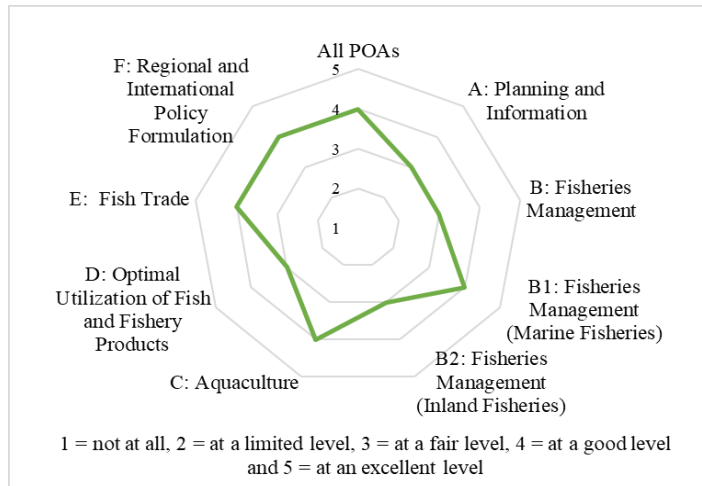


Figure 38 Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by Viet Nam

3.1.10.2 Mid-term review

Figure 39 showed the implementation status of the country’s POAs: 3 % were rated excellent, 44 % good, 38 % fair, 3 % limited, 12 % were not applicable.

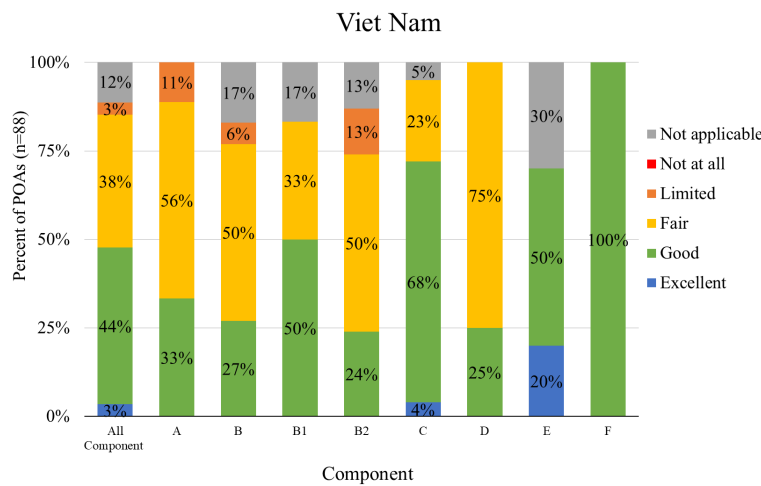


Figure 39 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by component of Viet Nam

Component A. Planning and Information

Figure 39 showed the implementation status of the country’s POAs: 33 % were rated good, 56 % fair, and 11 % limited.

- *Challenges and recommendations*

The country’s fishery information systems and mechanisms have limited applicability or integration with regional fishery information systems (POA-6), however, there are no specification of difficulty in its implementation.

- *Best practices*

The country’s integration of planning is supported by the Fisheries Law 2017 and Decree 26/2019/ND-CP, along with 08 Circular applied in fisheries (POA-1). The country’s capacity to develop a plan towards sustainable fisheries (POA-2) and application of simple and practical indicators for planning, monitoring, and evaluation of fisheries (indicator 4) are at a good level, however, no explanation of its implementation.

Component B. Fisheries Management

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 39**, was rated as good (27 %), fair (50 %), limited (6 %), and not applicable (17 %).

- *Challenges and recommendations*

The country has established a comprehensive legal framework for fisheries management, including the Fisheries Law 2017 and the national program to 2030, but the critical challenge remains the effective implementation and enforcement of these policies. A further challenge is ensuring that supportive measures, such as programs for fishers to change careers, are sufficient to alleviate fishing pressure and achieve long-term sustainability goals.

- *Best practices*

The country identifies several best practices such as national fisheries policies in consultation with stakeholders are timely reviewed and updated (POA-10), and the country accelerates development of fisheries management plans, supported by strategic government decisions such as the National Program for Sustainable Fisheries (2022–2025) (POA-11). The country underscores effective conflict resolution mechanisms, including multi-stakeholder committees, for resource utilization disputes (POA-21). The country actively monitors climate impacts on fisheries (POA-25a), and demonstrates proactive adaptation strategies (POA-25b). In addition, the country has strong international cooperation in managing transboundary fisheries (POA-27).

Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 39**, was rated as good (50 %), fair (33 %), and limited (17 %).

- *Challenges and recommendations*

The country has established a specific legal framework, including a National Action Plan and supporting decrees, to combat IUU fishing. The primary challenge lies in the effective enforcement of these regulations and the enhancement of monitoring and control measures to fully eradicate illegal fishing activities.

- *Best practices*

The country has established a comprehensive legal framework to combat IUU fishing, including the Fisheries Law, Prime Minister's Decision, and supporting circulars, which enable effective monitoring through vessel tracking systems and port controls (POA-28). The country actively participates in regional cooperation for fisheries management and IUU fishing combat, supported by its robust legal infrastructure (POA-29). The country's legal officers engage significantly in regional dialogues supported by its Fisheries Law, Decree, and Circular (POA-31). The country demonstrates capable implementation of port State measures (POA-32a) and flag State responsibilities (POA-32b), with clear regulations outlined in governing vessel operations and foreign fishing vessel management. In resource conservation, the country effectively promotes enhancement approaches (indicator 35), and applies the fisheries refugia concept for sustainable fisheries management (POA-36).

Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

As shown in **Figure 39**, the implementation status of the country's POAs was varied: 24 % were good, 50 % were fair, 13 % were limited, and 13 % were not applicable.

- *Challenges and recommendations*

The country is still in the process of developing policies and supportive frameworks for inland fisheries. Currently, there are significant limitations in accessing co-management approaches as well as implementing

rights-based fisheries, ecosystem approach to inland fisheries management. The country may consider developing an Inland Fisheries Action Plan based on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) to strategically guide the sustainable conservation and utilization of freshwater fisheries resources.

Component C. Aquaculture

As shown in **Figure 39**, the implementation status of the country's POAs was varied: 4 % were excellent, 68 % were good, 23 % were fair, and 5 % were not applicable.

- *Challenges and recommendations*

The country rates several POAs with the score 2 *i.e.* POAs 40, and 44b, however, there are not explicitly detailed in the explanation for 'Country's rating criteria' for these indicators.

- *Best practices*

The country rates several POAs with the score 4 *i.e.* POAs 42, 43a, and 43b, however, there are not explicitly detailed in the explanation for 'Country's rating criteria' for these indicators.

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 39**, was predominantly rated as good (25 %) and fair (75 %).

- *Challenges and recommendations*

The main challenge is the modest implementation of quality and safety management systems among small and medium enterprises. The practical recommendation is to establish clear rules, provide targeted support and training, conduct regular monitoring, foster public-private partnerships, and develop certification programs to enable these businesses to meet higher standards.

- *Best practices*

The country rates several POAs with the score 4 *i.e.* POA 71 on effort to promote the production and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products, and POA 76 on good employment practices, however, there are not explicitly detailed in the explanation for 'Country's rating criteria.'

Component E. Fish Trade

The implementation of POAs in the country, detailed in **Figure 39**, was rated as excellent (20 %), good (50 %), and not applicable (30 %).

- *Challenges and recommendations*

The country has implemented SPS chapters in FTAs and the development of a national electronic catch documentation system (ECDT) are forward-looking initiatives that enhance transparency and traceability across the entire supply chain. These measures are vital for building consumer and market trust, which is essential for competitiveness in the global seafood market.

- *Best practices*

The country maintains good cooperation with ASEAN Member States to implement international trade standards (indicator 78) and applies regional standards like ASEAN GAqP and Shrimp GAP effectively (indicator 79). The country excels in implementing trade-related standards, particularly through SPS measures in key FTAs (CPTPP, EVFTA, UKVFTA, RCEP) and provides market guidance via its SPS National Office (POA-80). It has developed robust national trade regulations aligned with international laws (POA-81) and cooperates well with AMSs on common trade positions (POA-82). The country engages the private sector through fisheries-focused PPPs, particularly for shrimp and environmental initiatives (POA-

83), and employs traceability systems like eCDT for capture fisheries and production codes for aquaculture (POA-86).

Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

The implementation of POA in the country, detailed in **Figure 39**, was rated as good (100 %).

3.1.10.3 Comparison between Baseline (2021) and Mid-term Review 2025

A comparative analysis was not feasible as the requisite baseline data from 2021 was not provided by the country.

3.1.10.4 Summary

The country demonstrates a strong overall commitment to sustainable fisheries, achieving a ‘good’ level of implementation with notable excellence in international policy formulation and robust legal frameworks. However, the country faces significant challenges in the effective enforcement of its policies, particularly in combating IUU fishing, supporting small enterprises with quality standards, and developing a strategic plan for inland fisheries. While proactive in adopting traceability systems and engaging in international trade agreements, the gap between policy development and on-the-ground execution remains a key area for improvement.

3.2 Regional level

3.2.1. Analysis of implementation in 2025 of AMSs

Figure 40 shows that around 12 percent of the implementation of 88 POAs by AMSs are at excellent level, about 45 percent at a good level, 25 percent at a fair level, nine percent at a limited level, and three percent were not implemented at all. Around six percent of POAs were not applicable for all AMSs.

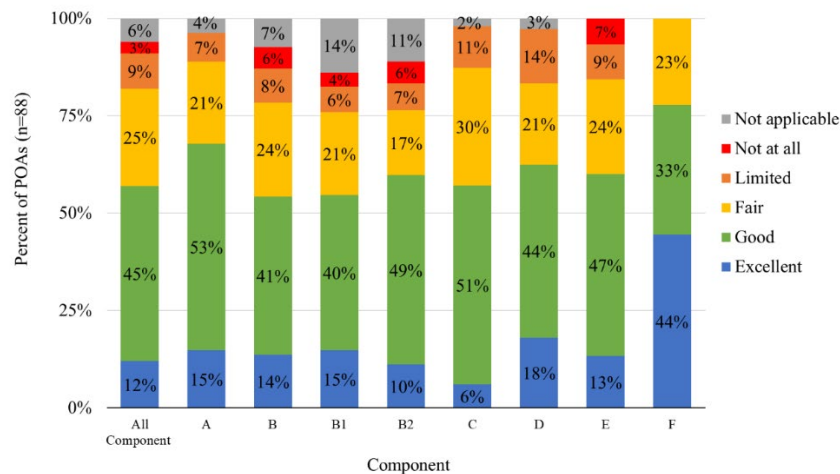


Figure 40 Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 (Mid-term Review 2025) by AMSs (except Viet Nam)

- **Component A. Planning and Information**

As shown in **Figure 40**, about 13 percent of the implementation of nine POAs under Component A. Planning and Information by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 51 percent at a good level, 25 percent at a fair level, eight percent at a limited level, and none of POA was not implemented. In addition, three percent of the POAs were not applicable.

The AMSs that have a very good level of implementation of POAs under this Component are Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand as more than 50 percent

of the POAs were implemented at good or excellent level. For Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam, more than 50 percent of the POAs were implemented at fair level or below; however, it should be noted that out of this about 11 and 23 percent of the POAs were considered not relevant to Lao PDR and Singapore, respectively.

Under Component A, the AMSs have made progress in Planning and Information, though, the main challenges were the collection of data and information on species under international concern as well as harmonized methods and ensure consistency among countries in the region (POA-5). While some countries have advanced in data collection and conservation measures, there are still some countries face significant gaps in these aspects. The countries identified their challenges *e.g.* limited species-specific data, insufficient sampling coverage, incomplete SOPs and guidelines, weak enforcement of regulations, limited technical capacity, insufficient monitoring efforts, inadequate bycatch management. To address these challenges, AMSs may consider standardize species-specific data collection (*e.g.* logbooks with species identification), expand geospatial and monitoring coverage, develop and implement SOPs for monitoring protected species, increase funding and capacity building for under-resourced agencies, strengthen enforcement of landing bans and bycatch regulations. In addition, regional cooperation and technical assistance (*e.g.* FAO, SEAFDEC) remain critical for addressing these challenges.

The best practices of this Component were on the integration of planning of marine capture fisheries, inland capture fisheries, and aquaculture sub-sectors for sustainable fisheries (*e.g.* availability of fisheries management/master plan that integrated all fisheries sub-sectors, multi-stakeholder participation in the planning process (POA-1). Several countries had strong legal frameworks, strategic long-term planning, science-based management, decentralized governance, data-driven decision making, and adaptive management. These practices highlight how AMSs adopt decentralized models for localized management, develop FMPs for key species, implement TAC/MSY, strengthen data collection, and formalize stakeholder engagement.

- **Component B. Fisheries Management**

As shown in **Figure 40**, there were 12 percent of the implementation of 18 POAs under Component B. Fisheries Management by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 40 percent at a good level, 27 percent at a fair level, and eight percent at a limited level. Around five percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while eight percent were not applicable.

It should be noted that Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand with more than 50 percent of the POAs implemented at good or excellent levels. Several countries considered these POAs were not applicable *i.e.* Indonesia (6 %), Lao PDR (22 %), Singapore (38 %), and Viet Nam (17 %). Myanmar has limited implementation of the POAs with about 30 percent of the POAs implemented at limited level and not implemented at all.

In Component B, the AMSs faced the challenges largely in application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears fishing vessels, and fishing operations (POA-18). Several countries have limited progress in modernization and fuel-efficient fishing methods due to limited funding, weak policy implementation, and reliance on external support. Though some countries developed eco-gear R&D, solar technology, FADs but low adoption or scaled up. It is essential for regional collaboration and national policy reform to bridge these gaps and ensure sustainable fisheries management. To strengthen regional collaboration across AMSs, a holistic approach is needed that combines technological upgrades, policy reform, and knowledge-sharing platform would enable countries to learn from each other's successes, such as Malaysia's energy-efficient vessels, Thailand's science-based fisheries management, and the Philippines' successful Payao system should be expanded nationally as a model for fuel-efficient fishing.

The best practices under Component B were on country's cooperation with other countries to assess and manage straddling, transboundary, and highly migratory fishery resources (POA-27). Several countries developed strong approaches to regional fisheries management, particularly in their engagement with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and implementation of Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs). These include swiftly translating RFMO measures into their national policy. Several countries also established a National Plan of Action (NPOA) on IUU Fishing and enhanced Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) to ensure compliance with fishing regulations and deters

illegal activities. Regional collaboration on shared fish stocks stands out as a best practice. Thailand and Malaysia, for example, are doing coordinated study on short mackerel migration to enhance stock assessments. Meanwhile, efforts such as BOBLME and SEAFDEC promote information exchange and collaborative management of marine resources across Southeast Asia.

- **Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)**

As shown in **Figure 40**, about 13 percent of the implementation of 12 POAs under Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries) by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 41 percent at a good level, 22 percent at a fair level and six percent at a limited level. Around three percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while 15 percent were not applicable.

The AMSs that have an outstanding level of implementation of POAs under this Component are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam with more than 50 % of the POAs implemented at good and excellent levels. It should be noted that 25 % of the POAs were not implemented by Cambodia and 8 % of the POAs were not implemented by Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar, respectively. For Lao PDR, Singapore, and Viet Nam considered 100 %, 25 %, and 17 % of the POAs are not applicable for the countries, respectively.

In Component B1, the countries faced challenge in assessing the possible impacts of subsidies on fisheries, particularly on the special requirements and the needs of small-scale fisheries in the region (POA-39). Few countries have robust M&E systems while several countries still in the early stages of adopting subsidy framework. Three main challenges are summarized as follows; 1) inefficient designed subsidies may unintentionally increase overfishing by making unsustainable practices more profitable, 2) the widespread lack of adequate monitoring mechanisms makes it impossible to determine if subsidies are meeting their intended purpose, 3) most countries struggle to properly focus assistance to small-scale fishers while avoiding benefits from leaking to industrial operations that may contribute to overfishing. The transboundary nature of marine resources and lack of regional coordination for subsidy management among AMSs pose challenges to sustainable fisheries, necessitating national policy reforms and enhanced regional cooperation.

The best practices under Component B1 were on involvement and participation at regional, sub-regional, and bilateral levels on fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, and MCS network through inter-agency coordination and information sharing (POA-29). AMSs demonstrated strong regional cooperation and innovation national measures to combat IUU fishing. Thailand serves as the region's AN-IUU center for real-time information sharing and enforcement coordination among AMSs. Brunei Darussalam demonstrates how small nations constructive in fisheries governance, maintaining an advanced Electronic Catch Documentation System while actively participating in RFMO *e.g.* CCAMLR. Its hotline agreement with Viet Nam for immediate IUU fishing reporting showcases the power of bilateral cooperation. Malaysia and Indonesia have taken enforcement to the waters through their joint PATKOR OPTIMA patrols, proving that coordinated maritime operations can effectively deter illegal fishing activities across borders.

- **Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)**

Figure 40 showed that 10 percent of the implementation of eight POAs under Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries) by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 45 percent at a good level, 21 percent at a fair level, and eight percent at a limited level. Around five percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while 11 percent were not applicable.

It should be noted that Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand led the implementation of POAs under this Component with more than 50 percent of the POAs implemented at either good or excellent levels. For Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Viet Nam more than 50 percent of the POAs were implemented at a fair level or below. Specifically for Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam, 25 and 24 percent of the POAs, respectively were not implemented at all. It should be also noted that 100 percent, and 13 percent of the POAs are considered not applicable for Singapore and Viet Nam, respectively.

Under Component B2, inland fisheries in Southeast Asia plays a crucial role in food security, livelihoods, and biodiversity, but AMSs encountered the major challenges on implementation of comprehensive policies

and provision of support to legal and institutional frameworks for inland fisheries (POA-40). The major challenges for example, Malaysia and Myanmar rely on state/regional fisheries ordinances, leading to inconsistent enforcement and management approaches, Indonesia, has national regulations, but local implementation varies, while Philippines and Thailand have centralized national plan/program but depend on local compliance. Inconsistent enforcement, weak monitoring, and limited community engagement hinder effective decision-making. Climate change and hydrological alterations complicate management, and lack of economic incentives for sustainable practices leaves fishers reliant on overharvesting. To address these issues, a shift towards ecosystem-based management, regional cooperation, and inclusive governance is needed.

For best practices in the Component B2 could be observed among AMSs especially on effort to promote R&D to understand the migration patterns, spawning grounds and seasons, and nursery grounds of important inland aquatic animals, and effort to sustain inland fisheries ecosystem health, habitat inter-connectivity, and dry season management (POA-44). AMSs have implemented several effective strategies for managing inland fisheries, combining scientific research, habitat conservation, and community engagement. Cambodia and Thailand lead in ecological research and wetland rehabilitation, whereas Malaysia and Philippines focus on policy enforcement and stock assessments. Myanmar's lease-based fisheries and Thailand's volunteer networks illustrate how local participation may benefit conservation.

- ***Component C. Aquaculture***

Figure 40 showed that three percent of the implementation of 22 POAs under Component C. Aquaculture by all AMSs implemented are at an excellent level, 51 percent at a good level, 30 percent at a fair level, and 10 percent at a limited level. Around three percent were not applicable.

The AMSs that have a very good level of implementation of POAs under this Component are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam with about 70 percent of the POAs were implemented at good or excellent level. For Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar, more than 50 percent of the POAs were implemented at fair or below. In addition, about nine percent of the POAs were considered not relevant to Indonesia and five percent of the POAs were not relevant to Cambodia, Singapore, and Viet Nam.

In Component C, the major challenge was on production and distribution of pathogen-free and pathogen-resistant broodstock and seeds by establishing certified hatcheries, promoting new breeding technologies, and implementing sound policies (POA-54). Several countries reported that many hatcheries struggle to produce enough fry, leading to imports from other countries especially shrimp post larva and the countries' research aims to address this issue.

Under Component C, best practices among AMSs that should be pointed out is on coordination among the country's national agencies to integrate aquaculture into rural development activities within the context of multiple-use of land and water resources (POA-50). AMSs adopt innovative governance models, policy frameworks, and integrated approaches to promote sustainable aquaculture. Key practices include strong inter-ministerial and multi-agency collaboration, comprehensive policy frameworks, education and capacity-building, strategic spatial planning, farmer empowerment, and ecosystem-based approaches. These efforts aim to balance aquaculture with other land and water uses, enhance food security, and conserve biodiversity. Examples include Cambodia's Fish and Rice Corridor Initiative, the Philippines' National Convergence Initiative, Indonesia and Malaysia's Aquaculture Industry Zones, and Myanmar's National Aquaculture Development Plan. By leveraging these models, ASEAN can strengthen its position as a global leader in sustainable aquaculture.

- ***Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products***

As shown in **Figure 40**, about 16 percent of the implementation of eight POAs under Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products by all AMSs are at an excellent level while 42 percent of the POAs were implement at a good level, 26 percent at a fair level, and 13 percent at a limited level. Around three percent were not applicable.

It should be noted that Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand led the implementation of POAs under this Component with more than 70 percent of the POAs were implemented at either good or excellent levels. For Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, more than 50 percent of the implementation is at fair level or below. In addition, about 13 percent of POAs were not implemented by Brunei Darussalam. Moreover, about 10 percent of the POAs were deemed not relevant by Myanmar and Singapore.

Under Component D, the main gaps on the implementation of POAs by AMSs were the adoption of standards and guidelines for handling fish and fishery products, and implement hygienic fish handling onboard fishing vessels and market places (POA-77). Many countries have established guidelines but struggle with field-level monitoring and enforcement. Many small-scale fishers lack access to proper ice storage, insulated containers, or cold chain systems, leading to post-harvest losses and food safety risks. They struggle with implementing guidelines for fish handling often due to weak enforcement, inadequate infrastructure, and low awareness among small-scale fishers. To address these issues, several suggestions include enhancing small-scale sector support such as improving cold chain infrastructure, increasing awareness and training such as mobile training units and multilingual handbooks, and regional cooperation to streamline efforts in promoting hygiene standards and sharing port hygiene models.

The best practices among AMSs of this Component were on the implementation of quality and safety management systems (POA-72). AMSs have implemented approaches to improve fish handling and hygiene practices, focusing on food safety and quality assurance. These include regulatory frameworks, certification systems, infrastructure development, and capacity-building initiatives. Indonesia has established a strong foundation through regulations, while Malaysia has a collaborative governance model. Myanmar focuses on export-oriented standards, while Philippines has a comprehensive system on food safety. Singapore and Thailand have exemplified stringent standards enforcement and knowledge sharing, respectively.

- ***Component E. Fish Trade***

Figure 40 showed that 14 percent of the implementation of ten POAs under Component E. Fish Trade by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 47 percent at a good level, and 22 percent at a fair level. Around eight percent of POAs were implemented at a limited level and six percent were not implemented at all, while three percent were not applicable.

The AMSs that have a very good level of implementation of POAs under this Component are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam with more than 50 percent of POAs were implemented at good or excellent level. For Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, and Singapore, 60 percent of the POAs were implemented at fair level or below, while Cambodia and Myanmar have not yet implemented 40 percent and 10 percent of the POAs, respectively. It should be noted that 30 percent of the POAs were considered not relevant to Viet Nam.

In Component E, the main challenges were on the develop/improve branding or eco-labeling of fish and fishery products (POA-87). A significant challenge for AMSs is the predominantly voluntary nature of eco-labeling, which limits widespread adoption and market impact. While countries such as Thailand and Singapore have developed sophisticated national certification schemes, others such as Myanmar and Cambodia are still in early stages of development, creating an uneven regional landscape. Furthermore, efforts are often fragmented between export-oriented international certifications and weaker domestic market initiatives, hindering the development of a cohesive, recognizable ASEAN brand for sustainable seafood. Key recommendations are to leverage successful national models such as Thailand's "Green Flag" and Singapore's "SG Clean & Green" standards to develop a unified, mandatory ASEAN eco-labeling framework that ensures regional consistency and international recognition. In addition, AMSs must actively promote consumer awareness and market demand for these eco-labeled products both domestically and internationally to move beyond voluntary adoption and create tangible economic incentives for sustainable practices.

