

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

23 and 25 May 2022
(Virtual Meeting)



THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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

23 and 25 May 2022

(Virtual Meeting)



**THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

Report of the Fifty-fourth 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. (2022). *Report of the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center*. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Bangkok, Thailand. 133 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 2022

CONTENTS

	Paragraph No.
INTRODUCTION	1–2
I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS	
1.1 Opening of the Meeting	3
1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2022–2023	4
1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting	5
II. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL	6–12
III. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SEAFDEC PROGRAM COMMITTEE ON THE RESULTS OF THE FORTY-FOURTH MEETING	13–18
IV. NOTE OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE GROUP (FCG) OF THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (ASSP) ON THE RESULTS OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING	19–22
V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES	
5.1 Implementation of Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing	23–35
5.2 The Nineteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	36–40
5.3 Fisheries Subsidies	41–43
5.4 Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act	44–48
VI. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS	49–51
VII. OTHER MATTERS	
7.1 Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030	52–55
7.2 The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022	56–58
7.3 Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries	59
7.4 Shifting from Printed to Electronic Format of SEAFDEC Publications	60–69
7.5 Japan’s Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) under the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants	70–71
VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL	72
IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER	
9.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels	73–76
9.2 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations	77
9.3 Institutional Capacity Development Program	78
9.4 Updates on JTF Budget Request Process in Japan and Needs of SEAFDEC Member Countries Cooperation	79–80
9.5 Modification of the Organizational Structure of SEAFDEC Training Department	81–82

	Paragraph No.
X. FINANCIAL MATTERS	
10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2020	83–84
10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2021, and Status of the Financial Situation in the Year 2022	85
10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2023	86–87
10.4 Other Financial Matters	88
XI. CONCLUDING MATTERS	
11.1 Adoption of the Report and Press Statement	89
11.2 Date and Venue of the Fifty-fifth Meeting of the Council	90
XII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING	91

ANNEXES

Annex		Page
1.	List of Participants	13
2.	Opening Remarks by <i>Mrs. Vilayphone Vorraphim</i> , Director-General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries and the SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR	25
3.	Remarks by <i>Haji Mohd Sufian bin Sulaiman</i> , Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2022–2023	27
4.	Agenda	29
5.	Executive Summary of the Forty-fourth Meeting of the Program Committee	31
6.	Executive Summary of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)	41
7.	Implementation of Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing	45
8.	The Nineteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	49
9.	Fisheries Subsidies	61
10.	Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act	63
11.	Statement by <i>Ms. Juniper Neill</i> , Deputy Mission Director, the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA)	67
12.	Statement by <i>Mr. Aaron McNevin</i> , Global Network Lead, Aquaculture, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	69
13.	Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Toward 2030	71
14.	Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022	87
15.	Study on Impacts of COVID–19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries	89
16.	Shifting from Printed to Electronic Format of SEAFDEC Publications	91
17.	Japan’s Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Under the Act on Ensuing the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants	93
18.	Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels	95
19.	Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations	99
20.	Institutional Capacity Development Program	105

Annex		Page
21.	Modification of the Organizational Structure of SEAFDEC Training Department	107
22.	SEAFDEC Audited Abridged Consolidated Financial Statements as at December 31, 2020 and 2019	113
23.	SEAFDEC Consolidated Statements of Net Assets as at December 31, 2021 and Status of the Financial Situation in the Year 2020	119
24.	Proposed Budgetary Requirement of the Center for the Year 2022	127
25.	Press Statement	131
26.	Closing Remarks by <i>Haji Mohd Sufian Bin Sulaiman</i> , Director General of Department of Fisheries Malaysia, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the year 2022–2023	133

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

(23 and 25 May 2022)

(Virtual Meeting)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifty-fourth Meeting of the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was conducted through the virtual platform on 23 and 25 May 2022.
2. The Meeting was attended by the Council Directors for Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam together with their respective delegations. The Meeting was also attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments as well as representatives from the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). The list of participants appears in **Annex 1**.

I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Opening of the Meeting

3. The Director-General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries and the SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR, *Mrs. Vilayphone Vorraphim*, in her capacity as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2021–2022 welcomed the participants to the virtual Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. She expressed her appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for coordinating with the SEAFDEC Secretariat in making arrangements for this Meeting despite the COVID-19 situation. Recalling that 2022 is the International Year for Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA), she highlighted the importance of aquatic resources in Lao PDR, especially in the Mekong River and its tributaries that provided inputs to the livelihood of people engaged in small-scale fisheries. She then commended the activities undertaken by SEAFDEC, especially on the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM), co-management, and gender equality in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. While expressing her gratitude to other SEAFDEC Council Directors as well as the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments for the support for her during the term of her chairpersonship, she encouraged the SEAFDEC Council Directors to also continue their support to SEAFDEC in the years ahead towards the sustainability of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, and declared the Meeting open. Her Remarks appears in **Annex 2**.

1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2022–2023

4. The Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia and SEAFDEC Council Director for Malaysia, *Mr. Haji Mohd Sufian bin Sulaiman*, was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2022–2023, in accordance with Article 5, Paragraph 4 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC. At the onset, he expressed his appreciation to the Council Director for Lao PDR for the excellent chairpersonship during the year 2021–2022, and commended SEAFDEC for its several achievements in 2021 despite the COVID-19 situation. Specifically, he expressed his gratitude to SEAFDEC for coming up with results from the Study on Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and the publication Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022. He then reiterated the need for the Member Countries to continue addressing persistent issues that threaten valuable resources through regional efforts by building upon current initiatives, *e.g.* ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing, ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme, fisheries subsidies negotiation at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference in June 2022, goals and targets under the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, marine debris and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gears (ALDFG), and climate change and its impacts on fisheries and aquaculture, with support from relevant organizations and collaborating partners. While expressing his gratitude to all the

Council Directors for selecting him as the Chair of the SEAFDEC Council for 2022–2023, he encouraged the Council to discuss and exchange views in order to come up with effective results from the Meeting. His Remarks appears in **Annex 3**.

1.3 Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Meeting

5. The Council adopted the Agenda of the Meeting, which appears in **Annex 4**.

II. REPORT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL

6. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, expressed her appreciation to the Council Director for Lao PDR, *Mrs. Vilayphone Vorraphim*, for serving as the Chairperson of the Council during 2021–2022 and for her efforts in guiding SEAFDEC towards the implementation of programs. She also congratulated the Council Director for Malaysia, *Mr. Haji Mohd Sufian bin Sulaiman*, for having been elected as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2022–2023.

7. After taking note of the progress of work undertaken by SEAFDEC as summarized in the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2021 presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, the Council Directors provided suggestions for improving the future works of SEAFDEC.

8. While expressing appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing programs of activities and its achievements in 2021, the Council Director for Indonesia encouraged SEAFDEC to gradually conduct in-person meetings starting from 2022 and onward once the COVID-19 situation has improved. He then approved the draft SEAFDEC Annual Report 2021 for publication and dissemination.

9. The Council Director for the Philippines commended SEAFDEC for its efforts in implementing the programs of activities in 2021, especially through its Aquaculture Department in collaboration with agencies under the Government of the Philippines, *i.e.* Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI), and other government agencies on fry sufficiency, development of cost-efficient feeds, operation on the revival of black tiger prawn, accelerated techno-transfer, and human resources development. For other SEAFDEC projects, she expressed support for the extension of the eel project.

10. The Council Director for Myanmar congratulated SEAFDEC for the progress made through its programs of activities in 2021 in line with the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC: Vision, Mission, and Strategies Towards 2030. He suggested that SEAFDEC should consider the reactivation of the program of activities on the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) and the allocation of sustainable financial resources for this program.

11. While congratulating the Council Director for Malaysia for being elected as the Chairperson of SEAFDEC in 2022–2023, the Council Director for Thailand commended SEAFDEC for the implementation of activities in 2021 and encouraged SEAFDEC to continue the activities on the assessment of fishery resources, management of marine animal shelters and habitats, inspection at port of imported aquatic animals and fishery products including the regional response to the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and projects toward development of sustainable fisheries. He also requested the Member Countries to suggest ways and means to improve the implementation of SEAFDEC activities which had been previously scrutinized by the Forty-fourth Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC (44PCM) and Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (24FCG/ASSP) and requested the other Member Countries to share information that would benefit the region in the context of fisheries regulation and fish trade. Finally, he approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2021 for publication.

12. After providing their views and comments on the activities of SEAFDEC, the Council approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2021 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-FOURTH MEETING

13. The Council took note of the results of the Forty-fourth Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC (**Annex 5**) which was held from 15 to 17 November 2021 through a virtual platform, as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Program Committee. The Council also provided comments and suggestions for the improvement of the future programs of activities of SEAFDEC.

14. In response to the query of the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council regarding the status of transferring the responsibility to key in the data by the respective ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database, the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the Council that capacity-building activities were conducted for the AMSs to upload data to the RFVR Database.

15. The Council Director for the Philippines informed the Council that regarding the Project “Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice,” the Philippines supported the experiment on positioning system and vessel monitoring system which could be applied for fishing gear marking for small-scale fisheries. For the project “Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia,” she informed the Council that despite the COVID-19 situation, the project is ongoing and will be completed in January 2023. For the project “Fisheries Resource Survey and Operational Plan for the M.V. SEAFDEC 2,” the Council was informed that the NFRDI and SEAFDEC had dialogues to develop the survey plan in the Philippines waters, which includes hydro-acoustic survey and fishing method and fishing ground assessments. The activities were proposed to be conducted in September 2022 after the permit is granted by the Philippine authorities. Lastly, she supported the recommendation made by 44PCM for SEAFDEC to conduct capacity-building activities on the analysis of data collected using SIMRAD EK-80.

16. While expressing the view that all activities should be conducted based on mutual benefit to all the Member Countries, the Council Director for Indonesia approved the implemented programs in 2021 and the proposed programs in 2022 as scrutinized by the 44PCM.

17. The Council Director for Malaysia suggested that SEAFDEC should consider conducting in-person meetings once the COVID-19 situation has improved and international travel is allowed.

18. After the discussion, the Council endorsed the progress of the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2021 and approved the proposed programs for 2022, as well as the recommendations of the 44PCM. The Council then requested SEAFDEC to consider incorporating the recommendations of the Council at this Meeting in 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-FOURTH MEETING

19. The Council noted the results and recommendations of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership which was held from 24 to 25 November 2021 *via* the virtual platform (**Annex 6**) as presented by the Alternate Council Director for Cambodia, *Mr. Buoy Roitana*, on behalf of the ASEAN Co-chair for the 24FCG/ASSP.

20. While noting the results and recommendations of the 24FCG/ASSP, the Council Director for the Philippines informed the Council of the ongoing support of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to the Philippines in the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and that the Philippines is collaborating with FAO in providing data to the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record).

21. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for providing technical support on the policy matters and other issues that are crucial for the AMSs to ensure sustainable fisheries management and development. He emphasized that the RFVR Database, ASEAN Catch Documentation

Scheme (ACDS), and regional cooperation for the implementation of the port State measures (PSM) are fundamental for the AMSs to implement the requirements for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Moreover, he requested SEAFDEC to support the AMSs in the implementation of relevant projects in collaboration with the ASEAN and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025.

22. While supporting the results and recommendations of the 24FCG/ASSP and noting that this would be reported to the 30th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries in 2022, 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 Implementation of Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing

23. The Council took note of the progress made by SEAFDEC in the Implementation of Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing (**Annex 7**) as presented by the representative from TD. These include the ongoing regional initiatives on the RFVR Database, regional cooperation to support the implementation of PSM, and development and promotion of the electronic ACDS (eACDS).

24. While expressing her concern that IUU fishing is a serious issue, the Council Director for Japan supported the implementation of the regional management initiatives by SEAFDEC on combating IUU fishing. She encouraged SEAFDEC to continue its effort to implement other projects relevant to combating IUU fishing such as the upcoming ASEAN-JICA project “Capacity Building on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia.”

25. The Council Director for Malaysia expressed gratitude to TD for the continued effort in the implementation of regional initiatives and tools for combating IUU fishing and took note of the progress of the RFVR Database, eACDS, and other relevant activities. He also suggested that SEAFDEC should continue providing technical assistance, especially on the implementation of the eACDS.

Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)

26. The Council noted that the respective AMSs are responsible for the data key-in and updating of information in the RFVR Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over.

27. The Council for the Philippines informed the Council of the progress made by the Philippines including the approval of the Fisheries Administrative Order No. 267 on PSMA, development of the Philippine IUU Fishing Index and Threat Assessment Tool (I-FIT) in collaboration with the USAID-Fish Right, operationalization of the Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System (IMEMS), and adoption of the eCDTS in all BFAR regional offices.

28. While noting the progress on the regional management initiatives to combat IUU fishing made by SEAFDEC, the Council Director for Thailand informed the Meeting that Thailand, as the host country of the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU), encouraged the AN-IUU member countries to support the implementation of the AN-IUU which is a complementary work with the RPOA-IUU, as well as to utilize the AN-IUU platform for sharing information to combat IUU fishing in the region.

29. With regard to the RFVR Database, the Council Director for Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC should explore the possibility of establishing a linkage among the RFVR Database, Global Record, and AN-IUU platform for a more efficient effort in combating IUU fishing which would be more effective and beneficial to the AMSs.

30. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed appreciation to TD for organizing the Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Fishing Vessel Record for Combating IUU fishing in September 2021 which enabled Myanmar to key in the data and update information on the fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over and carrier vessels licensed in the 2020–2021 fishing season in the RFVR

Database. Besides, he added that the list of fishing vessels for 2021–2022 will be updated soon. He also expressed the commitment of Myanmar to update the fishing vessels list every year.

31. The Council Director for Indonesia took note of the key in of data into the RFVR Database and proposed that TD should continue its support to the AMSs when capacity-building activities are needed. He also informed the Council that Indonesia would update the RFVR Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over and make adjustments on some criteria appropriate at the national level.

Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS)

32. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed appreciation to TD for organizing the in-person training in 2019–2020 and a number of online training in 2021 on the use of the web-based eACDS application to issue catch documentation for marine fisheries in Myanmar. He informed the Meeting that the testing will be initiated in selected jetties in the Yangon region.

33. The Council Director for Indonesia noted the progress made by TD on the eACDS and informed the Meeting that Indonesia has implemented the eACDS elements through the Sertifika Hasil Tangkapan Ikan/Catch Certification (SHTI) for tuna fisheries and would continue to develop and upgrade the SHTI from paper-based to electronic reporting

Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of PSM

34. The Council Director for Myanmar thanked TD for organizing the Online Regional Training on the Port State Measures Implementation for Inspectors in Southeast Asia which was participated by the officers from Myanmar. He also informed the Council that at present, under the PSMA provisions, Myanmar has been cooperating with the DOF Thailand to control the fishing vessels engaged in illegal fishing. Moreover, Myanmar is willing to cooperate with the other Member Countries in combating IUU fishing.

35. The Council Director for Indonesia informed the Council of the progress made by Indonesia on the fundamentals of the PSMA such as the issuance of regulations, nomination focal points, and establishment of designated ports. He added that Indonesia has actively collaborated with relevant agencies both at the national and international levels to combat IUU fishing.

5.2 The 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

36. The Council took note of updated information on commercially-exploited aquatic (CEA) species discussed during the meetings under CITES and Workplan of SEAFDEC activities before the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES-CoP19) which is to be held on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama City (**Annex 8**) as presented by the representative from SEAFDEC Secretariat. Moreover, the Council noted that SEAFDEC is planning to organize in August 2022 the Regional Consultation for Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices.

37. The Council Director for Japan informed the Meeting that several CEA species were listed in CITES Appendices at the recent CITES CoP meetings (*e.g.* shortfin mako shark and tropical sea cucumbers in Appendix II at CITES-CoP18). She underscored that for the sustainable use of resources, the stocks of CEA species should be managed by the coastal States and/or Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) which would be a much more effective approach than using CITES provisions. It is also critical that CITES listings should be properly examined based on scientific evidence, and any decisions relating to the listing should consider feasibility and cost-effectiveness. She added that during CITES meetings, Japan always reiterates that CITES should consider the appropriate implementation of existing regulations for listed species in order to contribute to the objectives of the convention rather than keep adding species in CITES Appendices. Furthermore, she informed the Meeting that at CITES-CoP19 in November 2022, the EU will propose listing hammerhead shark and redfish (sea cucumber) in Appendix II. Furthermore, the listing of other CEA species (*e.g.* sharks, rays, sea cucumbers, eels, and precious corals) is likely to be

proposed. Japan, therefore, looked forward to collaborating with the other Member Countries on CITES-related issues.

38. While taking note of the updated information on CEA species, the Council Director for Thailand informed the Council that Thailand is proposing to transfer the Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*) from Appendix I to Appendix II at the CITES-CoP19. Thailand is currently drafting a Concept Note and will send it to SEAFDEC and other Member Countries for consideration and support. Furthermore, he expressed gratitude and support for SEAFDEC in conducting the Regional Technical Consultation in August 2022.

39. The Council Director for Indonesia took note of the updates on SEAFDEC program of activities regarding CITES and informed the Meeting of the initiatives of Indonesia on the conservation of whale sharks. He mentioned that Indonesia had developed the National Plan of Action (NPOA) for Whale Shark Conservation 2021–2025. He also added that since 2014, the entire life cycle and/or body parts of two species of manta rays (*Manta birostris* and *M. alfredi*) are fully protected under the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries Regulation No. 4 of 2014.

40. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for conducting the eel fishery/aquaculture statistics survey in Myanmar under the project “Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia.” He informed the Meeting that Myanmar would submit the report of the survey on time and collaborate with SEAFDEC to develop the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common positions for the CITES-CoP19. He also requested SEAFDEC to continue providing technical support and sharing knowledge among the Member Countries about the trading procedures of CITES-listed aquatic species.

5.3 Fisheries Subsidies

41. The Council took note of the updated information on the ongoing discussion on Fisheries Subsidies (**Annex 9**) under the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO) which started in 2001. Additionally, the Council noted the results of the Webinar on WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text (Negotiation Group on Rules) in June 2021 and the conduct of Training Workshop on Stock Assessment in Support to the Implementation of the International Commitments for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia in December 2021. Moreover, SEAFDEC is planning to conduct the Second Training Workshop on 30 May–7 June 2022.

42. The Council Director for Thailand expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for organizing the Training Workshop in December 2021 with support from the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) which enhanced the knowledge and understanding of the Member Countries of aquatic animal stock assessment and enabled the respective countries to obtain better information on the stock status.

43. While noting the conduct of the Training Workshop in December 2021, the Council Director for Myanmar expressed support for the conduct of the Second Training Workshop in June 2022 and seek the possibility for SEAFDEC to extend an invitation to Myanmar.

5.4 Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act

44. The Council took note of the results of the Webinar on the Regional Responses to the Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (**Annex 10**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. The Council also noted that SEAFDEC would further submit the results of the Webinar to the ASEAN mechanism.

45. With the reference to the outcomes of the 24FCG/ASSP, the Council Director for Thailand requested SEAFDEC to consult with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the implementation of pilot projects initiated by the DOF Thailand, namely: 1) improving the efficiency of aquatic animal traceability to deal with the U.S. MMPA, and 2) improving the knowledge of fisheries officers of determining the cause of death of marine mammals to improve the compliance of the AMSs with

the U.S. MMPA. In response, the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the Council that SEAFDEC would coordinate with NOAA on this matter.

46. The Council Director for the Philippines informed the Meeting of the progress made by the Philippines in response to the U.S. MMPA which includes the list of foreign fisheries (LOFF), ongoing internal consultation with the technical working group on the Fisheries Administrative Orders on LOFF based on NOAA recommendations, expanded coverage of the Fisheries Observer Program (FOP) to cover interactions onboard commercial ring netters/purse seiners in areas with a high incidence of marine mammal bycatch (*i.e.* Western Philippine Sea and Northern Sulu Sea), and in-depth sampling protocols for marine mammals on the training modules in Observer Trainings.

47. While supporting the recommendations during the 24FCG/ASSP to facilitate the sharing of information on preparation for the U.S. MMPA provisions among the Member Countries, the Council Director for Myanmar reiterated the need for capacity-building activities to develop the regulations and mitigation measures to reduce bycatch of marine mammals from capture fisheries in Myanmar waters.

48. While reiterating that the applicability of the U.S. MMPA is basically related to the bilateral process between the respective countries and the U.S. Government, the Council Director for Indonesia supported that the forum to be provided by SEAFDEC could be an opportunity for the Member Countries to exchange information regarding the U.S. MMPA implementation.

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

49. The Deputy Mission Director of the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA), *Ms. Juniper Neill*, expressed her appreciation to SEAFDEC for extending the invitation to the USAID/RDMA to be represented at this Meeting. She informed the Council that the United States has recently released the 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy with the aim to support the safeguarding and sustainable use of the region's vast oceans, and the legal use of resources through enhanced partnerships and cooperation. Since 2021, USAID has extended ongoing support to SEAFDEC through its USAID Sustainable Fish Asia–Local Capacity Development project with components to strengthen human and institutional capacity and enhance public-private partnerships to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud; and this project will be completed in August 2022. The USAID/RDMA is working on the new USAID project “Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support” activity which was launched in November 2021. This Project aims to address IUU fishing and promote sustainable fishing practices in the Indo-Pacific region, and USAID will work closely with regional partners not only SEAFDEC but also other partners such as the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security (CTI-CFF), RFMOs, FAO, and others to synergize efforts. She, therefore, looked forward to the cooperation between USAID and SEAFDEC as well as with the Member Countries to advance the shared objectives for sustainable development, fisheries management, and ocean conservation in the future. Her statement appears in **Annex 11**.

50. The representative from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), *Mr. Aaron McNevin*, expressed his appreciation for the invitation extended by SEAFDEC for WWF to attend this Meeting. He informed the Council of the cooperation between the WWF and SEAFDEC to develop the proposal on Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture for funding support from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The Project aims to foster greater seaweed aquaculture opportunities that deliver ecosystem services and socioeconomic benefits in the Philippines and Viet Nam. After receiving from the GEF the first round of feedback on the proposal, the comments and concerns were addressed and the proposal was resubmitted to GEF for final review and approval. Once the proposal is approved, he looked forward to the cooperation and engagement of SEAFDEC in the implementation of this Project. His Statement appears in **Annex 12**.

51. The Council Director for Malaysia took note of the statements on the areas of mutual interest and cooperation between SEAFDEC and the USAID/RDMA and WWF; and urged SEAFDEC to strengthen its partnership with other relevant regional/international organizations to support the Member Countries in the sustainable development of fisheries and mitigate the diminishing fish stocks in the region. Moreover, he also informed the Meeting of the 11th Symposium on Diseases in Asian Aquaculture (DAA11) which will

be held virtually on 23–26 August 2022 in Sarawak, Malaysia. Focusing on the core aspects of aquatic animal health including current research developments, trends, future of the aquatic animal health industry, among others, he informed the Meeting that the DAA11 will provide a platform for interaction among professionals, academicians, and experts in the fields of aquatic animal health. More information on the Symposium could be found at www.daa11.org.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

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

52. The Council took note of the progress in developing the key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030) (**Annex 13**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

53. While expressing the challenge to carry out the assessment of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030, the Council Director for Thailand suggested that SEAFDEC explore the possibility to outsource this assessment. In response, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat clarified that the process for the monitoring of the RES&POA-2030 has been developed in consultation with the SEAFDEC National Coordinators which includes the development of the key indicators. He also informed the Council that SEAFDEC has consulted the AMSs on the methodology as well as the conduct of trial exercises on the use of such key indicators which are in the trial process by some AMSs. Furthermore, the Regional Workshop for the finalization of the key indicators is planned to be organized on 14–15 June 2022 to discuss the results of the trial exercises and finalize such key indicators.

54. The Council Director for Indonesia reiterated that these key indicators are important for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. He informed the Meeting that Indonesia has already conducted the trial exercise and sent the results of the evaluation using the key indicators to the SEAFDEC Secretariat on 20 May 2022. Moreover, he added that Indonesia will actively participate in the upcoming Regional Workshop and nominated the SEAFDEC National Coordinator to serve as the focal person of the activity.

55. After the discussion, the Council took note of the recommendations made by the countries and approved the SEAFDEC National Coordinators to serve as the focal persons for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 and looked forward to a fruitful discussion at the upcoming Regional Workshop.

7.2 The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022

56. The Council took note of the progress of the publication *The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022* (**Annex 14**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. The Council also noted that the SEASOFIA 2022 has already been publicized and disseminated to the Member Countries and other stakeholders, and is made accessible through the SEAFDEC Institutional Repository.

57. The Council Directors for Thailand and the Philippines acknowledged and congratulated SEAFDEC on the publication of the SEASOFIA 2022 which provides useful information on the status, issues, challenges, and outlook of fisheries and aquaculture in the region.

58. While congratulating SEAFDEC for publishing the SEASOFIA 2022, the Council Director for Indonesia expressed the view that the SEASOFIA produced by SEAFDEC every five years is significant supplementary material to the publication *FAO State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)* produced every two years. He suggested that the SEASOFIA 2022 should be circulated not only to fisheries-related agencies and stakeholders but also to other relevant sectors and the public.