For Component E, best practices could be observed among AMSs in implementing of fish trade-related standards (POA-80) especially Sanitary and Phyto sanitary (SPS) measures to ensure food safety and compliance with international standards. These measures are crucial for maintaining market access, particularly in key export destinations such as EU, US, Japan, and China. Several AMSs such as Brunei

Darussalam, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Cambodia are adopting these best practices to enhance compliance, maintain global standard-setting, balance safety and efficiency, and meet diverse market demands. To strengthen regional trade, AMSs should expand capacity-building for smaller economies, improve SPS harmonization, and establish a centralized market intelligence system.

- **Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation**

Figure 40 showed that 40 percent of the implementation of one POA under Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation by all AMSs are at an excellent level and a good level while 20 percent at a fair level.

AMSs actively participate in developing regional and international policies to promote sustainable fisheries management, combat IUU fishing, and enhance trade and food security. Their participation spans various multilateral platforms, including ASEAN-led initiatives, global conventions, and technical cooperation programs.

3.2.2. Comparison of Baseline Information 2021 and Mid-term Review 2025 at regional level

As shown in **Figure 41**, ‘Excellent’ rating increased and it should be noted that a positive shift in ‘Good’ rating as it increases to about 46 percent by 2025. In addition, ‘Fair’ rating showed a slight decrease, while there was decline in ‘Limited’ and ‘Not at all’ ratings. Moreover, ‘Not applicable’ rating had a slight increase.

The results show a positive trend of overall performance in efficient implementation of POAs between 2021 and 2025, with significant shifts from lower-performing rating (‘Fair,’ ‘Limited,’ and ‘Not at all’) towards ‘Excellent’ and ‘Good’ ratings.

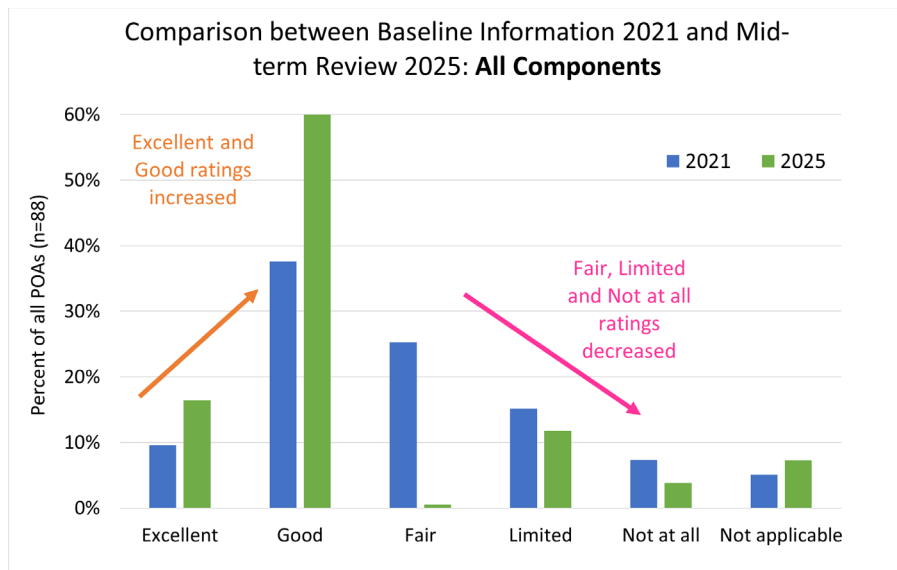


Figure 41 Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of all countries: All Components

Figure 42a-h showed the most significant improvements appeared to be in Components A, B, B2, C, D, and F which showed a shift towards higher performance ratings (4–5). While there have some improvements, it still seems to have a higher proportion of ‘Not applicable’. The specific analysis of each Component are as follows;

- **Component A. Planning and Information**

For Component A. Planning and Information, the overall implementation has improved, as evidenced by the significant reduction in “Fair”, “Limited” and “Not at all” and an increase in “Excellent” and “Good” (**Figure 42a**). Such reduction found in the report by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Thailand, while the improved performance in implementation was observed in the integration of

planning of marine and inland fisheries, and aquaculture for sustainable fisheries (POA-1) by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Philippines, and Singapore. There are more information of the active engagement and participation such as partnerships with NGOs for marine ecosystem management. Countries are moving from broad strategic planning to detailed fisheries management and conservation programs.

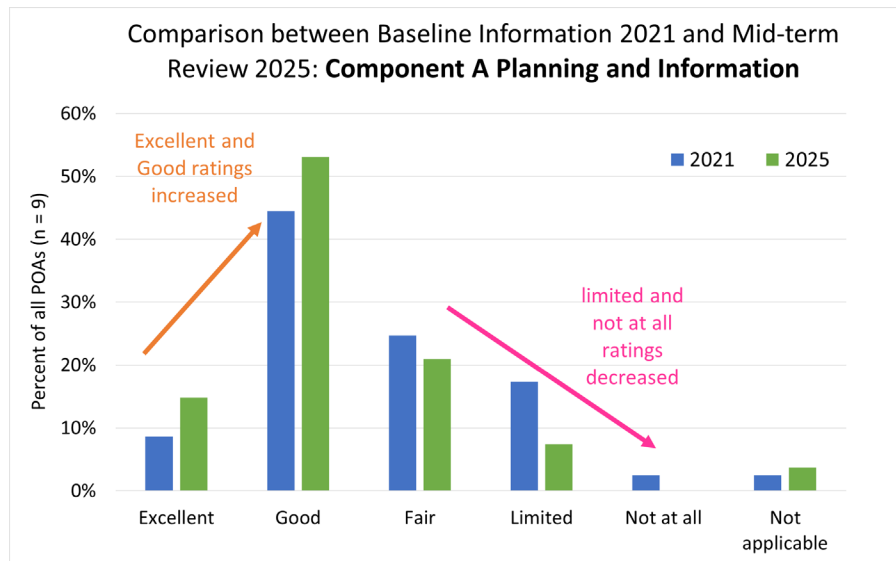


Figure 42a Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of all countries: Component A Planning and Information

- **Component B. Fisheries Management**

For Component B. Fisheries Management, the overall implementation also improved as rating scores “Excellent,” “Good,” and “Fair” increased, while rating scores “Limited” and “Not at all” decreased (**Figure 42b**). The most common area of improvement on application of fisheries management approaches (POA-14). Several countries are actively implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and co-management through established plans, community organizations, and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). However, significant challenges persist, including limited capacity for expansion beyond pilot areas, difficulties in enforcement and coordination between government agencies (especially noted in the Philippines), and data gaps that hinder effective management. Specific countries such as Myanmar face severe operational hurdles due to security situations, and many struggle with ensuring the long-term sustainability of community participation and resources.

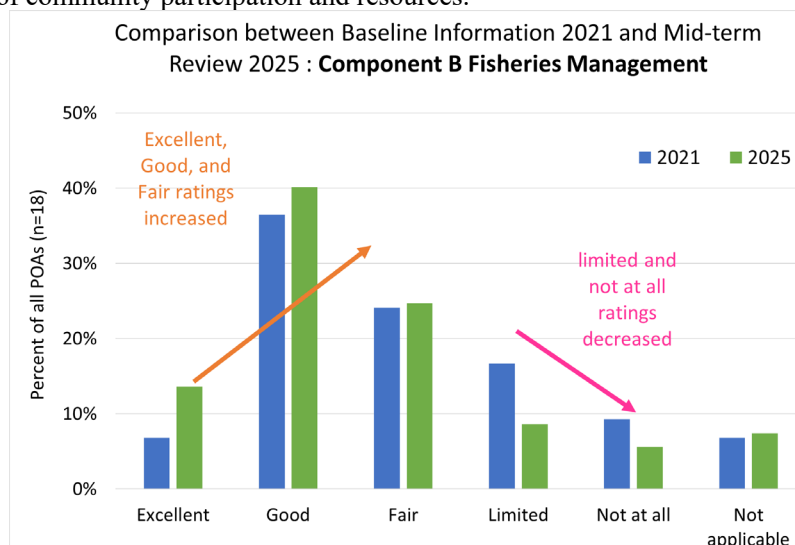


Figure 42b Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of all countries: Component B Fisheries Management

- **Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)**

On Component B1 Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries), the combined “Excellent” and “Good” rating increased from 52 % in 2021 to 55 % in 2025 (**Figure 42c**). The common concern reported by AMSs were on research on fishing gear impacts, and promotion of environment-friendly practices (POA-33). Most AMSs have established legal frameworks, such as national fisheries acts and gear-specific regulations, to promote sustainable fishing practices, including the use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs), mesh size controls, and gear marking. Countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand are actively researching and implementing measures to reduce bycatch and abandoned gear, while several countries are promoting community-based management and alternative, less destructive fishing methods. The main challenges are limited research capacity to fully assess ecological impacts and persistent difficulties in enforcing regulations, compounded by insufficient resources, technical expertise, and inter-agency coordination.

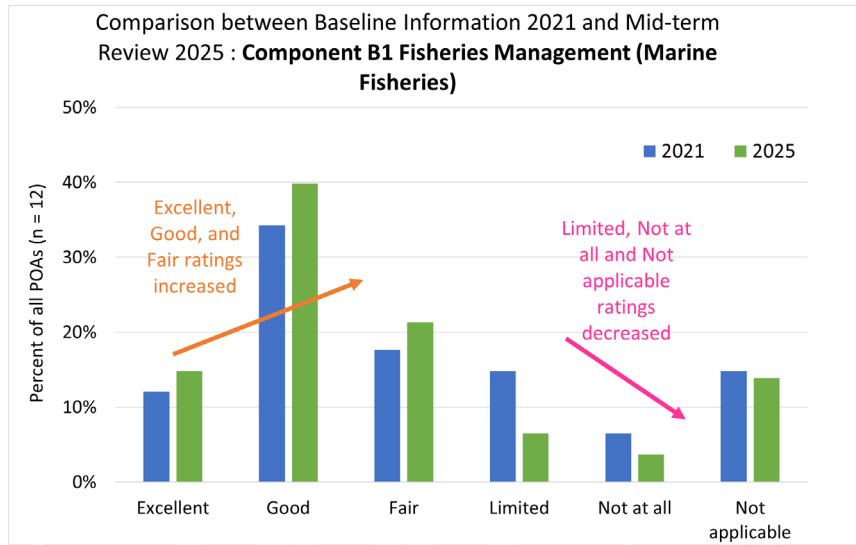


Figure 42c Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of all countries: Component B1 Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

- **Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)**

For the Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries), while the proportion of “Excellent” and “Good” rating scores increased in 2025 (**Figure 42d**). The common progress among AMSs reported on monitor and assess the impacts of the construction/operations of man-made structures (POA-45). Several AMSs, have established regulatory frameworks, environmental monitoring committees, and specific programs such as fish passages to assess and mitigate the impacts of man-made structures on aquatic ecosystems. A significant challenge across AMSs is that limited capacity, due to budgetary constraints, insufficient technical expertise, and fragmented inter-agency coordination, hinders comprehensive monitoring and enforcement of measures to mitigate the impacts of man-made structures on aquatic ecosystems.

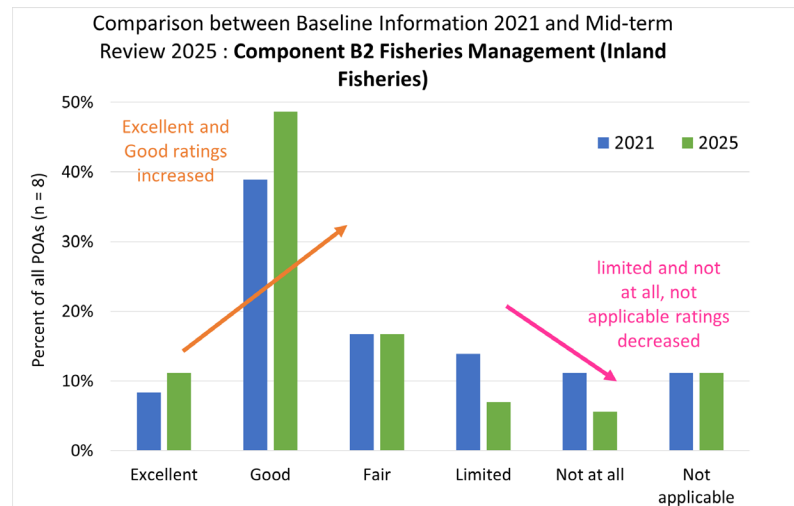


Figure 42d Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of all countries: Component B2 Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

- **Component C. Aquaculture**

On Component C. Aquaculture, there was a substantial increase in rating scores “Excellent” and “Good” while rating scores “Limited” and “Not at all” showed a considerable decrease (**Figure 42e**). The common area of improvement was on capabilities in the diagnosis and control of aquatic animal diseases (POA-61). AMSs have made significant progress in aquatic animal health, evidenced by advanced laboratories *e.g.* ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, active participation in international proficiency testing, and the development of robust national regulations and surveillance guidelines. However, key implementation challenges remain, including the limited diagnostic capacity and resource constraints in less developed countries, which struggle to detect all listed diseases and perform advanced diagnostics. Furthermore, disparities in technical expertise, funding, and comprehensive surveillance plans across the region continue to hinder uniform and effective disease management.

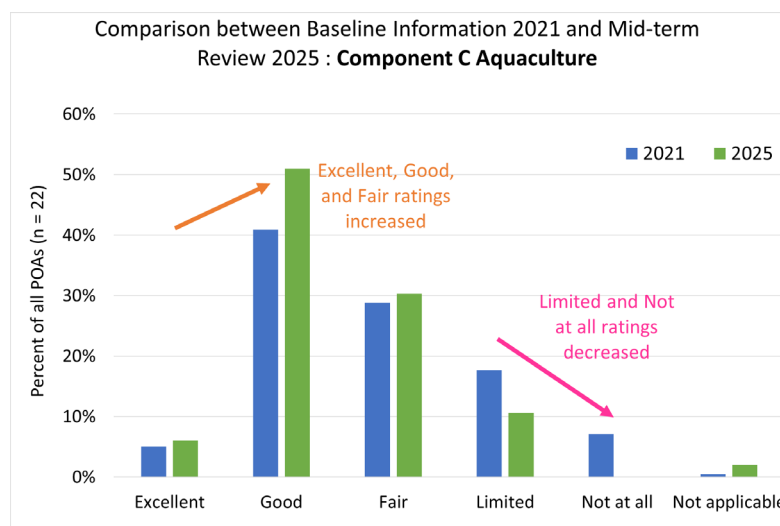


Figure 42e Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of all countries: Component C Aquaculture

- **Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products**

For Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, there was an improvement in rating scores “Excellent” and “Good,” while rating scores “Fair” and “Not at all” decreased significantly (**Figure 42f**). The common areas of improvement were on applicability of technologies to optimize the utilization of catch/farmed products, and effort to promote the production of and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products (POAs-70–71). The countries reported the establishment of platforms and programs to

optimize the utilization of catches and farmed products, along with effort and preserve traditional fish products through enhanced quality assurance and standardization. For example, Cambodia established the Food Technology Research and Innovation Platform to promote R&D linking private sectors with universities, Myanmar introduced annual grant and technical capacity programs for entrepreneurs and mechanized harvesting technologies, Philippines conducted continuous training programs on fish processing technologies, proper fish handling, and food safety and quality assurance to improve catch utilization.

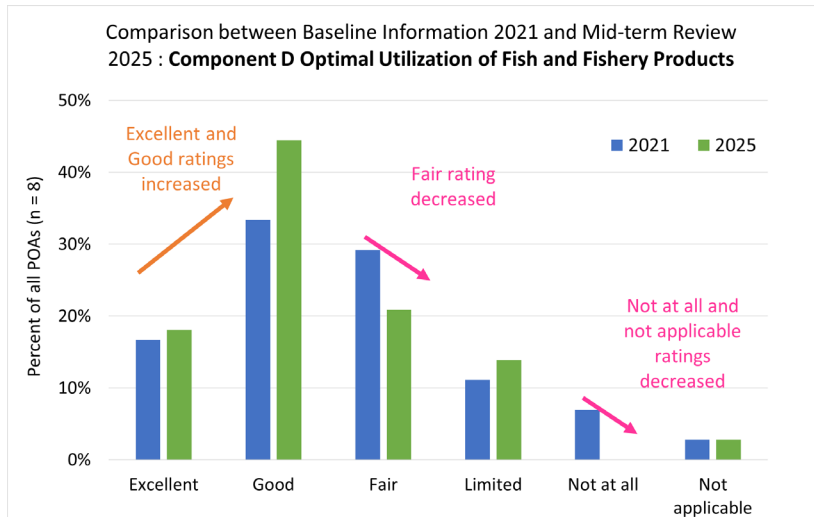


Figure 42f Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of all countries: Component D Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

- **Component E. Fish Trade**

On Component E. Fish Trade, the countries reported increased rating scores “Good,” while rating scores “Excellent,” “Fair,” “Limited,” and “Not at all” decreased (**Figure 42g**). The common area of improvement among AMSs is on aligning national standards with regional frameworks such as GAqP and Shrimp GAP (POA-79), while the dominant challenge is securing international recognition and acceptance from major importing markets to establish equivalence with global certifications.

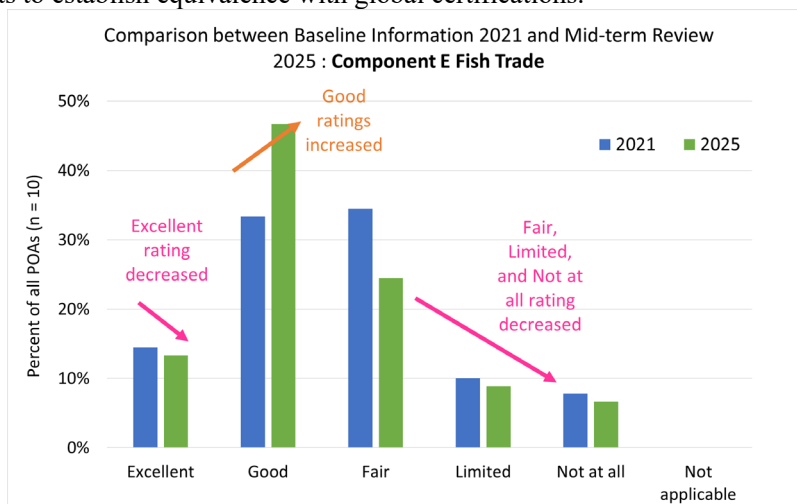


Figure 42g Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of all countries: Component E Fish Trade

- **Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation**

For Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation, there was the improvement in rating score reported by Myanmar in increased its participation and active involvement in the international fora and technical committees related to fisheries (**Figure 42h**).

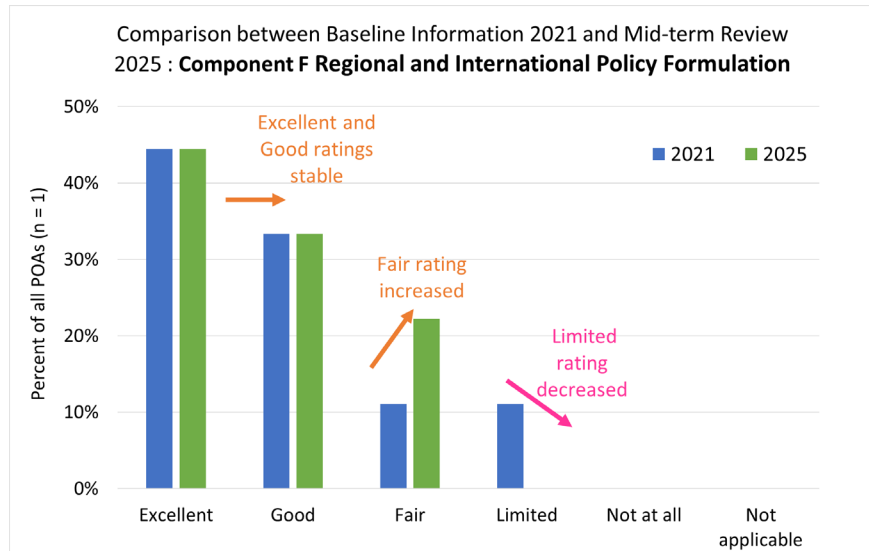


Figure 42h Comparison of the implementation of POAs between baseline information 2021 and mid-term review 2025 of all countries: Component F Regional and International Policy Formulation

IV. Conclusion and Way forward

4.1 National level

ASEAN Member States (AMSs) demonstrate a general commitment to sustainable fisheries, with many showing measurable progress between the baseline information 2021 and the mid-term review 2025. Common strengths include the development of robust policy frameworks and integrated planning across marine capture fisheries, inland fisheries, and aquaculture sectors. Many countries have enhanced data collection and monitoring systems, including the establishment of reference points for fish stock management, and improved mechanisms to combat Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported (IUU) fishing through national action plans, vessel monitoring systems, and regional cooperation. Progress is also evident in aquaculture development, with advancements in sustainable practices, biosecurity, disease control, and the adoption of advanced technologies. Furthermore, several AMSs have strengthened international cooperation and actively participate in regional and global policy discussions.

Despite these advancements, AMSs consistently face a range of significant challenges that hinder holistic development. Limited human and financial resources remain a pervasive obstacle, impacting areas such as data collection, research and development, capacity building for fishers and farmers, and the adoption of modern technologies. Specific sectors face issues like disease outbreaks in aquaculture, high post-harvest losses, and stringent international trade regulations that challenge traceability and sustainability certification. Additionally, the adoption of energy-efficient technologies and the development of robust climate change adaptation strategies are areas where several countries report limited progress.

To address these challenges and ensure long-term sustainability, the implicit ways forward for AMSs involve strengthening institutional and technical capacities through targeted training and increased investment in human and financial resources. There is a clear need for enhanced data integration and sharing platforms to support evidence-based policy decisions, moving towards more detailed, species-specific, and socio-economic data collection. Policy frameworks require continuous review and rigorous enforcement, especially for small-scale fisheries, inland fisheries management, and environmental protection in aquaculture. Promoting the adoption of modern, energy-efficient, and climate-resilient technologies is crucial across capture fisheries, aquaculture, and post-harvest operations. Further emphasis on meaningful stakeholder engagement, particularly with local communities and the private sector, and expanding support programs for small-scale operators will ensure more equitable benefits and sustainable practices. Finally, sustained regional cooperation and knowledge exchange remain vital to harmonize standards, combat transboundary issues, and collectively adapt to evolving global trade and environmental requirements.

4.2 Regional level

At the regional level, the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) have demonstrated overall positive progress in implementing the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030). Regional strengths include the integration of planning across fisheries sub-sectors, robust legal frameworks, science-based management, and data-driven decision-making. AMSs have also enhanced efforts in combating Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported (IUU) fishing through initiatives like the ASEAN Network for IUU Fishing (AN-IUU) and joint patrols, alongside the adoption of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) and improved post-harvest quality systems. Advancements in aquaculture, such as enhanced disease diagnosis and control, and active participation in regional and international policy dialogues, further highlight this collective progress.

Despite these achievements, significant and pervasive challenges continue to hinder comprehensive regional advancement. AMSs commonly struggle with insufficient species-specific data collection and harmonized methods for species of international concern, as well as limited adoption of energy-efficient technologies due to funding and policy gaps. The assessment and equitable targeting of fisheries subsidies remain difficult, often unintentionally increasing overfishing or failing to benefit small-scale fishers. In inland fisheries, the implementation of comprehensive policies and institutional support faces hurdles from inconsistent enforcement, weak monitoring, and limited community engagement, compounded by climate change impacts. Aquaculture is challenged by the production of pathogen-free broodstock and disparities in disease management capacity. Furthermore, many countries face difficulties in the practical implementation of hygienic fish handling standards on vessels and in markets due to inadequate infrastructure and low awareness. The voluntary nature and uneven development of eco-labeling across the region also limits its widespread adoption and market impact. Underlying these issues are persistent limitations in human and financial resources, technical expertise, and inter-agency coordination.

To address these challenges, the way forward for AMSs involves several key actions. They must prioritize standardizing and enhancing species-specific data collection and expanding geospatial and monitoring coverage, supported by increased funding and capacity building. Regional collaboration and national policy reforms are essential to promote energy-efficient technologies, learning from best practices within the region. Furthermore, developing robust monitoring and evaluation systems for subsidies is crucial to ensure they are well-targeted and do not contribute to overfishing. A shift towards ecosystem-based management and comprehensive action plans for inland fisheries, with stronger inter-agency coordination, is needed. Investment in certified, pathogen-free broodstock production and advanced disease diagnostics, alongside enhanced surveillance, will strengthen the aquaculture sector's biosecurity. For post-harvest, improving cold chain infrastructure, increasing awareness, and providing training for hygienic handling are vital. Finally, developing a unified, mandatory ASEAN eco-labeling framework and actively promoting consumer demand for these products will enhance regional competitiveness and sustainability in fish trade. Continued regional cooperation and knowledge exchange remain dominant to collectively overcome these shared challenges.

REGIONAL FISHERIES POLICY NETWORK (RFPN) PROGRAM

I. Introduction

Established by SEAFDEC in 2007, the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) is a collaborative initiative designed to strengthen fisheries policy and cooperation across Southeast Asia through one-year residencies for nominated member-country officers. Although temporarily suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic, the program traditionally drives regional progress by identifying critical fisheries issues, facilitating policy dialogues on topics like climate change and ASEAN strategies, and ensuring seamless communication between national agencies and the SEAFDEC Secretariat. By fostering professional coordination and supporting the implementation of international instruments, the RFPN serves as a vital link for sustainable fisheries management among its Member Countries.

Following the 55th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (55CM) in 2023, the Secretariat was tasked by the Council to explore the reactivation of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) using alternative funding, or the use of accumulated unspent Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) funds. Subsequently, during the 46th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (46PCM) in 2023, the PCM reviewed critical operational updates on the RFPN program, including modified Terms of Reference (TOR), proposed for the selection of the RFPN process, and new budget estimates. The Council, during the 56th Meeting, approved the reactivation of the RFPN program for a one-year term starting from 2025, the proposed modification of the TOR of the RFPN program, and use of the unspent accumulated MRC to support the RFPN program. Moving forward, the Council agreed that for the program's continuation should be evaluated annually based on the financial availability of the MRC. During the 56CM in 2024, the SEAFDEC Council further suggested that the SEAFDEC Secretariat assess the performance of the RFPN program to ensure its effective implementation. The 57CM in 2025 has expressed support for the RFPN program's 2026 implementation while emphasizing the need to secure alternative funding sources beyond the unspent MRC budget. Additionally, they urged SEAFDEC to expand the program's activities to better align with its core objective of strengthening regional cooperation in fisheries policy.

In 2025, the 48PCM suggested that the RFPN evaluation criteria by requiring members to develop joint project proposals or concept notes as concrete evidence of the program's impact. In response, the SEAFDEC Secretariat clarified that while SEAFDEC can assist, developing joint concept notes or proposals depends on donor requirements, and such outputs are not a suitable indicator for the RFPN program's continuation due to varying member background and capacities, emphasizing that securing donor funding is the primary factor for its continuity.

This document provides an update on the RFPN program implementation and evaluation in 2025 and 2026, and the proposed program, timelines, and estimated budget in 2027 for approval.

II. RFPN Program 2025

2.1 Program Implementation and Evaluation in 2025

In 2025, eight countries nominated RFPN members, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. During their one-year term, RFPN members actively participated in 25 regional events covering fisheries management, capacity building, and policy dialogue. Their activities included training on combating IUU fishing, traceability, and marine debris; engagements on Small-Scale Fisheries; and contributions to regional policy formulation and the RES&POA-2030 mid-term review. Members also updated their national Fisheries Country Profiles and developed technical articles on national issues. The experience enhanced their understanding of regional cooperation, policy coordination, and professional skills, reinforcing the importance of collaborative efforts for sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia.

Their evaluation report (**Appendix 1**) shows that, the 2025 RFPN members demonstrated exceptional professional standards, with all eight members consistently achieving “excellent” ratings across core evaluation criteria, most notably in teamwork, interpersonal relations, and technical skill development. The

group was characterized by a high level of leadership and adaptability, with several members—specifically Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand—producing technical articles evaluated at an excellent level. Beyond individual assignments, the members proved to be vital assets in field operations and international representation; they provided insightful national perspectives during events, maintained rigorous time management, and fostered a collaborative environment through mutual support and hospitality.

2.2 Financial Summary of the RFPN Program in 2025

The RFPN program in 2025 utilized financial support from the SEAFDEC’s Accumulated Unspent Minimum Regular Contribution. The total expenses for RFPN 2025, was USD 104,595.03. **Table 1** shows the approved budget and details of the actual expenses of the RFPN program in 2025.

Table 1 RFPN 2025 Financial Summary

(Unit: USD)

Description	Approved Budget	Actual Expenses	Balance
Airfare	8,800	3,295.09	5,504.91
Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)	99,000	67,564.29	31,435.71
Accommodation	39,600	18,380.01	21,219.99
Health Insurance	4,400	2,797.80	1,602.20
Laptops, software, accessories, and email accounts	14,300	10,719.18	3,580.82
Accommodation when attending the meeting/workshops	7,200	0	7,200.00
Other expenses	1,000	1,838.66	(838.66)
Total	174,300	104,595.03	69,704.97

III. RFPN Program 2026

3.1 Program Implementation and Evaluation

In 2026, eight countries nominated RFPN members, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Representatives from seven countries are stationed at the SEAFDEC Secretariat, Thailand while the RFPN for Cambodia is subject to approval by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Cambodia (as of February 2026).

The 2026 assigned tasks for RFPN members focus on bridging national and regional fisheries interests through a combination of technical research, policy development, and administrative liaison. Specifically, the responsibilities involve authoring technical articles on priority issues, developing policy briefs on global trends, and reviewing SEAFDEC draft documents to provide strategic improvements. Additionally, the role serves as a vital coordination link, requiring the compilation of national data, support for on-site training, and the monitoring of national progress regarding international agreements like the WTO Fisheries Subsidies and BBNJ. The detailed tasks appear in **Table 2**.

- Evaluation of the RFPN 2026

Following the suggestions by the 57th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Secretariat conducted performance evaluations of RFPN members every six months and report the results to the Member Countries for consideration by the Council in approving the future phases of the RFPN program. The 2026 performance evaluations align with seven TORs. As detailed in **Table 2**, the assigned group tasks, proposed schedules, and initial April 2026 evaluation. The performance will be evaluated every six months (in late June and December 2026). The Secretariat will report these results to the Council *ad referendum*.

Table 2 Performance evaluation of RFPN 2026 based on TORs

TORs	Assigned tasks	Tentative Timeline	Initial evaluation (as of April 2026)
a. Identify issues related to fisheries, raised at national, sub-regional, regional, and international levels, which may have potential impacts to fisheries in the region	Develop at least two technical articles focusing on priority fisheries issues which may have potential impacts to fisheries in the region	Q1–Q3	The RFPN identified three topics for technical articles and are in good progress of their collective efforts in compiling inputs and developing the draft articles.
b. Identify studies and activities that should be conducted to compile information on the identified issues as a basis for developing policy recommendations and strengthening regional and subregional coordination	Identify at least two important regional/global issues and conduct exercise to compile relevant information and develop regional recommendations in the form of policy briefs	Q2–Q4	This activity not yet started
c. Initiate and promote the formulation of regional fisheries policies and policy recommendations, including the preparation and finalization of the required working/position or background papers	Review at least one draft regional policy developed by SEAFDEC (<i>e.g.</i> Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040; Guide to Promoting a Sustainable Seaweed Industry in the SEA Region (Output 1.1.2); Technical Guidelines to Assess, Prevent, and Remove ALDFG in the Southeast Asian Region) and come up with suggestions for improvement/finalization of the policy document	Q3–Q4	This activity not yet started
d. Promote in-country (for Member Countries) or in-department (for SEAFDEC Departments) coordination to compile relevant information and data as inputs to conduct studies, on-site training consultations and other activities	Act as a liaison for coordination with the respective country to compile data and information as required by SEAFDEC and/or provide support to SEAFDEC in the conduct of on-site training, consultations, and other activities	Q1–Q4	The RFPN demonstrated very good performance to facilitate coordination between SEAFDEC and their respective country.
e. Support the development of strategies to promote closer policy dialogues and regional and subregional cooperation among the Member Countries and SEAFDEC	N/A This TOR is not applicable to the current situation	-	-

TORs	Assigned tasks	Tentative Timeline	Initial evaluation (as of April 2026)
f. Follow-up on the implementation of policies for ASEAN and the ASEAN region on fisheries, aquatic environment and climate change, international convention and agreements in the Member Countries	Identify at least two recently emerged and significant international conventions or agreements (e.g. the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, BBNJ Agreement, Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM)), and conduct a review on the respective country's stage of ratification, level of implementation, etc. based on the fisheries perspective	Q3–Q4	This activity not yet started
g. Support and follow up communication and coordination between SEAFDEC and their respective home country and report the updated information on the implementation of SEAFDEC programs and activities including relevant reports to their respective country	Follow up communication and coordination between SEAFDEC and their respective home country	Q1–Q4	The RFPN performance for this TOR is subject to the request of the respective country.

3.2 Financial Status of the RFPN Program in 2026

The RFPN program in 2026 continues to seek financial support from SEAFDEC's Accumulated Unspent Minimum Regular Contribution. **Table 3** shows the approved budget for eight (8) RFPN members in 2026, and the expected budget to be spent for seven (7) RFPN members in 2026, with a total amount of USD 133,250.

Table 3 RFPN 2026 Budget

Description	(Unit: USD)	
	Approved Budget for eight RFPN members	Expected to be spent until Dec 2026*
1. Airfare	6,400	5,600
2. Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)	72,000	60,000
3. Accommodation	28,800	16,500
4. Health Insurance	5,200	3,000
5. Email accounts, software, and accessories	800	700
6. Accommodations when attending the meetings/workshops (6 nights*6 rooms*2 trips)	800	700
7. Participation of RFPN members in events	32,750	32,750
8. Publishing a special issue of the SEAFDEC journal "Fish for the People"	10,000	10,000
9. Other expenses	4,000	4,000
Total	160,750	133,250

* As of April 2026, there are seven (7) RFPN members.

IV. RFPN Program 2027

4.1 Proposed RFPN Program Implementation in 2027

Similar to the program implementation in 2026, the selection and nomination process for RFPN members begins with a formal consultation and decision by the SEAFDEC Council during the 58th Meeting, followed by the Secretariat requesting two candidate nominations from each member country. Once nominations are submitted, the Secretariat interviews and selects the most qualified candidates, notifying the respective Council Directors of the results. The process concludes with the candidates completing their in-country documentation (such as passports and visas) before officially joining the SEAFDEC Secretariat for a 12-month stationing period. The selection process and nominations for 2027 are outlined in **Table 4**.

Table 4 RFPN Selection Process and Nomination for 2027

Actions	Period
Consultation and decision by SEAFDEC Council during the 58 th Meeting.	19–21 May 2026
SEAFDEC Secretariat sends letters to SEAFDEC Member Countries requesting nomination of two candidates.	8 June 2026
SEAFDEC Member Countries submit their respective nomination letter to the SEAFDEC Secretariat.	31 August 2026
SEAFDEC Secretariat interviews and selects the most appropriate candidates.	1–29 September 2026
SEAFDEC Secretariat informs the nominated candidates to their respective Council Directors	30 September 2026
In-country preparation for document approval (passport, visa, etc.)	October-December 2026
Start working at SEAFDEC Secretariat	4 January 2027
RFPN members stationed at the SEAFDEC Secretariat (12 months)	4 January- 30 December 2027
SEAFDEC Secretariat reports unspent accumulated MRC status and requests approval for the RFPN 2028 budget at the 59 th SEAFDEC Council Meeting	April 2027

4.2 Proposed Budget for RFPN Program in 2027

The SEAFDEC Secretariat proposes an estimated 2027 budget of USD 210,000 (**Table 5**) for the RFPN program. This is an increase from the 2026 budget of USD 160,750 (which covered eight members), as the new estimate accounts for the participation of all 11 SEAFDEC Member Countries and the expected rise in flight ticket prices. The SEAFDEC Secretariat also requests from the Council to use the accumulated unspent Minimum Regular Contribution to cover these expenses.

Table 5 RFPN 2027 Estimated Budget

(Unit: USD)

Items	Rate	Number of RFPN members	Required Budget (12 months)
1. Airfare	1,000	11	11,000
2. Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA)	750	11	99,000
3. Accommodation	300	11	39,600
4. Health Insurance	800	11	8,800
5. Email accounts, software, and accessories	100	11	1,100
6. Participation of RFPN members in events			35,000
7. Publishing a special issue of the SEAFDEC journal “Fish for the People”			10,000
8. Other expenses			5,500
		Total	210,000



In this regard, it should be noted that as of December 2025, the accumulated unspent MRC, totals USD 1.3 million. Based on the projected utilization of these funds in 2026 and 2027, the remaining accumulated unspent MRC is estimated to be approximately USD 812,210 by the end of 2027 as shown in **Table 6**.

Table 6 Proposed Utilization and Financial Status of the Accumulated Unspent MRC as of End-2027
(Unit: USD)

Items	Amount
Expenditures using accumulated MRC in 2026	
1) RFPN Program 2026	133,250
Proposed expenditures using accumulated MRC in 2027	
1) RFPN Program 2027	210,000
2) The 60 th Anniversary of SEAFDEC	144,540
Remaining estimated accumulated unspent MRC (end of 2027) <i>(if proposals for the 60th Anniversary and RFPN are approved)</i>	812,210

V. Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note on the RFPN program evaluation in 2025
- Take note of the RFPN activities for 2026, and provide directive guidance on the implementation and evaluation of the RFPN program in 2026, and
- Approve the RFPN program implementation in 2027 including the estimated budget and the use of unspent accumulated MRC.

Evaluation Results of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) Program 2025 SEAFDEC Secretariat

Executive summary

This document reports the results of the 2025 Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) program. The 2025 cohort consisted of eight nominated fisheries officers stationed at the SEAFDEC Secretariat for a one-year term to strengthen policy dialogue, information exchange, and regional collaboration.

During 2025, RFPN members enhanced their knowledge on a wide range of topics (e.g. combating IUU fishing, supporting small-scale fisheries, and taking part in regional strategy reviews through participating in 25 SEAFDEC technical events, including workshops, trainings, and policy consultations. RFPN members were also assigned to work individually with the mentorship from SEAFDEC Secretariat staff on the development of Fisheries Country Profiles and technical articles on national fisheries issues, which enhanced their analytical and writing skills.

During their tenure, mid-term and end-2025 performance evaluations of each RFPN member conducted by the SEAFDEC Secretariat showed consistently high performance across all members, with overall scores above 90 %. The RFPN members excelled in responsibility, teamwork, and skill development, while areas such as time management and leadership showed slight variation. The SEAFDEC Secretariat also collected feedback on the RFPN Program from RFPN members, which indicated strong satisfaction with the program, particularly in terms of networking and study-related tasks, while suggesting areas for improvement including task alignment, mentorship, event participation, and knowledge-sharing mechanisms.

The results is reported to SEAFDEC Member Countries to support the Council’s consideration and decision on future phases of the RFPN program.

I. Introduction

The Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) program was established by SEAFDEC in 2007, with members comprising fisheries officers nominated by the SEAFDEC Member Countries to be stationed at the SEAFDEC Secretariat for a one-year term. The program aims to foster collaboration among fisheries officers, supporting policy formulation and recommendations, address multi-level fisheries issues, and act as communication liaisons with their home countries. Due to the COVID 19 and funding availability, the RFPN was put on hold, until the RFPN program was approved by SEAFDEC Council during its 56th Meeting in 2024. In 2025, eight member countries nominated candidates who, after a selection interview and administrative clearance, were relocated to the Secretariat. The list of eight RFPN members is as follows.

- *Mr. Khan Sunhai*, RFPN member for Cambodia
- *Ms. Rina Fariani Saragih*, RFPN member for Indonesia
- *Ms. Anousone Mingmeuangthong*, RFPN member for Lao PDR
- *Mr. Mohd. Faizrus Anwar bin Roslan*, RFPN member for Malaysia
- *Ms. Cho Mar Oo*, RFPN member for Myanmar
- *Mr. Beverly S. San Juan*, RFPN member for the Philippines
- *Ms. Kanyarat Woraprayoth*, RFPN member for Thailand
- *Ms. Dang Thi Thuy Quynh*, RFPN member for Viet Nam

The assigned tasks of RFPN members include participation in various events, summarizing minutes and discussions, and facilitating communication with their respective countries, contributing to policy dialogue. RFPN members actively participate in events, submit assignments on time, and provide valuable inputs during discussions, strengthening cooperation between SEAFDEC and Member Countries. Another core responsibility is the development of detailed fisheries country profiles covering laws, production, and trade which strengthens their data-management, information collection, coordination, and policy-formulation skills. Additionally, members identified national fisheries issues to develop technical articles under the



Secretariat mentorship, further enhancing their ability to translate national challenges into actionable policy recommendations.

In this connection, the 57th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (57CM) in 2025, SEAFDEC was suggested to conduct performance evaluations of RFPN members every six months and report the results to the Member Countries for consideration, with a view to supporting the Council's directives on future phases of the RFPN program.

This document is mainly to report the results of the performance evaluation of RFPN 2025 for information to the SEAFDEC Member Countries, including results of the 1st evaluation (January to June 2025), results of the final evaluation (January to December 2025), and feedback from the 2025 RFPN members. The Secretariat will report the results of the performance evaluation of RFPN 2026 (January–March 2026) during the 58th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council for consideration, to inform the Council's approval of future phases of the RFPN program (2027 onwards).

II. Program implementation in 2025

2.1 Participation in the SEAFDEC events

Throughout the year, RFPN members gained diverse knowledge that strengthened their understanding of sustainable fisheries development. The program recorded 25 total event attendances by the RFPN members in 2025. The events can be divided into 11 workshops, 8 training courses, 2 consultations, 2 field visits, and 2 seminars, organized by SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC Training Department (TD). These events covered several areas of regional fisheries management, capacity building, policy dialogues as well as regional strategy review:

- 1) Combating IUU Fishing, MCS, and Traceability: They attended several training courses and consultations organized by SEAFDEC/TD, focused on eliminating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. This included training on Port State Measures (PSM) implementation, Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS), traceability system and the effective Management tools for fish products.
- 2) Marine debris and microplastics: In addition, they also learned on research methods for collecting and analyzing marine debris and microplastics.
- 3) Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF): They engaged in workshops and consultations focused on SSF, including a Regional SSF Workshop and a consultation on the SSF Supply Chain in Southeast Asia.
- 4) Policy Dialogue: They took part in preparation and formulation of regional fisheries policies, and policy recommendations such as Project End Meeting on Eel including updated Policy Guidelines for Regional Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources, RTC-CITES, Regional Small-scale Fisheries Workshop.
- 5) Regional Strategy Review: They assisted the SEAFDEC Secretariat on the preparation and organization of the Regional Workshop on Validation of the Results of Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030). They were assigned to present national analysis of Mid-term review of the RES&POA-2030.
- 6) Other capacity-building activities: They attended the In-house Workshop on Writing Articles for Fish for the People organized by SEAFDEC Secretariat. In addition, they learned on the online portal of FAO knowledge hub and they presented the technical information at the two in-house seminars on Knowledge Sharing Session, and Special Seminar where they presented their technical articles.

2.2 Development of the fisheries articles

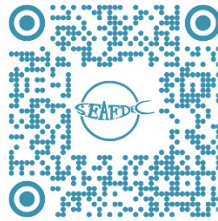
During the year, the RFPN members were assigned to prepare fisheries information and articles, including the following:

○ *Updated Fisheries Country Profiles 2025*

The Fisheries Country Profile provides a comprehensive synopsis of the fisheries sector of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and was posted on the SEAFDEC website for the years 2018 and 2019. To update the country profiles, therefore, the RFPN members were assigned to compile and update their respective Fisheries Country Profiles for 2025, which provide essential information on fisheries status, fisheries production, policies, and management frameworks. To obtain the necessary information, the RFPN members coordinated with the relevant in-country responsible offices to collect the required data and information for the country profiles. The updated Fisheries Country Profiles are available via <https://www.seafdec.org/country-profiles/>.

○ *Technical articles*

Another assignment, RFPN members were tasked with developing a technical article aligned with their areas of interest, with SEAFDEC Secretariat staff serving as mentors for each topic. During the development, each RFPN enhanced their knowledge on the topics and improved their technical article writing skills. Finally, they presented the Technical Articles at the SEAFDEC Special Seminar “Bringing New Insights for Better Fisheries in the Region”, showcasing the key outputs of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) members after completing desk studies on relevant issues in their respective countries during their one-year assignments. The technical articles are also publicized in the Special issue of SEAFDEC Fish for the People Volume 23, Number 3: 2025 available via the following link or the QR code below. <https://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/7635>.



III. Performance evaluation of RFPN 2025

The SEAFDEC Secretariat established the Evaluation Committee to conduct performance evaluation for two periods: January-June 2025 and January-December 2025.

3.1 Results of the 1st Evaluation (January to June 2025)

The first performance evaluation was conducted covering the period from January to June 2025. The Committee assessed RFPN members based on several criteria (total score = 100%): responsibility and accountability (20 %); teamwork and interpersonal relationships (20 %); skill development and efforts (15 %); time management (10 %); adherence to rules and guidelines (10 %); adaptation to environment and culture (10 %); and problem-solving and leadership skills (5 %).

Overall, the RFPN members demonstrated very good performance across most criteria. They adapted well to the environment, worked effectively with other members, successfully completed assigned tasks, and several exhibited creativity and leadership in accomplishing their work. The evaluation drew inputs not only from the Committee, but also from the views of the coordinators of events attended by RFPN members.

3.2 Results of the Final Evaluation (January to December 2025)

The committee conducted the final performance evaluation covering January to December 2025 using similar criteria as the 1st Evaluation on 18 December 2025. The results showed that all eight members achieved total scores above 90 %, with individual results ranging from 90.5 % to a perfect score of 100 %.

The members excelled particularly in core areas such as Responsibility and Accountability, Teamwork and Interpersonal Relationships, and Skill Development, where most members achieved excellent or good scores. While high performance was the average, slight variations were noted in Time Management and the more advanced competences of Problem-Solving, Creativity, and Leadership for some individuals. The team demonstrated strong collaboration successful completion of assigned tasks, with several individuals standing out for leadership, support in field activities, and technical contributions. Overall, the evaluation



reflects a highly capable, collaborative, and dedicated team that successfully completed its assignments and effectively represented their respective countries.

In addition, the Committee summarized the results of RFPN program implementation based on the TOR of RFPN as shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Results and challenges of program implementation in 2025 based on the TOR of RFPN

TOR of RFPN	Results of RFPN program implementation in 2025	Challenges of RFPN program implementation in 2025
(a) Identify issues related to fisheries, raised at national, sub-regional, regional, and international levels, which may have potential impacts to fisheries in the region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The RFPN members attended averagely 16 events covering several issues <i>e.g.</i> combating IUU fishing measures (port State measures, MCS, traceability, vessel monitoring), small-scale fisheries, validation of mid-term review implementation of the RES&POA-2030. These provide opportunities for them to familiarize with important issues discussing at regional level and allow them to share their insights at these events ensures that national perspectives are actually heard during regional discussions, creating a two-way flow of information. 2) Besides issues at regional level, one of the tasks is the development of technical article. They identified fisheries-related issues at the national level and developed a technical article. This enhance their knowledge in identifying fisheries-related issue at national level and link it with the regional perspective. This also improved their skills on writing technical article or background paper on a specific subject. They also had chance to share their article during a Special Seminar. 3) Beyond technical knowledge, the program improved “soft” professional skills such as critical thinking, communication, and public speaking/insight sharing. These skills are vital for future policy-making roles. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Attending 16 events is impressive, but it carries the risk of “breadth over depth.” Members may become familiar with many topics without gaining the technical mastery required to implement solutions back home. 2) It is often difficult to ensure that the knowledge gained during writing technical article and sharing session through a seminar are effectively transferred to the member’s home agency. If the “technical articles” are not integrated into national policy planning, they remain academic exercises rather than practical tools. 3) The ability to internalize information during events is often influenced by a participant’s language skills, background knowledge, or it would differ due to specific home-country context.
(b) Identify studies and activities that should be conducted to compile information on the identified issues as a basis for developing policy recommendations and strengthening regional and sub-regional coordination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) They were responsible for compiling and updating their respective Fisheries Country Profiles, which provide essential information on fisheries status, policies, and management frameworks. These profiles serve as a reference for regional fisheries planning. 2) They gained “soft skills” in data collection and visualization as well as teamwork within multicultural environments as they have to work on a shared template. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Beyond individual fisheries country profiles, there should be an activity that compares these profiles to identify regional gaps or common issues.