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

59. The Council took note of the progress of the Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries and its Report (**Annex 15**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

7.4 Shifting from Printed to Electronic Format of SEAFDEC Publications

60. The Council was informed of the proposal on Shifting from Printed to Electronic Format of SEAFDEC Publications (**Annex 16**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. Considering the benefits of the electronic format in disseminating publications to wider groups of audiences with lesser time and cost, the Council was requested to consider the possibility that the future publication of the SEAFDEC Newsletter and “Fish for the People” could be produced only in electronic format.

61. While expressing appreciation to SEAFDEC for publishing valuable works through its publications for several decades and noting the proposed shifting from print to electronic format, the Council Director for Lao PDR, however, mentioned that the country still relied on print rather than the electronic format. He, therefore, suggested that SEAFDEC maintain both formats and gradually reduce the number of printed copies as necessary.

62. The Council Director for Japan expressed support for shifting the production of SEAFDEC publications to an electronic format which allows efficient use of budget including the JTF. However, considering the difficulty that could be faced by some countries in accessing the SEAFDEC publications in electronic format, she was of the view that printed publications may be maintained.

63. The Council Director for the Philippines expressed the view that both electronic and printed publications should be produced. She emphasized that printed publications are still necessary for distribution to industries, libraries, and institutions as they are more accessible and useful, especially in remote areas. She, therefore, suggested that the printed SEAFDEC publications should be maintained although the number of copies could be reduced subject to the readiness of the countries in accessing the electronic format.

64. The Council Director for Thailand supported the electronic publication of SEAFDEC publications which will allow interested parties to access them as it is more environment-friendly.

65. In response to the recommendations made by the Council, the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the Meeting that currently the SEAFDEC Secretariat publishes and distributes certain numbers of print copies of publications to the SEAFDEC National Coordinators for dissemination in their respective countries. To adjust the future number of printed copies, the SEAFDEC Secretariat will communicate with the National Coordinators to survey and seek confirmation on the number of printed copies required for each of the publications.

66. Furthermore, the Chief of AQD and the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the Council that currently, the electronic version of publications produced by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments are made accessible through the SEAFDEC Institutional Repositories.

67. While expressing support for electronic publications, the SEAFDEC Council Director for Cambodia expressed the difficulties in accessing publications through the SEAFDEC website and requested SEAFDEC to send the publications directly through e-mail.

68. While noting the suggestion made by the Council Director for Cambodia, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the Council that as a usual practice, the SEAFDEC Secretariat compiles the publications produced by the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments throughout the year and distributes them as an information package during the annual meetings of the SEAFDEC Council for reference and usage by the respective countries.

69. In conclusion, while supporting the production of the electronic format of SEAFDEC publications, the Council suggested that SEAFDEC maintain the printed format but the number of copies should be reduced as required by the Member Countries.

7.5 Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) under the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants

70. The Council approved the proposed Webinar on the Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) under the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants (**Annex 17**) as presented by the Council Director for Japan. In this regard, the Council was informed that the Government of Japan would collaborate with the SEAFDEC Secretariat on the arrangements of the Webinar which is tentatively scheduled for late July or August 2022.

71. While the Council Director for Thailand and the Council Director for Indonesia supported the proposal of Japan to conduct the Webinar on Japan's CDS, the Council Director for Myanmar requested a bilateral discussion with the Fisheries Agency of Japan regarding the preparation of the flag State notification. The Council then expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for supporting the conduct of relevant activities to prevent IUU fishing.

VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL

72. There were no issues proposed by the Council for discussion under this Agenda.

IX. MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER

9.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels

73. The Council noted the Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels (**Annex 18**) as presented by the representative from TD. While taking note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC and the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2021, the Council approved the plan for utilizing the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to conduct fishery resource surveys in Thailand specifically on catch per unit effort and microplastics in the Gulf of Thailand in January 2022 as well as in the Philippines in the Visayan Sea and the Zamboanga-Sulu Peninsula in September 2022.

74. The Council Director for Myanmar reiterated the request made by Myanmar during the 53rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2021 for support from TD to conduct fishery resources surveys along the offshore and inshore Myanmar waters using the M.V. SEAFDEC 2. He informed the Meeting that the Concept Note of the survey has already been developed by the DOF Myanmar in collaboration with TD. He, therefore, requested TD to discuss further with the DOF Myanmar the plan for survey track and period, budget estimation, and resource person allocation; and to conduct the meeting to finalize the cruise order in Myanmar waters. In response, the representative from TD informed the Meeting that TD would coordinate with the DOF Myanmar to finalize the survey plan within 2022.

75. The Council Director for Thailand took note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2021 and approved the proposed plans for the utilization of the research vessels in 2022.

76. The Council Director for Japan expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for its effort to operate the M.V. SEAFDEC and the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and approved the proposed plan for utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the year 2022. In this regard, she encouraged the AMSs and SEAFDEC to consider maximizing the utilization of the two research vessels so that the Government of Japan could continue to support their activities in the future.

9.2 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations

77. The Council took note of the Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations (**Annex 19**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat. Moreover, the Council approved the signing of the "Amendment to LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for the

provision of “Collection of research and datasets from data-poor countries in Southeast Asia related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 and formulation of a Thesaurus for Aquatic Genetic Resources.”

9.3 Institutional Capacity Development Program

78. The Council took note of the progress on the organizational capacity development in the area of compliance, performance, and viability, particularly on administrative, financial, and human resources aspects (**Annex 20**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

9.4 Updates on JTF Budget Request Process in Japan and Needs of SEAFDEC Member Countries Cooperation

79. While highlighting the importance of the role of SEAFDEC in sustainable fisheries development and food security in the region, the Council Director for Japan expressed the support of the Government of Japan through the JTF for SEAFDEC to implement its programs in line with the ASEAN policy framework. She also informed the Meeting that the Government of Japan has already secured the JTF budget of approximately USD 1.8 million for 2023 and will make effort to provide the same amount of the JTF budget in 2024. In this regard, she encouraged the Member Countries to recognize the contribution of the Government of Japan to the fisheries development in the region during international fora such as AMAF, AMAF+3, and other relevant meetings. The cooperation of the Member Countries would be helpful in facilitating the JTF budgetary request.

80. The Council Directors for Thailand and Indonesia expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for the support extended to SEAFDEC and the Member Countries through the JTF.

9.5 Modification of the Organizational Structure of SEAFDEC Training Department

81. The Council took note of the proposed Modification of the Organizational Structure of the SEAFDEC Training Department (**Annex 21**) as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General. After the presentation, the Council approved the new Organizational Structure of the SEAFDEC Training Department.

82. The Council Director for Indonesia reiterated that this change in the organization structure should not incur an additional budget for the Department.

X. FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2020

83. In accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 2 (ii) of the Agreement Establishing the Center, the Council approved the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Center for the year ended 31 December 2020 including that of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and four Departments, namely: TD, AQD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD, for the Year 2020 (**Annex 22**) as audited by the Official Auditor of the Center, *Mr. Phongsakorn Suwannasaksin*, from the P. Polymaths Audit Co., Ltd., Thailand.

84. In response to the inquiry of the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council on the increase in the net assets in 2020, the Official Auditor informed the Council that the increase was from the unspent funds, and most of the assets in 2020 were the money deposited in the bank account and cash on hand.

10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2021, and Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2022

85. The Council took note of the Un-audited Financial Report of SEAFDEC for the Year 2021, and Status of the Financial Situation of SEAFDEC for the Year 2022 which appears in **Annex 23**.

10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2023

86. The Council approved the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for the Year 2023 as shown in **Annex 24**.

87. While agreeing on the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for the year 2023, the Council Director for Thailand informed the Council that the contribution of the Government of Thailand to TD would be subjected to the approval of the Budget Bureau in the year 2023

10.4 Other Financial Matters

88. The AQD Chief informed the Council that AQD is planning to organize the in-person Seminar-Workshop on Aquaculture Development in Southeast Asia (ADSEA) during the last quarter of 2022, if the budget allocation is secured and the COVID-19 situation has improved.

XI. CONCLUDING MATTERS

11.1 Adoption of the Report and Press Statement

89. The SEAFDEC Secretariat consolidated the views and directives of the SEAFDEC Council and adopted the Report of the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council on 25 May 2022. Moreover, the Council also adopted the Press Statement of the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council which appears in **Annex 25**.

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

90. In considering the date and venue of the Fifty-fifth of the Council, the Council Director for Myanmar informed the Council that the Government of Myanmar accepts the responsibility of hosting the next SEAFDEC Council Meeting in Myanmar in 2023 and would communicate with the SEAFDEC Secretariat for the final date and venue of the meeting. Nevertheless, the mode of conducting the meeting would depend on the circumstances at that time.

XII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

91. The Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council expressed appreciation to the Council Directors for their active participation and inputs to the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. He also thanked the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments for the support and successfully conducting the Meeting. With that note, he declared the Meeting closed. His Closing Remarks appears in **Annex 26**.

Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

- Noraini Haji Anggas (Mrs.)**
Director of Fisheries and
SEAFDEC Council Director
- Department of Fisheries
Muara Fisheries Complex, Simpang
287-53 Jalan Peranginan Pantai Serasa
Muara BT1728, Negara
Brunei Darussalam
Tel: +67 3 277 2788
Fax: +67 3 277 1063
E-mail: noraini.anggas@fisheries.gov.bn
- Wanidawati Tamat (Ms.)**
Deputy Director of Fisheries and
SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director and
National Coordinator
- Department of Fisheries
Muara Fisheries Complex, Simpang
287-53 Jalan Peranginan Pantai Serasa
Muara BT1728, Negara
Brunei Darussalam
Tel: +67 3 277 2787
Fax: +67 3 277 1063
E-mail: wanidawati.tamat@fisheries.gov.bn
- Matzaini Haji Juna**
Acting Deputy Director
- Department of Fisheries
Muara Fisheries Complex, Simpang
287-53 Jalan Peranginan Pantai Serasa
Muara BT1728, Negara
Brunei Darussalam
Tel: +67 3 277 0068
Fax: +67 3 277 1063
E-mail: matzaini.juna@fisheries.gov.bn
- Nur Diyana Besar (Ms.)**
Fisheries Officer
- Department of Fisheries
Muara Fisheries Complex, Simpang
287-53 JLN Peranginan Pantai Serasa
Muara BT1728, Negara
Brunei Darussalam
Tel: +67 3 277 0068
Fax: +67 3 277 1063
E-mail: nurdiyana.besar@fisheries.gov.bn

CAMBODIA

- Ing Try**
Deputy Director-General and
SEAFDEC Council Director
- Fisheries Administration (FiA)
#186, Preah Norodom Blvd.
Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkar Mon
Phnom Penh, P.O. Box 582 Cambodia
Tel: +85 5 129 95665
E-mail: ingtry168@gmail.com



Buoy Roitana

Deputy Director-General and
SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director

Fisheries Administration (FiA)
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
#186, Preah Norodom Blvd.
Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamcar Mon
Phnom Penh, P.O. Box 582 Cambodia
Tel: +85 5 125 58090
E-mail: roitana@gmail.com

Dr. Em Puthy

Deputy Director,
Department of Planning, Finance and
International Cooperation and
SEAFDEC National Coordinator

Fisheries Administration (FiA)
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
#186, Preah Norodom Blvd.
Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamcar Mon
Phnom Penh, P.O. Box 582 Cambodia
Tel: +85 5 125 58090
E-mail: emputhy@yahoo.com
drputhy@gmail.com

INDONESIA

I Nyoman Radiarta

Chairman of the Agency for Marine and
Fisheries Research and Human Resources and
SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Gedung Mina Bahari Building III
7th Floor, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 2 135 13300 ext. 6703
Fax: +62 2 135 13287
E-mail: ksbsdms@gmail.com

Agung Tri Prasetyo

Director for Bureau of Public Relations and
Foreign Cooperation, and SEAFDEC National
Coordinator

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Gedung Mina Bahari Building III
7th Floor, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +87 8 828 22237
Fax: +62 2 135 13287
E-mail: at.prasetyo@kkp.go.id
rumahkt5@gmail.com

Hendri Kurniawan

Delegate/Regional Cooperation
Subcoordinator

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Gedung Mina Bahari Building III
7th Floor, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 8 129 5981813
Fax: +62 2 135 13287
E-mail: hendrikur16@gmail.com

Kiestiko Saptasari (Ms.)

Assistant Deputy Director of Cooperation

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Gedung Mina Bahari Building III
7th Floor, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 8 129 5981813
Fax: +62 2 135 13287
E-mail: kiestiko.sari@gmail.com

Sitti Hamdiyah (Ms.)
Deputy Director for Regional and
Multilateral Cooperation

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Gedung Mina Bahari Building III
7th Floor, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 2 135 133300 ext. 6703
Fax: +62 2 135 13287
E-mail: sh.diyah@gmail.com

Alza Rendian
Regional Cooperation Analyst

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Gedung Mina Bahari Building III
7th Floor, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 2 135 133300 ext. 6703
Fax: +62 2 135 13287
E-mail: alzarendian@gmail.com

Ahmad Sofiullah
Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Specialist

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Gedung Mina Bahari Building III
7th Floor, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 2 135 22045
Fax: +62 2 135 22045
E-mail: asofiullah@yahoo.com

Erna Yuniarsih (Mrs.)
Policy Analyst, Dg Aquaculture

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Jl. Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16
Gedung Mina Bahari Building IV
Gambir, Jakarta 10110, Indonesia
Tel: +62 8 121 103509
E-mail: erna.aziez@gmail.com

Ida Bagus Nyoman Suryana
Representative

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Perumahan Pesona Citayem, Jl. Cemara III,
Blok C7, N0. 20, Kel.
Susukan, Bojong Gede, Bogor
Tel: +87 8 759 92342
E-mail: bagus.cing@gmail.com

Iyus Sari Nurhusnah (Mrs.)
Staff

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Perumahan Pesona Citayem, Jl. Cemara III,
Blok C7, N0. 20, Kel.
Susukan, Bojong Gede, Bogor
Tel: +62 8 131 7260540
E-mail: iyussari13@gmail.com

Aulia M Khatami (Ms.)
Staff

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Perumahan Pesona Citayem, Jl. Cemara III,
Blok C7, N0. 20, Kel.
Susukan, Bojong Gede, Bogor
Tel: +81 2 959 81813
E-mail: kerjasama.pds@gmail.com



Muhammad Febrianoer
Sub coordinator for Cooperation

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Perumahan Pesona Citayem, Jl. Cemara III,
Blok C7, N0. 20, Kel.
Susukan, Bojong Gede, Bogor
Tel: +81 2 959 81813
E-mail: mfebrianoer@kkp.go.id

Mardiana Setyaning (Mrs.)
Cooperation subdivision staff of DG
Capture Fisheries

Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF)
Perumahan Pesona Citayem, Jl. Cemara III,
Blok C7, N0. 20, Kel.
Susukan, Bojong Gede, Bogor
Tel: +81 9 329 03175
E-mail: mardiana.setyaning@yahoo.com

JAPAN

Miwako Takase (Ms.)
Councilor and SEAFDEC Council Director

Resources Management Department
Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8907 Japan
Tel: +81 3 350 38971
E-mail: miwako_takase170@maff.go.jp

Shigeki Tachibanada
SEAFDEC National Coordinator

Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8907 Japan
Tel/Fax: +81 3 350 38971
E-mail: shige_tachibanada870@maff.go.jp

Dr. Tomoko Nakazato (Ms.)
Fisheries Officer

Fisheries Agency of Japan
1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 100-8907 Japan
Tel: +81 3 674 42366
E-mail: tomoko_nakazato130@maff.go.jp

LAO PDR

Vilayphone Vorraphim (Mrs.)
Director-General and
SEAFDEC Council Director

Department of Livestock and Fisheries
P.O. Box 6644, Vientiane 01000
Lao PDR
Tel/Fax: +85 6 212 15243
E-mail: vilayphone.dlf15@gmail.com

Dr. Kaviphone Phouthavong
Deputy Director-General and
SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director

Department of Livestock and Fisheries
P.O. Box 6644, Vientiane 01000
Lao PDR
Tel/Fax: +85 6 212 15243
E-mail: kaviphone@gmail.com

Akhane Phomsouvanh
Director,
Division of Fisheries and
SEAFDEC National Coordinator

Department of Livestock and Fisheries
P.O. Box 6644, Vientiane 01000
Lao PDR
Tel/Fax: +85 6 212 17869
E-mail: akhane@live.com

MALAYSIA

Haji Mohd Sufian bin Sulaiman
Director-General and SEAFDEC Council
Director

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 2 Block 4G2, No 30
Persiaran Perdana, Precinct 4
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +60 3 887 04009
Fax: +60 3 888 92460
E-mail: sufsul@dof.gov.my

Mohd Mohtar Mahamud
Deputy Director-General and SEAFDEC
Alternate Council Director

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 2 Block 4G2, No 30
Persiaran Perdana, Precinct 4
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +60 3 887 04007
E-mail: mohd.mohtar@dof.gov.my

Yeo Moi Eim (Ms.)
Director of Planning and Development
Division and SEAFDEC National
Coordinator

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 2 Block 4G2, No 30
Persiaran Perdana, Precinct 4
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +60 3 887 04208
Fax: +60 3 888 91195
E-mail: meyeo@dof.gov.my

Lim Ai Gaik (Ms.)
Head of International Section

Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Level 2 Block 4G2, No 30
Persiaran Perdana, Precinct 4
62628 Putrajaya, Malaysia
Tel: +60 3 887 04210
Fax: +60 3 888 91195
E-mail: aigaik@dof.gov.my

MYANMAR

Wai Lin Maung
Director-General and
SEAFDEC Council Director

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Building No (36), Ministerial Zone
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: +95 9 750 59326
Fax: +95 6 741 8536
E-mail: uwlm.dof@gmail.com
irnp.dof2@gmail.com

Nyunt Win
Director and
SEAFDEC National Coordinator

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Building No (36), Ministerial Zone
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Tel: +95 9 750 59326
Fax: +95 6 741 8536
E-mail: nyuntwin34@gmail.com



PHILIPPINES

- Cheryl Marie Caballero (Ms.)**
Undersecretary for Agri-Industrialization and
for Fisheries and SEAFDEC Council Director
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
3rd Flr. PCA Bldg. Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
Tel: +63 2 892 99597
E-mail: usecdacnc@gmail.com
- Ronnie Romero**
Senior Science Research Specialist and
SEAFDEC National Coordinator
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
3rd Flr. PCA Bldg. Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
Tel/Fax: +63 2 892 94296
E-mail: Ronnie_romero@uri.edu
- Dr. Lilian C. Garcia (Ms.)**
Executive Director
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
3rd Flr. PCA Bldg. Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
Tel/Fax: +63 2 892 94296
E-mail: liliangarcia60@yahoo.com.ph
- Elymi-Ar-J S. Tunacao (Ms.)**
OIC Chief, Inland Fisheries Aquaculture
Division
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
3rd Flr. PCA Bldg. Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
Tel/Fax: +63 2 892 94296
E-mail: etunacao@bfar.da.gov.ph
- Francisco SB Torres, Jr.**
Science Research Specialist II Coordinator
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
3rd Flr. PCA Bldg. Elliptical Road
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
Tel/Fax: +63 2 892 94296
E-mail: torres.franciscojr@gmail.com

SINGAPORE

- Dr. Tan Lee Kim (Ms.)**
Director-General, Food Administration and
Deputy Chief Executive Officer and
SEAFDEC Council Director
Singapore Food Agency
52 Jurong Gateway Road
JEM Office Tower, #14-01
Singapore 608550
Tel: +65 6 805 2949
E-mail: Tan_Lee_Kim@sfa.gov.sg
- Lim Huan Sein**
Director of Aquaculture
Department and SEAFDEC Alternate Council
Director and National Coordinator
Singapore Food Agency
52 Jurong Gateway Road
#14-01, JEM Office
Singapore 608550
Tel: +65 6 805 2939
E-mail: Lim_Huan_Sein@sfa.gov.sg
- Go Li Jia (Ms.)**
Manager
Singapore Food Agency
52 Jurong Gateway Road
JEM Office Tower, #14-01
Singapore 608550
Tel: +65 9 786 1349
E-mail: go_li_jia@sfa.gov.sg

THAILAND

Dr. Thaworn Thanjai
Deputy Director-General and
SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director

Department of Fisheries
50 Phahonyothin Road, Khwaeng Latyao
Kaset Klang, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 562 0557
Fax: +66 2 579 7940
E-mail: ddg.dof.thailand@gmail.com

Choltisak Chawpaknum
Director and SEAFDEC National Coordinator

Fisheries Foreign Affairs Division
Department of Fisheries
50 Phahonyothin Road, Khwaeng Latyao
Kaset Klang, Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 579 5593
Fax: +66 2 579 7940
E-mail: choltisak.dof@gmail.com

VIET NAM

Dr. Tran Dinh Luan
Deputy Director-General of D-fish and
SEAFDEC Council Director

Directorate of Fisheries
MARD of Viet Nam
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Ba-Dinh
Hanoi, Viet Nam
Tel: +84 3 724 5374
E-mail: tdluan.dah@gmail.com

Nguyen Thi Trang Nhung (Ms.)
Deputy Director of Science Technology
and International Cooperation and
SEAFDEC Alternate Council Director and
National Coordinator

Directorate of Fisheries
MARD of Viet Nam
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Ba-Dinh
Hanoi, Viet Nam
Tel: +84 3 724 5374
E-mail: trangnhungicd@gmail.com

Nguyen Thi Hong Nhung (Ms.)
Officer of Science, Technology and
International cooperation Department

Directorate of Fisheries
MARD of Viet Nam
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Ba-Dinh
Hanoi, Viet Nam
Tel: +84 3 724 5374
E-mail: nhung.doa@gmail.com

Nguyen Mai Huong (Ms.)
Fisheries Officer of Department of Science
Technology and International Cooperation

Directorate of Fisheries
MARD of Viet Nam
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Ba-Dinh
Hanoi, Viet Nam
Tel: +84 3 724 5384
E-mail: huongseaprodux@gmail.com

Anh Nguyen Vu Mai (Ms.)
Fisheries Officer of Department of Science
Technology and International Cooperation

Directorate of Fisheries
MARD of Viet Nam
10 Nguyen Cong Hoan, Ba-Dinh
Hanoi, Viet Nam
Tel: +84 3 724 5384
E-mail: nvmaianh@gmail.com



SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SEAFDEC)

The Secretariat

Malinee Smithrithee (Ms.)
Secretary-General and
Chief of Training Department

P.O. Box 1046, Kasetsart Post Office
Bangkok 10903, Thailand
Tel: + 66 2 940 6326
Fax: +66 2 940 6336
E-mail: sg@seafdec.org

Koichi Honda
Deputy Secretary-General and
Deputy Chief of Training Department

E-mail: dsg@seafdec.org

Masanami Izumi
Special Advisor

E-mail: izumi@seafdec.org

Takatsugu Kudoh
Assistance Project Manager for Japanese
Trust Fund

E-mail: atfm@seafdec.org

Dr. Worawit Wanchana
Policy and Program Coordinator

E-mail: worawit@seafdec.org

Nualanong Tongdee (Ms.)
Information Program Coordinator

E-mail: nual@seafdec.org

Angkhanarat Tomyai (Ms.)
Finance Officer of SEAFDEC Secretariat

E-mail: angkhanarat@seafdec.org

Training Department (TD)

Isara Chanrachkij
Project Planning and Management Division
Head

P.O. Box 97, Phrasamutchedi
Samut Prakan 10290, Thailand
Tel: + 66 2 425 6100
Fax: +66 2 425 6110
E-mail: isara@seafdec.org

Suthipong Thanasansakorn
Training and Research Supporting Division
Head

E-mail: suthipong@seafdec.org

Nobphadol Somjit
General Administrative Division Head

E-mail: nobph@seafdec.org

Sukchai Arnupapboon
Research and Development Division Head

E-mail: sukchai@seafdec.org

Kwanruen Vudthipanyo (Ms.)
Accounting and Finance Section Head

E-mail: kwanruen@seafdec.org

Dr. Taweekiet Amornpiyakrit
Special Departmental Coordinator

E-mail: taweekiet@seafdec.org

Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD)

Ong Yihang
Chief

Singapore Food Agency
52 Jurong Gateway Road
#14-01, JEM Office
608550 Singapore
Tel: +65 9 623 0910
E-mail: Ong_Yihang@sfa.gov.sg

Anastasia Eu (Ms.)
Manager

E-mail: anastasia_eu@sfa.gov.sg

Aquaculture Department (AQD)

Dan D. Baliao
Chief

Tigbauan Main Station (TMS)
Brgy Buyu-an, Tigbauan
Iloilo 5021, Philippines
Tel: +63 3 333 07001
E-mail: dbaliao@seafdec.org.ph

Dr. Sayaka Ito
Deputy Chief

E-mail: akasaya@seafdec.org.ph

Joeyl Marie dela Cruz (Ms.)
Special Departmental Coordinator

E-mail: JMdelaCruz@seafdec.org.ph

Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD)

Abd. Haris Hilmi bin Ahmad Arshad
Chief

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

Dr. Masahito Hirota
Deputy Chief

E-mail: hirota@seafdec.org.my

Mazalina Ali (Ms.)
Special Departmental Coordinator

E-mail: mazalina@seafdec.org.my

Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD)

Zulkarnaen Fahmi
Chief

Jl. Gubernur H.A Bastari No.8
Jakabaring, Palembang
Sumatera Selatan 30252
Indonesia
Tel: +62 8 131 8373098
E-mail: chief@seafdec.id
fahmi.p4ksi@kkp.go.id

Tomohito Shimizu
Deputy Chief

E-mail: deputy_Chief@seafdec.id

Dr. Dina Muthmainnah (Ms.)
Special Departmental Coordinator

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



Ni komang Suryati (Ms.)
Staff

E-mail: komangnks16@gmail.com

Freddy Supriyadi
Staff

E-mail: freddy.supriyadi86@gmail.com

Aroef Rais
Staff

E-mail: aroefhr@gmail.com

OFFICIAL AUDITOR

Phongsakorn Suwannasaksin
External Auditor

P. Polymaths Audit Co., Ltd
33/6 Moo 14 Bangna – Trad Rd.
Bangkaew Sub-District, Bang Plee District
Samut Pakarn, Thailand 10540
Tel: +66 8 949 94994
E-mail: polymaths2001@yahoo.com

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Aaron McNevin
Vice President for Aquaculture

Global Network Lead, Aquaculture
World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US)
1250 24th Street NW
Tel: +20 2 495 4623
E-mail: Aaron.McNevin@wwfus.org

Juniper Neill (Ms.)
Deputy Mission Director

U.S. Agency for International Development Mission for
Asia Regional Development (USAID/RDMA)
Athenee Tower, 25th Floor
63 Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
E-mail: jneill@usaid.gov

Brad Arsenault
Supervisory Natural Resources Officer
(Ecosystems Management and Trade Team
Lead)

U.S. Agency for International Development Mission
for Asia Regional Development (USAID/RDMA)
Athenee Tower, 25th Floor
63 Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
E-mail: barsenault@usaid.gov

Araya Poomsaringkarn (Ms.)
Project Management Specialist (Fisheries)

U.S. Agency for International Development Mission
for Asia Regional Development (USAID/RDMA)
Athenee Tower, 25th Floor
63 Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan
Bangkok 10330 Thailand
E-mail: apoomsaringkarn@usaid.gov

TECHNICAL SECRETARIES

Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn (Ms.)
Senior Policy Officer

E-mail: pattaratjit@seafdec.org

Saivason Klinsukhon (Ms.)
Senior Information Officer

E-mail: saivason@seafdec.org

Dr. Shiela Villamor Chumchuen (Ms.)
Technical Writer/Editor

E-mail: shiela@seafdec.org

Sawitree Chamsai (Ms.)
Policy Officer

E-mail: sawitree@seafdec.org

Witsarut Choseng
Program Officer

E-mail: witsarut@seafdec.org

Sunutta Pudtal (Ms.)
Information Office III

E-mail: sunutta@seafdec.org

SECRETARIAT OF THE MEETING

Mokkara Phanchuen
Senior Administrative Officer *a.i*

E-mail: mokkarap@seafdec.org

Satana Duangsawasdi
Information Officer II

E-mail: satana@seafdec.org

Thitapa Karnjanakesorn (Ms.)
Administrative Officer

E-mail: thitapa@seafdec.org

OPENING REMARKS

By Mrs. Vilayphone Vorraphim

*Director-General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries
and SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR*

My Colleagues, the SEAFDEC Council Directors,
Delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries,
SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General,
Officials from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments,
Representatives from international and regional organizations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Sabaidee, a very good morning to you all. I would like to welcome you to the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

First of all, on behalf of the Council Members, I would like to thank the Government of Malaysia for hosting this virtual meeting in collaboration with the SEAFDEC Secretariat. I wish that we could be together in person and I hope that things will get back to normal soon.