TOR of RFPN	Results of RFPN program implementation in 2025	Challenges of RFPN program implementation in 2025
(c) Initiate and promote the formulation of regional fisheries policies and policy recommendations, including the preparation and finalization of the required working/position or background papers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) They were tasked to draft minutes of technical events which ensure regional policy dialogue, recommendations were captured and disseminated. This serves as a vital first step in drafting and formulating background paper for policy development. 2) Some of RFPN members provided expertise and contributed technical inputs <i>e.g.</i> group discussion at technical meetings and serve as basis to formulate regional policy recommendations. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Though RFPN was assigned to draft reports from regional workshops/meetings they attend. They should be responsible to transform or extract event-based information into documented knowledge that can influence policy. 2) Based on the existing nomination of the RFPN members, only some of them have the ability to provide inputs as a basis for preparation and development of policy recommendations.
(d) Promote in-country (for Member Countries) or in-department (for SEAFDEC Departments) coordination to compile relevant information and data as inputs to conduct studies, on-site training consultations and other activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) They served as primary liaisons, ensuring that SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department requests for data reached the correct technical officers in their home countries. 2) They were responsible for compiling and updating their respective Fisheries Country Profiles, which required in-country coordination to compile relevant information 3) Some RFPN members were responsible to coordinate on-site training, and field visit in their home countries which improved their communication and in-country coordination skills 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Timely follow-up is often difficult because in-country coordination is a lengthy process and policies can be extensive. 2) Translating complex technical data from national languages into English for the profiles can be difficult, affecting the depth of the information. 3) Participation in on-site activities outside Bangkok or Thailand is subject to budget availability.
(e) Support the development of strategies to promote closer policy dialogues and regional and sub-regional cooperation among the Member Countries and SEAFDEC	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) They took part in the development of several regional strategies and policy dialogues <i>e.g.</i> implementation and supporting monitoring, control, and surveillance for combating IUU fishing in the region, traceability and effective management tools for fish and fishery products, information exchange on monitoring, control, and surveillance of combating IUU Fishing, regional workshop on the validation of the results of the mid-term review of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. These events promoted closer regional and sub-regional cooperation among the Member Countries and SEAFDEC. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The complexity of IUU fishing and traceability issues requires high levels of technical expertise that may vary among members.
(f) Follow-up on the implementation of policies for ASEAN and the ASEAN	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) They assisted the follow-up of the country inputs on the mid-term review of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Achieving a timely follow-up is challenging because of the long lead times required for in-country coordination to address and review extensive policy documents.

TOR of RFPN	Results of RFPN program implementation in 2025	Challenges of RFPN program implementation in 2025
region on fisheries, aquatic environment and climate change, international convention and agreements in the Member Countries	2) They presented the national analysis of the mid-term review of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 serve as a vital tool to improve the regional understanding of how national policies, programs align with the broader regional policy.	2) Discrepancies between regional goals (e.g. climate change mitigation) and specific national priorities can make alignment difficult to report accurately.
(g) support and follow up communication and coordination between SEAFDEC and their respective home country and report the updated information on the implementation of SEAFDEC programs and activities including relevant reports to their respective country	1) They were asked to coordinate with Member Countries when SEAFDEC Secretariat or TD staff requested for assistance e.g. follow up the nomination of participants from the Member Countries, update progress on SEAFDEC programs and activities back to their respective national departments	1) Timely follow-up is often hindered by lengthy in-country coordination processes.

3.1 Feedback from the 2025 RFPN members on the program

SEAFDEC Secretariat gathered feedback from RFPN members in 2025 on the RFPN program to improve the future program implementation. The feedback survey used a 5-point Likert scale. The questions align with the Terms of Reference of the RFPN. This survey was anonymous and used to collect quantitative data *i.e.* level of fulfillment (1 = Not fulfilled to 5 = Fully fulfilled) and qualitative data *i.e.* suggestions for improvement from the RFPN members.

The analysis of the gathered data followed a two-step process to translate member feedback into actionable insights: 1) quantitative analysis, the numerical data was analyzed to determine weighted averages and percentages of fulfillment for each objective, and 2) qualitative analysis, the open-ended suggestions were reviewed and categorized into several topics, such as task management, capacity building and mentorship, and participation and knowledge sharing. The results based on seven out of eight respondents (87.5 %) regarding their experiences in the 2025 RFPN program shown in **Figure 1**. All objectives were rated highly, with all respondents providing scores of either 4 or 5. Specifically, members reported the highest satisfaction with their involvement in conducting studies and gathering national information (85.7% excellent) and in creating networking among themselves (85.7 % excellent).

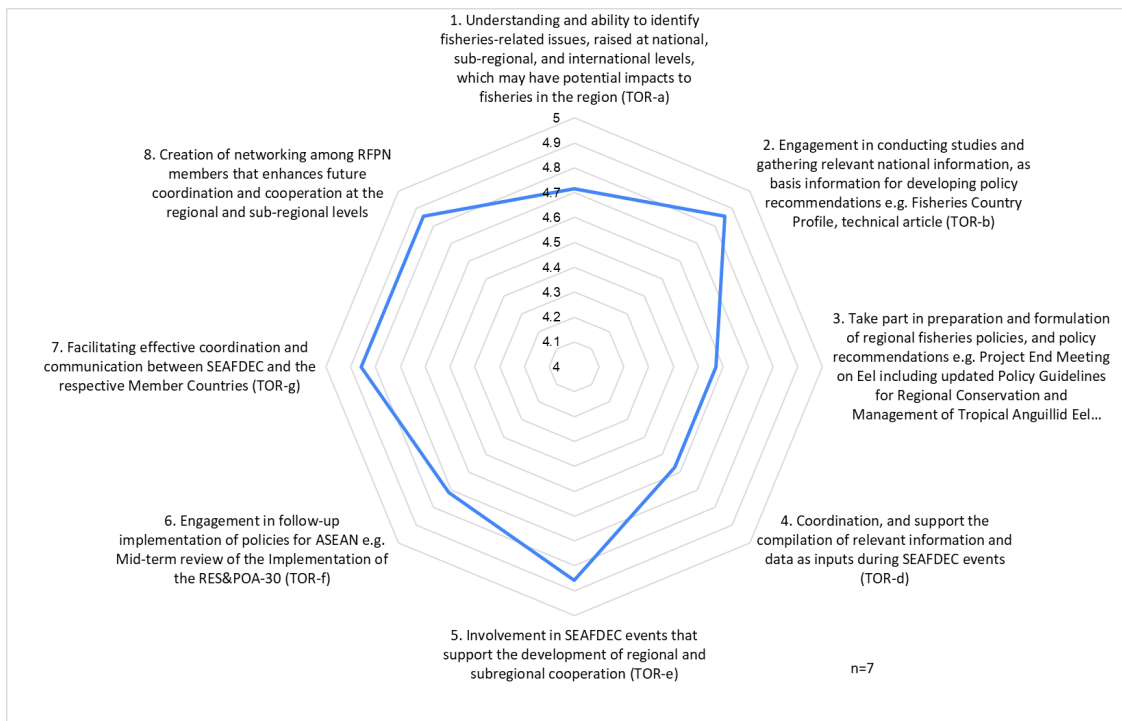


Figure 1 Feedback responses of the RFPN members 2025

While the feedback was positive, several recommendations were made to enhance future iterations of the program as following.

- **Task Management**

To optimize the program’s operations, it is recommended that RFPN members be assigned to specific projects aligned with their individual expertise, which would enhance their ability to identify and address complex fisheries issues. The country profile could add more value by focusing on comparative analysis and synthesis of information from Member Countries, highlighting common trends, differences, and lessons learned, rather than only compiling input data. Some suggested having more practical study visits. As coordination is a primary function, they suggested that all event invitations sent to the Member Countries should also be copied to the relevant RFPN members. This will allow follow-up and prevent delays in participant nominations.

- ***Capacity Building and Mentorship***

Enhancing the professional development of members requires a shift toward personalized mentoring from the start of the term, which is viewed as more effective than relying on frequent feedback meetings. Additionally, the onboarding process should be bolstered by providing a comprehensive introduction to regional issues early on, enabling participants to engage in effective self-learning.

- ***Participation and Knowledge Sharing***

They suggested all RFPN members be allowed to participate in both online and offline SEAFDEC events to build a stronger regional understanding. To ensure ongoing collaboration, it was suggested that SEAFDEC create a shared knowledge hub to archive event materials and contacts for easy reference. Additionally, members recommended introducing informal discussion formats, such as podcasts or casual talks, to facilitate exchange of national policy experiences in an informal setting.

In sum, the program is viewed as a valuable platform for professional growth, enhancing skills in analytical thinking, multicultural teamwork, and communication. It has significantly reinforced the importance of regional cooperation for sustainable fisheries development.

THE PREPARATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEAFDEC: SEAFDEC ANNIVERSARY EVENT AND RELEVANT MATERIALS

I. Background

SEAFDEC was established on 28 December 1967 with the current mission “to develop and manage the fisheries potential of the region by rational utilization of the resources for providing food security and safety to the people and alleviating poverty through transfer of new technologies, research, and information dissemination activities.” Throughout nearly six decades, SEAFDEC has been promoting the sustainable development of fisheries in Southeast Asia. As such, SEAFDEC has attained technological advancements that contributed to the region’s fisheries development towards sustainability.

In December 2027, SEAFDEC would reach its 6-decade cycle of promoting sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia. During the 57th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in May 2025, the Council recommended that SEAFDEC designate 2027 as “The Year of the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC” and develop a plan for the anniversary event in Thailand.

The Proposal for celebrating the 60th anniversary of SEAFDEC was developed through consultation with the SEAFDEC Departments during the Inter-Departmental Workshop held on 7 August 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Proposal was submitted to the SEAFDEC Council *ad referendum*, and the Council’s comments were incorporated into the Proposal. The preparation and arrangements for activities for the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC shall be undertaken with guidance from the Advisory Committee, together with the Steering Committee and Organizing Committees, the TOR and members of which are enclosed as **Appendix 1**.

As part of the proposal, SEAFDEC is scheduled to organize the SEAFDEC Anniversary Event in collaboration with the Government of Thailand as the co-host.

II. SEAFDEC Anniversary Event

2.1 Date and Venue

SEAFDEC, in consultation with the Department of Fisheries, Thailand, proposes to organize the 60th Anniversary Event of SEAFDEC on **19 August 2027 (tentative)** at the Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld, **Bangkok, Thailand**.

2.2 Program of the SEAFDEC Anniversary Event (evening)

Time	Program
17.00–18.00 hr.	- Visit to the exhibition (in front of the Dinner Hall)
17.30 hr.	- SG, DSG, Head Delegates, CDs assemble at the holding room
17.50 hr.	- SG, DSG, Head Delegates, CDs proceed to welcome the Guest of Honor (GOH) at the entrance
18.00 hr.	- Opening of the Anniversary Program
	- Arrival of GOH, Head Delegates of 11 MCs, SG and DSG at the Dinner Hall
	- Opening performance
	- SEAFDEC 60 th Anniversary Video
	- Remarks by the Guest of Honor
	- Remarks by Council Chair (Viet Nam)
	- Remarks by the Head Delegates of Thailand
	- Presentation of Tokens, Certificates of Recognition, and Awards
	o Token to Governments Hosting SEAFDEC Departments
	o Certificates of Recognition to Major Collaborators (partner organizations)



- Awards to external persons (2-3 persons)
- Awards to outstanding staff of SEAFDEC (6 persons)
- Presentation of Souvenirs from the Guest of Honor to Head Delegates from 11 Member Countries
- Presentation of Token from SEAFDEC Secretary-General to the Guest of Honor
- Keynote Speaker
- Key message from the Secretary-General on the “**Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission and Strategies Toward 2040**”
- Launching of the 60th Anniversary Coffee Table book
- Dinner and Music/Performances
- 21.00 hr. - Closing of the Anniversary Program

Remarks

15.00–16.00 hr. A press conference will be officiated by SG and DSG of SEAFDEC, the Council Director for Thailand, and the Chair of the SEAFDEC Council.

2.3 Attendees and Guests (~300)

- Attendees to be **invited by SEAFDEC (190)**

SEAFDEC supported guests = 65

- Keynote speaker (1)
- Staff AQD (Chief, Deputy Chief, SDC) = 3
- Staff of MFRD (Chief, SDC) = 2
- Staff of MFRDMD (Chief, Deputy Chief, SDC) = 3
- Staff of IFRDMD (Chief, Deputy Chief, SDC) = 3
- Staff of TD = 3
- Staff of SEC (SG, DSG, senior staff) = 8
- RFPN members = 11
- Organizing team (SEC & TD) 20
- Project Manager of large projects at SEAFDEC (2)
- Awardees (external persons) 3
- Outstanding staff = 6

Guests to be invited by SEAFDEC Sec and Departments = 125

(SEAFDEC will pay only the dinner package)

- **Council Directors and staff** = 33
- Additional from Departments: TD=20; AQD =4; MFRDMD = 3; IFRDMD 4;
- Member Countries’ embassies in Thailand =10 (+ Timor Leste)
- Former SG, DSG, Chiefs, Senior Staff *(from Thailand and other countries)* = 30
- Representatives from organizations in Thailand = 10
- All partners with MOU (including partners not in Thailand, etc.) = 10* *(SEAFDEC to pay only for dinner package)*

- **Guests to be invited by DOF Thailand (100)**

(SEAFDEC will pay only the dinner package)

- Guest of Honor =1 (+ 5 followers)
- **Head Delegates from Member Countries** *(SOM-level Official from the Ministry responsible for fisheries of the Member Countries)* = 11 (+ 22 followers)
- DOF Thailand (20)
- Press = 15

Suggested Guest of Honor (to be further decided)

- Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand

Suggested Keynote Speaker (to be further selected):

2.4 Awardees

Award for external persons: Awards will be given to selected external persons.

- Criteria
 - Nationality of the SEAFDEC Member Countries (*whether to include non-SEAFDEC member countries is subject to the DCM*)
 - Has a track record for engaging in SEAFDEC activities and providing substantial contributions to the development/advancement of fisheries sectors in Southeast Asia
 - Widely recognized at the regional and/or international level for expertise and influence in the fisheries sector
 - The nominees must be a living person at the time of application and selection
- Total number of awardees (*one person for each sub-sector*)
 - Marine fisheries development
 - Inland fisheries development
 - Aquaculture development
- Selection process
 - DCM in 2025 to finalize the criteria
 - SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments to propose candidates with descriptions of qualifications
 - DCM in 2026 to shortlist the candidates
 - **The Council Meeting in 2027, during the “closed session,” shall decide. The Council may also consider whether there are more suitable candidates.**

Outstanding staff award: Awards will be given to selected outstanding staff of SEAFDEC.

- **ONE** “outstanding staff” from each Department and Secretariat
- **Criteria:** (*the candidate must meet ALL criteria below*)
 - Former (past 20 years) and/or current staff of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments
 - Have made significant and tangible contributions to the key achievements of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments
 - Widely recognized for his/her strong professional expertise, unwavering commitment, integrity, and lasting contributions to SEAFDEC achievements.
 - The nominees must be a living person at the time of application and selection
 - Never been awarded as outstanding staff during the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC
- **Process**
 - DCM in 2025 to finalize the criteria
 - Secretariat and each Department are requested to nominate ONE candidate (for each) with a brief description of their qualifications and the significant SEAFDEC achievements to which he/she has contributed.

2.5 Budgetary Requirements

The budget for the conduct of the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, SEAFDEC Anniversary Event, and preparation of relevant materials to be used during the Anniversary Event will be from the **accumulated unspent Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC)**. The estimated budget is as follows:



	USD
For SCM and SEAFDEC Anniversary Event	
o Travel (airfare and local transportation for SEAFDEC staff and awardee, outstanding staff) = 22 persons	13,000
o DSA and terminal fee for participants (for SEAFDEC staff and awardee, outstanding staff)	4,300
o DSA for event organizing team	1,500
o Accommodation (for SEAFDEC staff and awardee, outstanding staff)	8,500
o Room & Half-day meeting package for Special Council Meeting	4,800
o Room & Dinner package: Anniversary Event	30,000
o Room for Press Conference & beverage: (25 persons)	1,200
o Room for Waiting room for follower, nurse, security officer, press & mini buffet (50 persons)	1,300
o Outsource to organizer for dinner arrangements (exhibition, stage, room decoration, light & sound)	30,000
o Emcee and Performance	4,500
o Materials for events: - invitation card, program leaflet, etc.	1,500
o Souvenirs - 350 pcs for all guests (and followers, press) - 5 pc for Council Director of Host Government - 10 pc for partner organizations - 3-5 pc for awardees of external persons - 6 pc for outstanding staff award - 11 pc for Head Delegates of Member Countries - 1 pc for Guest of Honor - 1 pc for Keynote Speaker	8,000
o Drinks	2,500
For Preparation of Relevant Materials	
o Anniversary logo contest	600
o Coffee table book (500 copies)	7,200
o Exhibition	-
o Anniversary Video	1,500
For Member Countries Anniversary Event	
o Award for national drawing contest (11 countries x 1,000 USD) * Upon confirmation from the Member Countries	11,000
Sub-total	131,400
Contingency (10%)	13,140
Total	144,540

Remarks: This cost does not yet include costs related to the protocol for the reception of high-level officials, which are the responsibility of the DOF Thailand.

2.6 Workplan and Timeline

Activities/Outputs	2026				2027			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
SEC to discussion with DOF Thailand to discuss/confirm on program/venue and other responsibilities for co-hosting								
SEC to prepare detailed plan and budget								
SEC to seek approval from the Council on Anniversary Event Program and budget								

Activities/Outputs	2026				2027			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Signing of the contract with the hotel								
SEC to recruit event and exhibition organizer and proceed the preparation plan								
DEPT to identify external awardees (before DCM)								
DEPT to identify outstanding staff								
DCM 2026 to shortlist of external awardees for final selection by CM 2027								
SEC to seek approval from the Council on the final selection of external awardees at 59CM								
SEC to prepare all souvenirs, token, award for anniversary events for used during anniversary event								
DEPT to provide guest name for SEC to issue invitation letter under SEAFDEC part								
DOF of Thailand to issue invitation letter to GOH (Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand)								
DOF Thailand to issue invitation letter to Head delegates (SOM-level Official) x 11 countries								
DOF Thailand to issue invitation letter (card) to attendees under DOF part								
DOF to inform SEAFDEC of the total number of guests and staff that will attend the event (Gala dinner package) 1 month before event								
SEC to issue invitation letter (card) to attendees under SEAFDEC part								
DOF Thailand to issue invitation letter to the Press								
SEAFDEC Anniversary Event in Bangkok, Thailand								

III. Preparation of Relevant Materials for the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC

In December 2027, SEAFDEC will reach its six-decade milestone in promoting sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia. During the SEAFDEC Department Chiefs Meeting in November 2025, the DCM2025 supported the production of promotional materials and the organization of relevant activities to mark the “Year of the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC.” The proposed activities are as follows:

- 60th Anniversary logo contest
- Preparation of relevant materials by SEAFDEC
 - 60th Anniversary Coffee Table Book
 - Production of 60th Anniversary Video
 - Exhibition for display at the Anniversary Event
 - Other promotional materials
- Drawing contest (proposed to be organized by each Member Country)

3.1 The 60th Anniversary Logo Contest

SEAFDEC convened the 60th Anniversary Logo Contest from August to October 2025, inviting creative and talented individuals to design a commemorative logo that will serve as the official emblem of the SEAFDEC 60th Anniversary. The winning logo will be used in various events, promotional materials, publications, websites, and social media platforms. The logo will be officially launched at the 58th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and will be used throughout the anniversary year in 2027

During the SEAFDEC Department Chiefs Meeting in 2025, the best logo design was considered and selected as appears below. The winner of the SEAFDEC 60th Anniversary Logo Design Contest is **Mr. Brian Aljer B. Coballes** from the Philippines.



3.2 Preparation of Relevant Materials by SEAFDEC

• **60th Anniversary Coffee Table Book**

The 60th Anniversary Book of SEAFDEC is proposed as a “**coffee table style**” book to be launched during the SEAFDEC Anniversary Event in 2027. Considering that SEAFDEC just published the 50th Anniversary book in 2017, it is planned that this 60th Anniversary book will focus mainly on what happened after the 50th Anniversary (during 2018–2027).

• **60th Anniversary Video**

According to the plan for the SEAFDEC Anniversary Event scheduled for August 2027 in Bangkok, Thailand, a video showcasing SEAFDEC’s achievements, particularly over the past ten years, will be produced for the event.

• **Exhibition for Display at the Anniversary Event**

The exhibition is one of the activities commemorating the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC and will be on display during the “SEAFDEC Anniversary Event” in August 2027 (in the foyer in front of the Anniversary Dinner Hall).

• **Other Promotional Materials**

After the discussion at DCM2025, the DCM2025 supported that the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments should consider promoting the 60th Anniversary through either existing materials and dedicated souvenirs, and agreed that the budget for the souvenirs to be produced by each Department for promotional purposes in the respective country will be under the budget of the respective Department.

3.3 Drawing Contest (proposed to be organized by each Member Country)

The proposal to conduct a drawing contest by the SEAFDEC Secretariat was discussed during the Inter-Departmental Workshop in August 2025, with the idea that the winning drawings would be displayed at the Anniversary Event.

The DCM2025 agreed that the drawing contest should be organized by each of the Member Countries.

Drawing Contest Details:

- Prize:
 - **Four** winners per country
 - Each country is to receive USD 1,000 (Each Member Country may design the prize distribution for the **four** winners).
- Theme:
 - Cooperation for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Development
- Eligibility:
 - The contest in each of the SEAFDEC Member Countries (*e.g.*, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam) is open to the nationals of the respective country.
 - Students, professionals, designers, and interested individuals are welcome to participate (*the respective countries to decide who should be eligible*)
 - Any form of plagiarism is not allowed.
- Submission requirements (*the respective countries to decide either or both drawing formats*)
 - **Traditional drawings:** on A3 paper using any traditional media, *e.g.*, crayons, colored pencils, watercolors, oil paint, gouache, etc.
 - **Digital drawings:** size A4 with 350 dpi resolution (submission of a time-lapse video or screen recording of the drawing process as evidence of originality is mandatory; AI-generated artwork)
- Selection/judging process – *all processes are undertaken by the respective country, such as but not limited to:*
 - **Pre-screening:** Traditional drawings and digital drawings will be pre-screened based on the above-mentioned theme, eligibility, and submission requirements.
 - **Final selection:** Traditional drawings and digital drawings will be selected based on the following criteria:
 - Relevance to the theme (50 %)
 - Creativity and originality (25 %)
 - Aesthetic appeal and balance (25 %)
- Property rights:
 - By selecting as the winner of the contest, the participants grant SEAFDEC the right to use, reproduce, publish, and display the award-winning drawings (with proper credit) for non-commercial purposes, including publications, exhibitions, promotional materials, and online platforms.
- Timeline:
 - Drawing contest period: **January- May 2027**
 - Each country is to submit electronic files of the award-winning drawings (4 from each country) to the SEAFDEC Secretariat by **15 June 2027**.
- Budget:
 - For contest in MCs: Total budget = **11 countries x 1,000 USD = 11,000**
(Remark: budget for the drawing contest is included in the proposed budget for the 60th Anniversary)

IV. Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note of and approve the **proposal for the SEAFDEC Anniversary Event** (*i.e.* date and venue, program, list of attendees, workplan and timeline)
- Note that SEAFDEC Anniversary Event will be **co-hosted by the Government of Thailand**
- Support the invitation of the **SOM-level Official from the Ministry responsible for fisheries of the MCs** as the Head Delegates



- **Approved the budget** for the conduct of the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the SEAFDEC Anniversary Event, and the preparation of relevant materials to be used during the Anniversary Event
- Take note of the 60th Anniversary Logo
- Take note of the materials to be produced by SEAFDEC for the 60th Anniversary
- Support the conduct of the **Drawing Contest by Member Countries**, including the issuance of an official letter by SEAFDEC to request each Member Country to nominate a focal person by **30 June 2026**

COMMITTEES

1) Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

- Provide strategic oversight and guidance to ensure that the planning and implementation of the 60th anniversary of SEAFDEC aligns with the long-term vision, mission, and strategic goals of the organization
- Review and endorse major outputs and directions as necessary

Members and Secretary

- 1) **SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand, Chairperson¹**
- 2) **SEAFDEC Council Director for Viet Nam, Vice Chairperson¹**
- 3) SEAFDEC Council Director for Brunei Darussalam, Members
- 4) SEAFDEC Council Director for Cambodia, Members
- 5) SEAFDEC Council Director for Indonesia, Members
- 6) SEAFDEC Council Director for Japan, Members
- 7) SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR, Members
- 8) SEAFDEC Council Director for Malaysia, Members
- 9) SEAFDEC Council Director for Myanmar, Members
- 10) SEAFDEC Council Director for Philippines, Members
- 11) SEAFDEC Council Director for Singapore, Members
- 12) SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Secretary

2) Steering Committee

Terms of Reference

- Oversee planning, coordination, policy-level guidance, and decision-making to ensure the successful conduct of the 60th anniversary of SEAFDEC
- Coordinate inter-departmental collaboration and designate the Department representatives and local staff for specific tasks

Members and Secretary

- 1) Secretary-General and Chief of TD, Chairperson
- 2) Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of TD, Vice Chairperson
- 3) Chief of MFRD, Members
- 4) Chief of AQD, Members
- 5) Chief of MFRDMD, Members
- 6) Chief of IFRDMD, Members
- 7) Information Program Coordinator, Secretary

3) Organizing Committee

Terms of Reference

- Responsible for the detailed planning, coordination, and implementation of all logistical and operational activities related to the 60th anniversary of SEAFDEC.
- Organize events, prepare materials, coordinate with partners and guests, and support communication outreach activities

¹ Considering that the SEAFDEC Anniversary Event will be organized in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2027 when Viet Nam will be the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council; the Council Director for Thailand is proposed to be permanent Chairperson of the Advisory Committee; while the Council Director for Viet Nam as the Vice Chairperson



Members and Secretary

- 1) Secretary-General and Chief of TD, Chairperson
- 2) Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of TD, Vice Chairperson
- 3) Policy and Program Coordinator, Member
- 4) Information Program Coordinator, Member
- 5) SDC of TD, Member
- 6) SDC of MFRD, Member
- 7) SDC of AQD, Member
- 8) SDC of MFRDMD, Member
- 9) SDC of IFRDMD, Member
- 10) FO and FIDH of TD, Member
- 11) SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Thailand, Member
- 12) Senior Information Officer, Secretary
- 13) Senior Administration Officer, Assistant to the Secretary

THE PREPARATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEAFDEC: REVISED BUDGET

	Original USD	Revised USD
For SCM and SEAFDEC Anniversary Event		
○ Travel (airfare and local transportation for SEAFDEC staff and awardee, outstanding staff) - Staff AQD (Chief, Deputy Chief, SDC) = 3 - Staff of MFRD (Chief, SDC) = 2 - Staff of MFRDMD (Chief, Deputy Chief, SDC) = 3 - Staff of IFRDMD (Chief, Deputy Chief, SDC) = 3 - Awardees (external persons) 3 - Outstanding staff = 6	13,000	13,000
○ DSA and terminal fee for participants (for SEAFDEC staff and awardee, outstanding staff) - Above plus Sec & TD participants	4,300	4,300
○ DSA for event organizing team - supporting staff	1,500	1,000
○ Accommodation (for SEAFDEC staff and awardee, outstanding staff)	8,500	7,500
○ Room & Half-day meeting package for Special Council Meeting	4,800 (80 pax)	4,500 (70 pax)
○ Room & Dinner package: Anniversary Event	30,000 (320 pax)	28,000 (300 pax)
○ Room for Press Conference & beverage: (25 persons)	1,200	0
○ Room for Waiting room for follower, nurse, security officer, press & mini buffet (50 persons)	1,300	500
○ Outsource to organizer for dinner arrangements (exhibition, stage, room decoration, light & sound)	30,000	28,000
○ Emcee and Performance	4,500	3,500
○ Materials for events: - invitation card, program leaflet, etc.	1,500	0 (e-card)
○ Souvenirs - 350 pcs for all guests (and followers, press) - 5 pc for Council Director of Host Government - 10 pc for partner organizations - 3-5 pc for awardees of external persons - 6 pc for outstanding staff award - 11 pc for Head Delegates of Member Countries - 1 pc for Guest of Honor - 1 pc for Keynote Speaker	8,000	8,000
○ Drinks	2,500	2,000
For Preparation of Relevant Materials		
○ Anniversary logo contest	600	0
○ Coffee table book (500 copies)	7,200	0
○ Exhibition	-	-
○ Anniversary Video	1,500	1,500
For Member Countries Anniversary Event		
○ Award for national drawing contest (11 countries x 1,000 USD) * Upon confirmation from the Member Countries	11,000	0
Sub-total	131,400	101,800
Contingency (10 %)	13,140	10,180
Total	144,540	111,980

Note: 22.5 % reduction from the original proposal

THE PREPARATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEAFDEC: RESOLUTION ON THE FUTURE OF SEAFDEC: VISION, MISSION, AND STRATEGIES TOWARDS 2040

I. Background

Since its establishment in 1967, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) has evolved to address the changing needs and priorities of the region. A significant milestone was the adoption of the “*Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030*” (**Appendix 1**) at the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council held on 15 November 2017 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of SEAFDEC, which has since served as the cornerstone for SEAFDEC’s strategic planning and program formulation. As SEAFDEC approaches its **60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC in 2027**, it is timely to undertake a comprehensive review and update of this foundational document. The global and regional contexts have changed significantly with new challenges such as climate change, digital transformation, evolving market demands, and emerging international frameworks reshaping the fisheries landscape. Updating the Resolution to guide SEAFDEC “Towards 2040” is therefore essential to ensure the organization remains relevant, responsive, and capable of effectively supporting its Member Countries in achieving sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and prosperity in Southeast Asia. Building on the lessons and achievements under the 2030 framework, the updated Resolution will align SEAFDEC’s strategic direction with the evolving regional and global fisheries agendas.

This working paper will provide information on the process of updating the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040, and the work plan for the development until the approval procedures by the SEAFDEC Council during the Special Council Meeting to be held on 19 August 2027.

II. Development of the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC Towards 2040

In the occasion of the 60th SEAFDEC Anniversary in 2027, it is timely to organize the Special Council Meeting to be held in August 2027, on the same date, to adopt the new updated *Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040*.

Objectives

The primary objective of this initiative is to develop an updated SEAFDEC Resolution that provides a clear, relevant, and forward-looking strategic framework (Towards 2040) to guide the organization’s goals, priorities, and actions for the next decade and beyond.

III. Workplan for the Updated “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040”

The process to update the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040” involves several key activities as shown in **Table 1**. The inputs, suggestions, and technical recommendations will be gathered from all SEAFDEC Technical Departments and the SEAFDEC Council by using a questionnaire (**Appendix 2**) will guide this input collection process. These contributions will form the basis for drafting the updated Resolution, building on the strengths of the current “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030.” In addition, the summary of key policy and guidelines by SEAFDEC Resolution 2030 and list of projects used to identify the key policies are in **Appendices 3** and **4**, respectively for reference.

Next, the SEAFDEC Secretariat will lead a review process, involving Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Department Chiefs, and Special Departmental Coordinators, to refine the draft. Following a review by the 49PCM and DCM in 2026, the final draft will be submitted for approval at the 59th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2027. The Council is required only to note the final text of the Resolution and to agree that the text will be used for relevant material for the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC. The final

approval of the Resolution will be made at the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC Event, with the expectation that no changes will be made to the text.

Table 1 Workplan to update “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040”

Actions by the Secretariat	Period
Propose to establish the Working Group 1 (WG1) members, and tasks to update the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030”	August 2025
Draft proposal of WG1 to update the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030”	October 2025
Discuss on draft proposal of the working group to update the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030”	November 2025
Submit draft proposal/questionnaire to the 58 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council (58CM) for comment and approval	May 2026
Online meetings with SEAFDEC Departments for WG1 members to confirm the questionnaire’ s content	May-June 2026
Compile inputs from all SEAFDEC Departments	July 2026
Draft the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040”	July 2026
Revise the draft at the workshop (back-to-back with SEASOFIA)	August 2026
Submit the revised draft to 49PCM, and DCM2026	November 2026
Submit the final draft to 59CM to take note and agree on the final text of the Resolution to be used for relevant material for the 60 th Anniversary of SEAFDEC	April 2027
Special Council Meeting officially approves the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040”	August 2027 (tentative)

3.1 Working Group for Preparation of Special Council Meeting

The Special Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, which will be held on the same date as the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC. For the preparation of this Meeting, a Working Group will be established. The task of Working Group 1 (WG1) will focus mainly on the development of the key output, namely the updated “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040,” for consideration and approval at the Special Council Meeting in 2027.

Working Group 1 (WG1) comprises:

- Chairperson: Secretary-General and Chief of TD
- Co-Chairperson: Deputy Secretary-General and Deputy Chief of TD
- Members:
 - SEC: Policy and Program Coordinator (PPC)
 - TD: Special Departmental Coordinator (SDC), Training and Research Supporting Division Head (TRSDH), Research and Development Division Head (RDDH)
 - MFRD: Chief and SDC
 - AQD: Chief, Deputy Chief, and SDC
 - IFRDMD: Chief, Deputy Chief, and SDC
 - MFRDMD: Chief, Deputy Chief, and SDC
- Secretary: Senior Policy and Program Officer I (SPPO-I)/SEC

3.2 Expected Output

The key output of this initiative will be the Updated “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC Towards 2040,” officially adopted by the SEAFDEC Council. This document will include:

- A revised Theme and Preamble reflecting the contemporary global context;
- A refreshed Vision and Mission statement;
- Updated and modernized Strategic Pillars with corresponding actions; and
- A framework to strengthen SEAFDEC’s operational and enhance regional collaboration

The updated “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040,” will serve as a cornerstone for regional cooperation and program development, ensuring SEAFDEC continues to be a leading platform for advancing sustainable, inclusive, and innovative fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia.

3.3 Resource Requirements and Budget

The activities of the Working Group 1 (WG1) will be implemented through existing SEAFDEC mechanism and scheduled meeting (*i.e.* Department Chiefs’ Meeting). Therefore, no additional budget will be required for this initiative, as related cost will be observed within existing departmental workshops and resources, ensuring efficient use of available funds.

IV. Proposed Program of Special Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2027

As described in the workplan in Table 1, the “*Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040*” is expected to be adopted at the Special Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, which will be organized as a half-day meeting (in the morning) on the same date as the SEAFDEC Anniversary Event in 2027.

Event date and venue: 19 August 2027 (tentative), 8.30–12.00 hr, Bangkok

Expected participants: SEAFDEC Council Directors, representatives from MCs, SG, DSG, Department Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Special Departmental Coordinators, officials from SEAFDEC Secretariat and Technical Departments

Objectives: To provide a forward-looking strategic framework (Towards 2040) and guide SEAFDEC’s goals, priorities, and actions for the next decade and beyond.

Expected output: “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040.” SEAFDEC therefore proposes the following provisional agenda for the Special Meeting of SEAFDEC Council.

Provisional Agenda and Timetable

Time	Agenda
8:30–9:00	Registration <i>Arrival and registration of the SEAFDEC Council Directors and delegates.</i>
9:00–9:15	Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting <i>Welcome remarks by the SEAFDEC Council Director for Thailand</i> <i>Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council.</i>
9:15–9:30	Agenda 2: Adoption of Agenda and Arrangements <i>Review the Agenda and adoption of the Agenda</i>
9:30–9:45	Agenda 3: Background and Introduction <i>SEAFDEC Secretariat make a presentation on the rationale for updating the 2030 Resolution, highlighting new global challenges such as climate change and digital transformation.</i>
9:45–10:30	Agenda 4: Achievements from the Implementation of the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030” <i>SEAFDEC Secretariat makes a presentation on Review of lessons learned and milestones achieved under “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030”</i>
10:30–11:00	<i>Group photo and refreshment</i>



Time	Agenda
11:00–11:45	Agenda 5: Adoption of the “Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040” <i>Adoption of Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040</i>
11:45–11:50	Agenda 6: Other Matters (if any) <i>Discussion of any additional urgent regional fisheries or aquaculture issues.</i>
11:50–11:55	Agenda 7: Conclusion and Recommendations <i>Summarizing the key directives and final agreements of the Council.</i>
11:55–12:00	Agenda 8: Closing of the Meeting <i>Closing remarks by the Chairperson.</i>

V. Required Consideration by the Council

- Take note and provide comments on the workplan for updating the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040
- Take note of the proposed program of the Special Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, which to be held in the same date with the 60th SEAFDEC Anniversary event in 2027
- Provide directive guidance on the strategic direction for the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040

**Questionnaire for Updating the SEAFDEC Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC:
Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040**

To: Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, and Senior Staff of all SEAFDEC Technical Departments

From: Working Group 1 (WG1) - Preparation of the Special Council Meeting

Objective: To gather your Department’s views and concrete recommendations for updating the “ Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040” to ensure it remains a relevant, forward-looking, and impactful strategic guide for the organization towards 2040.

Deadline for Submission: 30 June 2026

Instructions: This questionnaire is structured around the core pillars of the current Resolution (2017) to assess what should be retained, revised, removed, or added. Please provide consolidated feedback from your department. Your inputs are crucial to support the updating of the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2040 as well as the WG 1’s workplan.

Current Resolution (2017)	Your suggestions
<p>Preamble The current preamble recognizes key international instruments (SDGs, UNCLOS, CCRF).</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What new global frameworks, challenges, or paradigms (e.g., Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, UNFSS Outcomes, AI ethics, circular economy, WTO-Fisheries Subsidies, BBNJ) should the updated Resolution acknowledge? 	
<p>1. Vision 2030</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does the current vision (“Sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region”) remain fit for purpose until 2040? ○ If not, what key elements (e.g., climate resilience, digital transformation, blue economy, gender mainstreaming) should be incorporated into a new vision statement for 2040? Please propose draft text. 	
<p>2. Missions The current mission outlines four key functions: i) R&D, ii) Policy formulation, iii) Technology transfer & capacity building, iv) Monitoring & evaluation.</p>	
<p>2.1 Are these four functions still comprehensive?</p>	
<p>2.2 Should any be rephrased, emphasized differently, or new functions added (e.g., fostering innovation, facilitating regional dialogue on emerging issues)?</p>	
<p>3. Strategies For each strategy below, please evaluate its continued relevance and suggest specific updates or new actions for the 2040 context.</p>	
<p><i>Strategy 1: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region</i></p>	



Current Resolution (2017)	Your suggestions
3.1.1 Relevance: Is this strategic pillar still a top priority?	
3.1.2 New Actions: What new actions should be added? (e.g., ecosystem-based adaptation, managing fisheries for carbon sequestration, advanced tech for MCS, addressing the management of previously data-poor stocks).	
<i>Strategy 2: Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region</i>	
3.2.1 Relevance: Is this strategic pillar still a top priority?	
3.2.2 New Actions: What new actions should be added? (e.g., climate-resilient aquaculture species, decarbonizing aquaculture value chains, alternative feeds, digital aquaculture, aquaculture spatial planning).	
<i>Strategy 3: Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region</i>	
3.3.1 Relevance: Is this strategic pillar still a top priority?	
3.3.2 New Actions: What new actions should be added? (e.g., addressing new contaminants [microplastics, anti-microbial resistance], blockchain for traceability, regional standards for novel products).	
<i>Strategy 4: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements</i>	
3.4.1 Relevance: Is this strategic pillar still a top priority?	
3.4.2 New Actions: What new actions should be added? (e.g., navigating Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) market requirements, supporting SMEs access to digital markets, mitigating trade impacts of climate change).	
<i>Strategy 5: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries</i>	
3.5.1 Relevance: Is this strategic pillar still a top priority?	
3.5.2 New Focus Areas: Should new cross-cutting issues be explicitly integrated? (e.g., youth engagement, digital disparity, ocean governance, ocean literacy).	
<i>Strategy 6: Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries</i>	
3.6.1 Relevance: Is this strategic pillar still a top priority?	
3.6.2 New Actions: What new actions are needed to future-proof SEAFDEC? (e.g., strategic foresight capacity, innovative funding	

Current Resolution (2017)	Your suggestions
mechanisms, digital infrastructure, advanced data analytics capacity, strengthening science-policy interfaces).	
<p>3.7 Proposed New Strategic Pillars: Beyond refining existing strategies, is an entirely new strategic pillar needed to address the coming decades? <i>e.g.</i> Strategy 7: Leading Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Digital Transformation Strategy 7: Fostering Climate-Neutral and Circular Blue Economies</p> <p><i>Please propose and justify any new strategic pillars.</i></p>	
<p>4. Additional comments: <i>Any other comments, suggestions, or critical considerations for the WG to incorporate into the draft updated Resolution.</i></p>	

Submission:

Please consolidate your Department’s responses and submit them to *Ms. Nattha Srihera*, nattha.s@seafdec.org.

Next Steps:

Your inputs will be synthesized by the Secretariat to finalize the draft updated Resolution for submission to the Council. Thank you for your crucial contribution to shaping the future of SEAFDEC.



**RESOLUTION ON THE FUTURE OF SEAFDEC:
VISION, MISSION, AND STRATEGIES TOWARDS 2030**
(Adopted on 15 November 2017 at the Special Meeting of SEAFDEC Council)

We, the Council Directors of SEAFDEC, on the occasion of the Special Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 November 2017, organized in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of SEAFDEC,

Recognizing that provisions in various international instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982), the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG, 2015), the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF, 1995), and relevant International Plans of Action are crucial for the development of programs and activities towards enhancing the practices for sustainable fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region;

Affirming the need to implement actions in line with regional fisheries policy frameworks, particularly the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region adopted by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for fisheries during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 “Fish for the People 2020: Adaptation to a Changing Environment” in June 2011;

Also affirming the need to support the Member Countries of SEAFDEC in the implementation of regional guidelines and policy recommendations developed by the SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Member Countries;

Bearing in mind the need to enhance cooperation with ASEAN under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) framework, support the implementation of activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism, and take into consideration the “Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation in Fisheries (2016-2020)”;

Recognizing the need for SEAFDEC to continue playing an active role in enhancing the collaboration among the Member Countries, as well as partnerships with prominent regional, international organizations and donor agencies towards the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region;

Being aware of the fact that regional guidelines and policy recommendations and frameworks developed under different organizations, mechanisms and arrangements beyond Southeast Asian region need to be taken into account; and

Resolved to adopt the Vision, Mission, and Strategies of SEAFDEC towards 2030, as follows:

I. VISION

“Sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region”

II. MISSION

“To promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia” through:

- i. **Research and development** in fisheries, aquaculture, post harvest, processing, marketing of fish and fishery products, socio-economics, and the ecosystem to provide reliable scientific data and information.
- ii. **Formulation and provision of policy guidelines** based on the available scientific data and information, local knowledge, regional consultations and prevailing international measures.

iii. **Technology transfer and capacity building** to enhance the capacity of Member Countries in the application of technologies, and implementation of fisheries policies and management tools for the sustainable utilization of fishery resources and aquaculture.

iv. **Monitoring and evaluation** of the implementation of the regional fisheries policies and management frameworks adopted under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism, and the emerging international fisheries-related issues including their impacts on fisheries, food security and socio-economics of the region.

III. STRATEGIES

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

- Assessment of important marine fish stocks in the region and development of guidelines on management measures for such fish stocks;
- Assessment of the status of inland fisheries, and compilation of baseline information on policies and regulations related to inland fisheries in the Member Countries;
- Compilation of scientific data and information including local knowledge on both inland and marine fisheries to support policy formulation and management for sustainable fisheries;
- Development and promotion of regional measures and tools for combating IUU fishing;
- Development of innovative management tools and concepts that are applicable for fisheries in the region;
- Development and promotion of responsible fishing technologies, including energy optimization, carbon reduction and reduction of post-harvest losses onboard fishing vessels; and
- Integration of habitat and fisheries management, and provision of support for the conservation of important fishery resources.

2) Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region:

- Development, verification and promotion of responsible and sustainable aquaculture technologies, to improve the quality of broodstocks and technologies on seed production;
- Finding alternatives to fish meal in feed formulation and promoting the economical use of feeds;
- Development of practical fish health management strategies including the establishment of early warning system for aquatic animal diseases;
- Generation of appropriate technologies for rural aquaculture to provide livelihood and alleviate poverty; and
- Compilation of scientific data and information including local knowledge to support policy on sustainable aquaculture.

3) Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region:

- Development and promotion of technology to produce high quality, healthy and safe fish and fishery products to meet the international standards;
- Improving endogenous processing technologies to standard or acceptable levels;
- Regular monitoring of chemical and biological contaminants to ensure seafood safety; and
- Promotion of seafood quality assurance systems for fish processing establishments in the region.

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

- Strengthening the cooperation among Member Countries to implement international standards in trade of fish and fishery products within the ASEAN region;
- Development of regional standards, policies and guidelines to enhance intra-regional/international trade; and
- Development and promotion of traceability system for fish and fishery products in the region.



5) Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries

- Provision of platforms for monitoring and evaluating the impacts of emerging international fisheries-related issues on the fisheries and economic sectors in the region;
- Organizing fora to enhance the awareness of Member Countries on international fisheries-related issues and coordinating the development of the ASEAN Common Positions to address the regional concerns on the issues;
- Monitoring of the possible impacts of and raising awareness on climate change to fisheries and aquaculture, and development of adaptation and mitigation measures in response to such impacts;
- Development of regional initiatives to promote the consideration of environmental and biodiversity conservation issues in fisheries and aquaculture management; and
- Recognition of the importance of small-scale fisheries, welfare of labor in fisheries, safety at sea, and gender equality in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

6) Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries:

- Strengthening SEAFDEC's capacity to support the ASEAN's efforts to adopt and implement regional policies and guidelines, as well as ASEAN's efforts to monitor the implementation of such regional policies and guidelines;
- Enhancing the human resource capability of the Member Countries to support, adopt and nationalize regional policies and guidelines;
- Expanding the network with prominent organizations in relevant fields and engaging actively in international fisheries fora;
- Enhancing human resources within the SEAFDEC organization and pooling expertise in the region to improve the performance of SEAFDEC; and
- Promoting SEAFDEC to wider international communities to gain more support from organizations, governments and donors.

Summary of key policy and guidelines by SEAFDEC Resolution 2030

This document outlines the key policies and guidelines established under the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Missions, and Strategies Towards 2030 adopted in 2017. In line with this Resolution, the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Technical Departments have developed and implemented several initiatives that operationalize the SEAFDEC Strategies. These initiatives focus on sustainability, food security, food safety, trade compliance, cross-cutting issues, and organizational empowerment. The list of projects used to identify these key policies is provided in **Annex 4**.

Strategy 1: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region

This strategy focuses on sustainable fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, and conserving critical species and habitats.

Key Policies, Guidelines, and Tools Developed:

- Combating IUU Fishing (TD and MFRDMD)
 - Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) (TD): A database for fishing vessels ≥ 24 meters to facilitate information exchange among Member Countries. Database development initiated in 2013; endorsed by ASEAN in 2013. A mechanism for AMSs to self-upload data was established in 2021.
 - Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) (TD): A regional tool and mobile/web application for traceability to prevent IUU-caught fish from entering the supply chain. Concept endorsed by ASEAN in 2017. Pilot testing began in Brunei Darussalam in 2017, with expansion to Viet Nam, Myanmar, and Malaysia in 2019, and Cambodia in 2020 with continuation in 2023.
 - Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) (MFRDMD): Policy framework developed and promoted by SEAFDEC in the early 2010s to encourage AMS to establish registration and licensing systems for combating IUU fishing. A new project to assess its implementation commenced in 2024.
- Habitat and Fisheries Management (TD)
 - Fisheries Refugia Management Guidelines: A “Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region” was drafted in 2019 and adopted by the SEAFDEC Council in 2020. Regional guidelines for managing refugia were developed in 2019.
 - Guidelines for Fish Enhancing Devices (FEDs): A guide based on surveys conducted in 2017 (Gulf of Thailand) and 2018 (Andaman Sea) was compiled and published in 2019.
- Conservation and Management of Sharks and Rays (MFRDMD, TD, SEC)
 - Identification Guides for Sharks and Rays (MFRDMD): Volume 2 of the “Identification Guide to Sharks, Rays and Skates” was finalized for publication in 2019. A workshop to prepare Volume 3 was held in 2024.
 - SOP for Data Collection of Sharks and Rays (MFRDMD/TD): A standardized protocol promoted through regional training courses, including a key workshop on data collection planning in 2018 and a training on age determination in 2019.
 - Support for Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) (SEC): The “SEAFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II” was implemented from 2018 to 2019, followed by a project on information collection to support CITES listings from 2023 to 2024.
- Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eels (IFRDMD, AQD)
 - Policy Guidelines for Regional Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels Resources in Southeast Asia (IFRDMD): A project to develop these guidelines ran from 2015 to 2019. A comic book for public awareness was published in 2019. A field guide for glass eel species identification was released in 2024.
 - Standardized Data Collection System: IFRDMD established this system through projects from 2015 to 2019 and continued work on stock assessment methods from 2020 to 2024.
 - Technologies to Produce Eels in Captivity: AQD validated genetic databases for Philippine eel species, and refined hatchery protocols aimed at closing the life cycle of tropical eels in captivity.