In 2021, it was another difficult year for the fisheries sector. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected fisheries and aquaculture, especially the socio-economic aspect. We have been working hard in dealing with an unprecedented situation to address several issues. We continue implementing priority activities to improve the livelihood of fishers and sustain the food supply as well as strive to achieve sustainable utilization and management of our fishery resources.

The year 2022 marks the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture or IYAF2022. I would like to highlight that Lao PDR is rich in natural resources. Our dams, reservoirs, and rivers, especially the Mekong are providing food and livelihoods to the people. I would like to thank SEAFDEC for the continued support not only to Lao PDR but also all the SEAFDEC Member Countries by implementing the programs such as EAFM, co-management, and gender equity to enhance the capacity and livelihood of our small-scale and artisanal fishers. Moreover, SEAFDEC made its effort to promote the potential and diversity of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.

At this juncture, as I am about to relinquish as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all SEAFDEC Council Directors for your cooperation and to the SEAFDEC Secretariat for the support during the year. I would like to assure you again that Lao PDR will continue to do our best to fully support the next Chairperson of the Council for the betterment of our fisheries in the region and SEAFDEC to be able to sustain its programs and activities.

I wish the 54th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council success and look forward to the fruitful discussion. With this note, ladies and gentlemen, I hereby declare the 54th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council open.

Thank you very much and have a good day.

REMARKS

By Haji Mohd Sufian bin Sulaiman

*Director-General of Department of Fisheries Malaysia, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and
Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2022–2023*

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rohim, Assalamualaikum Warahamatullahi Ta'ala Wabarakatuh.

Good morning,

My colleagues, the SEAFDEC Council Directors,

Delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries,

Ms. Malinee Smithrithee, SEAFDEC Secretary-General,

Officials from SEACDEC Secretariat and Departments,

SEAFDEC Collaborative Partners,

Ladies and gentlemen

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for nominating Malaysia as the Chair of the 54th Council Meeting. It is indeed a great honor for me and for Malaysia. As there are still some travel restrictions among Member Countries, Malaysia and the SEAFDEC Secretariat had decided to conduct this Meeting online. As we ease ourselves into endemic status, it is my hope that we would be able to meet each other again physically.

Secondly, on behalf of Malaysia and all Council Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to Lao PDR for the excellent chairmanship through 2021–2022. Although the world is still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, SEAFDEC has managed to achieved various milestones. We are now experts in handling online meetings where we can meet each other at any time without the hassle of travelling. Webinars and online capacity building programs that were organized throughout the pandemic has enabled participation of larger groups thus, far more encompassing compared to physical attendance which would require elaborate logistic arrangements.

Such exceptional work has enabled the fisheries industry to remain robust through this challenging time. One important project that I would like to mention is the Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN SEAFDEC Member Countries. The outcome of this study will provide invaluable insights and lessons learnt on how countries steer through the pandemic especially in the fisheries industry. It was a very wise and prompt decision by SEAFDEC Member Countries and Partners to conduct this study. Equipped with such knowledge, we will be more prepared should we face similar challenges in the future. We should not only build back better but we need to build back more resilient.

Another critical work that SEAFDEC managed to publish is the Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (SEASOFIA 2022). This publication is an important reference material in managing and planning to further advance the industry. As we are all well aware, fish and fisheries product are, and will remain as one of the main sources of animal protein for human kind. In Southeast Asia, we are consuming fish at a regional average per capita of 39.4 kg/person/year as of 2017, which is almost two times that of the world's average per capita consumption of 20.3 kg/person/year. It is therefore crucial for us to continue to work with each other to ensure the region's food security especially fish and fisheries products. Besides food security, the fisheries industry is also important in securing the livelihood of our coastal communities. We, as a region, contributes 21% of world fisheries production and by working together, the fisheries sector would significantly support our economic growth. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon all Council Directors, SEAFDEC Departments, Delegates and Collaborative Partners to look into the recommendations from SEASOFIA 2022. We need to ensure that our Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA 2030) take into considerations these recommendations.

Dear Colleagues, in the spirit of developing a sustainable fisheries industry for us and for our future generations, we need to address persisting issues that threaten our valuable resources. Let us continue to build upon current initiatives which include among others, ASEAN-Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU); ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS);



concluding the Fisheries Subsidies negotiations in the WTO Twelfth Ministerial Conference in June with special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries being an integral part; aim for ambitious goals and targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity's Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in accordance to national circumstances and priorities; address fisheries related marine debris including abandoned, lost, discarded fishing gear (ALDFG); and building knowledge on climate change impacts on fisheries industry and develop innovations to adapt and mitigate impacts from climate change.

As a region regarded as one of the most biodiverse in the world, we need to stand strong and firm in protecting our resources and where appropriate, seek support from international organizations and collaborative partners. We need to highlight our commitments while making known of our shared challenges. This Council Meeting is an excellent platform to discuss common grounds as well as corroborate in strengthening efforts at regional level.

Malaysia is honored and proud to be able to serve the Council as Chairperson and facilitate our work to ensure that it contributes towards achieving the RES&POA 2030. With that, I would like to call the meeting to order and proceed with our Meeting Agenda. I hope that we will have fruitful discussions and exchanges of views.

Thank you.

AGENDA

- Agenda 1: Procedural Matters**
- 1.1 Opening of the Meeting by Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2021–2022
 - 1.2 Election of Chairperson for the Year 2022–2023
 - 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-fourth Meeting**
- 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-fourth Meeting**
- Agenda 5: Policy Consideration on Important Issues**
- 5.1 Implementation of Regional Management Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing
 - 5.2 The 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
 - 5.3 Fisheries Subsidies
 - 5.4 Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (USMMPA)
 - 5.5 Others
- Agenda 6: Cooperation with International/Regional Organizations and Non-member Governments**
- Agenda 7: Other Matters**
- 7.1 Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030
 - 7.2 The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022
 - 7.3 Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
 - 7.4 Shifting from Printed to Electronic Format of SEAFDEC Publications
 - 7.5 Japan’s Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) under the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants
 - 7.6 Others
- Agenda 8: Future Direction Requested by the Council**



Agenda 9: Management of the Center

- 9.1 Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels
- 9.2 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations
- 9.3 Institutional Capacity Development Program
- 9.4 Updates on JTF Budget Request Process in Japan and Needs of SEAFDEC Member Countries Cooperation
- 9.5 Modification of the Organizational Structure of SEAFDEC Training Department
- 9.6 Others

Agenda 10: Financial Matters

- 10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2020
- 10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2021, and Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2022
- 10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2023
- 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-fifth Meeting of the Council

Agenda 12: Closing of the Meeting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FORTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Forty-fourth Meeting of the Program Committee (44PCM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was organized through a virtual platform on 15–17 November 2021. 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 2021 and scrutinized the programs to be implemented in 2022 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 2021 and those for implementation in 2022 appears in *Appendix 1*.

The 44PCM noted **Programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism**, which comprise sixteen (16) on going projects that have been categorized under the 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; and four (4) new projects that are scheduled to commence in 2022. After the deliberations, the 44PCM approved the implementation of the projects in 2021 and those for implementation in 2022, and provided recommendations which could be summarized as follows:

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

- (1) **Strengthening a Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia**
 - SEAFDEC to consider assisting the pilot implementation of eACDS in Cambodia in 2022
 - SEAFDEC to assist the countries to enhance their capacity in uploading their respective data in the RFVR Database
 - SEAFDEC to consider providing training on inspection of fish importation using other modes of transportation *e.g.* sea in container vessels, land and air transportation
 - SEAFDEC to consider harmonizing the eACDS with existing electronic certification schemes of importing countries such as those of the EU
- (2) **Harmonization and Enhancing Utilization of Fisheries Statistics and Information**
 - SEAFDEC to circulate the draft of SEASOFIA 2022 to all Member Countries for confirmation prior to its publication and dissemination at the forthcoming Council Meeting
 - SEAFDEC to consider building the capacity of the AMSs on species identification and schemes to collect data, not only on statistics but also on CPUE of respective species, a concern which could be addressed through the other relevant projects of SEAFDEC as appropriate
 - SEAFDEC to consider including some information in SEASOFIA 2022 that could be useful to support the development of action plan of the Member Countries, *e.g.* fishery production trend, impacts of COVID-19, future directions, and way forward
- (3) **Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice**
 - TD to indicate timelines for delivering the expected output, *e.g.* application of technologies by the Member Countries that contribute to improved fishery resources, livelihoods, and incomes of fishers
 - TD to extend support to the Member Countries on fishing gear technologies to mitigate the negative impacts of fishing on marine mammals
 - TD to collaborate with Thailand in the conduct of studies and experiments to modify fishing gears and methods commonly used in the region to reduce the impacts on marine mammals



- TD to obtain information from Thailand on the lessons learned from project carried out in Thailand on gear marking, *e.g.* testing of different types of gillnet markers, which could be useful in supporting the activities to enhance the capacity of the other Member Countries
 - SEAFDEC to consider conducting activities that facilitate exchange of knowledge among the countries on MPA requirements
 - TD to share the knowledge and develop long-term plan for reducing the impacts of trawl fishing on the resources and ecosystems
 - TD to facilitate exchange of knowledge on gear marking including the possibility of linking this to the VMS, as well as knowledge on gear modification to mitigate bycatch of marine mammals
 - TD to share the results of experiments conducted by some countries showing that a positioning system could be applied in fishing gear marking
 - TD to discuss with fishing gear experts of the Member Countries on verifying the techniques to reduce bycatch of marine mammals in capture fisheries
- (4) **Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region**
- MFRDMD to follow-up with Thailand its proposal to serve as data collection site for long-term landing data collection of sharks and rays that could be used for estimating the stock and biomass
- (5) **Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region**
- IFRDMD to consider visiting and collecting data from other AMSs after the region has already recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic
 - SEAFDEC to consider possibility of incorporating the aquaculture component in this project, especially hatchery and aquaculture techniques of anguillid eels
 - IFRDMD to continue survey and collection of eel samples in Myanmar in 2022
- (6) **Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia**
- SEAFDEC to expand research activities to focus not only on fishery resources/species but also on other areas, *e.g.* nutrient blooms, underexploited species, mesopelagic species (jellyfish)
 - TD to consult with Myanmar on the plan and cost-sharing details to conduct marine environmental survey in Myanmar, which could be scheduled in 2023
 - SEAFDEC to consider the “Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean” as a reference in the project implementation
 - SEAFDEC to consider come up with a model for the region in managing of marine litter taking into consideration the various guidelines that had already been developed
- (7) **Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region**
- The AMSs were encouraged to submit their inputs to the questionnaire on catch and effort data of three small pelagic species/groups, namely *Rastrelliger kanagurta*, *Rastrelliger brachysoma*, and *Decapterus* spp.
- (8) **Management Scheme of Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**
- IFRDMD to share results and lessons learned from the Special Area for Conservation and Fish *Refugia* (SPEECTRA) system pilot sites in Indonesia to the Member Countries
- (9) **Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources**
- The 44PCM took note of the progress of this project in 2021
- (10) **Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**
- SEAFDEC to include a study on the impacts of collapsible fish traps used by local fishers at the coastal province in Cambodia

(11) Strengthening the Effective Management of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in AMS with GIS and RS Technology

- SEAFDEC to consider selecting the appropriate GIS software that the Member Countries could easily apply
- SEAFDEC to consider utilizing the GIS and RS technologies for the management of inland fisheries including its application on specific types of inland water bodies

(12) Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia

- SEAFDEC to consider conducting field activities and data collection in other Member Countries when the COVID-19 situation has already improved

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) Sustainable Aquaculture through Cost-Effective Culture Systems, and Prompt and Effective Aquatic Animal Health Management

- The 44PCM took note of the progress of this project in 2021

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

(14) Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products

- The 44PCM took note of the progress of this project in 2021

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

- SEAFDEC to consider organizing a training to build the capacity and enhance the knowledge of the legal officers of the Member Countries of international fisheries laws and to improve the prosecution of fisheries violations

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

(15) Assistance for Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues

- SEAFDEC to implement the activity on Regional Capacity Building Network (RECAP) in 2022 with the physical attendance of the representatives from the Member Countries

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

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

- AMSs and SEAFDEC to consider maximizing the utilization of the two vessels (M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2)
- TD to acquire the appropriate software to analyze the data from SIMRAD EK-80 to support resource mapping
- TD requested the support of the Member Countries that have experiences in the analysis of data from SIMRAD EK-80, e.g. Viet Nam, Indonesia, and Thailand, to support the other Member Countries

New Projects

(17) ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia

- SEAFDEC to avoid duplication of activities of this project with another project activities supported by the JTF and should be cooperated with JTF project to enhance the activities such as eACDS and PSM

- (18) **ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project**
- The 44PCM took note of the progress of this project in 2021
- (19) **Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia**
- SEAFDEC to consider conducting studies on marine litter on seabed especially in trawling areas
 - SEAFDEC to consider using the Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean as well as the report and data on microplastics generated from the survey using the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen in 2018 for the conduct of the proposed training
- (20) **Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities: Support to SEAFDEC Member Countries**
- The 44PCM approved the project and activities proposed for 2022

The 44PCM endorsed the progress of the **Departmental Programs** in 2021 which comprise ten (10) programs, six (6) 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; 5) Adapting to Climate Change Impacts; and 6) Collaborative projects with the Philippine Government; three (3) by TD, namely: 1) Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Enhancing Human Capacity Building; 2) Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing; and 3) SEAFDEC Capacity Development through USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Activity; and one (1) by IFRDMD namely: 1) Modernizing Irrigated Agriculture to Protect and Restore Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in South-East Asia. The 44PCM then provided recommendations on these programs which could be summarized as follows:

- 1. Aquaculture Department**
 - The 44PCM noted the progress and achievements of the Departmental programs of AQD
- 2. Training Department**
 - SEAFDEC to consider conducting more capacity building activities on non-technical marine and fisheries issues, *e.g.* gender, marginalized community in fisheries sector
 - TD to consider conducting the training on promoting fishing technology that minimizes bycatch and non-target species in marine as well as inland fisheries
- 3. Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department**
 - IFRDMD to share the achievements of this project to other Member Countries for protecting and restoring aquatic biodiversity and ecosystem services

The 44PCM took note of the activities of the **Other Programs** implemented in 2021 and approved the proposed activities for 2022 which comprise six (6) programs, five (5) of which were implemented by TD, namely: 1) Implementing the Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam; 2) Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries & Aquaculture in Southeast Asia; 3) Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea; 4) Survey to Estimate levels of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Thailand Gillnet and Trap Fisheries; and 5) Fishing Technologies and Operations in Thailand and Options for Innovation and Improvements; and one (1) program would be implemented by AQD on “Seminar-Workshop on Aquaculture Development in Southeast Asia (ADSEA).” The 44PCM then provided recommendations on these programs which could be summarized as follows:

- (1) Implementing the Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam**
 - The 44PCM noted the progress and achievements of this Other Program of TD

- (2) **Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia**
 - The 44PCM noted the progress and achievements of this Other Program of TD
- (3) **Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea**
 - The 44PCM noted the progress and achievements of this Other Program of TD
- (4) **Seminar-Workshop on Aquaculture Development in Southeast Asia (ADSEA)**
 - The ADSEA was postponed in 2021 until it is safe to travel and the face-to-face meeting is possible. The plan to conduct the ADSEA will be revisited in 2022 by the organizing committee
 - SEAFDEC to inform the Member Countries on the requirements for traveling to the countries where the events would be organized. This request would also apply to other projects that plan to conduct the face-to-face events in 2022
- (5) **Survey to Estimate levels of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Thailand Gillnet and Trap Fisheries**
 - TD to consider expanding the activity or sharing the results of the surveys of ALDFG in gillnet and trap fisheries with the other countries
 - Indonesia informed the 44PCM that the country is collaborating with FAO to implement the project on ALDFG, and is currently planning the launching of the activities in 2022
- (6) **Fishing Technologies and Operations in Thailand and Options for Innovation and Improvements**
 - TD to consider expanding the implementation of the project to other provinces in Thailand

The 44PCM also took note of the status of the seven (5) **Pipeline Projects**:

- (1) **Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)**
 - The Project proposal was submitted by FAO to the GEF for funding support with SEAFDEC as one of the executing agencies. The project is now under the project preparatory grant (PPG) phase
- (2) **Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture**
 - The Project proposal was submitted by WWF-US to the GEF for funding support with SEAFDEC as an executing agency. The project is now under PPG phase
- (3) **Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity**
 - The Project proposal has been submitted to the Japan-ASEAN Intregation Fund (JAIF) for funding support
- (4) **Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia**
 - The Project proposal was submitted to JAIF and received positive indication for funding. However, it was decided that the project should be postponed until the COVID-19 pandemic has improved
- (5) **USAID Public International Organization (PIO) Grant Contribution to Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)**
 - SEAFDEC is currently under a co-creation process with the USAID to develop the project proposal for submission to USAID/RDMA for funding support

The 44PCM noted the statements sent to SEAFDEC Secretariat by non-member governments and international/regional organizations, namely: The United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA), and WorldFish.

While taking note of the progress of the Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022, the 44PCM was requested to provide comments for improvement and additional information to be

included in the SEASOFIA 2022 by mid-December 2021. The 44PCM requested SEAFDEC to circulate the draft SEASOFIA 2022 among the Member Countries prior to launching at the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2022.

While noting the progress of the “Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries,” the 44PCM was informed that Cambodia would share results of the national study on impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture supported by FAO under the CaPFISH-Capture programme to be undertaken in 2022.

The 44PCM noted on the JTF budget request process from the Government of Japan and the AMSs was sought the cooperation in promoting the roles and contribution of SEAFDEC to the sustainable fisheries development in the region as well as the significance of the current and future contribution of Japan to the fisheries development in the Southeast Asian region during the international/regional fora such as AMAF, AMAF+3, and related meetings.

Considering the changing operational mode of work *e.g.* online events, work from home, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 44PCM requested SEAFDEC to issue e-certificates for participants/ attendees of the events (*e.g.* training, workshop, etc.) to be organized by SEAFDEC in the future.

The 44PCM adopted the Report of the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee for submission to the 54th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, and to the ASEAN through the 24th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP).

SEAFDEC Programs and Projects for the Year 2021–2022

I. Programs of Activities under FCG/ASSP Mechanism

Ongoing Projects

Strategy/Project Title	Lead Department	2021	2022
Strategy I: Securing the sustainability of fisheries to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region			
1. Strengthening a Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
2. Harmonization and Enhancing Utilization of Fishery Statistics and Information	SEC	Y	Y
3. Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice	TD	Y	Y
4. Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
5. Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	Y	Y
6. Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
7. Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
8. Management Scheme for Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	Y	Y
9. Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources	TD	Y	Y
10. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	TD	Y	Y
11. Strengthening the Effective Management of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in AMS with GIS and RS Technology	TD	Y	Y
12. Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia	SEC	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. Sustainable Aquaculture through Cost-Effective Culture Systems, and Prompt and Effective Aquatic Animal Health Management	AQD	Y	Y
Strategy III: Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region			
14. Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products	MFRD	Y	Y
Strategy IV: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements			
Nil			
Strategy V: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries			
15. Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues	SEC	Y	Y
Strategy VI: Empowering SEAFDEC to strengthen its roles in the region and to improve its services to Member Countries			
16. Fisheries Resource Survey & Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	Y	Y

New Projects

Project Title	Lead Department	Period
1. ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia	TD	2022–2024
2. ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project	SEC	2022–2024
3. Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia	TD	2022–2023
4. Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities: Support to SEAFDEC Member Countries	TD	2022–2026

Pipeline Projects

Project Title	Lead Department	Period
1. Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)	TD	2023–2027
2. Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture	SEC/AQD	2022–2026
3. Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	MFRDMD	2023–2024
4. Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia	AQD	2022
5. USAID Public International Organization (PIO) Grant Contribution to Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)	TD	2022–2026

II. Departmental Programs

Programs/Projects	Lead Departments	2021	2022
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 Social and Economic Challenges in Aquaculture	AQD	Y	Y
5. Adapting to Climate Change Impacts	AQD	Y	Y
6. Collaborative projects with the Philippine Government	AQD	Y	Y
7. Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Enhancing Human Capacity Building	TD	Y	Y
8. Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing	TD	Y	Y
9. SEAFDEC Capacity Development through USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Activity	TD	Y	Y
10. Modernizing Irrigated Agriculture to Protect and Restore Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in South-East Asia	IFRDMD	Y	N

III. Other Programs

Programs Title	Lead Departments	Period
1. Implementing the Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam	TD	2018–2022
2. Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries & Aquaculture in Southeast Asia	TD	2020–2022
3. Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea	TD	2018–2023

Programs Title	Lead Departments	Period
4. Seminar-Workshop on Aquaculture Development in Southeast Asia (ADSEA)	AQD	2022
5. Survey to Estimate Levels of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Thailand Gillnet and Trap Fisheries	TD	2021-Jan 2022
6. Fishing Technologies and Operations in Thailand and Options for Innovation and Improvements	TD	2021

Remarks:

Y = Program implemented during the year

N = Program not implemented during the year

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

1. The Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or the 24FCG/ASSP was organized through a virtual platform from 24 to 25 November 2021, and was co-chaired by the representative from Cambodia as the Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC to discuss the programs implemented in 2021 and endorse the programs proposed for 2022 under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism that had been scrutinized by the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (44PCM). The 24FCG/ASSP also noted the implementation and provided guidance on the policy documents under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism as well as other issues that are important to the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries. The 24FCG/ASSP was attended by the representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments.

2. The 24FCG/ASSP discussed the "Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Fifty-third Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-third Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership". On the Regional Vessels Record (RFVR) Database, SEAFDEC was encouraged to continue providing capacity building to AMSs on uploading the key data elements in the Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over. While expressing appreciation to SEAFDEC in providing the regional platforms to discuss cross-cutting issues, even though the discussion on fisheries subsidies may not come up with common positions, it would still be useful for the Member Countries to share and learn the experiences of other countries. The 24FCG/ASSP noted that the Philippines requested for the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to conduct the biomass survey of sardine resources in selected areas in the Philippines, which would be undertaken in 2022.

3. On the "Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given by the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries during 2021," the 24FCG/ASSP was informed on the results of the discussions of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries, namely: 1) the 29th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (29ASWGF_i); 2) the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 42nd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SSOM-42AMAF); and 3) the 43rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (43AMAF) on the issues and the actions that should be undertaken. Regarding the Feasibility Study of the ASEAN General Fisheries Policy (AGFP), the 24FCG/ASSP suggested that the results of the Study should not suggest development of any new AGFP document but encourage the AMSs to implement the existing ASEAN policies in the fisheries sector. The 24FCG/ASSP requested the ASEAN and SEAFDEC to support the development of regional strategies to facilitate the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), and the establishment of ASEAN common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture.

4. For the "FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2021–2022," the 24FCG/ASSP noted the progress and achievements of the projects implemented by SEAFDEC in 2021, and endorsed the proposed projects and activities for 2022. These include sixteen (16) ongoing projects; and four (4) new projects which would be commenced in 2022, namely: 1) ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia; 2) ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project; 3) Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia; and 4) Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of the Coastal States and Communities. Furthermore, for the pipeline projects, namely: 1) Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture; 2) Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia; and 3) USAID Public International Organization (PIO) Grant Contribution to Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), the 24FCG/ASSP noted that these projects may commence in 2022, and would be placed under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism once the funding could be confirmed.



5. The 24FCG/ASSP noted the “Progress of SEAFDEC-related Activities/Proposals under the ASEAN Fisheries Related Bodies,” as follows:

- Results of the Tenth Meeting of the ASEAN Ad-hoc Steering Committee on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security (AHSCCC-FS), which was held virtually on 29 July 2021
- Results of the 13th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) which was held virtually on 22 June 2021
- Progress of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025:
 - On the Project Proposal on Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Secretariat received a request from SEAFDEC/AQD to postpone the project appraisal and approval process due to the pandemic; and welcomed the inclusion of antimicrobials in the project proposal
 - On the Project Proposal on ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project, the ASEAN had already endorsed the project proposal to the Japanese Mission for approval
 - On the ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia, the project proposal was already approved by the ASEAN and Japan. JICA and the ASEAN are working on the detailed arrangement for the implementation of the project in February 2022 in collaboration with SEAFDEC
 - On the Project Proposal on Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia, the project proposal is currently under the ASEAN project and approval process
- Progress of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
- Results of the 1st Meeting of the ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU), which was held virtually from 21 to 22 December 2020
- Results of the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) which was held online on 21 June 2021

6. With regards to the “Policy Consideration on Important Issues,” the 24FCG/ASSP took note of the implementation of relevant initiatives and provided the following recommendations:

- Combating IUU Fishing
 - For the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR), the AMSs should update their respective data in the RFVR Database, while SEAFDEC should consider providing assistance to such countries to enhance their capacity in uploading their respective data in the Database
 - For the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), SEAFDEC could extend assistance on the use of ACDS to the other AMSs that have not yet implemented this traceability schemes
 - With regard to the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM), SEAFDEC should continue supporting the AMSs toward enhancing their capacities to be able to ratify and implement the PSMA and provide the assistance for the conduct of capacity building for the AMSs on AIS inspection to combat IUU fishing
 - On the project proposal on the Implementation and Assessment of the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity), as the ASEAN Secretariat and the Japan-

ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) have already completed the preliminary assessment of the proposal, the ASEAN Secretariat should circulate the project proposal to the FCG/ASSP focal points for their comments and suggestions and by *ad referendum* endorsement; and the final proposal would be subsequently submitted to the ASWGFi for consideration

- Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region
 - For the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region, the discussion on management measures utilized from the results of the stock and risk assessments of longtail tuna and kawakawa published in 2021 could be discussed during the 7th Meeting of SWG-Neritic Tunas to be organized by MFRDMD in 2022
 - As the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel in the Gulf of Thailand Sub-region was endorsed by the 43rd AMAF Meeting in October 2021, the AMSs were encouraged to adopt the RAP-Mackerel for management of the Indo-Pacific mackerel resources by the respective countries
 - Fish Trade-related issues
 - On the CITES-related Issues, SEAFDEC should retain the support to provide the information exchange platform, updated information, and technical recommendations to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the CITES-related issues as preparation for the 19th Conference of the Parties (CoP19) to CITES to be held on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama. SEAFDEC should also consider revising the timeline for submission of the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Listing of Species Listed under CITES for the COP19” in order to have sufficient time for the endorsement by the FCG/ASSP, ASWGFi, and SOM-AMAF, respectively
 - On the Fisheries Subsidies, SEAFDEC should continue to follow up on the adopted Text of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies in order to identify the appropriate capacity building activities for the AMSs. Moreover, SEAFDEC should also consider supporting the conduct of capacity building and sharing of information among AMSs in the the development and implementation of reference points, such as maximum sustainable yield (MSY) or other reference points, as appropriate
 - For the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), SEAFDEC should consider facilitating the sharing of experiences among the countries on regulations and management measures applied for the specific fisheries *e.g.* trawl, gillnet, purse seine, handline, longline, in accordance with the U.S. legal framework and regulations
 - Other Emerging Issues
 - The 24FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the Study on Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
7. Under Other Matters, the 24FCG/ASSP took note of the information and the progress of related activities:
- On the proposed Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030, SEAFDEC is planning to organize the “Regional Workshop on the Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA2030” in January 2022
 - In occasion of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022, SEAFDEC and FAO are planning to celebrate the IYAFA in 2022 while there are other events where IYAFA would be highlighted, *e.g.* the “4th World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (4WSFC) Asia-Pacific” to be organized in Japan and the “APEC’s Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) Meeting” to be hosted by Thailand
8. The Report of the 24FCG/ASSP was adopted on 25 November 2021.

IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES FOR COMBATING IUU FISHING

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is aware that IUU fishing can take place in all capture fisheries which has negative impacts on food security. Over the years, SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) have been made several efforts to develop and implement the regional initiatives and national tools for combating IUU fishing *e.g.* Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR), the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS), as well as to provide technical support to enhance the capacity of the AMS for implementation of Port State Measures (PSM). The Status of the Implementation of Activities for Combating IUU Fishing in 2021 can be summarized as follows:

With regard to the RFVR, as the SEAFDEC Council during its 53rd Meeting, advised on transferring the key-in data responsibility to the AMSs, in order that the database should be the most updated information. In response, SEAFDEC Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) developed a regional format for AMSs uploading the respective KDEs by using a CSV file. Moreover, TD organized the “Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia” in September 2021. The Teleworkshop came up with 1) Updated information of vessels registration and fishing license through the implementation of activities to combat IUU fishing among AMSs; and 2) Understanding of AMSs on the introduced format for uploading the KDEs of their respective RFVR database. In this connection, AMSs has updated information in the RFVR Database by themselves from 1 November 2021. Concerning issue/problem on the data key-in process, SEAFDEC/TD has assisted the AMSs based upon the request.

To continue capacity building on PSM implementation in the region, TD in collaboration with partners organized “the Regional Training on Port State Measures implementation for Inspectors in Southeast Asia” in October 2021. The participants of the Workshop understood the implementation of PSM and increased knowledge, skill, and experience on inspection to support PSM and port control implementation. These also include strengthened regional cooperation to support the implementation of PSM in Southeast Asia.

Moreover, TD conducted the Online Training courses on the Use of eACDS Application Version 2 for Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Viet Nam. The training objectives are to enhance understanding of AMSs on the use of eACDS and to encourage the participating countries to conduct the trial of the eACDS Application. The transfer of this application to participating countries is planned as the next step. TD is also underway in response to the request made by Cambodia on the possibility of the development of e-logbook as part of the eACDS.

II. INTRODUCTION

In the global and regional situation of Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing can take place in all capture fisheries. Efforts to conserve and manage fish stocks are undermined by IUU fishing, which can lead to the collapse of fisheries or can seriously impair efforts to rebuild fish stocks that have already been depleted. This may result in the loss of both short- and long-term social and economic opportunities and could have negative impacts on food security. In this regard, SEAFDEC and the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) made the effort in the development of regional initiatives and tools for combating IUU fishing such as 1) regional database on fishing vessels (Regional Fishing Vessels Record: RFVR database); 2) international and regional cooperation on capacity building programs to support the implementation of Port State Measures in AMSs; and 3) development and promotion of the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS). These were endorsed by the SEAFDEC Council and the ASEAN mechanism. Such regional initiatives have supported AMSs in achieving sustainable utilization and sound management of fisheries resources in Southeast Asia. After the endorsement of the above-mentioned regional initiatives/tools until the present, SEAFDEC in collaboration with AMSs have been implementing activities and conducting regular updates on the progress and follow-up actions based on the recommendations from SEAFDEC and ASEAN.

III. STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES FOR COMBATING IUU FISHING

3.1 Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR Database)

The RFVR database, an online system, adopted by SEAFDEC and ASEAN mechanism, is one of the regional management tools created to share information on fishing vessels among AMSs on fishing vessels. The RFVR Database is the basic information that required effective tools to support the fishing vessel inspection to reduce the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels through enhancing transparency, traceability, and support inspection in relation to PSM activities. It is expected that RFVR will work as a practical tool for related authorities such as local inspectors, port state inspectors, high-rank fisheries officers, and technical fisheries officers of the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in checking and taking corrective actions against inappropriate behavior of its fishing vessels, thereby supporting the elimination of IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian Region. For example, AMSs can take appropriate actions against “Stateless Vessels, IUU fishing vessels, poaching” by sharing information and identifying problematic vessels through the RFVR database.

Currently, information in the RFVR database is available for the vessel 24 meters in length and over, including information of 28 Key Data Elements (KDEs) as agreed by AMSs. Since 2015, SEAFDEC has assisted AMSs by providing services on updating information in the RFVR database.

To support the utilization of the current RFVR database, the required information should be updated. In this connection, the participating countries through the 53rd SEAFDEC Council Meeting agreed that the SEAFDEC Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) should transfer the key-in data responsibility to AMSs. Therefore, TD developed a regional format for AMSs uploading the respective KDEs by using a CSV file.

For introduction and demonstration of how to use a template/format of CSV file whereby the respective country can key in and upload the KDEs to the RFVR database with the updated information on vessel registration and fishing license through the implementation of activities to combat IUU fishing among AMSs, the SEAFDEC/TD organized “Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia” from 28 to 30 September 2021 *via* an online platform. The Teleworkshop came up with updated information of vessels registration and fishing license through the implementation of activities to combat IUU fishing among AMSs, and understanding of the introduced template/format for uploading the KDEs of RFVR database by country themselves. In this connection, AMSs can update information in the RFVR Database by themselves from 1 November 2021. In case AMSs find any problem concerning the key-in of the data, SEAFDEC/TD will assist AMSs as requested.

3.2 Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of Port State Measures

To continue capacity building on PSM implementation in the region, “The Regional Training on Port State Measures implementation for Inspectors in Southeast Asia” in collaboration with partners such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Thailand, was organized from 26 to 29 October 2021 *via* an online platform. The target participants who engaged in and conducted PSM and/or port control activities at the inspection level from AMSs attended this training. The training focused on updating the current situation on PSMA and sharing information on the implementation of PSM inspection from our partners. In the end, the participants better understood the implementation of PSM and increased knowledge, skill, and experience on inspection to support PSM and port control implementation.

3.3 Development and Promotion of an electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS)

The eACDS is an application that links key elements, information and data in the supply chain from point of catch to plates/consumers. The eACDS consists of two applications: (I) web-based application is designed for: (a) port-out permission and issuance of initial Catch Declaration (CD) to fishing masters, (b) port-in permission including catch weight and species verification and issuance of the CD to fishing masters, (c) issuance of Movement Document (MD), (d) issuance of Statement of Catch (SC), and (e) requirement of Catch Certification (CC) and issuance of CC; and (II) mobile application is designed for catch reporting

at sea and purchasing fish. The eACDS requires several inputs of basic data and information called “Key Data Elements” (KDEs) including information on: 1) Point of Catch, 2) Buyers/Receivers and Sellers (Broker/Wholesaler), 3) Processors, 4) Exporters and International Shippers, 5) Importers, and 6) End Consumers.

In 2021, the eACDS user’s manual was printed, and available for downloading at <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12066/6842>. Moreover, the online practical workshop on the use of eACDS application was conducted and encouraged for trial in the participating countries as follows:

Myanmar

The Online Practical Workshop on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) Application Version 2 in the Part of Catch Declaration was organized from 21 to 22 January 2021 through the Google Meet platform. The online workshop focused on the Catch Declaration (CD) part of eACDS application *via* learning by doing. The introduction on eACDS Version 2 and the new feature of eACDS Version 2 was presented. Moreover, installation of the eACDS mobile application on catch report, requesting and approving for Port-out, catch report at sea *via* eACDS-catch report application, requesting and approving for Port-in, and verification weight, through the issuance of the Catch Declaration (CD) was imparted and practiced to all participants. It was expected that the participants would serve as trainers to impart this application for fishermen and stakeholders to use the eACDS application. Moreover, “the Online Training on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) in the part on Movement Document (MD), Statement of Catch (SC) and Catch Certification (CC) for Myanmar” was organized from 26 to 28 January 2022 *via* zoom platform.

Malaysia

The Online Practical Workshop on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) Application Version 2 in the Part of Movement Document (MD), Statement of Catch (SC), and Catch Certification (CC) was organized from 24 to 25 February 2021 *via* Zoom platform. The Workshop focused to inform how to use eACDS application version 2 in the part of MD, SC, and CC *via* learning by doing as practical. After this Workshop, the trial on the use of the eACDS application version will be conducted by DOF staff with close facilitation by the SEAFDEC eACDS working team.

Brunei Darussalam

The Online Practical Workshop on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) Application Version 2 in the Part of Movement Document (MD), Statement of Catch (SC), and Catch Certification (CC) was organized from 30 March to 1 April 2021 *via* Zoom platform. The Workshop focused on informing new features of eACDS Version 2, the use of eACDS application version 2 in the part of MD, SC, and CC through practice. After this Workshop, the trial on the use of the eACDS application version will be conducted by DOF staff with close facilitation by the SEAFDEC eACDS working team.

Viet Nam

The Online Practical Workshop on the Use of electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS) Application Version 2 in the Part of Movement Document (MD), Statement of Catch (SC), and Catch Certification (CC) was organized from 7 to 9 April 2021 *via* Zoom platform. The Workshop focused on how to use eACDS application version 2 in the part of MD, SC, and CC through practice. Moreover, the introduction of eACDS application Version 2 and the new feature of eACDS Version 2 through the practical Catch Declaration part were also recapped for participants. After this Workshop, the trial on the use of the eACDS application version will be conducted by D-Fish staff with close facilitation made by the SEAFDEC eACDS working team.

Cambodia

With reference to the request from Cambodia for the technical assistance on the use of the application of the eACDS during the 44th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee in 2021. In response to this, the eACDS working team conducted the discussion on needs and initiation support activities on traceability for



Cambodia on 10 January 2022 *via* online platform. Cambodia expressed the interest if SEAFDEC could assist Cambodia on the possibility of the development of e-logbook which is a part of Catch Declaration in eACDS application for medium and large-scale fisheries in the pilot site in Cambodia. In this connection, The eACDS working team will firstly conduct the baseline survey on the possible use of the eACDS system in part of Catch Declaration (CD) and requesting Cambodia for providing the relevant Key Data Elements (KDEs) such as fish species, fishing gears, fishing boats, landing/port, fishing master/owner, and etc.

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To take note of the progress of ongoing regional initiatives (RFVR, PSM, and eACDS) promoted by SEAFDEC to support combating IUU fishing of AMSs
- To take note that each AMS is responsible for data key-in and updating information in the RFVR database
- To provide further directions guidance on new areas of work for SEAFDEC to pursue in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia

Annex 8

THE 19TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

I. BACKGROUND

Since the 32nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee in 2000, SEAFDEC was requested to provide a set of information and update to the AMSs on the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEA species) into the Appendices of the CITES. In response, SEAFDEC, with the Japanese Trust Fund support under the project on “Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues” has been following up on the CITES related information and provided a regional platform for discussion towards the development of common/coordinated positions of SEAFDEC Member Countries on the listing of the CEA species into the CITES Appendices.

In addition, SEAFDEC conducted the CITES-EU-funded initiative from 2015–2018 to improve data collecting, particularly for recording sharks and rays at the species level, and to promote capacity building in the development of the Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs). For the preparation of the ASEAN region prior the **18th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP18)**, SEAFDEC organized the Regional Consultation for the Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially Exploited Aquatic Species in the CITES Appendices in 2019, to discuss and develop a common/coordinated position of AMSs on the CEA species, which was later used by the SEAFDEC Member Countries at the CoP18 in Switzerland on 17–28 August 2019. As a results of the CoP18, three sea cucumber species which are *Holothuria (Microthele) fuscogilva*, *Holothuria (Microthele) nobilis* and *Holothuria (Microthele) whitmaei* were listed in Appendix II of CITES.

Towards the COP19 in 2022, the 31st Meeting of the Animals Committee (AC31) was organized virtually by CITES to discuss the progress after the last Conference of the Parties (CoP) *i.e.* CoP18 in 2019 and consideration for reporting to the forthcoming CoP19 in 2022. AC31 also discussed species-specific issues which are 1) sharks and rays; 2) eels; 3) seahorses; 4) Banggai cardinalfish, and 5) marine ornamental fishes. The results were reported to the 74th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC74) during 7-14 March 2022 in France. In this connection, SEAFDEC staff also attended the meetings.

II. UPDATED INFORMATION ON CEA SPECIES AND MEETINGS RELATED TO CITES

In preparation for the CoP19, which will be convened on 14-25 November 2022 in Panama, the SC74 was held to review strategic, policy, and species-specific matters affecting the Convention's implementation. The SC74 discussed aquatic species that could be proposed for listing in the upcoming CoP19 and other CITES-related issues. The Summary Report is in **Appendix 1** and the brief discussion on the concerned species is as follows.

Sharks and rays (*Elasmobranchii* spp.)

The SC74 agreed to submit to CoP19 the amended draft decisions in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 67.3 and suggested to merge the draft decisions on sharks and finalize a single joint report to be submitted to CoP19. The SC74 suggested the Standing Committee develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for trade in sharks caught on the high seas (including introductions from the sea) for CITES-listed shark species. The SC74 suggested the Parties to provide brief information on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade, and assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable; share available national conversion factors used when estimating live catch weight by species, fishery, and product form for more accurate reporting of shark and ray trade data; inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transshipped, to verify presence of CITES listed species; actively collaborate to combat illegal trafficking in sharks and ray products by developing mechanisms for coordination between source, transit, and destination countries. The SC74 suggested the Secretariat to continue to provide capacity building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to

Parties upon request. The SC74 suggested the Animals Committee to continue to develop guidance to support the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for CITES-listed shark species, in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (by-catch) situations, and for shared and migratory stocks, and introduction from the sea.

Eels (*Anguilla anguilla*)

The SC74 agreed to submit to CoP19 the amended draft decisions. The SC74 encouraged the Range States of European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) to submit any non-detriment finding studies on European eel they have undertaken to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website; develop and/or implement adaptive European eel management plans at national or sub-national (or catchment) level; share information on stock assessments, harvests, the results of monitoring and other relevant data with the Joint Working Group on Eels (WGEEL) of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission, the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas and the Central Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM); and develop measures or implement more effectively existing measures to improve the traceability of eels in trade (both live and dead). The SC74 suggested the Secretariat prepare and submit a summary of the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels, including any updates provided under Decision 19.AA, with draft recommendations to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate, for their consideration. The SC74 suggested the Animals Committee consider any reports submitted by Parties with respect to the making of non-detriment findings for trade in European eel and provide advice and guidance as needed. The SC74 suggested the Standing Committee to consider the report prepared by the Secretariat and any other available information relating to illegal trade in European eel and make recommendations as appropriate; and with the assistance of the Secretariat, engage with the World Customs Organization to examine the feasibility of harmonizing customs codes relevant to trade in all *Anguilla* species and report to the CoP19.

Seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.)

The SC74 noted document SC74 Doc. 70.1. and SC74 Doc. 70.2 and agreed to submit to CoP19 the draft decisions. The SC74 suggested the Secretariat (subject to external funding) to organize an expert workshop to discuss the implementation and enforcement of CITES for trade in *Hippocampus* spp., including the recommendations and outcomes from the Review of Significant Trade process, and propose practical steps to address implementation and enforcement challenges. The SC74 suggested the Animals Committee to analyze and review the results of any activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229, paragraph c) i), and other relevant available information and develop recommendations to the Parties, the Secretariat, and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to ensure sustainable and legal trade in seahorses. The SC74 suggested the Standing Committee develop recommendations to the Parties and the Secretariat, as appropriate, to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement for trade in seahorses.

Queen conch (*Strombus gigas*)

The SC74 directed the Secretariat to submit document SC74 Doc 79 to CoP19. The SC74 noted the information contained in document SC74 Doc. 79 and reminded the Parties that the *Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report* in Annex 2 to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/044 indicate that shells should preferably be reported by number and that meat should be reported in kilograms.

Precious corals [Order Antipatharia/Family Coralliidae]

The SC74 agreed to submit to CoP19 the recommendations in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Annex 2 to document AC31 Doc. 23 Addendum in its report to CoP19. In the recommendations, the Animals Committee encourages Parties to continue to strengthen their domestic management and conservation measures concerning all precious corals; reminds Parties that export CITES-listed black coral species to make non-detriment findings (NDFs), and encourages these Parties to provide copies of the NDFs to the Secretariat for publication on the CITES website. The Animals Committee recommends to the Standing Committee consider the challenges posed by the lack of specific customs codes for international trade in precious corals and their parts and derivatives, when reviewing the report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and making its recommendations, as appropriate. The Animals

Committee recommends to the Secretariat to follow up on cases of illegal trade for CITES-listed species of black corals referred to in the FAO report and provide an update on their findings to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee as appropriate.

III. SEAFDEC ACTIVITIES BEFORE COP19

Considering the above-mentioned aquatic species that could be proposed for listing in the upcoming CoP19, it is, therefore, crucial for countries to consider preparing and improving data collection in order to provide justification for these species. SEAFDEC has been supporting the AMSs to enhance the capacity and management of the important aquatic species such as the project on **“Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region,”** aiming at enhancing the capacity of the countries in taxonomy, new species/record identifications, and management of major shark species and understanding stock structures for at least two common species of sharks/rays and one CITES-listed species in participating countries (shared-stock or separate stocks), as well as an understanding of the importance of the socio-economy of sharks and rays in the Southeast Asian region.

SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Inland Fisheries Research Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) and Aquaculture department (AQD) have been carrying out two regional projects namely: **“Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia”** (2020–2021 extended to January 2023) and **“Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asia Region”** (2020 to 2024) to promote sustainable management and utilization of anguillid eel fisheries resources in the region. Several studies have been conducted to obtain necessary information on catadromous eels, especially the *Anguilla* spp. which are found in Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The studies focused on conduct surveys to determine the status, trend, commercial distribution and trade of eel fisheries in the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), identify issues and concerns that need to be addressed for the sustainability of the Anguillid eel resources in AMSs, investigate genetic diversity of *Anguilla bicolor pacifica* from three sites *i.e.* Indonesia, Philippines, and Viet Nam.

For the preparation of COP19, which will be held on 14–25 November 2022, the Party to CITES would submit relevant documents for consideration by the CoP19 at least by June 2022. SEAFDEC plans to review proposal(s) to be submitted by the CITES Parties during July to August 2022 and then will provide the regional platform in August or September 2022 to discuss and update information on such proposed listing to the Member Countries as well as come up with common/coordinated position among AMSs before the CoP19, taking into consideration on the timeline for submission of the “ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Listing of Species Listed under CITES for the COP19” to be endorsed through the SEAFDEC Council and subsequently ASEAN mechanism, which should have sufficient time for the endorsement by the FCG/ASSP, ASWGF, and SOM-AMAF, respectively.

The schedule for submission of relevant documents to the CoP19 by the Parties and proposed activities to be carried out by SEAFDEC are as follows;

Proposed activities before the CoP19	Date
Deadline for documents and amendment proposals (CITES)	17 June 2022
SEAFDEC reviews and requests inputs data and information from Member Countries on proposal(s) relevant to commercially exploited aquatic species	July-August 2022
SEAFDEC organizes the Regional Technical Consultation on Common or Coordinated Position for CoP19	August 2022
SEAFDEC submits <i>ad referendum</i> on the results of the Consultation to the SEAFDEC Council for consideration and endorsement	September 2022
SEAFDEC submits the results to SEAFDEC and ASEAN mechanism	October 2022
Organization of CoP19 in Panama City	14–25 November 2022



IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is invited to:

- Take note of the updated information on CEA species discussed during the meetings under CITES
- Provide policy directives to SEAFDEC and the Member Countries on the CITES-related issues as well as preparations for the CITES-CoP19

Summary Report

74th Meeting of the Standing Committee of CITES, Lyon – France, 6–11 March 2022

The meeting was organized in-person platform in Lyon – France from 6 to 11 March 2022. Outputs of this meeting will be presented at 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) in Panama scheduling in November 2022.