- Responsible Fishing Technologies (TD)
 - Handbooks on Fishing Gear and Practices: The “Catalog of the Bottom Trawl Net Designs of Thailand” was completed in 2022. A handbook for the Scientific Echo Sounder EK80 was finalized in 2023.
 - Technical Reports on ALDFG: A preliminary investigation report on gillnet and trap loss in Thailand was submitted to FAO in 2022. A new project on ALDFG began in 2024.
- Inland Fisheries Management (IFRDMD, TD)
 - The Features of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia: This publication was produced and launched in 2019.
 - Guidelines on Inland Fisheries Management: A manual on fish biological sampling methods was under development in 2022. A manual for swamp fisheries management was published in 2024.
 - Special Area for Conservation and Fish Refugia (SPECTRA): This model was designed and pilot models were set up in Indonesia in 2020.
 - Technical Manual for GIS/RS in Inland Fisheries: A manual on analytical methods using GIS/RS was developed as a key output of the JAIF-funded project, completed in 2022.

Strategy 2: Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region

This strategy focuses on responsible and sustainable aquaculture development, including fish health, seed production, and feed technology.

Key Policies, Guidelines, and Manuals Developed:

- Fish Health Management (AQD)
 - Guidelines for Aquatic Emergency Preparedness and Response Systems (AEPRS): The “Regional Technical Guidelines on Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies” was drafted in 2018 and adopted by the ASEAN Ministers in 2019 to sustain regional aquaculture by preventing the spread of emerging aquatic diseases.
 - Diagnostic Protocols for Aquatic Diseases: Optimized q-PCR protocols for AHPND and other diseases were established through JTF-funded projects from 2015 to 2019.
- Aquaculture Feeds and Nutrition (AQD)
 - Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients (AFID): The database was officially launched in July 2018.
 - Low-Cost Feed Formulations: Formulations for tilapia and milkfish were developed and field-tested from 2019 to 2021.
- Seed Production and Hatchery Management (AQD)
 - Aquaculture Extension Manuals:
 - “Nursery Culture of Tropical Anguillid Eels in the Philippines” (Manual No. 65) was launched in April 2019.
 - “Biology and Hatchery of Mangrove Crab” (3rd Edition) was revised and published in 2018.
 - A manual on black tiger shrimp hatchery operations was completed and launched in July 2023.
 - “Nursery and Grow-out Culture of Snubnose Pompano” (Manual No. 73) was published following the completion of a study in 2023.
- Responsible and Sustainable Aquaculture (AQD)
 - Promotion of Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP): Integrated into all departmental programs and training courses since its inception.
 - Protocols for Community-Based Resource Enhancement (CBRE): Strategies for abalone and sandfish stock enhancement were developed and implemented in Molocaboc Island, Philippines, from 2011 to 2015, with ongoing community-based management and monitoring thereafter.

Strategy 3: Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region

This strategy focuses on post-harvest technology, food safety, and quality assurance.

Key Policies, Guidelines, and Tools Developed:

- Cold Chain Management (MFRD)
 - Regional Guidelines on Cold Chain Management of Fish and Fishery Products in the ASEAN Region: Finalized and endorsed for submission in April 2018 and subsequently adopted by the ASEAN Ministers in 2019. These provide generic standards for upgrading the regional seafood industry's technology and practices.
- Seafood Quality Assurance (MFRD)
 - Regional Guidelines on Good Manufacturing and Handling Practices (GMP & GHP) for Ready-to-eat Raw Fish and Fishery Products: The final draft was reviewed at the End-of-Project Meeting in September 2024 and will be submitted for approval in 2025.
 - Handbook on High Pressure Processing (HPP) of Fish and Fishery Products: A draft was finalized in 2023, and translations in Vietnamese and Thai were completed and disseminated in 2024.
- Monitoring of Contaminants (MFRD)
 - Technical Compilation on Biotoxins and HABs: A draft was finalized for publication during the End-of-Project Meeting in August 2019.

Strategy 4: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements

This strategy focuses on developing regional tools and guidelines to facilitate fish trade and ensure compliance.

Key Policies, Guidelines, and Tools Developed:

- Combating IUU Fishing and Traceability (MFRDMD, TD)
 - ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain: Endorsed by the 37th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) in 2015. Its implementation was assessed through consultative meetings in 2018.
 - ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS) Concept: Endorsed by the ASEAN during the 25th Meeting of the ASWGFI in 2017. The electronic version (eACDS) was developed and pilot-tested from 2017 to 2019.

Strategy 5: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries

This strategy focuses on integrating cross-cutting themes into SEAFDEC's work.

Key Policies, Guidelines, and Tools Developed:

- Gender Integration (SEC, TD, AQD, IFRDMD)
 - SEAFDEC Gender Strategy: Approved by the 51st Meeting of the SEAFDEC in 2019 to provide overarching framework for integrating gender equity and sensitivity into all SEAFDEC programs and organizational operations.
 - Practical Guide for Gender Analysis in Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia: Developed from 2018 to 2019, with a final draft reviewed at an Experts Consultation Workshop in July 2019.
 - Policy Brief: Applying Human Rights-based and Gender Equality Approaches to Small-scale Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Drafted in September 2017 and supported for promotion by the SEAFDEC Council in 2018.
- Small-Scale Fisheries (TD)
 - Promotion of the FAO SSF Guidelines: Actively promoted through regional events, including an Experts Workshop in September 2017 that led to the policy brief.



- Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Training Modules: The “Essential EAFM” (E-EAFM) toolkit was initially developed around 2012. Revision workshops to update the materials, incorporating field experiences, were conducted in February and June 2019 with NOAA support.
- Labor and Working Conditions (TD)
 - Translations of FAO/ILO/IMO Safety Recommendations: The “Safety Recommendations for Decked Fishing Vessels of Less than 12 Metres in Length and Undecked Fishing Vessels” was translated into seven national languages *i.e.* Cambodian, Indonesian, Malaysian, Burmese, Filipino, Thai, and Vietnamese, and promoted through a project running from 2013 to 2019.

Strategy 6: Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries

This strategy focuses on the internal strengthening of SEAFDEC to support ASEAN’s efforts to adopt and implement regional policies and guidelines, as well as ASEAN’s efforts to monitor the implementation of such regional policies and guidelines.

Key Policies, Guidelines, and Tools Developed:

- Regional Policy Framework (SEC and all Departments)
 - Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030): This is the primary regional policy framework guiding SEAFDEC’s work and its Member Countries, adopted by the ASEAN Ministers in 2020 to address emerging challenges in the fisheries sector. SEAFDEC facilitated the development of key indicators to monitor the implementation of the RES&POA-2030, establishing a timeline that includes monitoring of baseline information in 2021, a mid-term review in 2025, and a final evaluation in 2029.
- Organizational and Project Management (SEC, TD)
 - Financial Procedures and Policies Manual: Developed through the USAID SUFIA project, with in-house trainings on the new policies conducted in April and May 2022.
 - Human Resources Management Policy: Updated policies (Code of Ethics, Anti-Fraud, etc.) were introduced to staff through an in-house training in April 2022.
- Information Management (SEC and all Departments)
 - SEAFDEC Information Strategies: First established in 2007 and has been the guiding principle for information activities ever since, with progress reviewed annually at Information Staff Program meetings.
 - Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia (2024 Edition): A revision process began with regional consultations in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The final draft was approved by the SEAFDEC Council in May 2024 and subsequently adopted by the ASEAN Ministers in October 2024.
 - Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA): A flagship publication (published in 2012, 2017, and 2022) providing a comprehensive overview of the status and trends of the region’s fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

The List of Projects used to Identify the Key Policies

No.	Project Title	Lead Department	Year
Strategy 1: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region			
1	Human Resource Development for Sustainable Fisheries	TD	2013–2019
2	Promotion of Countermeasures to Reduce IUU Fishing	TD	2013–2019
3	Optimizing Energy Use/Improving Safety Onboard in Fishing Activities	TD	2013–2019
4	Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries Resources Enhancement Measures in Critical Habitats/Fishing Grounds in Southeast Asia	TD	2013–2019
5	Comparative Studies for Management of Purse Seine Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	2013–2019
6	Enhancing the Compilation and Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information for Sustainable Development and Management of Fisheries in Southeast Asian Region	TD	2013–2019
7	Offshore Fisheries Resources Exploration in Southeast Asia	TD	2014–2019
8	Promotion of Responsible Utilization of Inland Fisheries in Southeast Asia	IFRDMD	2015–2019
9	Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eel Resources in Southeast Asia	IFRDMD	2015–2019
10	Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	2015–2019
11	Enhancing Coastal Community Resilience for Sustainable Livelihood and Coastal Resources Management	MFRDMD	2016–2018
12	Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	TD	2016–2022
13	Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia	SEC	2017–2019
14	SEAFDEC-EU/CITES Sharks Project Phase II	SEC (with TD and MFRDMD)	2018–2019
15	Strengthening the Effective Management of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in AMSs with GIS and RS Technology	SEC (with TD)	2019–2022
16	Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia	TD	2020–2024
17	Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	2020–2024
18	Management Scheme for Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	2020–2024
19	Harmonization and Enhancing Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information	SEC	2020–2024
20	Strengthening a Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia	TD	2020–2024
21	Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources	TD	2020–2024

No.	Project Title	Lead Department	Year
22	Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice	TD	2020–2024
23	Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	2020–2024
24	Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	2020–2024
25	Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia	SEC (with IFRDMD)	2020–2026
26	ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia	TD	2024–2027
27	Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region (BOBLME Phase II)	TD	2024–2028
28	Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	MFRDMD	2024–2026
29	Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand (GoTFish Project)	TD	2025–2028
30	Improving Fishers' Livelihood and Fisheries Co-management in Inland and Coastal Small-Scale Fisheries	TD & IFRDMD	2025–2029
31	Research and Dissemination of Sustainable Fishing Technology	TD & MFRDMD	2025–2029
32	Digital Transformation of Regional Fishery Statistics and Enhanced Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information in Southeast Asia	SEC	2025–2029
33	Enhancement of Regional Cooperation and Human Resource Development to Eliminate IUU Fishing	TD	2025–2029
34	Enhanced Marine Research Capacities to Manage Fisheries Resource	MFRDMD/TD	2025–2029
35	Enhanced Research Capacities for Sustainable Utilization and Management of Eel and Other Inland Fisheries Resources	IFRDMD	2025–2029
Strategy 2: Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region			
36	Environment-friendly, Sustainable Utilization and Management of Fisheries and Aquaculture Resources	AQD	2015–2019
37	Reinforcement and Optimization of Fish Health Management and the Effective Dissemination in the Southeast Asian Region	AQD	2015–2019
38	Sustainable Aquaculture through Cost-effective Culture Systems, and Prompt and Effective Aquatic Animal Health Management	AQD	2020–2024
39	Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture	SEC (with AQD)	2024–2028
40	Promotion of Aquaculture Technologies for Emerging Species through Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP)	AQD	2025–2029
Strategy 3: Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region			
41	Chemicals and Drug Residues in Fish and Fish Products in Southeast Asia – Biotoxins and Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs)	MFRD	2009–2019
42	Cold Chain Management for Seafood	MFRD	2015–2018

No.	Project Title	Lead Department	Year
43	Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products	MFRD	2020–2024
Strategy 4: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region’s fish and fishery products with market requirements			
44	Combating IUU Fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through Application of Catch Certification for Trading of Fish and Fishery Products	MFRDMD	2013–2019
45	ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project	SEC (with AQD & MFRD)	2025–2027
Strategy 5: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries			
46	Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues	SEC	2020–2024
47	Enhancing Regional Responses to Emerging International Fisheries-related Issues	SEC	2025–2029
Strategy 6: Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries			
48	Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	Ongoing since 2004
49	Strengthening SEAFDEC Network for Sustainable Fisheries	SEC	2018–2019
Special Projects			
50	Fisheries and Habitat Management, Climate Change and Social Well-being in Southeast Asia (SEAFDEC-Sweden Project)	SEC	2013–2019
51	The Oceans and Fisheries Partnership (USAID Oceans)	TD	2015–2020

Departmental Programs

No.	Project Title	Department	Year
1	Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture	AQD	2001–present
2	Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture	AQD	2012–present
3	Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture	AQD	2012–present
4	Adapting to Climate Change Impacts	AQD	2020–2024
5	Meeting Social and Economic Challenges in Aquaculture	AQD	2012–present
6	Collaborative projects with the Philippine Government	AQD	2020–present
7	Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Image	TD	2014–2020
8	Implementing the Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam	TD	2018–2024
9	Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing Activities	TD	2019–present
10	Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Enhancing Human Capacity Building	TD	2020–present
11	SEAFDEC Capacity Development through USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Activity	TD	2020–2022
12	USAID DOI International Technical Assistance Program (ITAP)	TD	2023–2025
13	Women in Fisheries Workshop	TD	2024

No.	Project Title	Department	Year
14	Ghost Fishing in a Global South Demonstration Project	TD	2024–2025
15	Collaborative Program with the Government of Thailand	TD	2019–present
16	Stock Assessment and Fish Production Potential of Inland Fisheries	IFRDMD	2017–2020
17	Center of Excellence for Fisheries Management on Inland Waters	IFRDMD	2018–2021
18	Development of Capacity Building Plan to Support Management of Inland Aquatic Resources, Development of EAFM/EAA Training Modules and Conducting Training of Trainers on EAFM/EAA	IFRDMD	2019
19	Improve Livelihood from Responsible Fisheries and Capacity for Conservation, by Preserving Clown Knife Fish Habitats and Protecting their Occurrence	IFRDMD	2019–2020
20	Modernizing Irrigated Agriculture to Protect and Restore Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in South-East Asia	IFRDMD	2020–2021

Other Programs

No.	Project Title	Department	Year
1	Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	TD	2018–2023
2	Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries & Aquaculture in Southeast Asia	TD	2020–2022
3	Survey to Estimate Levels of Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Thailand	TD	2021–2022
4	Fishing Technologies and Operations in Thailand and Options for Innovation and Improvements	TD	2021
5	Collection of Research and Datasets from Data-poor Countries in Southeast Asia Related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1	SEC	2022
6	Measuring Progress in Fisheries Management through Monitoring Stock Status and Trends in the Gulf of Thailand	SEC	2024
7	Support for Strengthening Regional Capacity to Monitor the Status of Management of Aquatic Genetic Resources	SEC	2024
8	Information Collection and Capacity Building to Support FAO Members Implement Novel Listing of Aquatic Species on CITES Appendix II	SEC	2024
9	Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia	SEC (with TD, MFRDMD, IFRDMD)	2024–2026

UPDATE ON FINANCIAL SITUATION OF JAPANESE TRUST FUND 7

Agenda 9.7

Update on Financial Situation of Japanese Trust Fund 7 (Japan)

For your reference, the JTF Budget amount includes both the JTF project budget and fixed expenses such as MRC.

Recent Trends in the JTF Budget

Fiscal Year of SEAFDEC (Jan-Dec)	Fiscal Year of Japanese Govt. (Apr-Mar)	JTF 【Compared to the Previous Year】		Official Exchange Rate (To be determined around January)
		In Japanese Yen (thousands)	In USD (thousands)	
2023	2022	193,376	1,791	1 USD = 108 yen
2024	2023	189,759 【Down by 1.9%】	1,385 【Down by 22.6%】	1 USD = 137 yen
2025 (Start of JTF7)	2024	185,525 【Down by 2.2%】	1,335 【Down by 3.6%】	1 USD = 139 yen
2026	2025	170,525 【Down by 8.1%】	1,137 【Down by 14.8%】	1 USD = 150 yen
2027	2026	162,170 【Down by 4.9%】	1,088 【Down by 4.3%】	1 USD = 149 yen
2028	2027	Not yet determined	Not yet determined	Not yet determined

*For your reference, the JTF Budget amount includes both the JTF project budget and fixed expenses such as MRC.

PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE SEAFDEC SECRETARIAT

The operation of the SEAFDEC Secretariat has been undertaken taking into account the directives given by the SEAFDEC Council, and the provisions as stipulated in the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC, as well as the Administrative and Financial Regulations. Over a few decades, the works of the Secretariat have been strengthened on regional policy development along the line with the formalization of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership or ASSP in 2007, the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region toward 2030, and the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030; while the functions in enhancing the dissemination of outputs and achievements including the SEAFDEC visibility have been undertaken in line with the Information Strategies for Enhancing SEAFDEC Visibility and Communication.

I. Proposed Modification of Organization Structure

The current Organization of the SEAFDEC Secretariat, together with its Plan of Operation and Program of Work, was approved by the SEAFDEC Council during its 48th Meeting in 2016 (**Appendix 1**) in line with Article 6, paragraph 2 (i) of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC and Regulation 3, paragraph 3.2 (iii) of the Administrative Regulations.

The SEAFDEC Secretariat consists of a Secretary-General, responsible for the overall administration and operation of the Center, and a Deputy Secretary-General. The main tasks under the SEAFDEC Secretariat include:

- 1) **Administration and financial matters:** under the Senior Administration Officer and Finance Officer (concurrent Finance Division Head of SEAFDEC/TD)
- 2) **Policy and program matters:** under the supervision of the Policy Program Coordinator (PPC)
- 3) **Information matters:** under the supervision of the Information Program Coordinator (IPC)

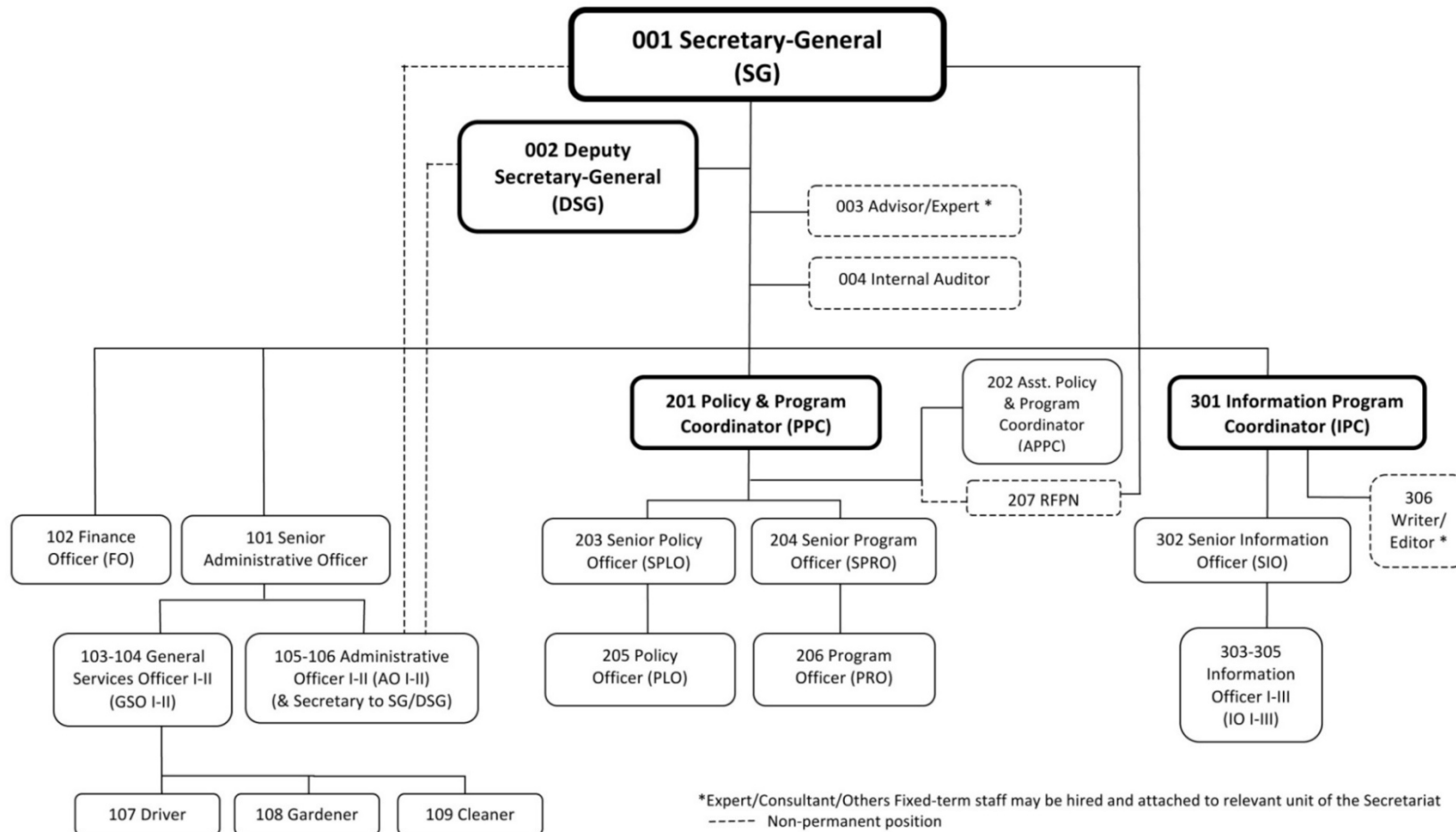
Nevertheless, given the need for greater operational flexibility of the SEAFDEC Secretariat to address emerging issues and challenges, accommodate an increasing number of cross-cutting programs and projects, and enhance its effective administration, it is proposed that the SEAFDEC Secretariat's organizational structure be modified as shown in **Appendix 2**.

In particular, the changes were made to the classification of staff posts under the Administration Office and the PPC Office. Despite these changes, the core functions, structures, and responsibilities of the SEAFDEC Secretariat, as well as the number of staff, remain unchanged.

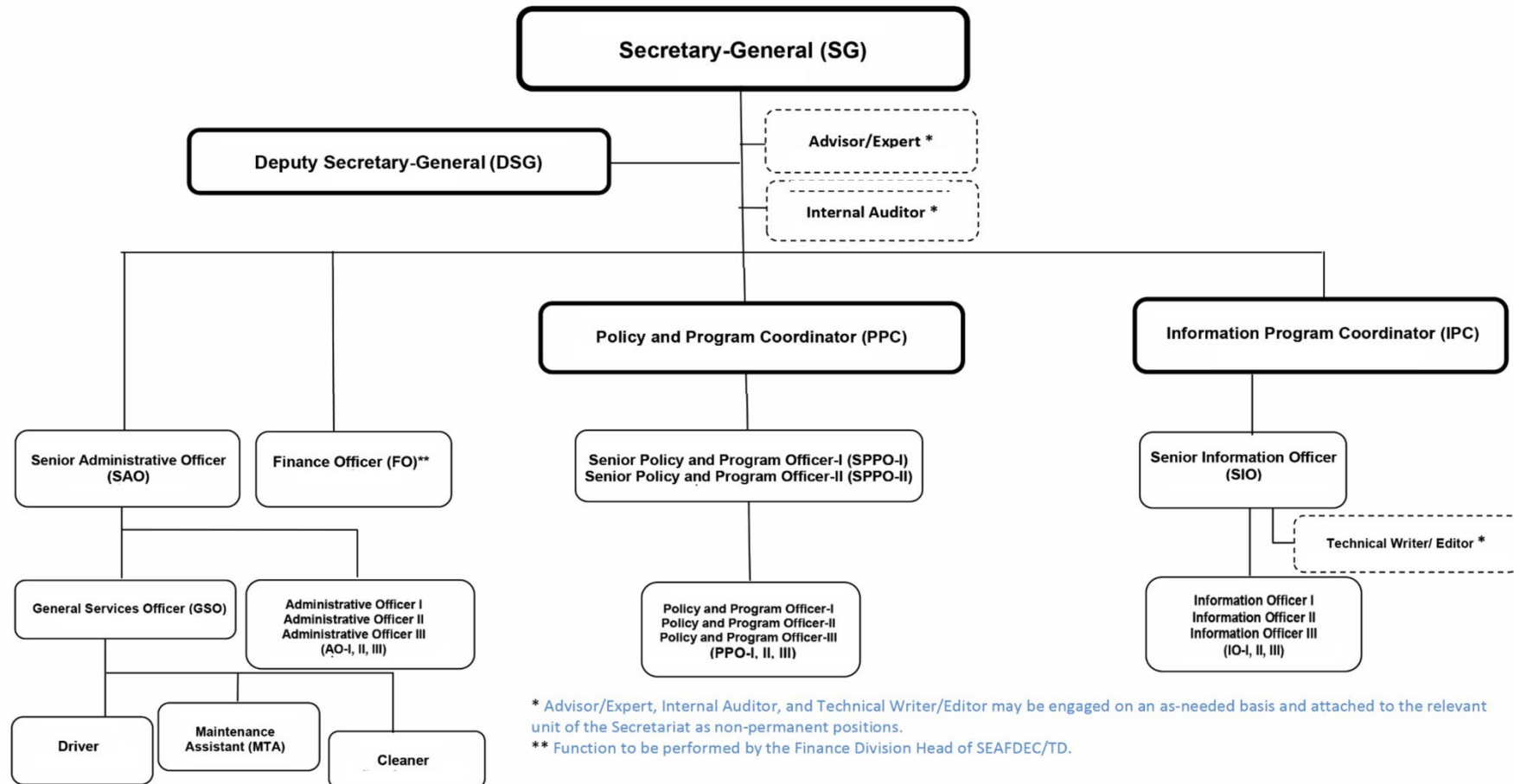
II. Required Consideration by the Council

- Consider approving the proposed new organizational structure of the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

Organizational Chart of the SEAFDEC Secretariat (2016)



Proposed Organization Chart of the SEAFDEC Secretariat (2026)



PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SEAFDEC TRAINING DEPARTMENT

I. Executive Summary

During recent years, there have been an increasing number of programs and projects funded by donors from within and outside the region to the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD). To ensure the smooth operation, management, and coordination of these programs and projects, TD has temporarily modified organizational structure with the establishment of a new interim **Section IUU Fishing Countermeasure Section (IFCS)** under **Training and Research Supporting Division (TRSD)** that would be responsible for implementation and coordination of initiatives to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing since 20 August 2025. This temporary arrangement was designed to manage IUU-related initiatives under programs and projects implemented by TD in an effectively mobilizing existing the currently available human resources.

Since then, the temporary structure has been put into practice, and the performance of the structure has been closely monitored. As a result, this structure was found to lead to improved performance of TD. TD, therefore, deemed it appropriate to seek the consideration and approval of the SEAFDEC Council on the modified organizational structure in accordance with the SEAFDEC Administrative Regulations (Regulation 3, Paragraph 3.2 (iii)). It should be noted that under the new structure, the number of staff members would be maintained.

II. Current Organizational Structure of the Training Department

The Training Department Chief shall be responsible for the administration and operations of the Department. Under the Chief are the following Offices and Divisions.

1. General Administrative Division

The General Administrative Division (GAD) shall be responsible for the general administrative functions of the Training Department including general services, maintenance of the Department properties, arrangement of dormitory for staff and participants, administrative supervision, document affairs, external affairs, procurement, inventory management, and human resources management. The General Administrative Division is composed of two (2) Sections as follows:

- 1.1 General Services Section; and
- 1.2 Administrative and Human Resources Section

2. Finance Division

The Finance Division (FID) shall be responsible for the accounts and finances of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department. The Finance Division has one (1) Section:

- 2.1 Accounts and Finance Section

3. Project Planning and Management Division

The Project Planning and Management Division (PPMD) shall be responsible for the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of all programs and projects under the Training Department. The PPMD shall also facilitate and support the development, improvement, and adaptation of the program and project rationales, objectives, activities, outputs, and outcomes consistent with the SEAFDEC Strategic Plan, relevant regional policy recommendations, and regional interest.

- 3.1 Project Planning and Management Office

4. Training and Research Supporting Division

The Training and Research Supporting Division (TRSD) shall be responsible for the ships, marine engineering, information, extension, and training that are supportive to technical works of the Training Department. The Training and Research Supporting Division is composed of three (3) Sections as follows:



- 4.1 Training and Information Section;
- 4.2 Marine Engineering Section; and
- 4.3 Ship and Fleet Operation Section

5. Research and Development Division

The Research and Development Division (RDD) shall be responsible for the planning and implementation of all research projects and activities of the Training Department, providing supportive technical information to the Training Department, and supporting researchers in the conduct of research/training activities, as and when necessary. The Research and Development Division is composed of three (3) Sections as follows:

- 5.1 Fishing Technology Section;
- 5.2 Fishing Ground and Oceanography Section; and
- 5.3 Fisheries Management Section

Organization Chart of the Training Department

The current Organization Chart is appended as **Appendix 1**.

III. Proposed New Organizational Structure of the Training Department

The Training Department Chief shall be responsible for the administration and operations of the Department. Under the Chief are Divisions and Sections. The Training Department organizational structure comprises five (5) Divisions that support its operation and implementation of activities:

1. General Administrative Division

The General Administrative Division (GAD) shall be responsible for the general administrative functions of the Training Department including general services, maintenance of the Department properties, arrangement of dormitory for staff and participants, administrative supervision, document affairs, external affairs, procurement, inventory management, and human resources management. The General Administrative Division is composed of two (2) Sections as follows:

- 1.1 General Services Section; and
- 1.2 Administrative and Human Resources Section

2. Finance Division

The Finance Division (FID) shall be responsible for the accounts and finances of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department. The Finance Division has one (1) Section:

- 2.1 Accounts and Finance Section

3. Project Planning and Management Division

The Project Planning and Management Division (PPMD) shall be responsible for the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of all programs and projects under the Training Department. The PPMD shall also facilitate and support the development, improvement, and adaptation of the program and project rationales, objectives, activities, outputs, and outcomes consistent with the SEAFDEC Strategic Plan, relevant regional policy recommendations, and regional interest.

- 3.1 Project Planning and Management Office

4. Training and Research Supporting Division

The Training and Research Supporting Division (TRSD) shall be responsible for the ships, marine engineering, information, extension, and training that are supportive to technical works of the Training Department. The Training and Research Supporting Division is composed of four (4) Sections as follows:

- 4.1 Training and Information Section;
- 4.2 Marine Engineering Section;
- 4.3 Ship and Fleet Operation Section; and
- 4.4 IUU Fishing Countermeasure Section

5. Research and Development Division

The Research and Development Division (RDD) shall be responsible for the planning and implementation of all research projects and activities of the Training Department, providing supportive technical information to the Training Department, and supporting researchers in the conduct of research/training activities, as and when necessary. The Research and Development Division is composed of three (3) Sections as follows:

- 5.1 Fishing Technology Section;
- 5.2 Fishing Ground and Oceanography Section; and
- 5.3 Fisheries Management Section

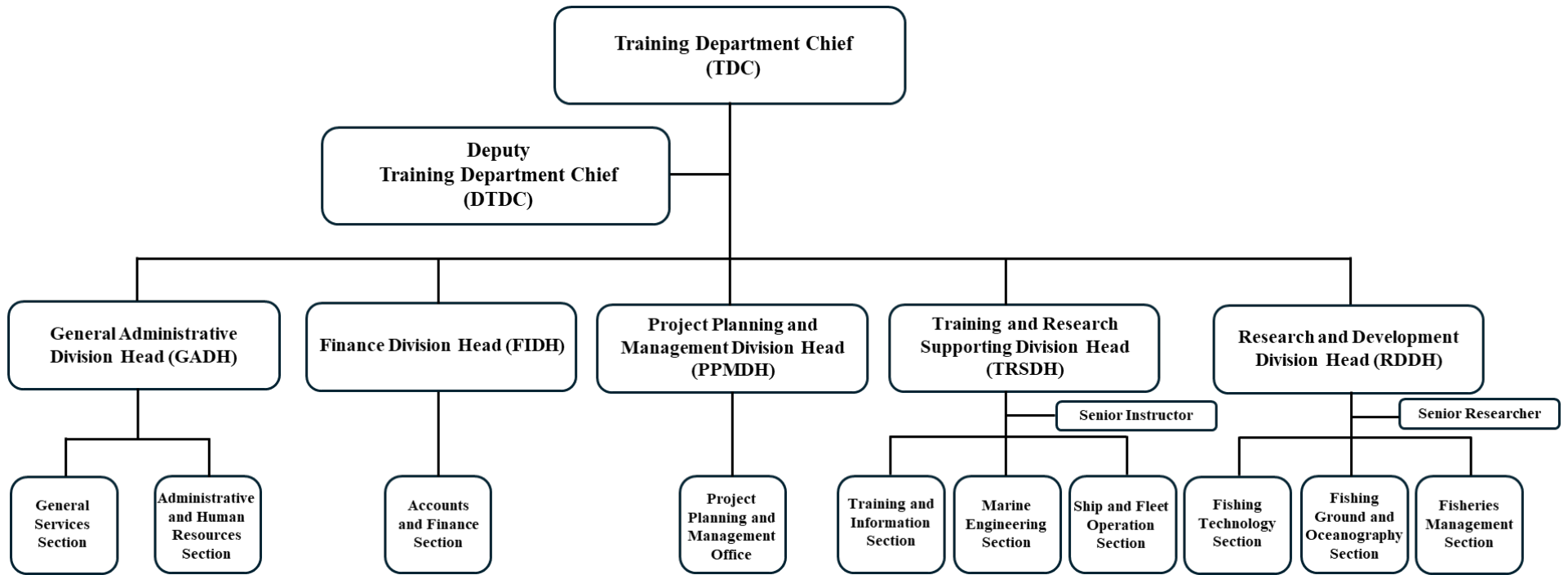
Organization Chart of the Training Department

The new Organization Chart is appended as **Appendix 2**.

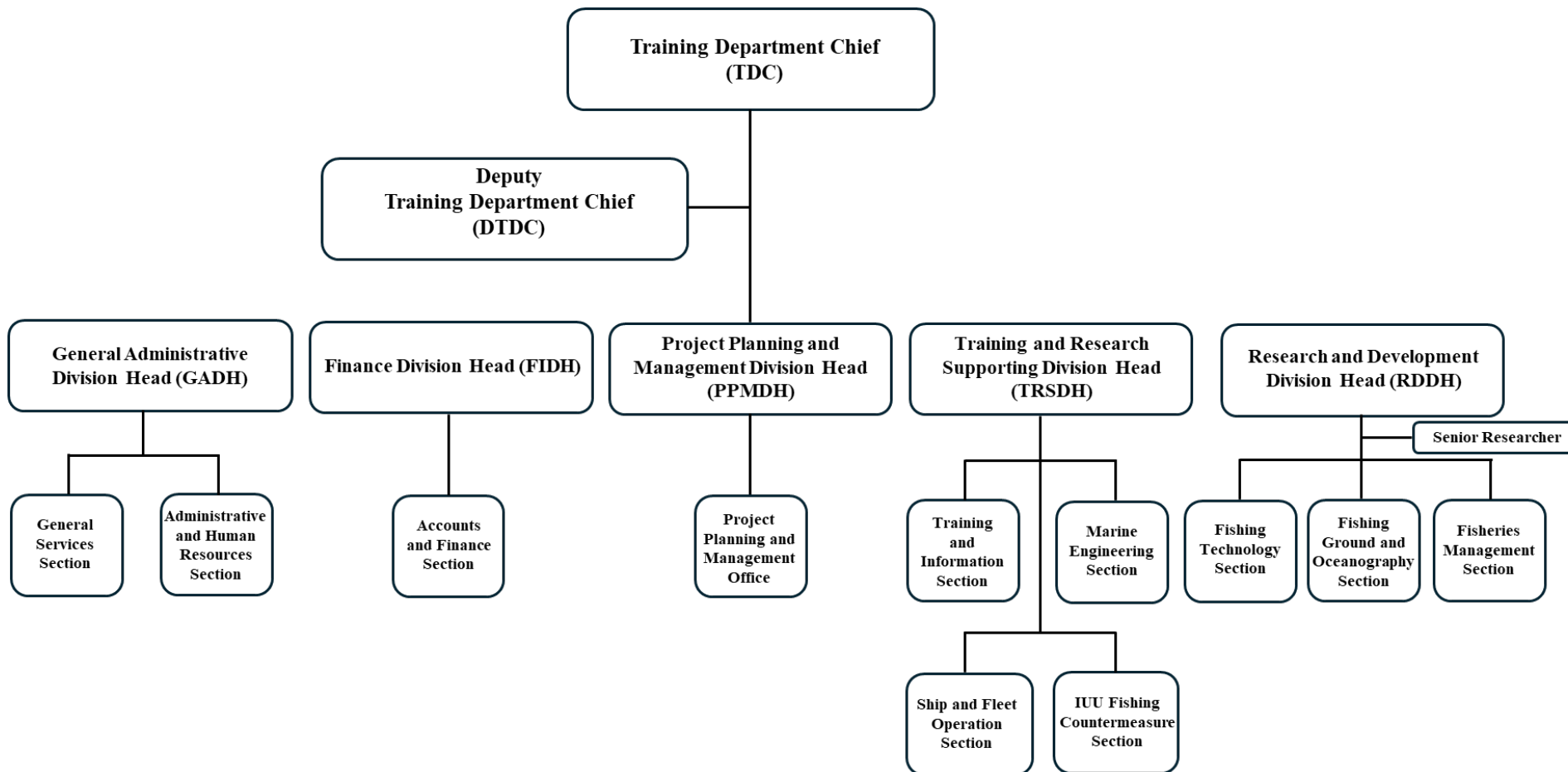
IV. Required Consideration by the Council

- Consider approving the proposed new organizational structure of the SEAFDEC Training Department.

Current Organizational Structure of TD



Proposed New Organizational Structure of TD



DISCONTINUATION OF HARD COPY REPORTS FOR SEAFDEC ANNUAL MEETINGS AND SEAFDEC ANNUAL REPORT

Upon approval by the SEAFDEC Council at its 51st Meeting in 2019, and as amended at the 56th Meeting in 2024, SEAFDEC established the “Rules for SEAFDEC Paperless Meetings” to transition its meetings to a paperless format, replacing hard copies of documents with electronic versions of working documents.

To date, all working documents for SEAFDEC annual meetings, namely those of the SEAFDEC Council, Program Committee Meeting (PCM), and the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP), have been made available to participants exclusively in electronic format through the SEAFDEC website. Nevertheless, SEAFDEC continues to produce a limited number of hard-copy reports for these meetings for dissemination to Member Countries *i.e.*, for the Council Directors, Alternate Council Directors, National Coordinators, other Member Countries’ participants, as well as for archival purposes at the SEAFDEC Secretariat and its Departments. In addition, SEAFDEC has been producing printed copies of the SEAFDEC Annual Report, which documents its activities and is distributed to network libraries, fisheries-related organizations in the region, collaborating partners, Member Countries, and SEAFDEC Departments.

In line with SEAFDEC’s commitment to environmental sustainability and its support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 13: Climate Action as well as to reduce production and dissemination costs and ensure the efficient use of organizational resources; and recognizing that these reports primarily serve as records of meetings and activities rather than technical information for improving fisheries practices or development, SEAFDEC proposes to discontinue the production of hard-copy reports for its annual meetings (*i.e.* the Council Meeting, PCM, and FCG/ASSP reports) and the SEAFDEC Annual Report. Henceforth, only electronic versions will be made available through the SEAFDEC Institutional Repository.

Required Consideration by the Council

- Approve the discontinuation of hard copy reports for SEAFDEC Annual Meetings, *i.e.* the Council Meeting, PCM, and FCG/ASSP Reports, and SEAFDEC Annual Report

**AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE CENTER
FOR THE YEAR 2024 ENDING ON 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AUDITED ABRIDGED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

	In US\$	
	2024	2023
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	9,992,785	10,311,806
Other sources and grants	484,643	89,667
Other income	1,501,605	719,381
TOTAL REVENUES	11,979,033	11,120,854
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	4,012,025	3,600,690
Training	776,203	739,902
Information	484,637	463,282
Collaborative	283,244	242,004
Others	4,767	17,130
Administrative	5,955,706	5,541,571
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	11,516,582	10,604,579
	462,451	516,275
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year		
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	19,629,848	19,324,075
FUND ADJUSTMENT	23,997	41,052
FUND BALANCE, End of year	20,116,296	19,881,402
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	19,457,249	18,852,574
Short-term cash investments	1,375,802	1,951,548
Current portion of long term investments	-	100,000
Receivables and other receivables	270,779	156,085
Advance and deposits	48,241	12,379
Materials and supplies inventory	43,954	34,911
Fuel oil for vessels	235,686	164,889
Prepayments	8,505	10,042
Other current assets	2,151	1,996
Total Current Assets	21,442,367	21,284,424
Noncurrent assets		
Restricted bank deposit	5,470	5,441
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	8	314,708
Termination indemnity fund	2,242,101	2,190,381
Long-term investments-net of current portion	400,000	-
Other noncurrent assets	111,804	251,836
Total Noncurrent Assets	2,759,383	2,762,366
TOTAL ASSETS	24,201,750	24,046,790
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accrued payable	939,721	797,893
Contribution received in advance	802,439	711,369
Fund held in trust	101,193	240,750
Total Current Liabilities	1,843,353	1,750,012
Reserved budget for vessel periodic Maintenance for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	-	224,995
Provision for termination indemnity	2,242,101	2,190,381
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,085,454	4,165,388
NET ASSETS	20,116,296	19,881,402

^{1/} The Difference of US\$ 251,554 (US\$ 19,629,848 – US\$ 19,881,402) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
SECRETARIAT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

	In US\$	
	2024	2023
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	499,000	499,000
Other income	57,795	(478)
TOTAL REVENUES	556,795	498,522
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Training	88	-
Information	71,370	58,144
Collaborative	185,657	149,897
Others	-	-
Administrative	230,113	193,132
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	487,228	401,173
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	69,567	97,349
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	1,744,261 ^{1/}	1,637,678
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	1,813,828	1,735,027 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,905,815	1,684,590
Other receivables	13,498	8,611
Advance and deposits	1,133	56
Prepayments	2,369	2,150
Total Current Assets	1,922,815	1,695,407
Noncurrent assets		
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	8	314,708
Total Noncurrent Assets	8	314,708
TOTAL ASSETS	1,922,823	2,010,115
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accounts and other payables	75,332	19,520
Contribution received in advance	33,663	30,573
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	-	224,995
TOTAL LIABILITIES	108,995	275,088
NET ASSETS	1,813,828	1,735,027

^{1/} The difference of US\$ 9,234 (US\$ 1,744,261 – US\$ 1,735,027) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

	In US\$	
	2024	2023
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	2,587,555	2,646,603
Other sources	-	-
Other income	613,707	111,833
TOTAL REVENUES	3,201,262	2,758,436
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	272,559	236,330
Training	574,652	564,152
Information	157,693	158,582
Collaborative	97,587	92,107
Others	4,767	17,130
Administrative	1,241,891	1,152,304
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,349,149	2,220,605
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	852,113	537,831
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	10,775,130 ^{1/}	10,180,254
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	11,627,243	10,718,085 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	12,169,589	11,384,110
Other receivables	21,869	27,647
Advance and deposits	47,108	12,323
Supplies inventory	18,799	12,970
Fuel oil for vessels	221,262	150,637
Prepayments	6,136	7,892
Total Current Assets	12,484,763	11,595,579
Noncurrent assets		
Restricted bank deposit	5,470	5,441
Termination indemnity fund	2,242,101	2,190,381
Total Noncurrent Assets	2,247,571	2,195,822
TOTAL ASSETS	14,732,334	13,791,401
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accrued payable	94,214	202,139
Contribution received in advance	768,776	680,796
Total Current Liabilities	862,990	882,935
Provision for staff termination indemnity	2,242,101	2,190,381
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,105,091	3,073,316
NET ASSETS	11,627,243	10,718,085

^{1/} The difference of US\$ 57,045 (US\$ 10,775,130 – US\$ 10,718,085) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

	In US\$	
	2024	2023
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	5,618,463	5,869,604
Other sources	484,643	89,667
Other income	830,103	608,026
TOTAL REVENUES	6,933,209	6,567,297
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	3,739,466	3,364,360
Training	201,463	175,750
Information	255,574	246,556
Administrative	3,195,935	2,899,536
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	7,392,438	6,686,202
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	(459,229)	(118,905)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	7,110,457 ^{1/}	7,506,143
FUND ADJUSTMENT	23,997	41,052
FUND BALANCE, End of year	6,675,225	7,428,290 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,381,845	5,783,874
Short-term cash investments	1,375,802	1,951,548
Current portion of long term investments	-	100,000
Receivables	235,412	119,827
Materials and supplies inventory	-	-
Inventory	25,155	21,941
Fuel oil for vessels	14,424	14,252
Other current assets	2,151	1,996
Total Current Assets	7,034,789	7,993,438
Noncurrent assets		
Long-term investments – net of current portion	400,000	-
Other noncurrent assets	111,804	251,836
Total Noncurrent Assets	511,804	251,836
TOTAL ASSETS	7,546,593	8,245,274
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accounts and other payables	770,175	576,234
Fund held in trust	101,193	240,750
TOTAL LIABILITIES	871,368	816,984
NET ASSETS	6,675,225	7,428,290

^{1/} The difference of US\$ 317,833 (US\$ 7,110,457 – US\$ 7,428,290) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

	In US\$	
	2024	2023
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	681,011	635,796
TOTAL REVENUES	681,011	635,796
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Administrative	681,011	635,796
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	681,011	635,796
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	-	-
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	-	-
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	-	-
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-
Other receivables	-	-
Advance and deposits	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
Total Current Assets	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	-	-
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accrued payable	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-
NET ASSETS	-	-



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
INLAND FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

	In US\$	
	2024	2023
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	606,756	660,803
Other income	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	606,756	660,803
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	-	-
Administrative	606,756	660,803
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	606,756	660,803
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	-	-
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	-	-
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	-	-
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash and cash equivalents	-	-
Other receivables	-	-
Advances and deposits	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
Total Current Assets	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	-	-
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accrued payable	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-
NET ASSETS	-	-

**UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2024 AND
THE STATUS OF THE MRC FOR THE YEAR 2025**

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024**

	In US\$	
	2025 (Unaudited)	2024 (Audited)
ACCUMULATED FUND		
As at December 31	20,229,408	20,116,296
REPRESENTED BY:		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	19,724,854	19,457,249
Receivables and other receivables	337,443	270,779
Short-term cash investments	1,420,994	1,375,802
Current portion of long-term investments	0	0
Advances and deposits	41,087	48,241
Supplies inventory	16,552	43,954
Fuel oil for vessels	147,108	235,686
Prepayments	11,152	8,505
Other current assets	6,915	2,151
Total Current assets	<u>21,706,105</u>	<u>21,442,367</u>
Noncurrent Assets		
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	116,821	8
Restricted bank deposit	5,913	5,470
Termination indemnity fund	2,203,299	2,242,101
Long-term investments	394,543	400,000
Other noncurrent assets	37,826	111,804
Total Noncurrent assets	<u>2,758,402</u>	<u>2,759,383</u>
Total Assets	<u>24,464,507</u>	<u>24,201,750</u>
Less: LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accrued payable	1,022,132	939,721
Contribution received in advance	866,456	802,439
Funds held in trust	26,479	101,193
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,915,067</u>	<u>1,843,353</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	116,733	0
Provision for staff termination indemnity	2,203,299	2,242,101
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>2,320,032</u>	<u>2,242,101</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>4,235,099</u>	<u>4,085,454</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>20,229,408</u>	<u>20,116,296</u>