Several references are made on: (1) development of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species that had been developed through regional consultations over the years; and (2) WP06.3a presented at 24FCG/ASSP meetings providing information discussed at CITES AC31 (June 2021).

Regarding the issues and concerns of SEAFEC Member Countries, the summary results of the discussion at the SC74 on the concerned species are shown as follows:

Species	Issues	Summary
Sharks and rays (<i>Elasmobranchii</i> spp.)	<p>The Committee agreed to submit to CoP19 the amended draft decisions in Annex 1 to document SC74 Doc. 67.3</p> <p>The Committee requested that the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Chair of the Animals Committee work with the Secretariat and the Animal Committee's lead on the agenda item to merge the draft decisions on sharks and finalize a single joint report to be submitted to CoP19.</p>	<p>(Draft decision)</p> <p>Directed to Secretariat</p> <p>Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall liaise with relevant RFMO/As to identify opportunities for capacity building with the same organizations, possibly in the form of attending meetings (where the RFMO/A permits such attendance) or by directly liaising with the Secretariat of the organization to provide this information to its membership and/or the provision of training. The aim of this exercise would be to share information to improve the knowledge of CITES in the workings of each relevant RFMO/A.</p> <p>Directed to Standing Committee</p> <p>The Standing Committee shall:</p> <p>a) develop guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for trade in sharks caught on the high seas (including introductions from the sea) for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of</p>

Species	Issues	Summary
		<p>Resolution Conf. 18.7 on <i>Legal acquisition findings</i> and its annexes 1 and 2. This guidance should include detailed descriptions and related graphics on specific scenarios regarding trade in CITES-listed shark species;</p> <p>b) develop new guidance or identify existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II;</p> <p>c) report its findings under Decision 18.224 (Rev. CoP19), 19.XX2 paragraphs a), and b), d) and e) to the 19th 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>d) prepare information to support engagement with and capacity building of RFMO/As and include this information within the guidance called for by Decision 19.XX2 paragraph a);</p> <p>e) review the FAO’s guidance on Catch Document Schemes, pending publication (FAO, 2022. Understanding and implementing catch documentation schemes - A guide for national authorities. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 14. Rome.), guidance the CITES Parties have agreed on traceability, relevant documents on the Secretariat’s website on traceability (https://cites.org/eng/prog/Cross_cutting_issues/traceability) and include relevant information within the guidance called for by Decision 19.XX2 paragraph a).</p> <p>Directed to Parties</p> <p>19.AA Parties are encouraged to:</p> <p>a) provide brief information (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat, in particular on any national management measures that prohibit commercial take or trade, and respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC;</p> <p>b) in accordance with their national legislation, provide a brief report (with an executive summary not exceeding 200 words, if the report exceeds four pages) to the Secretariat about the assessment of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives for CITES-listed species stored and obtained before the entry into force of the inclusion in CITES in order to control and monitor their trade, if applicable;</p> <p>c) respond to the Notification called for in Decision 19.CC and share available national conversion factors used when estimating live catch weight by species, fishery, and product form for more accurate reporting of shark and ray trade data by Parties and indicate whether and how these are used in the development of their non-detriment findings;</p> <p>d) inspect, to the extent possible under their national legislation, shipments of shark parts and derivatives in transit or being transshipped, to verify presence of CITES listed species and verify the presence of a valid CITES permit or certificate as required under the Convention or to obtain satisfactory proof of its existence;</p>

Species	Issues	Summary
		<p>e) continue to support the implementation of the Convention for sharks, including by providing funding for the implementation of Decisions 19.BB, 19.DD and 19.EE, and consider seconding staff members with expertise in fisheries and the sustainable management of aquatic resources to the Secretariat; and</p> <p>f) actively collaborate to combat illegal trafficking in sharks and ray products by developing mechanisms for coordination between source, transit, and destination countries.</p> <p>Directed to Secretariat</p> <p>19.BB Subject to external funding, the Secretariat shall continue to provide capacity building assistance for implementing Appendix-II shark and ray listings to Parties upon request.</p> <p>19.CC The Secretariat shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) issue a Notification to the Parties, inviting Parties to: i) provide concise (with 200-word executive summary, if the report exceeds four pages) new information on their shark and ray conservation and management activities, in particular: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. the making of non-detriment findings; B. the making of legal acquisition findings; C. the identification and monitoring of CITES-listed shark-products in trade, in source, transit, and consumer Parties; and D. recording stockpiles of commercial and/or pre-Convention shark parts and derivatives for CITES Appendix-II elasmobranch species and controlling the entry of these stocks into trade; ii) share with the Secretariat their NDFs and conversion factors used when estimating catch live weight through converting recorded shark landings and trade, where available, to post in the sharks and rays web portal; and iii) highlight any questions, concerns or difficulties Parties are having in writing or submitting documentation on authorized trade data (e.g. which units are used in reporting trade) for the CITES Trade Database; b) provide information from the CITES Trade Database on commercial trade in CITES-listed sharks and rays since 2010, sorted by species and, if possible, by product; c) invite non-Party, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organization observers to support Parties by providing concise information related to the above; d) disseminate new or existing guidance identified by the Standing Committee on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives pursuant to Decision 19.GG, paragraph b); and e) collate this information for the consideration of the Animals Committee and the Standing Committee.

Species	Issues	Summary
		<p>Directed to the Animals Committee</p> <p>19.FF The Animals Committee, in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts, shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> continue to develop guidance to support the making of non-detriment findings (NDFs) for CITES-listed shark species, in particular in data-poor, multi-species, small-scale/artisanal, and non-target (by-catch) situations, and for shared and migratory stocks, and introduction from the sea; and report the outcomes of its work under this Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. <p>Directed to the Standing Committee</p> <p>19.GG The Standing Committee shall consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> developing guidance on the making of legal acquisition findings, and related assessments for introductions from the sea for CITES-listed shark species in the context of the implementation of Resolution Conf. 18.7 on <i>Legal acquisition findings</i>; developing new guidance or identifying existing guidance on the control and monitoring of stockpiles of shark parts and derivatives, in particular for specimens caught prior to the inclusion of the species in Appendix II; and report its findings under this Decision to the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. <p>19.HH The Animals Committee and Standing Committee shall analyze and review the results of any of the activities under Decisions 19.AA and 19.GG and with the support of the Secretariat, prepare a joint report for the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of these Decisions.</p>
<p>Eels (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to submit to CoP19 the amended draft decisions:</p>	<p>(Draft decision)</p> <p>19.AA Directed to range States of European eels (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>)</p> <p>Range States of European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) are encouraged to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> submit any non-detriment finding studies on European eel they have undertaken to the Secretariat for inclusion on the CITES website; explore the different approaches that might be taken for making non-detriment findings for European eels traded as fingerlings (FIG) compared with those traded as other live eels (LIV); collaborate and share information with other Parties regarding such studies and their outcome, especially where the Parties share catchments or water bodies; seek review and advice from the Animals Committee or other suitable body on any non-detriment findings for European eels, where appropriate;

Species	Issues	Summary
		<p>b) develop and/or implement adaptive European eel management plans at national or sub-national (or catchment) level, with defined and time-bound goals, and enhance collaboration within countries between authorities and other stakeholders with responsibilities for eel management, and between countries where water bodies or catchments are shared;</p> <p>c) share information on stock assessments, harvests, the results of monitoring and other relevant data with the Joint Working Group on Eels (WGEEL) of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission, the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas and the Central Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (EIFAAC/ICES/GFCM), so that a full and complete picture of the state of the European eel stock can be established;</p> <p>d) develop measures or implement more effectively existing measures to improve the traceability of eels in trade (both live and dead);</p> <p>e) provide the Secretariat with information regarding any changes to measures they have in place to restrict the trade in live 'glass' or fingerling European eels; especially where the Parties share catchments or water bodies; seek review and advice from the Animals Committee or other suitable body on any non-detriment findings for European eels, where appropriate;</p> <p>f) share with the Secretariat, where available, protocols and guidelines for reintroduction of seized live European eels to the wild; and</p> <p>g) provide information to the Secretariat on the implementation of this Decision or any updates to the information previously submitted in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels, to allow it to report to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.</p>
		<p>19.BB Directed to the Secretariat</p> <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <p>a) issue a notification within 90 days of the close of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, inviting range States of European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) to submit to the Secretariat information on the implementation of Decision 19.AA or any updates to the information previously submitted in response to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels;</p> <p>b) prepare and submit a summary of the responses to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/018 on eels, including any updates provided under Decision 19.AA, with draft recommendations to the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate, for their consideration; and</p> <p>c) submit the study prepared in the implementation of Decision 18.199, paragraph d), on levels of trade and trade patterns, especially in live eels for aquaculture, and sources of supply, identify any disparities between these, and draft recommendations for the more effective future management of harvests and trade for consideration by the Animals Committee and Standing Committee, as appropriate.</p>

Species	Issues	Summary
		<p>19.CC Directed to the Animals Committee</p> <p>The Animals Committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) if requested, consider any reports submitted by Parties with respect to the making of non-detriment findings for trade in European eel and provide advice and guidance as needed; and b) consider the study referred to in paragraph c) of Decision 19.BB, the report produced by the Secretariat under paragraph b) of Decision 19.BB and make recommendations as appropriate, for consideration by the Standing Committee and the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties. <p>19.DD Directed to the Standing Committee</p> <p>The Standing Committee shall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consider the report prepared by the Secretariat and any other available information relating to illegal trade in European eel and make recommendations as appropriate; b) review any advice and recommendations coming from the Animals Committee concerning Decision 19.CC and make recommendations as appropriate; and c) with the assistance of the Secretariat, engage with the World Customs Organization to examine the feasibility of harmonizing customs codes relevant to trade in all <i>Anguilla</i> species and report to the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
<p>Seahorses (<i>Hippocampus</i> spp.)</p>	<p>The Committee noted document SC74 Doc. 70.1. and SC74 Doc. 70.2 and agreed to submit to CoP19 the draft decisions.</p>	<p>19.AA Directed to the Secretariat</p> <p>The Secretariat shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) subject to external funding, organize an expert workshop to discuss the implementation and enforcement of CITES for trade in <i>Hippocampus</i> spp., including the recommendations and outcomes from the Review of Significant Trade process, and propose practical steps to address implementation and enforcement challenges; and b) report on the implementation of paragraph a) to the Animals and Standing Committee, as appropriate. <p>19.BB Directed to the Animals Committee</p> <p>The Animals Committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229, paragraph c) i), and other relevant available information;

Species	Issues	Summary
		<p>b) develop recommendations to the Parties, the Secretariat, and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to ensure sustainable and legal trade in seahorses; and</p> <p>c) report on the implementation of Decision 19.BB to the Standing Committee, as appropriate.</p> <p>19.CC Directed to the Standing Committee</p> <p>The Standing Committee shall:</p> <p>a) analyse and review the results of any activities under Decision 19.AA, the report produced under Decision 18.229 paragraph c) i) and, as appropriate, the report of the Animals Committee;</p> <p>b) develop recommendations to the Parties and the Secretariat, as appropriate, to strengthen CITES implementation and enforcement for trade in seahorses; and</p> <p>c) report on the implementation of Decisions 19.AA to 19.CC to the Conference of the Parties at its 20th meeting.</p>
<p>Queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>):</p>	<p>The Committee directed the Secretariat to submit document SC74 Doc 79 to CoP19</p>	<p>The Committee:</p> <p>a) note the information contained in document SC74 Doc. 79;</p> <p>b) reminded Parties that the <i>Guidelines for the preparation and submission of the CITES annual illegal trade report</i> in Annex 2 to Notification to the Parties No. 2021/044 indicate that shells should preferably be reported by number and that meat should be reported in kilograms</p>
<p>Precious corals [Order Antipatharia/Family Coralliidae]:</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to submit to CoP19 the recommendations in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the Annex 2 to document AC31 Doc. 23 Addendum in its report to CoP19.</p>	<p>Report of the Animals Committee</p>

FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

I. BACKGROUND

It has been twenty years since the World Trade Organization (WTO) members have been negotiating rules of fisheries subsidies since 2001. In 2015, the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, SDG 14: Life below water, has set target 6, specifically calls for an agreement to eliminate harmful fisheries subsidies by 2020. The 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) in 2017, agreed that discussions on fisheries subsidies should be continued, to meet the Target 6 of the SDG14 “*by 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation,*”. It is expected to conclude the negotiations at the 12th Ministerial Conference.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) was postponed in 2020. The WTO organized the special virtual ministerial meeting on 15 July 2021 to discuss the negotiating text and the WTO members aimed to conclude the negotiation by December 2021. Eventually, the MC12 was again postponed on 30 November–3 December 2021 due to the outbreak of new vibrant of COVID-19 virus. Nevertheless, the negotiation groups continued the discussions since January 2022 to refine the draft fisheries subsidies agreement and would conclude the negotiations to be ready for the MC12.

II. UPDATE REGIONAL INITIATIVES IN RESPONSES TO WTO ON FISHERIES SUBSIDIES

As recommendations were made by the SEAFDEC Council during its 53rd Meeting, requested SEAFDEC to provide regional platform and to develop the common voice/opinion among the Member Countries on the draft WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft text to be reflected during the WTO ministerial meetings in July 2021. In response, SEAFDEC organized the regional webinar WTO Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Text (Negotiation Group on Rules) on 10 and 17 June 2021 with funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund, to discuss and develop the prospect of a common voice. The discussion focused on the “Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Chair Text, TN/RL/W/276 dated 11 May 2021,”. However, based on the diverse views and positions expressed by the countries, and finally the output was the consolidated views of SEAFDEC Member Countries on Fisheries Subsidies Draft Consolidated Chair Text, TN/RL/W/276”, which was submitted to the SEAFDEC Council by *ad referendum* on 9 July 2021.

Another request was expressed by the SEAFDEC Council during its 53rd Meeting and the ASEAN Member States during the 24FCG/ASSP in 2021, on the need of the capacity building on stock assessment in fulfilling the requirements of WTO. A key challenge of many countries including the Southeast Asia countries is on how to determine the reference point that would define overcapacity and overfishing.

In this respect, SEAFDEC in collaboration with FAO co-organized the first Training Workshop on Stock Assessment in Support the Implementation of the International Commitments for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia, on 13–17 December 2021 through hybrid format. Attended by the twenty-five (25) national officers from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam and three (3) instructors from FAO and Universities’ lecturers from USA. The participants gained knowledge on a wide range of stock assessment tools and methods for determination of current population size and level of fishing in Southeast Asian fisheries compared to the levels expected to result in Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). At the end of the Workshop, the participants were asked to analyze the available datasets of each individual country and the results would be follow-up and discussed during the second Training Workshop, which tentatively to be held in June 2022.



III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is invited to take note of the report on the conduct of the Training Workshops on Stock Assessment in Support the Implementation of the International Commitments for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia, on 13–17 December 2021 and the subsequent the second Training workshop tentatively scheduled in June 2022.

Annex 10

**IMPLEMENTATION OF FISH AND FISH PRODUCT IMPORT PROVISIONS OF
THE U.S. MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT**

I. BACKGROUND

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) was enacted in 1972 by the United States. All marine mammals are protected under the MMPA. It prohibits taking marine mammals and enacts a moratorium on the import, export, and sale of any marine mammals, along with any marine mammal part or product within the United States. The United States also prohibits importations of commercial fish or fish products caught in commercial fishing operations resulting in the incidental killing or serious injury (bycatch) of marine mammals.

Recently, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has announced the regulations MMPA Import Provisions Rule applying any foreign nations export fish and fish products to the United States, which have been caught with commercial fishing technology that results in the incidental kill or serious injury of ocean mammals in excess of U.S. standards. Effective from 1 January 2023, fish and fish products from fisheries identified by the NMFS in a list of foreign fisheries (LOFF) can only be imported if the harvesting nation has applied for and received a comparability finding for those fisheries.

With such concern, it was raised at the 13th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum and subsequently by the 29th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries which was held virtually on 22, 23–24 June 2021, respectively, to call the AMSs to be aware of this regulation. It is in line with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 on “*Promote joint ASEAN approaches and positions in international trade in fish and fishery products produced in the region, by harmonizing the standards, criteria, and guidelines, and developing mutually-recognized agreements on sustainability and food safety management systems*”.

II. REGIONAL RESPONSES TO THE MMPA

In response to the request, SEAFDEC with the support of the Japanese Trust Fund organized the Webinar on Regional Responses to the U.S. MMPA on 2–3 November 2021 through an online platform. The resource persons from NOAA Fisheries provided the updated information of the MMPA regarding “Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act”, which would be effective on 1 January 2023 and informed on the 2020 List of Foreign Fisheries (LOFF) and timeframe for the application of a comparability finding, to be submitted by trading nations by 30 November 2021. The representative from INFOFISH shared trade information on fish and fishery products focusing on products exporting from AMSs. In addition, SEAFDEC/TD also shared the outcomes of the past capacity building programs such as on record of cetacean sightings and development of fishing gear and technology to reduce bycatch of marine mammals.

Moreover, the country representatives updated the progress of the preparation for the Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the MMPA and Applicability for Comparability Finding. During the discussion, the SEAFDEC Member Countries expressed their respective issues, actions, and needs and the technical support in response to the MMPA as appears in *Appendix 1*.

Based on the outcomes from the Webinar, SEAFDEC reported to the AMSs during the 24th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or the 24FCG/ASSP, which was organized virtually on 24-25 November 2021. The 24FCG/ASSP raised two issues for further consideration at the 54CM.

- The requirement for management of specific fisheries, e.g. trawl, gillnet, purse seine, handline, longline, in accordance with the U.S. legal framework and regulations, SEAFDEC should consider facilitating the sharing of experiences among the countries on regulations and management measures applied for the specific fisheries.



- As the U.S. MMPA is not only applied to domestically-harvested products to be exported to the U.S. but also to the imported products to be re-exported to the U.S. which should be equivalent and comparable with the U.S. MMPA, the 24FCG/ASSP suggested a consultation to facilitate the sharing of information on comparability findings among the countries should be established.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is invited to take note of the results of the Webinar on Regional Responses to the U.S. MMPA, and the results will be reported to ASEAN mechanism; and to provide directive on the issues raised during the 24FCG/ASSP for further actions.

Summary Report

The Webinar on Regional Responses to the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act 2–3 November 2021, online platform

SEAFDEC organized the Webinar on Regional Responses to U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) on 2–3 November 2021 through an online platform. This Webinar was organized as one of the activities of the Project on the “Assistance for Capacity Development in the Region to Address International Fisheries-related Issues” which was hosted by SEAFDEC Secretariat with funding support of the Japanese Trust Fund. The objectives of the Webinar were to i) update the status and highlight issues/concerns with the U.S. MMPA regarding “Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act”; ii) share and exchange information on major issues/concerns of SEAFDEC Member Countries on U.S. MMPA; and iii) identify SEAFDEC Member Countries’ major concerns, issues, and capacity building needs.

The Webinar was attended by 50 participants from SEAFDEC Member Countries namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam and the resource persons from NOAA, INFOFISH as well as SEAFDEC officers from Secretariat, Training Department (TD) and Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD).

The representative from NOAA Fisheries Service presented the overview and highlights on major issues related to exportation of fish and fishery products from Southeast Asian countries to the United States of America. In the presentation, the participants were informed on the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) provisions to prohibit fish imports from nations with marine mammal bycatch which will be effective on 1 January 2023. NOAA updated that the final 2020 List of Foreign Fisheries (LOFF), which comprises 131 nations and 2,805 fisheries, was published in October 2020. NOAA also informed that the application of the Comparability Finding by trading nations was opened on 30 November 2020 and will be closed on 30 November 2021. After that NOAA will review and issue Comparability Findings on 30 November 2022 and the Import Provision will be effective on 1 January 2023. The information on the conditions for a Comparability Finding are:

- Marine mammal abundance estimate for stocks that interact with fisheries
- Bycatch limit for these marine mammal stocks
- Monitoring program to estimate marine mammal bycatch in fisheries
- Requirement that fishermen report marine mammal bycatch
- Vessel registration, authorization, or license program
- Mitigation measures to reduce bycatch, especially in fisheries where the total bycatch exceed the bycatch limit

The resource person from INFOFISH shared the trade information on fish and fishery products focusing on products exporting from AMSs to U.S., highlighted how the importance of the ASEAN countries are the major exporters are Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam exporting several of fish and fishery projects (canned tuna, tuna frozen, shrimp) to the US market.

The country representatives shared the views with regard to the country’s response and the progress to the Implementation of Fish and Fish Product Import Provisions of the MMPA, and they expressed their respective issues, actions, and technical needs were expressed by the MCs in related to the MMPA.

In addition, the representative from SEAFDEC/TD also shared the outcomes of the past capacity building programs such as on record of cetacean sightings and development of fishing gear and technology to reduce bycatch of marine mammals.

Issues/concerns/challenges

- Concern on trade barrier for fishery products entering US market and continuation export to the US
- Comparability findings for all listed fisheries under LOFF and flexibility space for currently not listed under LOFF of the other future fisheries as harvesting nations
- Concern on non-compliance of most of fisheries
- After US implementation by MMPA, how does the US consider fish and fish products from an intermediary nation (re-export country) that will not contaminate with fish from the banned area (export fishery)?
- Limited national and regional marine mammal abundance survey data
- Cross-sectoral issues (fisheries, environment) that created the delayed the information gathering process and needs to enhance multi-agencies coordination and
- Lack of monitoring mechanisms
- Lack of bycatch, mortality, and injured data
- How to deal with small-scale fisheries with a wide range of different fisheries
- Limited experts on marine mammals

Technical assistance needs

- Marine mammal abundance survey
- Determination of bycatch limit
- Monitoring Program
- Methods for marine mammal population estimate and stock assessment
- Marine mammal surveys and stranded animal necropsies for cause of death finding
- Research on marine mammal bycatch based on fishing gears, especially in small-scale fisheries
- Gear modifications and technologies to lessen marine mammal interaction in fishing operations
- Develop the mitigation measure and monitoring program to reduce the bycatch, especially the fishing industry where the total bycatch exceeds the bycatch limit based on the biological parameters
- Better designed program for identifying activity priorities and long-term conservation strategy
- Stranding network along coastal regions
- Roll out of the relevant FAO Technical Guideline to prevent and reduce bycatch of marine mammals in capture fisheries
- Good handling practices to mitigate serious injury and mortality of marine mammal bycatch
- Cooperation among the AMSs on the study of distribution of transboundary marine mammals in Southeast Asian waters
- Collaboration among the AMSs on catch certification that fish and fish products do not originate from MMPA banned areas

In summary, SEAFDEC summarized on the areas for the capacity building needs Marine mammal abundance stock assessment (sub-regional or regional program, bycatch limit estimation and building up the national programs, enhancing of the excising networks IFCOME (regional) network (*e.g.* fishing gear/practices modification for reducing mortality mitigation by fishing gear) and providing the regional fora for sharing information and enhancing the cooperation among international and regional organizations for technical supports.

STATEMENT

*By Ms. Juniper Neill,
Deputy Mission Director, the United States Agency for International Development/Regional
Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA)*

Distinguished SEAFDEC Council Directors, their delegates,
SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General,
SEAFDEC Senior Officials,
Representatives from international organizations.

Good afternoon. The U.S. Government would like to thank SEAFDEC for the opportunity to participate in the 54th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. We also extend our deep appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for its leadership in hosting this important meeting, and to each of the SEAFDEC Member Countries for their ongoing collaboration to conserve and protect marine biodiversity and fisheries resources across the Indo-Pacific region.

As we continue to confront the challenges of climate change, and as the region reemerges from the global COVID-19 pandemic, having these dialogues—strengthening and deepening these regional partnerships—is more critical than ever. Under President Biden, the U.S. government is committed to supporting our international partners on decisive actions to tackle the climate crisis, and to conserving our oceans so they can continue to properly regulate Earth’s climate.

The United States recently released the 2022 Indo-Pacific Strategy, which supports the safeguarding and sustainable use of the region’s vast oceans, and the legal use of their resources through enhanced partnerships and cooperation. The strategy recognizes that addressing challenges like climate change, marine pollution, depleting coral reefs, and overfishing can only be accomplished through strong partnerships that build our collective capacity.

The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, has many reasons to be thankful to SEAFDEC, its Member Countries, and the many esteemed international partners represented here today. We are grateful to be a part of this supportive, effective partnership on sustainable fisheries in Southeast Asia. We appreciate this opportunity to come together each year to reinvigorate our cooperation and advance our mutual goals.

USAID is deeply committed to continuing this progress and engagement. Since 2015, USAID and SEAFDEC have worked together, starting with the USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership project, completed in 2020, where we jointly explored solutions to increase transparency and combat IUU fishing through advances in electronic tracing.

USAID, alongside our U.S. Government partner, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, helped fisheries managers develop tools to advance ecosystem approaches for more effective management. As part of the Agreement on Port State Measures Authority, USAID has also strengthened enforcing bodies to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing. We also support SEAFDEC through the USAID Sustainable Fish Asia- Local Capacity Development project. This work strengthens human and institutional capacity to conserve marine biodiversity through sustainable fisheries management plans and enhances public-private partnerships to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud. This successful project will come to an end in August 2022.

Since our partnership with SEAFDEC began, we have seen a significant shift in regional interests for electronic traceability, sustainable fisheries management, and human welfare. SEAFDEC has played an essential role in increasing discourse across each of these topics. The U.S. Government looks forward to partnering with SEAFDEC and its Member Countries through existing and new initiatives in the coming year.

Currently we are working closely with SEAFDEC to expand our efforts through a new USAID-funded program. The objectives and activities under the program have been developed together with SEAFDEC and align with the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 and the Resolution on the Future of SEAFDEC.

I am happy to report that the co-creation process for our new program is nearly complete. We are grateful for all of the ongoing efforts of SEAFDEC and the Member Countries; and look forward to sharing more information once the program begins later this year.

We are also excited to discuss the new USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Technical Support activity, which was launched in November of last year. The project aims to address IUU fishing and promote sustainable fishing practices in the Indo-Pacific region, through the following three areas: First, through the development, adoption, and implementation of regional sustainable fisheries policies; Second, by supporting private sector adoption of fair labor and sustainable fishing practices; and Third, through project coordination and technical support to regional institutions such as SEAFDEC.

Indeed, we are eager to continue supporting SEAFDEC's critical work; and we hope that SEAFDEC will welcome partnership and collaboration with the USAID Sustainable Fish Asia - Technical Support activity.

USAID believes that the partnerships SEAFDEC has formed throughout the region are a critical driving force behind the progress to combat IUU fishing and enhance the sustainability of Southeast Asia's fisheries. USAID is grateful for this partnership, and we will continue to engage with the U.S. Department of State, NOAA, the Department of Interior, and other US government entities towards this goal. We will continue to work with USAID bilateral missions to leverage efforts and resources to maximize impacts, and we will continue to engage with regional partners like the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries, and Food Security, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and others to synergize efforts.

USAID will continue to support SEAFDEC's leadership and support Member Countries in advancing their national and regional priorities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in today's Council Meeting.

We wish everyone a very productive and successful meeting. USAID's technical staff stand ready to work hand-in-hand with all of you to advance our shared objectives for sustainable development, fisheries management and ocean conservation.

Thank you.

STATEMENT

*By Mr. Aaron McNevin,
Global Network Lead, Aquaculture, World Wildlife Fund*

Director General *Smithrithee*, SEAFDEC Council Members, and honorable guests:

My name is *Aaron McNevin*. I am the Global Network Lead for Aquaculture at WWF.

I want to thank you for your generous invitation to attend the 54th meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. This is my first council meeting, and very much looking forward to hearing about all of the great work and impact of SEAFDEC.

Because those that work on aquaculture represent a relatively small network compared to other food sectors, I have had the pleasure of knowing and working alongside with many employees from SEAFDEC. However, it was not until 2021 that I was afforded the opportunity to collaborate more formally with SEAFDEC.

I was approached by the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility secretariat on the ability of WWF to take on the implementing agency role of a GEF project to amplify seaweed aquaculture. As many of you know, the GEF's targets are largely based on biodiversity and habitat protection and enhancement. Obviously, this aligns well with WWF's mission, but it was the first time I observed the GEF's excitement over aquaculture, and I thought that this could become a larger opportunity for those in the aquaculture sector to demonstrate to the GEF the ability for aquaculture production to occur and create net positive benefits for biodiversity and habitat.

Working across different geographies is a stipulation of GEF International Waters' projects but there are challenges in identifying executing partners that have substantial presence on the ground across national borders and also have deep expertise in the area of interest. As I learned about the GEF process and requirements, it became obvious to me that if we were to be successful, we would need the regional leadership and expertise of SEAFDEC. And following several discussions, SEAFDEC agreed to collaborate with WWF to develop the Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture proposal to foster greater seaweed aquaculture opportunities in the Philippines and Viet Nam.

Over the past year, WWF, SEAFDEC, the Directorate of Fisheries in Viet Nam, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in the Philippines and other local and international partners began collaborations on the development of the Blue Horizons proposal. The shared goal of the project is to create new sustainable seaweed value chains that will deliver ecosystem services and socio-economic benefits.

To achieve this goal we seek to

1. Explore the expansion of production in offshore areas assessed as suitable for farming;
2. Increase the availability of technology, knowledge and guidance and capacity building,
3. Achieve higher production volume and better quality harvest;
4. Strengthen presence and effectiveness of governance mechanisms that enable farmers to obtain a higher and fair price for their product.

We have currently received a first round of feedback from the GEF, addressed their concerns and resubmitted for final review. We feel confident that through our strong collaboration we will be successful in receiving approval for the final proposal and we hope to have a decision in the next couple of months.



Before I finish, I wanted to recognize the work to date, which is difficult and requires great patience and determination. I would like to emphasize that this hard work was entirely handled in a remote manner through the pandemic which added numerous challenges. I want to commend SEAFDEC on setting such a strong and optimistic leadership vision for the Blue Horizons project. The values and engagement approach made this proposal possible and will no doubt be the driving force for the success of this proposed work. Many thanks for the opportunity to address the council and I wish success over the next several days of your meetings.

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

I. BACKGROUND

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030¹ (RES&POA-2030) was adopted by the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Senior Officials and Ministers in 2020. This RES&POA-2030 would serve as policy framework and direction to guide the region’s fisheries development towards sustainability and enhanced contribution of fisheries to food security and livelihood of peoples in the Southeast Asian region in 2021–2030. The Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 comprises the sections namely: Planning and Information, Fisheries Management, Aquaculture, Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, Fish Trade, and Regional and International Policy Formulation, that provide the eighty eight (88) priorities actions for the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries for the implementation programs, projects, and activities by the AMSs and through the appropriate ASEAN–SEAFDEC mechanisms.

In order to monitor and assess the successful of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030, SEAFDEC proposed the plan for the monitoring and assessment of the implementations of RES&POA-2030 during the 53rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (53CM) in 2021, taking into account that at the national level, each country also implement national activities based on their national plans (policies/strategies) and monitoring regularly.

At the 53CM, the Council supported the roadmap to monitor and evaluate the progress of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 and also supported the conduct the regional workshop to discuss on monitoring and evaluation and suggested SEAFDEC to develop and disseminate the key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030. The Council also suggested SEAFDEC to work closely with the ASEAN Member States to execute this Resolution and Plan of Action.

II. PROGRESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KEY INDICATORS FOR MONITOR AND EVALUATION THE PROGRESS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RES&POA-2030

Taking the abovementioned suggestions by the Council, SEAFDEC, therefore, organized the RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Development of the Key Indicators and Detailed Roadmap” on 23–24 March 2022 to discuss the draft indicators, template, and timeline of the roadmap to support the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. The Workshop was attended by SEAFDEC National Coordinators and their country representatives as well as SEAFDEC officials. The results of the discussion are summarized as follows:

- The Workshop noted that SEAFDEC National Coordinators would perform as the focal persons for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030.
- The Workshop agreed on the revision of the indicators, rating, and criteria for rating and the Template for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (*Appendix I*) which has submitted to all SEAFDEC National Coordinators for trial exercise on 5 April 2022.
- A trial exercise will be conducted by the AMSs (5 April–12 May 2022) to provide inputs in the Template, and to allow the countries to understand the indicators and rating so that the countries can provide further comments.
- The AMSs will return the Template with the first-round feedback/comments to SEAFDEC Secretariat by 13 May 2022
- The SEAFDEC Secretariat will accommodate the comments from the countries and will further discuss at the second Workshop to finalize the indicators, which will be convened in June 2022

¹ <https://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/6583>

The report of the Regional Workshop is available at <http://www.seafdec.org/respoa-2030-regional-workshop-on-development-of-the-key-indicators-and-detailed-roadmap/> or REF10.

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

Date	Activities	Responsibility
23–24 Mar 2022	Regional Workshop on Development of the Key Indicators and Detailed Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation	SEAFDEC and ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
April-Mid May 2022	Conduct the trial exercise to provide inputs and comments on the draft indicators, rating, and additional information	AMSs
13 May 2022	Provide the feedback on the trial exercise to the SEAFDEC Secretariat	AMSs
23 and 25 May 2022	Report the results of the Regional Workshop to the 54 th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC SEC
14–15 June 2022 (tentative)	Regional Workshop on the Finalization of Indicators to Monitor and Evaluate the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030	SEAFDEC and ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
Jul-Sep 2022	Compile inputs and accomplish the Template for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (Baseline 2021)	AMSs
Sep 2022	Submit the accomplished Template for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (Baseline 2021) to SEAFDEC Secretariat	AMSs
Nov 2022	Report the results of the Regional Workshop to the 45 th Meeting of the Program Committee	SEAFDEC SEC
2023	Report the results of the Regional Workshop to the 55 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC SEC
2025	Accomplish the Template for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (Mid-term Review 2025)	AMSs
2025	Regional Workshop on the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030	SEAFDEC and ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
2025	Report the results of the Regional Workshop to the 48 th Meeting of the Program Committee	SEAFDEC SEC
2026	Report the results of the Regional Workshop to the 58 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC SEC
2029	Accomplish the Template for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (Final Evaluation 2029)	AMSs
2029	Regional Workshop on the Final Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030	SEAFDEC and ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
2029	Report the results of the Regional Workshop to the 52 nd Meeting of the Program Committee	SEAFDEC SEC
2030	Report the results of the Regional Workshop to the 62 nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC SEC

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is invited to:

- Take note on the results of the Regional Workshop on Regional Workshop on Development of the Key Indicators and Detailed Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation RES&POA-2030, also that includes draft key indicator, template, timelines for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030
- Approve SEAFDEC National Coordinators to serve as focal persons for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030
- Provide policy guidance on the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 as recommended by the Workshop



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

I. BACKGROUND

SEAFDEC proposed the Concept Note for organizing the Regional Workshop on the Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030) during the 53rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (53CM) in early 2021. The 53CM supported such an idea and suggested SEAFDEC develop and disseminate the key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030 in order that the AMSs could provide valuable inputs during the Workshop.

The SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with the SEAFDEC Departments developed the indicators that will be used as tools to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. The indicators were categorized according to the six components of the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (POA-2030), namely: 1) Planning and Information, 2) Fisheries Management, 3) Aquaculture, 4) Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, 5) Fish Trade, and 6) Regional and International Policy Formulation. The detailed POA-2030 could be accessed at <https://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/6583>.

This Template will be used to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the progress made by the AMSs in the implementation of the POA-2030 by providing inputs and feedback including the rating of indicators and additional information as agreed during the Regional Workshop on Development of the Key Indicators and Detailed Roadmap on 23–24 March 2022.

II. INSTRUCTION

1. The SEAFDEC National Coordinators shall serve as focal persons for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the POA-2030. They shall coordinate with the relevant agencies/institutions within their respective countries to gather relevant information and submit the accomplished Template to the SEAFDEC Secretariat.
2. The monitoring and evaluation are a self-assessment by the AMSs of their implementation of the POA-2030. The AMSs are requested to rate the indicators to determine the level of achievement of POA-2030. In rating the indicators, the AMSs should consider common criteria (*e.g.* national policies, legal frameworks, programs, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, among others). However, the criteria for each indicator should be considered as applicable to the respective countries; while additional criteria could be explored, as appropriate. Each indicator should be rated as:

Option 1: rating scale of 1-5

- 1 = not at all
- 2 = at a limited level
- 3 = at a fair level
- 4 = at a good level
- 5 = at an excellent level

Option 2: Yes/No

If the indicator is not applicable or the country is unable to provide a response, please indicate N/A.

3. The AMSs should provide additional information (e.g. means of verification) for each indicator to ensure that the same set of fundamentals and criteria is maintained during the different timeframes (i.e. in 2021 for the baseline, in 2025 for the mid-term review, and in 2029 for the final evaluation) of the monitoring and evaluation of the POA-2030.

Country: _____

Timeframe: Baseline 2021 Mid-term Review 2025 Final Evaluation 2029

A. Planning and Information

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

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
7	Level of sharing of relevant statistics and fisheries-related data and information between the country's fisheries agency and other authorities (e.g. in-country coordination)	1-5	
8	Level of the country's application of simple and practical indicators for planning, monitoring, and evaluation of fisheries	1-5	
9	Level of the country's sharing/exchanging of information on research findings, good practices, and experiences among countries and regional institutions	1-5	

B. Fisheries Management

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
10	Level of timeliness of the country's reviewing and updating of national fisheries policies, legal and institutional frameworks in consultation with stakeholders	1-5	
11	Level of the country's acceleration of the development of fisheries management plans for conservation and management	1-5	
12	Level of the country's implementation of measures to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate illegal fishing practices	1-5	
13	Level of the country's implementation of comprehensive policies for fisheries management	1-5	
14	Level of the country's application of fisheries management approaches (e.g. co-management, EAFM, among others)	1-5	
15	Level of capacity of the country's fisheries communities and capability of fisheries-related organizations to implement necessary actions to address issues on the well-being of fishers	1-5	
16	Level of participation of the country's local communities and fisheries-related organizations in fisheries management	1-5	

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
17	Level of the country's awareness/perception of the need to develop financial incentives (e.g. micro-credit) for small-scale stakeholders and cooperatives for the responsible development of fisheries enterprises and developmental activities that optimize economic returns	1-5	
18	Level of the country's application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears fishing vessels, and fishing operations	1-5	
19	a. Level of sufficiency of the country's capable fishing crew and workers in the fishing industry (e.g. enough number of competent fishing crew and workers, programs for new crew members and workers)	1-5	
	b. Level of the country's application of appropriate technologies to optimize the number of crew onboard fishing vessels	1-5	
20	Level of the country's implementation of good and appropriate employment practices in accordance with domestic laws and regulations or relevant international instruments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relevant provisions of ILO Conventions (e.g. C-188) 	1-5	
21	Level of capacity of the country's relevant authorities and communities to collaboratively resolve conflicts on resources utilization (e.g. establishment of an authorized multi-stakeholder committee at local level)	1-5	
22	Level of the country's exploration and sustainable exploitation of potential underutilized fishery resources through comprehensive fishery resources surveys in a precautionary manner (e.g. exploitation of deep-sea resources)	1-5	
23	a. Level of the country's implementation of the SSF Guidelines	1-5	
	b. Level of the country's effort to collect sex-disaggregated statistics on fishers and fish workers in the fisheries value chain	1-5	

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
24	Availability of guidelines/regulations/procedures to facilitate fair distribution of benefits from the intra-regional and international trade of fish and fishery products among small-scale actors along the value chain	Y/N	
25	a. Level of the country's monitoring and assessment of the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture	1-5	
	b. Level of country's adjustment of existing programs taking into consideration the effects of climate change and natural disasters	1-5	
26	Level of the country's assessment and management of the impacts of aquatic pollution (e.g. marine debris, ALDFG, microplastics) on fisheries and aquaculture	1-5	
27	Level of the country's cooperation with other countries to assess and manage straddling, transboundary, and highly migratory fishery resources, as appropriate (e.g. country's participation in BOBLME, GOT-Fish, RFMOs, bilateral arrangements)	1-5	
Marine Fisheries			
28	Level of the country's implementation of measures and activities to combat IUU fishing activities (e.g. NPOA-IUU, IUU-related information sharing, fishing vessel record database, VMS, port-in & port-out controls, conservation and management measures of relevant RFMOs of which SEAFDEC Member Countries are a member, MCS infrastructure and equipment)	1-5	
29	Level of the country's involvement and participation at regional, sub-regional, and bilateral levels on fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, and MCS network through inter-agency coordination and information sharing (e.g. country's cooperation/coordination with AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU, among others)	1-5	
30	Level of the country's utilization of existing regional frameworks and tools for combating IUU fishing activities (e.g. RFVR, ACDS, and innovative technologies)	1-5	

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
31	Level of involvement of the country's legal officers in consultative dialogues at regional/sub-regional level to share and exchange information on updated legal and regulatory frameworks to address issues in fisheries management, as applicable	1-5	
32	a. Level of capacity of the country's relevant authorities to implement the requirements of port State measures	1-5	
	b. Level of capacity of the country's relevant authorities to implement the requirements of flag State responsibilities	1-5	
33	a. Level of the country's effort to conduct research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods on aquatic ecosystems and animal populations	1-5	
	b. Level of country's development and promotion of environment-friendly fishing practices (e.g. low impact and fuel-efficient (LIFE) fishing gears/methods)	1-5	
34	Level of the country's implementation of regional and international guidelines to mitigate bycatch and discard	1-5	
35	Level of the country's promotion of adoption of resource enhancement approaches with appropriate monitoring and evaluation programs (e.g. artificial reefs, restocking programs, mobile hatcheries, habitat restoration)	1-5	
36	Level of the country's application of the fisheries <i>refugia</i> concept	1-5	
37	Level of the country's implementation of approaches to sustainable management of major critical coastal habitats (e.g. mangroves, coral reefs, seagrasses)	1-5	
38	Level of the country's compliance with international standards on safety at sea, decent working conditions, and onboard fishing vessels sanitation	1-5	
39	Level of the country's effort to assess the possible impacts of subsidies on fisheries, particularly on the special requirements and the needs of small-scale fisheries in the region	1-5	

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
<i>Inland Fisheries</i>			
40	Level of the country's implementation of comprehensive policies and provision of support to legal and institutional frameworks for inland fisheries (e.g. co-management, rights-based fisheries, ecosystem approach to inland fisheries management)	1-5	
41	Level of awareness of the country's relevant stakeholders of the importance of inland fisheries and of the need to rehabilitate/restore habitats and aquatic species for local food security	1-5	
42	Level of the country's effort to monitor and mitigate the negative impacts of invasive/alien species on the inland ecosystem and biodiversity	1-5	
43	a. Level of coordination among the country's national agencies on multiple utilization of inland water resources to mitigate conflicts among users	1-5	
	b. Level of the country's involvement in sub-regional mechanisms to address transboundary inland fisheries management issues, where applicable	1-5	
44	a. Level of the country's effort to promote R&D to understand the migration patterns, spawning grounds and seasons, and nursery grounds of important inland aquatic animals	1-5	
	b. Level of the country's effort to sustain inland fisheries ecosystem health, habitat inter-connectivity, and dry season management	1-5	
45	a. Level of the country's effort to monitor and assess the impacts of construction/ operations of man-made structures on inland waterways	1-5	
	b. Availability of mitigation measures and appropriate conservation and management measures for such impacts	Y/N	

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
46	Level of the country's effort to undertake coordinated planning and management on the use of inland water bodies (e.g. closed and open season regulations, leasable or auction fisheries, special area for conservation and fish <i>refugia</i> (SPEECTRA))	1-5	
	Level of capacity of the country's human resources and institutions to implement the plan and manage the use of inland water bodies	1-5	
47	Availability of guidelines to promote the use of practical and simple indicators for inland/floodplain fisheries within the national inland fisheries management framework (provincial/community notifications for inland fisheries measures based on indicators e.g. succession of species, amount of rainfall and water inflow, level and duration of flood, abundance of macro-invertebrates)	Y/N	

C. Aquaculture

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
48	Level of the country's implementation of programs and policies on aquaculture to address social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable aquaculture to improve food security, livelihoods, and employment, and alleviate poverty (e.g. rural aquaculture program)	1-5	
49	Level of the country's implementation of the ASEAN guidelines for environment-friendly and responsible aquaculture and good aquaculture practices	1-5	
50	Level of coordination among the country's national agencies to integrate aquaculture into rural development activities within the context of multiple-use of land and water resources	1-5	
51	Level of the country's utilization of advanced technologies for marine and inland aquaculture such as full-cycle breeding and culture of high-value species	1-5	
52	Level of the country's implementation of measures or strategies for responsible, environment-friendly, and sustainable aquaculture	1-5	

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
53	Level of the country's support for R&D on aquaculture (e.g. genetic resources, impacts of climate change, feed, aquatic animal health management)	1-5	
54	Availability and accessibility of the country's specific pathogen-free broodstock and seeds	Y/N	
55	Level of the country's implementation of aquatic biosecurity measures	1-5	
56	Level of the country's implementation of policies that complement and support fish farmers, hatchery operators, and other stakeholders	1-5	
57	Level of the country's implementation of good and appropriate employment practices in accordance with domestic laws and regulations or relevant international instruments	1-5	
58	Level of the country's awareness/perception of the need to develop financial incentives and micro-credit systems for the responsible development of aquaculture enterprises and developmental activities that optimize economic returns	1-5	
59	Level of the country's implementation of programs/efforts to regulate the introduction and movement of aquatic organisms in accordance with regional and international guidelines (e.g. national measures or SOPs including quarantine measures on the importation of aquatic species)	1-5	
60	Level of the country's implementation of programs/efforts to prevent and control serious disease outbreaks (e.g. R&D, OIE standards, other initiatives following standard procedures)	1-5	
61	Level of the country's capability to diagnose and control aquatic animal diseases (e.g. human resources, assessment and development plan, harmonized diagnostic methods/protocols, laboratories)	1-5	
62	Level of the country's involvement in the implementation of regional warning systems on aquatic animal health and diseases (e.g. compliance with the Regional Technical Guidelines on Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies)	1-5	

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
63	Level of the country's prudent usage of legal antibiotics in aquaculture and monitoring of the impacts of antimicrobial resistance on aquatic animals	1-5	
64	Level of the country's efficient usage of aquafeeds including use of alternative protein sources to reduce fish meal and other fish-based products e.g. utilization of the Regional Database of Alternative Feed Ingredients in Aquaculture)	1-5	
65	Level of the country's effort to conduct risk assessments of the culture of exotic aquatic species and prevent the escape of high-risk species	1-5	
66	Level of the country's implementation of programs to improve human resource capabilities for responsible aquaculture	1-5	
67	Level of the country's implementation of policies and strategies that enable the aquaculture sector to adopt measures to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change and environmental stressors	1-5	
68	Level of the country's application of the precautionary approach to safeguarding the environment from the over-intensification and expansion of inland, coastal, and offshore aquaculture (e.g. utilization of tools such as software program to measure carrying capacity)	1-5	
69	Level of the country's effort to conduct risk assessment and R&D related to the use of GMO products in aquaculture	1-5	

D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
70	Level of country's applicability of technologies to optimize the utilization of catches/farmed products	1-5	
71	Level of the country's effort to promote the production of and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products	1-5	

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
72	a. Level of the country's effort to implement quality and safety management systems that support the competitive position of ASEAN fish and fishery products in the global markets	1-5	
	b. Level of the country's effort to promote the implementation of the quality and safety management systems among small and medium enterprises	1-5	
73	Level of the country's legislation, and coordinated mechanisms/activities with relevant control agencies throughout the fish value chain (e.g. product traceability/certification, chain of custody)	1-5	
74	Level of country's implementation/ effort to promote and conduct training programs and develop training materials to upgrade the technical skills and competencies of relevant personnel in the public and private sectors on fisheries post-harvest technologies, and food quality and safety management systems	1-5	
75	Level of the country's awareness/perception of the need to develop financial incentives and micro-credit systems for the responsible development of fisheries and aquaculture enterprises and developmental activities that optimize economic returns, specifically for the post-harvest fisheries sub-sector	1-5	
76	Level of the country's implementation of good and appropriate employment practices in accordance with domestic laws and regulations or relevant international instruments	1-5	
77	Level of the country's capability to adopt standards and guidelines for handling fish and fishery products, and implement hygienic fish handling onboard fishing vessels and market places	1-5	

E. Fish Trade

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
78	Level of the country's cooperation with other AMSs to implement international standards on the trading of fish and fishery products within the region (e.g. development of regional guidelines relevant to international standards on trading of fish and fishery products, harmonization and standardization of fish trade system including farm/hatchery certification through bilateral agreements or mutual recognition agreement)	1-5	

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
79	Level of the country's effort to implement the regional/ASEAN standards (e.g. ASEAN GAqP, ASEAN Shrimp GAP, others) on the international trading of fishery and aquaculture products	1-5	
80	Level of the country's implementation of fish trade-related standards (e.g. SPS/TBT measures)	1-5	
81	Level of country's development and implementation of national laws, rules, and regulations on trading of species in accordance with international laws	1-5	
82	Level of the country's cooperation with other AMSs towards common positions that could be reflected in international fish trade-related fora	1-5	
83	Level of the country's engagement of private sector to address trade-related issues and promote/sustain regional and international trade	1-5	
84	Level of the country's implementation of support programs to assist and build the capacity of small-scale producers to comply with standards on safety and quality of fish and fishery products	1-5	
85	Level of the country's effort to assist small-scale producers from both capture fisheries and aquaculture in securing and maintaining access to markets at national, regional, and international levels	1-5	
86	Level of the country's application of traceability systems to certify or validate the information for the whole supply chain	1-5	
87	Level of country's effort to develop/improve branding or eco-labeling of fish and fishery products that demonstrate the eco-friendly and socially acceptable nature of ASEAN products	1-5	

F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

POA-2030 No.	Indicators	Rating	Additional information (e.g. means of verification)
88	Level of the country's participation and involvement in fisheries-related international fora and technical committees to promote the ASEAN interests at the global level	1-5	

SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (SEASOFIA) 2022

I. BACKGROUND

Information on the status and trends of fisheries is widely recognized as crucial in serving as the basis for sustainable development and management of fisheries. SEAFDEC throughout the past decades had undertaken several activities to compile various forms of fishery-related data and information, *e.g.* the regional fishery statistics based on the national statistics data submitted by the Southeast Asian countries, as well as other data and information from relevant SEAFDEC programs/projects. In order to ensure that the outputs from these initiatives could be integrated or digested into information that could support the development and management of sustainable fisheries of the region, SEAFDEC undertook a pilot exercise in developing the publication “The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture” or “SEASOFIA,” and the first volume was published in 2012. During the 44th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2012, the Council agreed that the SEASOFIA publication should be published on a regular basis, *i.e.* every five years. In 2017, the SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Departments came up with the second volume of the publication. The SEASOFIA 2012 and SEASOFIA 2017 were produced not only in printed format but also in electronic format which is accessible through the SEAFDEC Institutional Repository (SIR). Presently, the SEASOFIA 2017 continues to be the most downloaded publication with 10,579 accumulated downloads from the SIR.