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024
(IN US\$)**

					Total	
	Operating Fund		Fellowship	Others	2025	2024
	Host Department	MRC	Fund	Fund	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
REVENUES						
Revenues from: -						
Government of Brunei Darussalam	-	7,000	-	-	7,000	7,000
Government of Cambodia	-	12,000	-	-	12,000	12,000
Government of Indonesia	639,715	52,000	-	-	691,715	658,756
Government of Japan	-	280,000	-	-	280,000	280,000
Government of Lao PDR	-	6,500	-	-	6,500	6,500
Government of Malaysia	815,164	21,500	-	-	836,664	702,511
Government of Myanmar	-	22,500	-	-	22,500	22,500
Government of Philippines	5,953,394	25,000	-	-	5,978,394	5,643,463
Government of Singapore	-	13,500	-	-	13,500	13,500
Government of Thailand	2,732,857	33,000	47,939	-	2,813,796	2,620,555
Government of Viet Nam	-	26,000	-	-	26,000	26,000
Sub-total	10,141,130	499,000	47,939	-	10,688,069	9,992,785
Other Income						
Other sources	-	-	-	284,291	284,291	484,643
Other income	613,935	(110,251)	893	191,552	696,129	1,501,605
TOTAL REVENUES	10,755,065	388,749	48,832	475,843	11,668,489	11,979,033

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024
(IN US\$)**

	Operating Fund		Fellowship	Others	Total	
	Host Department	MRC	Fund	Fund	2025 (Unaudited)	2024 (Audited)
EXPENDITURES						
Operating Expenditures						
Program of Activities:						
Research	5,048,727	-	-	254,275	5,303,002	4,012,025
Training	1,032,716	2,344	8,750	31,256	1,075,066	776,203
Information	385,856	72,630	-	35,490	493,976	484,637
Collaborative	119,683	218,298	-	13,850	351,831	283,244
Others	-	130,899	-	0	130,899	4,767
Total Operating Expenditures	6,586,982	424,171	8,750	334,871	7,354,774	5,560,876
Administrative & Capital expenditures	4,773,262	193,839	-	234,023	5,201,124	5,955,706
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	11,360,244	618,010	8,750	568,894	12,555,898	11,516,582
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(605,179)	(229,261)	40,082	(93,051)	(887,409)	462,451

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FUND BALANCES
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024
(IN US\$)

	<u>Balance</u> <u>as at</u> <u>January 1, 2025</u>	<u>Adjustment</u> <u>of</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Surplus</u> <u>(Deficit)</u>	<u>Balance as at</u> <u>December 31, 2025</u> <u>(Unaudited)</u>	<u>Balance as at</u> <u>December 31, 2024</u> <u>(Audited)</u>
Operating fund	17,395,499	21,022	(834,440)	16,582,081	16,644,198
Fellowship fund	422,183	-	40,082	462,265	390,601
Other funds	3,278,113	-	(93,051)	3,185,062	3,081,497
Net	<u>21,095,795</u> ^{1/}	<u>21,022</u>	<u>(887,409)</u>	<u>20,229,408</u>	<u>20,116,296</u> ^{1/}

Remark: 1/ The difference of US\$ 979,499 (US\$ 21,095,795 - US\$ 20,116,296) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation

**Contribution received from SEAFDEC Member Countries
as Annual Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) in 2019–2026
(In US\$)**

Countries	Actual received in 2019	Actual received in 2020	Actual received in 2021	Actual received in 2022	Actual received in 2023	Actual received in 2024	Actual received in 2025	Amount received in 2026 as at 23/4/2026
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Cambodia	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Indonesia	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	-
Japan	280,000	280,000	280,000	280,000	280,000	280,000	280,000	280,000
Lao PDR	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	-
Malaysia	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500
Myanmar	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	-
Philippines	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Singapore	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
Thailand	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
Viet Nam	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	-
Total	499,000	499,000	499,000	499,000	499,000	499,000	499,000	392,000

PROPOSED BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE CENTER FOR THE YEAR 2027

Table 1: Estimated Contributions received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other Sources (In US Dollars) in Fiscal Year 2026

Sources	Secretariat	TD	MFRD	AQD	MFRDMD	IFRDMD	Total	%
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	7,000	0.04
Cambodia	12,000	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	0.07
Indonesia	52,000	-	-	-	-	531,721 h/	583,721	3.30
Japan	280,000	-	-	-	-	-	280,000	1.59
Lao PDR	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	6,500	0.04
Malaysia	21,500	-	-	-	2,570,399 g/	-	2,591,899	14.71
Myanmar	22,500	-	-	-	-	-	22,500	0.13
Philippines	25,000	-	-	6,482,842 f/	-	-	6,507,842	36.92
Singapore	13,500	-	0 e/	-	-	-	13,500	0.08
Thailand	33,000	2,876,700 d/	-	-	-	-	2,909,700	16.51
Viet Nam	27,000	-	-	-	-	-	27,000	0.15
Sub-total	500,000	2,876,700		6,482,842	2,570,399	531,721	12,961,662	73.54
Others	1,632,845 b/	2,282,176 c/		748,391 i/			4,663,412	26.46
Total	2,132,845 a/	5,158,876	0	7,231,233	2,570,399	531,721	17,625,074	100 %

- Remarks:
- a/ Includes Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all SEAFDEC Member Countries = US\$ 500,000
 - b/ Includes extra-budgetary sources from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$ 856,833 (Excluding MRC = US\$ 280,000), SEAFDEC-JAIF Project = US\$ 159,899 SEAFDEC-JICA Project = US\$ 416,113 and SEAFDEC-WWF = US\$ 200,000
 - c/ Includes extra-budgetary sources from SEAFDEC-FAO BOBLME Fund = US\$1,387,603, DFO-Canada Project (CAD 96,000) = US\$ 68,848, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (EUR 61,669) = US\$ 71,543 & SEAFDEC-FAO GoTFish Project = US\$ 754,182
 - d/ Contributions in cash from Thailand
 - e/ No Contribution from Singapore
 - f/ Contributions in cash from Philippines
 - g/ Contributions in kind from Malaysia
 - h/ Contributions in kind from Indonesia
 - i/ Includes contributions from non-member governments, International, Regional, National, Other agencies and Resource Generation.

Table 2: Estimated Expenditures of the Center for 2026 (In US\$)

Category	SEC ^{1/}	TD ^{2/}	MFRD ^{3/}	AQD ^{4/}	MFRDMD ^{5/}	IFRDMD ^{6/}	Total	%
1. Program of Activities								
1.1 Research Programs	-	273,000	-	3,817,034	-	-	4,090,034	23.21
1.2 Training Programs	5,000	1,011,500	-	919,162	-	-	1,935,662	10.98
1.3 Information Programs	86,000	30,000	-	633,971	-	-	749,971	4.26
1.4 Collaborative Programs	183,000 <u>7/</u>	200,200	-	-	-	-	383,200	2.17
1.5 Other Programs	1,632,845 <u>8/</u>	2,282,176 <u>9/</u>	-	380,183 <u>10/</u>	-	-	4,295,204	24.37
Sub-total	1,906,845	3,796,876	-	5,750,350	-	-	11,454,071	64.99
2. Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures								
2.1 Operating Expenditures	218,500	1,362,000	-	1,212,104	-	-	2,792,604	15.84
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500	-	-	268,779	-	-	276,279	1.57
	226,000	1,362,000	-	1,480,883	-	-	3,068,883	17.41
2.3 In-kind Expenditures	-	-	-	-	2,570,399	531,721	3,102,120	17.60
Sub-total	226,000	1,362,000	-	1,480,883	2,570,399	531,721	6,171,003	35.01
Total	2,132,845	5,158,876	-	7,231,233	2,570,399	531,721	17,625,074	100 %

- Remarks:
- 1/ Secretariat
 - 2/ Training Department: The Program of Activities already includes administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.
 - 3/ Marine Fisheries Research Department.
 - 4/ Aquaculture Department: The Program of Activities already includes administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.
 - 5/ Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department.
 - 6/ Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department.
 - 7/ Includes operation cost, maintenance cost, insurance, and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2.
 - 8/ Includes program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$ 856,833, SEAFDEC-JAIF Project = US\$ 159,899, SEAFDEC JICA Project = US\$ 416,113 and SEAFDEC-WWF Project = US\$ 200,000.
 - 9/ Includes program expenses from SEAFDEC- FAO BOBLME Fund = USD 1,387,603, DFO-Canada Project (CAD 96,000) = US\$ 68,848, Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (EUR 61,669) = US\$ 71,543 and SEAFDEC-FAO GoTFish Project = US\$ 754,182.
 - 10/ Includes program expenses from non-member governments, International, Regional, National, other agencies and Resource Generation.

Table: 3 Expected Contributions received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other Sources (in US Dollars) in Fiscal Year 2027

Sources	Secretariat	TD	MFRD	AQD	MFRDMD	IFRDMD	Total	%
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	7,000	0.04
Cambodia	12,000	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	0.07
Indonesia	52,000	-	-	-	-	584,893 h/	636,893	3.60
Japan	280,000	-	-	-	-	-	280,000	1.58
Lao PDR	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	6,500	0.04
Malaysia	21,500	-	-	-	2,634,128 g/	-	2,655,628	15.02
Myanmar	22,500	-	-	-	-	-	22,500	0.13
Philippines	25,000	-	-	6,922,946 f/	-	-	6,947,946	39.31
Singapore	13,500	-	e/	-	-	-	13,500	0.08
Thailand	33,000	3,782,000 d/	-	-	-	-	3,815,000	21.58
Viet Nam	27,000	-	-	-	-	-	27,000	0.15
Sub-total	500,000	3,782,000	-	6,922,946	2,634,128	584,893	14,423,967	81.60
Others	1,145,302 b/	1,434,923 c/	-	671,882 i/	-	-	3,252,107	18.40
Total	1,645,302 a/	5,216,923	-	7,594,828	2,634,128	584,893	17,676,074	100 %

- Remarks:**
- a/ Includes Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC) from all SEAFDEC Member Countries = US\$ 500,000
 - b/ Includes extra-budgetary sources from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$ 808,389 (Excluding MRC = US\$ 280,000), SEAFDEC-JICA Project = US\$ 55,000 and SEAFDEC - WWF SEAWEEED Project = US\$ 281,913.
 - c/ Includes extra-budgetary sources from SEAFDEC-FAO BOBLME Fund = US\$ 578,267, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (EUR88,331) = US\$ 102,474 and SEAFDEC-FAO GoTFish Project = US\$ 754,182.
 - d/ Contributions in cash from Thailand
 - e/ No Contributions from Singapore
 - f/ Contributions in cash from Philippines
 - g/ Contribution in kind from Malaysia
 - h/ Contributions in kind from Indonesia
 - i/ Includes contributions from non-member governments, International, Regional, National agencies and Resources Generation.

Table 4: Proposed Expenditures of the Center for 2027 (In US\$)

Category	SEC ^{1/}	TD ^{2/}	MFRD ^{3/}	AQD ^{4/}	MFRDMD ^{5/}	IFRDMD ^{6/}	Total	%
1. Program of Activities								
1.1 Research Programs	-	362,000	-	4,028,107	-	-	4,390,107	24.84
1.2 Training Programs	2,500	1,336,300	-	950,856	-	-	2,289,656	12.95
1.3 Information Programs	81,500	30,000	-	664,239	-	-	775,739	4.39
1.4 Collaborative Programs	203,000 ^{7/}	244,000	-	-	-	-	447,000	2.53
1.5 Other Programs	1,145,302 ^{8/}	1,434,923 ^{9/}	-	400,069 ^{10/}	-	-	2,980,294	16.86
Sub-total	1,432,302	3,407,223	-	6,043,271	-	-	10,882,796	61.57
2. Administrative and Non- Program Expenditures								
2.1 Operating Expenditures	205,500	1,809,700	-	1,269,950	-	-	3,285,150	18.58
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500	-	-	281,607	-	-	289,107	1.64
	213,000	1,809,700	-	1,551,557	-	-	3,574,257	20.22
2.3 In-kind Expenditures	-	-	-	-	2,634,128	584,893	3,219,021	18.21
Sub-total	213,000	1,809,700	-	1,551,557	2,634,128	584,893	6,793,278	38.43
Total	1,645,302	5,216,923	-	7,594,828	2,634,128	584,893	17,676,074	100 %

- Remarks:
- 1/ Secretariat
 - 2/ Training Department: The Program of Activities already includes administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.
 - 3/ Marine Fisheries Research Department.
 - 4/ Aquaculture Department: The Program of Activities already includes administrative and other expenses which are directly related to the programs.
 - 5/ Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department.
 - 6/ Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department.
 - 7/ Includes operation cost, maintenance cost, insurance, and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2.
 - 8/ Includes program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$ 808,389, SEAFDEC-JICA Project = US\$ 55,000 and SEAFDEC-WWF SEAWEED Project = US\$ 281,913.
 - 9/ Includes program expenses from SEAFDEC-FAO BOBLME = US\$ 578,267, GIZ GmbH (EUR 88,331) = US\$102,474 and SEAFDEC-FAO GoTFish Project = US\$ 754,182.
 - 10/ Includes program expenses from non-member governments, International, Regional, National, other agencies and Resource Generation.

PRESS STATEMENT

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of Thailand through its Department of Fisheries, as the host, the Fifty-eighth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (58CM) was convened on 19–21 May 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.
2. In attendance at the Meeting were the Council Directors and delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia (online), Indonesia (online), Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The Inaugural Ceremony of the 58CM was held on 19 May 2026 and presided over by *Dr. Pornthep Sritanatorn*, Inspector General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand. The Council unanimously elected the Council Director for Thailand, *Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert*, as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2026–2027, succeeding the Council Director for Singapore, *Mr. Leong Der Yao*, who served as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2025–2026.
3. The year 2025 was consequential for SEAFDEC with multiple programs and projects that address emerging fisheries-related issues confronting the region, such as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, climate change, marine pollution, and gender equality, among others. In recognition of SEAFDEC’s achievements, the Council approved the proposed programs of activities for 2026, which ensure effective implementation that corresponds to the priorities and needs of the countries in the Southeast Asian region.
4. The Council reaffirmed that combating IUU fishing remains among the top priorities. Notable advancements include strengthened monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS), improved traceability systems, and enhanced capacity for port State measures implementation. Building on ongoing initiatives, the Council also noted the continued development of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database, which supports more effective monitoring of smaller-sized fishing vessels. Progress was further recognized in addressing transshipment at sea, including the identification of key challenges, future directions, and capacity-building needs.
5. The Council noted the successful completion of the project “Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia,” including the outcomes of the regional symposium, which highlighted key messages and recommendations for future actions to address ALDFG. The formulation of the draft “Technical Guidelines to Assess, Prevent, and Remove Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in the Southeast Asian region,” expected to be submitted to the SEAFDEC Council at its 59th Meeting in 2027, is one of the impactful policy papers being developed.
6. Recognizing the importance of hydroacoustic-based stock assessment, the Council took note of the progress of the fisheries acoustic survey for pelagic fish stock assessment along the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia and the Future Plan for the Transfer of Hydroacoustic-based Stock Assessment Technology to the SEAFDEC Member Countries. In this connection, the Council supported the relevant SEAFDEC Departments in continuing the regional implementation and development of fisheries acoustic technologies.
7. The Council acknowledged the outcomes of the 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP20) to CITES, and reaffirmed the important roles of SEAFDEC in supporting the Member Countries in utilizing scientific evidence and developing common/coordinated positions in response to proposals for listing commercially exploited aquatic species (CEAS) in the CITES Appendices. The Council also noted the progress of a new project, “Toward Science-Based Stock Assessment and Management of CEAS,” to strengthen the scientific basis for the management of sharks and anguillid eels in Southeast Asia, and acknowledged the preparation of the joint SEAFDEC–CITES Regional Workshop on Introduction from the Sea (IFS), scheduled in August 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand.
8. Coming into fruition this year is the “SEAFDEC Database on Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia,” which is now accessible to the public at <https://fisherystatistics.seafdec.org/>. The Council congratulated SEAFDEC for its successful development, which is in line with the Regional Framework for Fishery



Statistics of Southeast Asia (2024 Edition). The Council also noted the outline of the publication of the “Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2027,” which is expected to be launched at the 59th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2027.

9. The Council appreciated the cooperation and collaboration between SEAFDEC and other regional/international agencies/organizations and donors, particularly the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region (INFOFISH), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Network for Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), the World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US), and the U.S. Government, among others, in undertaking activities toward sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region.

10. Some of the breakthroughs in marine research were achieved in 2025 through the M.V. SEAFDEC 2, a research vessel stalwart which was granted by the Government of Japan to SEAFDEC in 2004, for biomass and oceanographic survey using hydroacoustic equipment on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia, and for the marine debris and microplastic survey in the Gulf of Thailand. For 2026, the Council approved its use for the conduct of fishery resource and environmental surveys in Brunei Darussalam and Myanmar waters.

11. In 2027, SEAFDEC will hit a milestone 60th year since its establishment in 1967. With the Council’s support, the organization will mark the occasion with a special Anniversary Event, to be co-hosted by the Government of Thailand and scheduled for 19 August 2027 at the Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at CentralWorld in Bangkok, Thailand.

12. The 58CM was successfully concluded, with the Council noting the progress and achievements of SEAFDEC’s programs and projects in 2025 and approving the proposed programs of activities for 2026. The Council encouraged SEAFDEC to effectively implement programs and projects that are responsive to the priorities and needs of Member Countries. The 58CM further underscored the continued commitment of Member Countries to work closely with SEAFDEC and collaborate with partner organizations to enhance the sustainable contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security, economic development, and the well-being of people in the Southeast Asian region.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Lukhana Booksongsrikul, Senior Expert on Fisheries Foreign Affairs, Department of Fisheries, Thailand (thaidoffifad01@gmail.com)

Ms. Nualanong Tongdee, Information Program Coordinator, SEAFDEC Secretariat (nual@seafdec.org)

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE HOST COUNTRY

By Mr. Akhane Phomsouvanh
Deputy Director-General and SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR

The Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council,
Distinguished Council Directors,
delegates from Member Countries,
SEAFDEC Secretary-General and senior officials.

Good afternoon

I feel honored and privileged to get the opportunity to propose a vote of thanks on this special occasion. On behalf of the SEAFDEC Council Directors and representatives from collaborating partners attending this Meeting, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Department of Fisheries of Thailand for hosting this important Meeting with warm hospitality. In particular, we would also like to congratulate the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, *Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert*, for successfully conduct the meeting. Under your leadership, our discussions have been productive and meaningful.

I am also like to express my appreciation to all Member Countries that were able to come up with policy guidance for SEAFDEC to consider in planning its future activities. Our collective engagement and cooperation continue to strengthen fisheries development and regional collaboration in our region.

Moreover, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the SEAFDEC and the officers from the Department of Fisheries of Thailand for their hard work and dedication, both behind the scenes and throughout the Meeting, in ensuring smooth coordination, excellent preparation, and continuous support during our stay in Thailand, making this event both successful and memorable. Let us give a big round of applause to all of you.

In addition to the fruitful Meeting sessions, we truly enjoyed the excursion to Wat Phra Kaew, and we are looking forward to the visit to the SEAFDEC Training Department this evening. Please accept our sincere appreciation for these memorable arrangements.

Last but not least, I wish everyone an enjoyable stay in Bangkok and a safe journey back to your respective countries.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

CLOSING REMARKS

By Mr. Prathet Sorrak

On behalf of *Dr. Thitiporn Laoprasert*, Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, Thailand

Distinguished Council Directors,
SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, and senior officials of SEAFDEC,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the conclusion of our meeting, we have received valuable insights and suggestions to support SEAFDEC in continuing its roles in enhancing the sustainable use of fisheries resources and promoting responsible fishing practices in the region.

Please allow me, on my own behalf, as well as on behalf of the Council Director for Thailand and the Government of Thailand, to extend my sincere appreciation to all SEAFDEC Council Directors for your constructive engagement, cooperation, and continued support, which have greatly contributed to the successful outcomes of this Meeting.

Approaching the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of SEAFDEC in 2027, this will mark a significant milestone, reflecting six decades of its achievements to the region. Thailand is pleased to co-host and welcome all Member Countries to join in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of SEAFDEC next year. This occasion will reaffirm the enduring importance of SEAFDEC in supporting fisheries development in the region and in contributing to the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

In light of ongoing global challenges, the fisheries sector plays an increasingly critical role in supporting fishers, sustaining the fishing industry, and enhancing food security and livelihoods across the region. Let us therefore continue our work with even stronger collaboration and shared commitment.

On behalf of the Council, I further wish to express our deep appreciation to the Madam Secretary-General, as well as the staff of the Secretariat and the Departments, for their arrangements and efforts in preparation and the support for my roles as Chairperson of the Meeting.

I would also like to sincerely thank my colleagues from the Department of Fisheries of Thailand for their dedication and hard work in ensuring the smooth conduct of the Meeting and a memorable and pleasant stay for you all, in Bangkok.

Last but not least, I wish you all a safe journey back to your home countries, and I hope you will carry with you fond memories of the Land of Smiles. I look forward to meeting you again in the near future.

With these remarks, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to declare the Fifty-eighth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council officially closed.

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

What is SEAFDEC?

SEAFDEC is an autonomous intergovernmental body established as a regional treaty organization in 1967 to promote sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia. SEAFDEC currently comprises 11 Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Vision

Sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region

Mission

To promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia through:

- i. Research and development in fisheries, aquaculture, post harvest, processing, marketing of fish and fishery products, socio-economics, and the ecosystem to provide reliable scientific data and information.
- ii. Formulation and provision of policy guidelines based on the available scientific data and information, local knowledge, regional consultations and prevailing international measures.
- iii. Technology transfer and capacity building to enhance the capacity of Member Countries in the application of technologies, and implementation of fisheries policies and management tools for the sustainable utilization of fishery resources and aquaculture.
- iv. Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the regional fisheries policies and management frameworks adopted under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism, and the emerging international fisheries-related issues including their impacts on fisheries, food security and socio-economics of the region.



Secretariat



TD



MFRD



AQD



MFRDMD



IFRDMD

SEAFDEC Addresses

Secretariat

P.O. Box 1046
Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903
Thailand
Tel: (66-2)940-6326
Fax: (66-2)940-6336
E-mail: secretariat@seafdec.org
<http://www.seafdec.org>

Training Department (TD)

Phrasamutchedi
Samut Prakan 10290
Thailand
Tel: (66-2)425-6100
Fax: (66-2)425-6110 to 11
E-mail: td@seafdec.org
<http://www.seafdec.or.th>

Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD)

Singapore Food Agency
52, Jurong Gateway Road,
#14-01 Singapore 608550
Tel: (65)9046-4787
Fax: (65)6334-1831
E-mail: tan_yit_wee@sfa.gov.sg
<http://www.seafdec.org/mfrd>

Aquaculture Department (AQD)

Main Office: Buyu-an, Tigbauan,
5021 Iloilo, Philippines
Tel: +63 33 330 7000, 511 9170
Fax: +63 33 330 7002
Manila Office: Rm 102 G/F
Philippine Social Science Center (PSSC)
Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City 1101 Philippines
Tel & Fax: (63-2) 927-7825
E-mail: aqdchief@seafdec.org.ph
<http://www.seafdec.org.ph>

Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD)

Taman Perikanan Chendering,
21080 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
Tel: (609) 617-5940, 617-1543
Fax: (609) 617-5136, 617-4042
E-mail: mfrdmd@seafdec.org.my
<http://www.seafdec.org.my>

Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)

Jl. Gub. HA. Bastari No.08
Rt.29 Rw.07 Kel. Silaberanti Kec.
Seberang Ulu I - Jakabaring - Palembang
30252, Sumatera Selatan, Indonesia
Tel: +62 711 5649600
Fax: +62 711 5649601
E-mail: chief@seafdec.id
<http://www.seafdec.id>



The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an intergovernmental organization established in December 1967 for the purpose of promoting sustainable fisheries development in the region. SEAFDEC membership is open to all Southeast Asian Countries. The Member Countries at present are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Representing the Member Countries is the Council of Directors, the policy-making body of SEAFDEC. The chief administrator of SEAFDEC is the Secretary-General whose office, the Secretariat is based in Bangkok, Thailand.

SEAFDEC undertakes research on appropriate fishery technologies, trains fisheries technicians, and disseminates fisheries information. Five Technical Departments were established to pursue the objectives of the Center:

- The **Training Department (TD)** in Samut Prakan, Thailand, established in 1968 for marine capture fisheries development;
- The **Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD)** in Singapore, established in 1969 for fishery post-harvest technology;
- The **Aquaculture Department (AQD)** in Iloilo, the Philippines, established in 1973 for aquaculture research and development;
- The **Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD)** in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia, established in 1992 for the development and management of the marine fishery resources in the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of SEAFDEC Member Countries; and
- The **Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)** in Palembang, Indonesia, established in 2014 for the sustainable development and management of the inland capture fisheries for the region.