To sustain this initiative, the proposal of the SEAFDEC Secretariat to produce the third volume of the SEASOFIA was supported at the 52nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2020. The draft “SEASOFIA 2022” was developed through a consultative process among the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments in 2020 and 2021 with additional inputs from the AMSs through a set of questionnaires. The final draft of the publication was submitted to the 44th PCM for comments and additional inputs. After accommodating comments from the SEAFDEC Member Countries and SEAFDEC Departments, confirmation on the final text of the publication was made *ad referendum*. SEAFDEC published the “SEASOFIA 2022” and disseminated to the Member Countries, partner organizations, fisheries institutions and libraries, individual recipients, while the electronic format was made available at the SIR for free download.

It is envisaged that the “SEASOFIA 2022” would provide useful information on the region’s fisheries and aquaculture production and utilization; recent issues, initiatives, and challenges faced in ensuring sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture; and future outlook and anticipated challenges. It is also expected that this publication would contribute to improving science-based policy planning and management of fisheries in order to support countries in achieving sustainable fisheries and enhancing the fisheries’ contribution to food security in the future.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to take note of the progress of the publication “SEASOFIA 2022” which has already been published and disseminated by SEAFDEC.

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

I. BACKGROUND

Since the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) was declared a global pandemic in 2020, most countries all over the world including those in the Southeast Asian region have taken several measures to control the infection and widespread disease. The COVID-19 pandemic has had drastic impacts on people's livelihood, food security, social activities, and economies at various levels and scales. For the fisheries sector, there are various measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic which consequently has devastating effects on relevant fisheries activities, ranging from capture fisheries, aquaculture, post-harvest processing, and trading of fish and fishery products. Such measures also directly impact fisheries regulations and management, including monitoring, control and surveillance toward combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing which are one of the priorities for several countries in Southeast Asia.

In July 2020, SEAFDEC then conducted the "Webinar on Impact of COVID-19 on Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia" that brought together international, regional and national fisheries agencies, and industry representatives to share their views and key impacts of the pandemic on the region's food supply chain of the local, national, regional, and international trade. Although initial information could be gathered through the past rapid data collection, there were views that dedicated studies should also be conducted to gather more concrete information on the impacts to the fisheries sector of the respective ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, as well as the actions and mitigation measures.

As a follow-up, SEAFDEC during the 43rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee held on 17-18 November 2020, proposed to conduct a more detailed study on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, with the aims to share information among the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the impacts and mitigation of the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries sector. Later the proposed Study was supported by the SEAFDEC Council during its 53rd Meeting which was held on 27-28 April and 11 May 2021, the expected deliverables would be a synthesis report on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fisheries sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries which would be analyzed for a long-term implications towards sustainable food security and livelihood.

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

SEAFDEC organized the Regional Workshop on the Study on Impacts of COVID 2019 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in February 2021, aiming at reviewing the questionnaire to use for compilation of the data and information from the SEAFDEC Member Countries. The questionnaire was covered various subsectors such as capture fisheries, aquaculture, and fish processing as well as fisheries trade and gender roles. The questions were divided into four categories: A) fishery statistics during 2018-2020; B) COVID-19 restriction measures; C) impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture activities based on a set of indicators specifying the cause of impacts (*i.e.* COVID-19 restrictions) and adaptations of stakeholders to such impacts; D) mitigation measures and support programs; and E) contribution of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. At the end of the Workshop, the participants agreed on the questionnaire and timeline for the study period and approach to compile information. The Study period covered from 2020 until May 2021.

SEAFDEC reported the progress during the 44th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee held on 15-17 November 2021, and the 24th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) on 24-25 November 2021, respectively on the challenge for the respective countries faced on the compilation and submission of the data and information and adjusted timelines for completion of the Study Report.

Based on available information submitted by the MCs, SEAFDEC analyzed the data and information and developed the draft Study Report, which was internally reviewed by SEAFDEC. The draft Study Report



was validated and confirmed by the MCs during the Regional Workshop for the finalization of the Study Report on 20 April 2022. The Workshop Report is available on <https://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/6951>.

After accommodating the feedback from the MCs, the Study Report on Impacts of COVID–19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries was finalized and is available on <https://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/6952>.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to:

- Take note of the Study Report on Impacts of COVID–19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN–SEAFDEC Member Countries

SHIFTING FROM PRINTED TO ELECTRONIC FORMAT OF SEAFDEC PUBLICATIONS

I. BACKGROUND

The Administrative Regulation 3 stipulated the Powers and Functions of the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, including Regulation 3.2 (vii) viz. “prepare an annual progress report on the activities of the Center for submission to the Council,” and Regulation 3.2 (xv) viz. “prepare and publish (a) the report of the Council and (b) the annual SEAFDEC Programs, as well as (c) a periodical newsletter and other relevant documents on the activities of the Center.” Since the establishment, the production of SEAFDEC institutional publications, including the quarterly Newsletter, Annual Report, report of annual meetings, *i.e.* the Council Meeting, Program Committee Meeting, FCG/ASSP Meeting, are under the responsibility of the SEAFDEC Secretariat; while there are also other periodical publications published by the SEAFDEC Secretariat, *i.e.* the “Fish for the People,” with inputs from the SEAFDEC Departments.

For over a decade, information technology has brought significant changes in the forms and means of information dissemination. During such a period, SEAFDEC has also strengthened the information dissemination through several online platforms, *e.g.* websites and institutional repositories of SEAFDEC and the respective Departments, social media platforms, etc. Many other organizations have recently also shifted from developing printed to electronic format of their publications. This not only made the publications sent out to more target audience with lesser time and cost but also more environment-friendly with lesser use of paper for printing and energy for transportation.

Throughout the past years, SEAFDEC has maintained both printed and electronic formats of the publications. The differences (pros and cons) in terms of target recipients, the time required for production/dissemination, cost incurred, and suitability of each format are as follows:

	Printed publications	Electronic publications
Recipients	Based on the mailing list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAFDEC Member Countries (CDs, ACDs, NCs) • Head of partner organizations • Fisheries institutions and libraries (in Member Countries, non-Member Countries) • Individual recipients • Distribution at events, exhibitions, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors accessing publications in SEAFDEC repositories, websites, social media, etc. • Recipients through email
Time	After finalizing the content and layout, extra time is needed for printing and dissemination (2–3 weeks)	After finalizing the content and layout, the file can be uploaded immediately in the repository or other electronic platforms
Cost	Varied cost for printing and distribution depending on the number of publications (fewer publications or copies = less cost; more publications or copies = more cost)	Fixed cost mainly for the establishment and maintenance of servers (fewer or more publications = same cost)
Required equipment	Paper-based format could reach people without using any equipment	Electronic format requires equipment, <i>e.g.</i> smartphone, tablet, computer
Suitability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional recipients, <i>e.g.</i> Member Countries, network library, etc. • Distribution at promotional events, <i>e.g.</i> at exhibitions, visitors, etc. • For display at the receiving areas, library stands, guest accommodations, etc. of the Departments for distribution to guests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have access to electronic facility and internet connection can easily access to the electronic platform • People who actively access the available electronic platforms

	Printed publications	Electronic publications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who do not have access to any electronic facility and internet connection 	

Considering the benefits of the electronic format in disseminating to a wider group of audience with less time and cost, the SEAFDEC Secretariat would like to propose for consideration by the Council whether the future publications, especially SEAFDEC Newsletter and “Fish for the People” to be published only in electronic format.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- Take note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2020, and to endorse the proposed plan of operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2021; and
- The Council may also provide directives on shifting from printed to electronic format of other publications *i.e.* the SEAFDEC Annual Report, and report of SEAFDEC Council Meeting, PCM, FCG/ASSP Meeting

Annex 17

JAPAN'S CATCH DOCUMENTATION SCHEME (CDS) UNDER THE ACT ON ENSURING THE PROPER DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION AND IMPORTATION OF SPECIFIED AQUATIC ANIMALS AND PLANTS

I. BACKGROUND

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing constitutes one of the most serious threats to the sustainable use of fishery resources. Preventing IUU catches from entering domestic supply chains is recognized as an effective measure to combat IUU fishing.

In order to fulfill Japan's responsibility as one of the world's largest importers of fishery products, the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants was established in Japan in December 2020 and is scheduled to enter into force on December 1st, 2022.

II. OUTLINES

The new Act stipulates two separate regulations:

- 1) Regulation on Japanese Domestic Market
- 2) Regulation on Importation of Fishery Products

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

As the CDS will start in December this year, Japan has been active in providing relevant countries with the information on the CDS, including briefing sessions for Embassies in Japan on January 20 and 24, and March 2, 2022.

III. PROPOSED THE WEBINAR

In order to facilitate the understanding of the CDS among ASEAN Member States (AMSs), Japan would like to propose that SEAFDEC hold a webinar workshop in July this year for SEAFDEC Member Countries. In the webinar, Japan will provide information and explanations on actual implementation of the CDS, followed by a Q&A session where Japanese technical officials will answer technical questions from participating officials. With regard to details of the webinar, Japan will work together with the SEAFDEC Secretariat for the necessary preparations and arrangements after the Council.

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to:

- Approve that SEAFDEC will hold a webinar on 'the CDS in the summer this year, and
- provide any comments or suggestions about the webinar

OPERATION OF SEAFDEC TRAINING AND RESEARCH VESSELS

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) operates two training/research vessels constructed with financial support from the Government of Japan. The vessels of SEAFDEC/TD include 1) M.V. SEAFDEC and 2) M.V. SEAFDEC 2. Over the years, they have been utilized mainly for research and training activities which are envisaged to deliver intensive practical experiences and expertise at sea to ensure effective technology transfer and assessment of national fisheries resource status in the waters of the SEAFDEC Member Countries and other government-related agencies upon the request. In this connection, TD has been providing technical assistance and facilities for research and training programs through these two vessels for regional, sub-regional and national activities including (1) Marine fisheries resources research survey; (2) Marine environmental oceanographic research survey; (3) Shipboard training on fishing technology, navigation, and marine engineering; and (4) Sea trial on fishing operation, oceanographic instruments, and deck machinery.

II. INTRODUCTION

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) operates two training/research vessels constructed with financial support from the Government of Japan. The vessels of SEAFDEC/TD include 1) M.V. SEAFDEC and 2) M.V. SEAFDEC 2. Over the past decades, SEAFDEC Member Countries (MCs) have been confronted with coastal fisheries resource depletion. To mitigate the issue of seafood supply to the people and reduce the fishing pressure of the coastal fisheries resources in their national waters, some SEAFDEC MCs increased their interests to promote the offshore fisheries resources exploitation. This is consistent with the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Regional Towards 2030, as mentioned in the Plan of Action # 22 “Explore the potential of under-utilized fishery resources through comprehensive fishery resources surveys, and promote their exploitation in a precautionary manner based on analysis of the best available scientific information.”

To fulfill the needs of SEAFDEC MCs in national, sub-regional, and regional initiatives in the fisheries resource exploration, and monitoring of marine fisheries resource and environment as well as to enhance human resource capacity on fisheries resources exploration, marine environment research survey, fishing technology, navigation, marine engineering, and fish handling onboard fishing vessel. SEAFDEC/TD has worked in close collaboration with the SEAFDEC MCs and other national, sub-regional, and regional partners to undertake fisheries resources and marine environment research by using a research survey, as well as to promote responsible fishing and practices through the utilization of both SEAFDEC’s training/research vessels. SEAFDEC/TD has been operating both vessels with four (4) major components, *i.e.* (1) Marine fisheries resources research survey; (2) Marine environmental oceanographic research survey; (3) Shipboard training on fishing technology, navigation, and marine engineering; and (4) Sea trial on fishing operation, oceanographic instruments, and deck machinery. Since 2004, M.V. SEAFDEC 2 as a major training and research vessel has conducted a total of sixty-three (63) cruises and M.V. SEAFDEC has conducted a total of one hundred and ten (110) cruises since 1993.

III. UTILIZATION OF THE TRAINING/RESEARCH VESSELS OF SEAFDEC TRAINING DEPARTMENT IN 2021

M.V. SEAFDEC

In 2021, there was no utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC due to the COVID-19 pandemic across the region, including related factors such as cruise planning, and plan to utilize research budgets among the Member Countries caused by the direct impact from the cost of high fuel price.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented disruption and limited the utilization of the vessel which was related to the lockdown and physical distancing measures issued by the Government of Thailand. Meanwhile, TD has been exerting its effort to figure out ways to turn the crisis into an opportunity by

improving the capacity of crew members and maintaining the training vessel through various activities in order to facilitate the research activities for the marine fisheries resources survey.

M.V. SEAFDEC 2

In 2021, there was only one sea trial cruise conducted by M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the Gulf of Thailand with a total number of three (3) service days from 7 to 9 November 2021. The sea trial cruise was envisaged to practice on the newly installed scientific echo sounder (SIMRAD EK-80) onboard M.V. SEAFDEC 2, calibration, and on-hands practice by sea trial as advised and instructed by an expert from the Kongsberg Maritime AS (Norway) to improve the research supporting capacities of the SEAFDEC vessel for serving the upcoming research cruises as well as the practice and verification on the prevention measures under the COVID-19 outbreak situation.

During the sea trial, the navigators and crew members of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and researchers of SEAFDEC/TD enhanced their experiences, skills, and practical works with the scientific echo sounder. The sea trial provided the training for young staff on navigation equipment, communication equipment, fishery machinery onboard and other machinery *e.g.*, hauling devices, fire alarm system, and engine control system which are used to facilitate the research activities, onboard monitoring and research equipment. Furthermore, the refrigeration system for freezing and storage of sampling and provision store were tested and operated. Engineers of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 enhanced their skills and experiences in main engine and auxiliary engine and deck machinery maintenance. A checklist on the condition of the navigation, engine, and trawl fishing system onboard M.V. SEAFDEC 2 was recorded as a reference for further improvement in association with the scientific echo sounder test.

Throughout the sea trial cruise, the application of the ship rules to prevent the spread of COVID-19 has been practiced and verified. In the case of carrying out a survey in the international waters, ship rules and good practices to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic will be applied.

In preparation for the upcoming fishery resources research survey on the catch per unit effort and microplastic contamination in the sea surface layer in the Gulf of Thailand, scheduled in January 2022, SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Thailand conducted a series of consultation meeting to finalize the survey plan during October to December 2021. The Program of Activities of M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the Year 2021 is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Program of Activities of M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the Year 2021

Vessel's Name	Month											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
M.V. SEAFDEC												
Strengthening the capacity of human resources/research vessel of SEAFDEC/TD												
M.V. SEAFDEC 2												
Preparation and planning to conduct the fishery resources research survey on the catch per unit effort and microplastic contamination in the sea surface layer in the Gulf of Thailand												
Sea trial training and practice on scientific echo sounder (SIMRAD EK-80), calibration, and sea trial in the upper part of the Gulf of Thailand on 7–9 November 2021 (3 days)												
Capacity building for human resources of SEAFDEC/TD, maintenance of the vessel												

IV. OPERATIONS OF THE TRAINING/RESEARCH VESSELS OF SEAFDEC TRAINING DEPARTMENT IN 2022

M.V. SEAFDEC

No proposed plan for the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC in 2022.

M.V. SEAFDEC 2

As previously planned in 2021, TD in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Thailand conducted the fishery resources survey on the catch per unit effort (CPUE) and the microplastic contamination survey in the sea surface layer in the Gulf of Thailand with a total number of six (6) service days from 23 to 28 January 2022 (Cruise no.64-1/2022).

In 2022, TD plans to conduct the fisheries resources research survey in the Visayan Sea area and the Zamboanga-Sulu Peninsula in the Philippine Water (Tentatively to be conducted in September, 2022) by utilizing M.V. SEAFDEC 2 with the following objectives:

1. Managing the fisheries resources survey in the Philippine Waters by utilizing M.V. SEAFDEC 2 with the Philippines as a result of the 53rd SEAFDEC Council Meeting;
2. Accommodating the needs and requests necessary for the preparation and development of the survey plan based on the draft proposal and budget estimation prepared by the Philippines;
3. Updating the situation of the COVID-19 in Thailand and the Philippines and prevention measures/protocols required, to combat COVID-19 during the survey, and;
4. Strengthening the capacities of both parties to facilitate the process of the fisheries resources survey preparation and the communication.

The Program of Activities of M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the Year 2022 is shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Program of Activities of M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the Year 2022

Vessel's Name	Month											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
M.V. SEAFDEC												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperating and planning on the utilization of research and training vessel with other members, stakeholders at the national and regional levels 												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the capacity of human resources/maintenance of research vessel of SEAFDEC/TD 												
M.V. SEAFDEC 2												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted and collaborated with the Department of Fisheries Thailand for the fishery resources research survey on the catch per unit effort and microplastic contamination in the sea surface layer in the Gulf of Thailand, 23–28 January 2022, 6 days 												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning to conduct the fisheries resources research survey in the Visayan Sea area and the Zamboanga-Sulu Peninsula, the Philippines (Tentatively to be conducted in September 2022) 												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening the capacity of human resources, maintenance of the vessel 												

Submission of data to requesting countries

After completion of the cruise survey conducted by M.V. SEAFDEC 2, all data obtained onboard M.V. SEAFDEC 2 during the cruise survey will be submitted to the respective countries through official communication. Such information includes;

- Cruise report
- Catch data
- Water properties collected by CTD



- Weather and sea condition (Logsheet)
- Other data as agreed for the cruise survey

A link for download such raw data/information will be provided to the country through Official Letter from SEAFDEC to the respective Council Director.

V. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- Take note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC in 2021; and
- Take note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2021, and approve the proposed plan for the operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in the year 2022.

COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN SEAFDEC AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

I. COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS SIGNED BY SEAFDEC

During the period after the 53rd Council Meeting until the 54th Council Meeting (May 2021 – May 2022), SEAFDEC established collaborative arrangements with other organizations as follows:

A. Other International/Regional Organizations and Non-Member Countries

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “Collection of Research and Datasets from data-poor countries in Southeast Asia related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 and formulation of a Thesaurus for Aquatic Genetic Resources.”

On 9 December 2021, SEAFDEC signed with FAO a Letter of Agreement (LOA) for provision of “Collection of Research and Datasets from data-poor countries in Southeast Asia related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 and formulation of a Thesaurus for Aquatic Genetic Resources.”

Under this LOA, FAO would provide to SEAFDEC funds amounting to USD 52,525 for the implementation of activities by SEAFDEC, *i.e.* 1) Definition of subject scope and search strategy for identifying research and data related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 agreed and documented; 2) A series of five online training sessions to be held with participants, enabling them to deploy the above search strategy and record research and data related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1; 3) Research and data recorded by participants will undergo bibliometric analysis with results presented in a report, and 4) Terminology proposed by Aquatic Genetic Resources to undergo review by SEAFDEC/AQD resulting in a thesaurus of roughly 100 terms that can be used in the Aquatic Genetic Resources registry and other systems. The LOA entered into force from 1 January 2022 until 30 November 2022.

- Amendment to LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “An assessment of the sustainability of currently used fishing technologies and operations in Thailand and options for innovation and improvements”

On 10 September 2021, SEAFDEC signed an Amendment to Letter of Agreement (LOA) between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “An assessment of the sustainability of currently used fishing technologies and operations in Thailand and options for innovation and improvements.”

The original LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “An assessment of the sustainability of currently used fishing technologies and operations in Thailand and options for innovation and improvements” was signed on 20 April 2021. Under this LOA, FAO would provide funds amounting to USD 13,500 to SEAFDEC/TD for the implementation of activities, *i.e.* 1) Carry out desk review on currently used fishing technologies and operations in Thailand and prepare a draft assessment report including options for innovation improvement; 2) Organize stakeholders meeting to discuss and agree on fisheries innovation options in Thailand, including cost and benefit, and social, economic and environmental returns; 3) Prepare and submit to FAO the final assessment report on the sustainability of fishing technologies and operations in Thailand and options for innovation and improvement; and 4) Share outcomes with other stakeholders, and prepare final project reports. The duration of the original LOA was from 9 April 2021 until 15 September 2021. However, as the conduct of activities was delayed due to the COVID-19 movement restrictions, the extension of this LOA was made through the signing of the Amendment to the LOA on 10 September 2021, and the new termination date of the LOA was on 15 December 2021.

- 1st Amendment to LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “Survey to Estimate Levels of Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Thailand, Gillnet and Trap Fisheries”

On 18 December 2021, SEAFDEC signed the “1st Amendment to Letter of Agreement (LOA) between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “Survey to Estimate Levels of Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Thailand, Gillnet and Trap Fisheries.”

The original LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “Survey to Estimate Levels of Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Thailand, Gillnet and Trap Fisheries” was signed on 2 April 2021. Under this LOA, FAO would provide funds amounting to USD 18,249 to SEAFDEC/TD for the implementation of activities, *i.e.* 1) Provide recommendations for improvement of the FAO Fishing Gear Loss Questionnaires and associated User’s Manuals designed for gillnet and trap fisheries, 2) conduct a survey on ALDFG focusing on gillnets and traps at sites in Thailand using FAO Fishing Gear Loss Questionnaire from FAO, 3) Entering data into online FAO Fishing Gear Loss Questionnaire, 4) Participate in an online meeting organized by FAO to assess the result from the survey, and 5) Use the result from the workshop to produce a report on gillnet and trap loss national report for Thailand. The duration of the LOA was from 2 April 2021 to 30 November 2021. However, as the imposed COVID-19 movement restrictions created delays in the conduct of activities, an amendment to this LOA was signed on 18 December 2021 to extend this LOA, and the new termination date is on 31 January 2022.

2. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/RTI International

SEAFDEC signed with “RTI International” on 14 September 2021 the “Master Service Agreement” and “Letter Subaward”, which are part of the cooperation between SEAFDEC and the United States Agency for International Development Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA).

The USAID/RDMA launched at the end of 2020 the two-year “Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA),” which is implemented by the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International in partnership with SEAFDEC and the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF). The Project embarked on the activities under two Tasks, namely: Task 1 – organizational capacity assessment (OCA) and customized capacity development services for SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF; and Task 2 – private sector landscape assessment (PSLA) to identify opportunities for collaboration with private sector within the fisheries industry in the region. Under this Project, SEAFDEC received sub-award from RTI amounting to THB 1,549,574 with the purpose to implement capacity development activities to enhance SEAFDEC’s capacities for compliance to receive direct funding support from the USAID as a Public International Organization (PIO) in the future.

3. United States Department of Interior (US-DOI)

On 15 October 2021, SEAFDEC signed “Amendment 3 to Annex 2 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Department of Interior (US-DOI) and SEAFDEC Concerning Implementing the Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam.”

The Original Annex 2 of the MOU was signed in July 2018, with the specific objectives to 1) Coordinate field fish passage barrier inventories in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam; 2) Design and construct one demonstration fish pass in Cambodia, one demonstration fish pass in Thailand, and one demonstration fish pass in Viet Nam; and 3) Sustain the Project administration and coordination. In February 2020, the Amendment to Annex 2 was signed to extend the project period until 30 September 2021; and Amendment 2 of Annex 2 was subsequently signed in November 2020 to include “Design and Construct Three (3) Additional Demonstration Fish Passes in Cambodia,” which was also scheduled to complete on 30 September 2021. However, as the COVID-19 imposed movement restrictions creating delays of activities, an extension of Annex 2 was made again through the signing of Amendment 3 to Annex 2, and the new termination date will be on 30 September 2022. A budget amounting to USD 22,500 is provided to cover administrative and coordination expenditures during the extension period.

4. Global Cocoa Group Liberia Incorporated (GcGLI), Republic of Liberia

On 17 August 2021, SEAFDEC/AQD signed a “Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the ‘Global Cocoa Group Liberia, Incorporated (GCGLI),’ the ‘Barwo Institute of Cooperative Management Incorporated (BICMI),’ and SEAFDEC/AQD.”

The purpose of this MOA is for the parties to collaborate by conducting an online training/webinar on the culture technologies for mangrove crab, marine fish, tilapia, and catfish culture, to strengthen the knowledge and technical capacity of the Global Cocoa Group Liberia Incorporated, Fisheries Cooperatives/fisher folks of Liberia, Africa. Under the MOA, the GCGLI agreed to provide funds amounting to USD 3,748 to AQD for the conduct of online training series; while AQD will develop online training modules on mangrove crab, marine fish, tilapia and catfish for approval by the GCGLI, and conduct the online training for participants identified by the GCGLI. The MOA is effective from the signing date for a period of one (1) year.

B. Other Organizations/Agencies in the SEAFDEC Member Countries

1. University of Palangka Raya, Indonesia

On 8 December 2021, SEAFDEC/IFRDMD signed an “Agreement Concerning Enhancing Sustainability of Peatland Area Through Freshwater Aquaculture and Community Engagement Strategies between University of Palangka Raya and SEAFDEC/IFRDMD.”

The field of cooperation under this Agreement concerns on all common mutual interests and commitments to develop education for environmental conservation, sustainable inland water resources management research, as well as community fisheries development. The specific objectives of the Agreement are: 1) to collaborate by facilitating the exchange of educator/trainer, students, ideas, and opportunities upon visit or research or other instructional capacities, within continuous period as determined in specific program; 2) to disseminate information on teaching, research programs, and innovations available at both Parties; 3) to constitute research teams on subjects of common interest based on the important needs of both parties; 4) to help in welcoming part-time students and interns, short courses, where appropriate programs may exist now and in the future; the student exchange programs, which will be organized and managed by the faculties and/or Banyan Tree in the framework of particular agreements; and 5) to encourage mutual participation in scientific events such as conferences, seminars and seasonal schools which may be organized by one of the Party. This Agreement is valid for four (4) years starting from the signing date.

2. Faculty of Fishery and Marine Science, Riau University, Indonesia

On 16 December 2021, SEAFDEC/IFRDMD signed an “Agreement Concerning Enhancing Education Program for Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Inland Water Resources Management Research as well as the Community Fisheries Development Activities between Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Riau University and SEAFDEC/IFRDMD.”

The field of cooperation under this Agreement concerns on all common mutual interests and commitments to develop education for environmental conservation, sustainable inland water resources management research, as well as community fisheries development. The specific objectives of the Agreement are: 1) to collaborate by facilitating the exchange of educator/trainer, students, ideas, and opportunities upon visit or research or other instructional capacities, within continuous period as determined in specific program; 2) to disseminate information on teaching, research programs, and innovations available at both Parties; 3) to constitute research teams on subjects of common interest based on the important needs of both parties; 4) to help in welcoming part-time students and interns, short courses, where appropriate programs may exist now and in the future; the student exchange programs, which will be organized and managed by the faculties and/or Banyan Tree in the framework of particular agreements; and 5) to encourage mutual participation in scientific events such as conferences, seminars and seasonal schools which may be organized by one of the Party. This Agreement is valid for four (4) years starting from the signing date.

3. Gifu Prefecture, Japan

On 6 July 2021, SEAFDEC signed an “Extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Gifu Prefecture and SEAFDEC.”

The original MOU between Gifu Prefecture and SEAFDEC was signed on 27 May 2016 with the aim of promoting educational and technical cooperation for the sustainable development of inland fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, and the original MOU was effective for five years until 26 May 2021. In order to

continue the cooperation between Gifu Prefecture and SEAFDEC, an extension to this MOU was therefore signed, and such extension was executed from 6 July 2021 for five more years.

4. Local Government Unit of Barangay Pipindan (Pipindan LGU) and Pipindan Aquaculture Producers Association (PAPA), Philippines

On 10 March 2022, SEAFDEC/AQD signed a “Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among SEAFDEC/AQD, the ‘Local Government Unit of Barangay Pipindan (Pipindan LGU),’ and the ‘Pipindan Aquaculture Producers Association (PAPA).”

This MOA covers the project “Community-Based Sustainable Aquaculture Livelihood (CBSAL)” which generally aims to develop community-based strategies for the production of high-value indigenous species such as giant freshwater prawn through the hatchery and nursery of post-larvae for grow-out and for cash crop to contribute towards securing food and livelihood of the members of PAPA and for the benefit of the community in Barangay Pipindan. This MOA is effective from the signing date until 31 December 2024.

5. Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), Philippines

On 6 September 2021 SEAFDEC/AQD signed a “Memorandum of Agreement between Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) and SEAFDEC/AQD.”

The objectives of the MOA is for the parties to collaborate in the area of sustainable aquaculture through techno-transfer program including verification and training in broodstock, hatchery, nursery, and grow-out operations of commercially viable finfishes, crustaceans, mollusks, and seaweeds. Under the MOA, AQD will provide technical assistance to MinDA and/or the identified stakeholders of the aquaculture industry through extension program; undertake techno-transfer program; and conduct and implement project in accordance with the approved project proposal. The MOA is effective from the signing date for the period of three (3) years.

6. Panay Aquafarmers Consumers Cooperative (PAFCC), Philippines

On 24 September 2021, SEAFDEC/AQD signed the “Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Panay Aquafarmers Consumers Cooperative (PAFCC) and SEAFDEC/AQD.”

The purpose of this MOA is for the parties to collaborate on putting up and operating a Feed Mill Plant in Capiz to reduce aquaculture production costs and benefit the fish farmers in Western Visayas and other nearby areas. Under this MOA, the PAFCC will provide funds to AQD for the conduct and preparation of feasibility study, project proposal, and related documents, assistance during the proposal development and preparation phase for the project “Establishing and Aquaculture Feed Mill Plant and Operating the Said Plant in the Province of Capiz.” The MOA is effective from the signing date until January 2024.

7. Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), Thailand

On 31 May 2021, SEAFDEC signed the “Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) of Thailand and SEAFDEC.”

The MOU has objectives for the DMCR and SEAFDEC/TD to cooperate in: 1) conducting research and technical development on fishing gears that result in impacts on marine and coastal resources, as well as on distribution and impacts from marine litters and microplastics; 2) exchanging knowledge on classification of marine litters from fishing activities; 3) conducting research on marine litters and microplastics distribution in the sea and endangered and threatened species; and 4) research and development on fishing gears to mitigate their impacts on endangered and threatened species. Scopes of the cooperation cover the operation, exchange of knowledge, experiences, and technical information, as well as provision of technical advice or cooperation in other relevant activities. The MOU is valid for 5 years starting from the signing date.

II. COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER SIGNING PROCESS

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Amendment to LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “Collection of Research and Datasets from data-poor countries in Southeast Asia related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 and formulation of a Thesaurus for Aquatic Genetic Resources.”

The original Letter of Agreement (LOA) for provision of “Collection of Research and Datasets from data-poor countries in Southeast Asia related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 and formulation of a Thesaurus for Aquatic Genetic Resources” was signed on 9 December 2021. Under this LOA, FAO would provide to SEAFDEC funds amounting to USD 52,525 for the implementation of activities by SEAFDEC, *i.e.* 1) Definition of subject scope and search strategy for identifying research and data related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 agreed and documented; 2) A series of five online training sessions to be held with participants, enabling them to deploy the above search strategy and record research and data related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1; 3) Research and data recorded by participants will undergo bibliometric analysis with results presented in a report, and 4) Terminology proposed by Aquatic Genetic Resources to undergo review by SEAFDEC/AQD resulting in a thesaurus of roughly 100 terms that can be used in the Aquatic Genetic Resources registry and other systems.

Amendment to this LOA is made to remove the “Activities 4: Terminology proposed by Aquatic Genetic Resources to undergo review by SEAFDEC/AQD resulting in a thesaurus of roughly 100 terms that can be used in the Aquatic Genetic Resources registry and other systems.” The project budget for this activity will be allocated to the other activities under the LOA. The total project budget and duration remain unchanged.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is requested to take note of the establishment of collaborative arrangements between SEAFDEC and other organizations, namely:

A. Other International/Regional Organizations and Non-Member Countries

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “Collection of Research and Datasets from data-poor countries in Southeast Asia related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 and formulation of a Thesaurus for Aquatic Genetic Resources
- Amendment to LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “An assessment of the sustainability of currently used fishing technologies and operations in Thailand and options for innovation and improvements”
- 1st Amendment to LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “Survey to Estimate Levels of Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Thailand, Gillnet and Trap Fisheries

2. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/RTI International: Master Service Agreement and Letter Subaward

3. United States Department of Interior (US-DOI): Amendment 3 to Annex 2 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Department of Interior (US-DOI) and SEAFDEC Concerning Implementing the Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam

4. Global Cocoa Group Liberia Incorporated (GcGLI), Republic of Liberia: Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the ‘Global Cocoa Group Liberia, Incorporated (GCGLI),’ the ‘Barwo Institute of Cooperative Management Incorporated (BICMI),’ and SEAFDEC/AQD’



B. Other Organizations/Agencies in the SEAFDEC Member Countries

- 1. University of Palangka Raya, Indonesia:** “Agreement Concerning Enhancing Sustainability of Peatland Area Through Freshwater Aquaculture and Community Engagement Strategies between University of Palangka Raya and SEAFDEC/IFRDMD”
- 2. Faculty of Fishery and Marine Science, Riau University, Indonesia:** Agreement Concerning Enhancing Education Program for Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Inland Water Resources Management Research as well as the Community Fisheries Development Activities between Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Riau University and SEAFDEC/IFRDMD
- 3. Gifu Prefecture, Japan:** Extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Gifu Prefecture and SEAFDEC
- 4. Local Government Unit of Barangay Pipindan (Pipindan LGU) and Pipindan Aquaculture Producers Association (PAPA), Philippines:** Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among SEAFDEC/AQD, the ‘Local Government Unit of Barangay Pipindan (Pipindan LGU),’ and the ‘Pipindan Aquaculture Producers Association (PAPA)’
- 5. Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), Philippines:** Memorandum of Agreement between Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) and SEAFDEC/AQD
- 6. Panay Aquafarmers Consumers Cooperative (PAFCC), Philippines:** Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Panay Aquafarmers Consumers Cooperative (PAFCC) and SEAFDEC/AQD
- 7. Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), Thailand:** Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) of Thailand and SEAFDEC

The Council is requested to **consider approving** SEAFDEC for signing of new arrangement as follows:

- 1. FAO:** Amendment to LOA between FAO and SEAFDEC for provision of “Collection of Research and Datasets from data-poor countries in Southeast Asia related to SDG Indicator 14.4.1 and formulation of a Thesaurus for Aquatic Genetic Resources”

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

I. BACKGROUND

Over the years, SEAFDEC has been playing key role in providing technical support and services to the Member Countries by implementing a number of programs and projects towards achieving the organization's vision for "*sustainable development and management of fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region.*" To be able to provide such support, SEAFDEC also received funding opportunities from various non-traditional donors, *e.g.* the Swedish Government, FAO, UNEP, USAID, etc.

As one of the prerequisites for receiving such funding support, a number of assessments had been conducted by the respective donors to ensure that SEAFDEC has the ability in management of donor's funds and to deliver results in an effective and efficient manner. The assessment also aims to evaluate and ensure the accountability, good practices, good governance, and capacity of SEAFDEC in achieving overall financial control over the course of project implementation.

The USAID/RDMA launched in 2020 the two-year "Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA)," which is implemented by the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International in partnership with SEAFDEC and the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF). The Project embarked on the activities, including organizational capacity assessment and customized capacity development services for SEAFDEC and CTI-CFF. Under this Project, SEAFDEC received a sub-award from the RTI with the purpose to implement "the Sustainable Fish Asia (SUFIA) Local Capacity Development (LCD) activity." It is envisaged that this would help enhance SEAFDEC's capacities for compliance to receive direct funding support from the USAID as a Public International Organization (PIO) in the future.

II. PROGRESS

In October 2020, the organizational capacity assessment was carried out to understand SEAFDEC institutional capacity development needs, as well as the strengths and weaknesses in other areas. The assessment on financial and human resources management was also carried out, primarily focusing on SEAFDEC/TD and the Secretariat. The results and recommendations for capacity development activities were revealed in March 2021. Through this process, the areas of improvement were prioritized, and the capacity development activities were subsequently developed and implemented under the Master Service Agreement (MSA) between SEAFDEC and RTI.

From September 2021 to May 2022, SEAFDEC has been undertaking the capacity development activities to enhance the capacity of TD and the Secretariat, in the area of compliance, performance, and viability, particularly on administrative, financial, and human resources aspects, which could be summarized as follows:

- Administration and financial management policies and procedures were updated to comply with minimum international standards for financial procedures and to align the organization's policies and procedures with the requirements of donor agencies
- Human resources policies and procedures were improved to incorporate principles of transparency, non-discrimination, ethics, gender equality integration, and social inclusion to ensure equitable practices and working culture so that the personnel is empowered and motivated to work towards the organization's goals and objectives
- Knowledge of TD and the Secretariat staff are enhanced from their attendance in a number of training courses, *e.g.* on rules and regulations of the USAID, improving the organizational capacity relevant to program development, management and reporting, communication development, financial management and internal control systems, procurement and human resource systems, etc.

Through these sets of activities, it could be envisaged that the capacity of SEAFDEC would be enhanced making it eligible to receive the funding support not only from the USAID but also from various potential donors and partners in the future.



III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is invited to take note of the progress on the organizational capacity development in the area of compliance, performance, and viability, particularly on administrative, financial, and human resources aspects.

Annex 21

**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 **Project Planning and Management Division (PPMD)** that would be responsible for the coordination of the entire projects under the responsibility of TD; while the existing Administrative and Finance Division was divided into two interim divisions, namely: **General Administrative Division (GAD)** and **Finance Division (FID)**. This temporary structure was meant to ensure that all programs and projects under the responsibility of TD would be managed and implemented in an effective and coordinated manner by mobilizing the currently available human resources of TD, and this has been informed to the Council through the letter (Our ref. SCA210315) dated 15 March 2021.

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. 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 Department, for providing supportive technical information to the Training Department, and supporting researchers and assistant researchers in the conduct of research/training activities, as and when necessary. The Research and Development Division is composed of 3 Sections as follows:

- Fishing Technology Section;
- Fishing Ground and Oceanography Section; and
- Fisheries Management Section

2. Training and Research Supporting Division

The Training and Research Supporting Division (TRSD) of the Training Department shall be responsible for ship, marine engineering, information, extension and training that are supportive to technical works of the Department. The Training and Research Supporting Division is composed of 3 Sections as follows:

- Training and information Section;
- Marine Engineering Section; and
- Ship and Fleet Operation Section

3. Administrative and Finance Division

The Administrative and Finance Division (AFD) of the Training Department shall be responsible for the administrative works, personnel affairs, external affairs, including general affairs and maintenance of the Department properties, procurement of equipment, arrangement of living quarters for participants and staff, overall coordination with experts and other Division Heads, administrative supervision and technical works

as well as the financial administration of the Secretariat and Training Department. The Administrative and Finance Division is composed of 3 Sections, as follows:

- General Services Section;
- Administrative and Human Resources Section; and
- Accounts and Finance 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:

- General Services Section; and
- 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:

- 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 in consistent with the SEAFDEC Strategic Plan, relevant regional policy recommendations, and regional interest.

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:

- Training and Information Section;
- Marine Engineering Section; and
- 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:

- Fishing Technology Section;
- Fishing Ground and Oceanography Section; and
- Fisheries Management Section

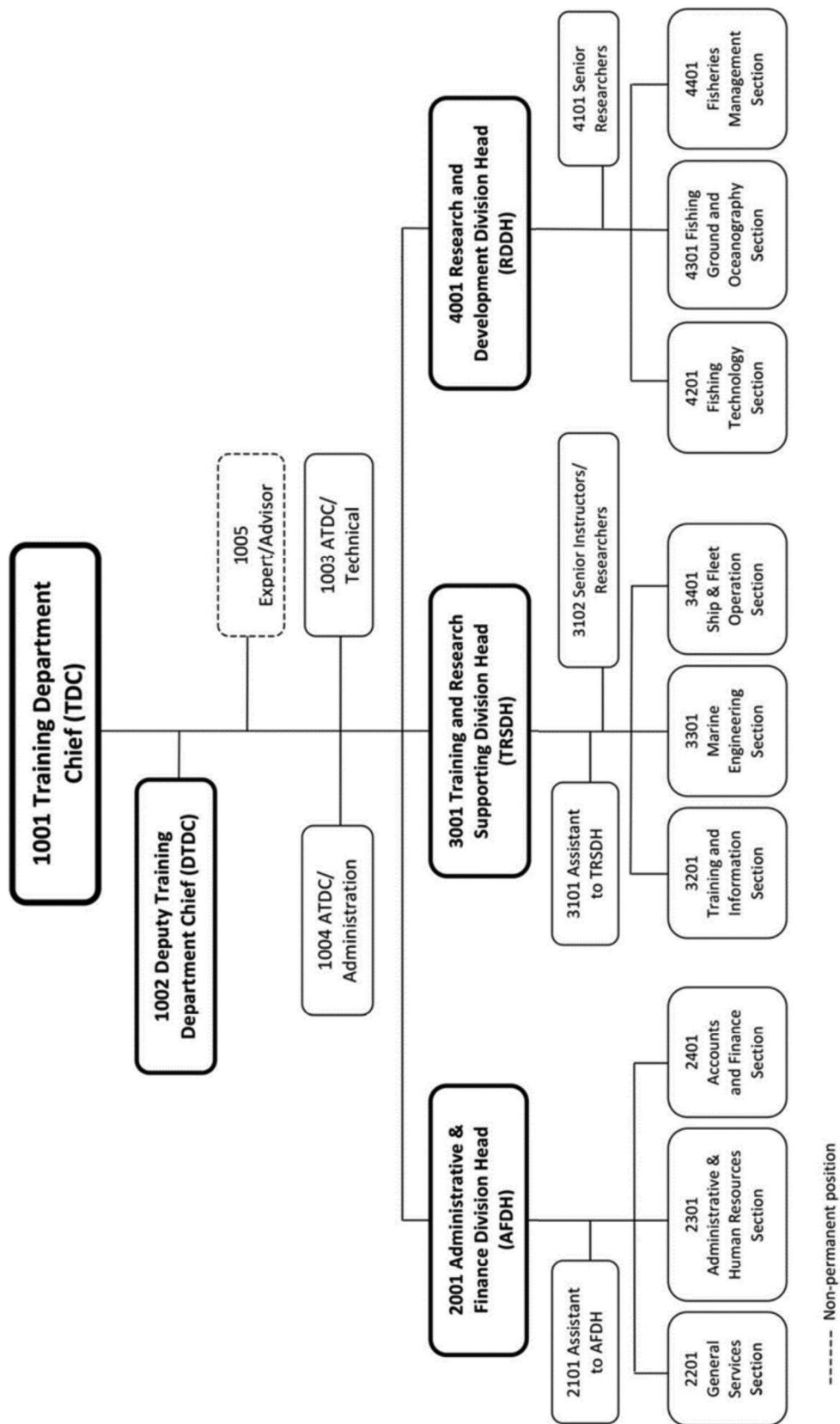
Organization Chart of the Training Department

The new Organization Chart is appended as *Appendix 2*.

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

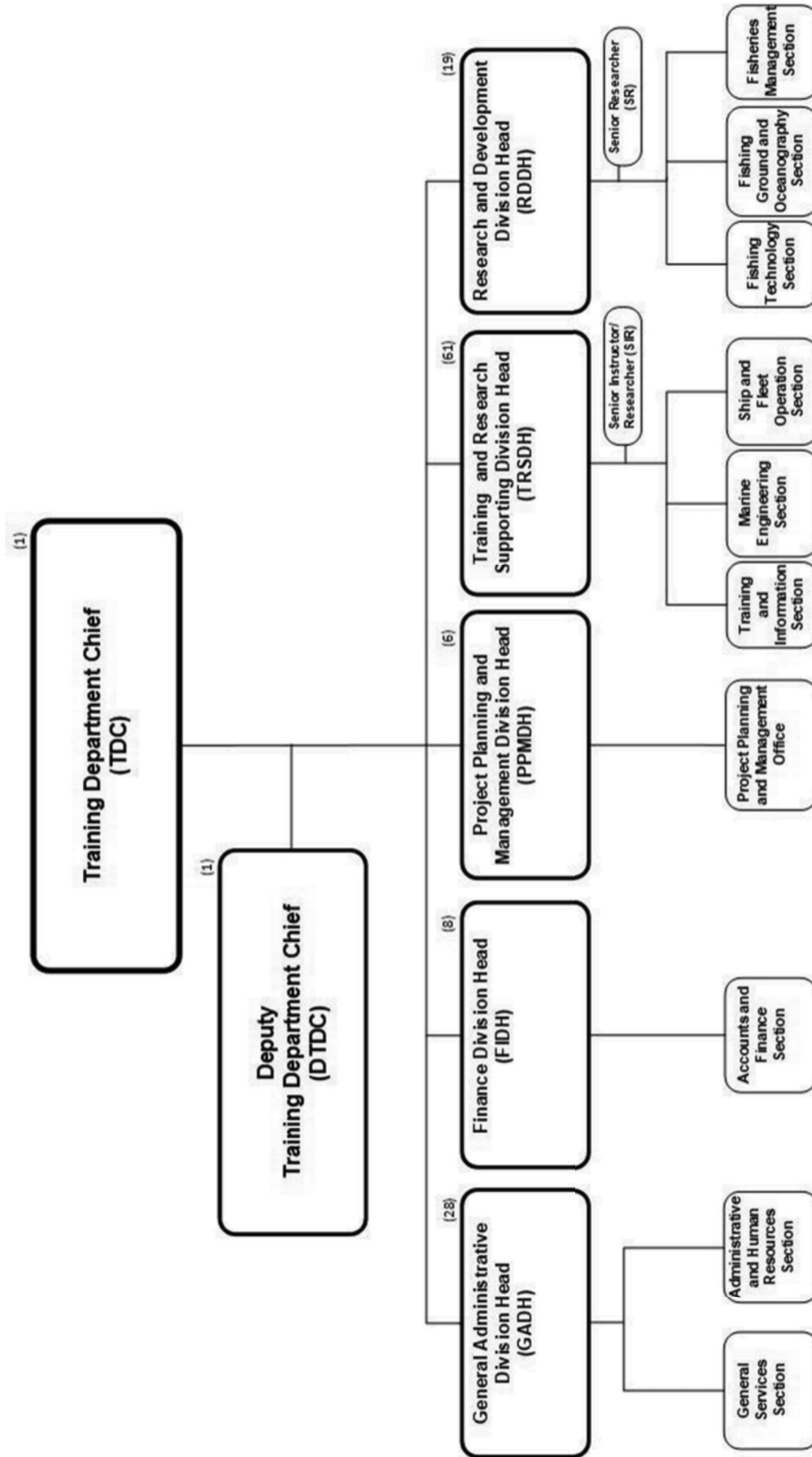
The Council is requested to consider approving the proposed new organizational structure of the SEAFDEC Training Department.

Current Organizational Structure of TD



----- Non-permanent position

Proposed New Organizational Structure of TD



Annex 22

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AUDITED ABRIDGED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019**

	In US\$	
	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	11,321,346	10,879,078
Other sources	739,862	2,352,403
Other income	559,447	491,178
TOTAL REVENUES	12,620,655	13,722,659
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	3,926,091	3,774,923
Training	1,148,241	1,678,197
Information	554,779	690,511
Collaborative	131,709	201,043
Others	297,510	740,888
Administrative	4,573,747	4,772,618
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	10,632,077	11,858,180
	1,988,578	1,864,479
	SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	
	FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	15,191,064 ^{1/}
	FUND ADJUSTMENT	(12,948) (1,162)
FUND BALANCE, End of year	17,166,694	14,895,908 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	17,811,997	15,938,412
Receivables and other receivables	393,106	465,279
Advance and deposits	58,432	22,023
Materials and supplies inventory	35,835	26,258
Fuel oil for vessels	177,960	215,910
Prepayments	6,515	7,875
Other current assets	2,028	1,923
Total Current Assets	18,485,873	16,677,680
Noncurrent assets		
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	301,466	231,642
Termination indemnity fund	2,474,403	2,521,454
Long-term investments	482,140	273,906
Other noncurrent assets	256,001	215,110
Total Noncurrent Assets	3,514,010	3,242,112
TOTAL ASSETS	21,999,883	19,919,792
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accrued payable	977,237	846,670
Contribution received in advance	1,139,750	1,454,120
Fund held in trust	241,799	201,640
Total Current Liabilities	2,358,786	2,502,430
Provision for termination indemnity	2,474,403	2,521,454
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,833,189	5,023,884
NET ASSETS	17,166,694	14,895,908

^{1/} The Difference of US\$ 295,156 (US\$ 15,191,064 – US\$ 14,895,908) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
SECRETARIAT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019**

	In US\$	
	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	499,000	499,000
Other sources	-	33,039
Other income	12,930	(41,194)
TOTAL REVENUES	511,930	490,845
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Training	-	480
Information	62,576	66,569
Collaborative	118,024	177,347
Others	12,242	29,927
Administrative	82,648	420,768
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	275,490	695,091
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	236,440	(204,246)
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	910,164	1,111,062
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	1,146,604	906,816
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,173,633	921,283
Other receivables	20,063	45,356
Advance and deposits	209	184
Supplies inventory	-	-
Prepayments	1,297	1,867
Total Current Assets	1,195,202	968,690
Noncurrent assets		
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	301,466	231,642
Total Noncurrent Assets	301,466	231,642
TOTAL ASSETS	1,496,668	1,200,332
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accounts and other payables	316,277	259,302
Contribution received in advance	33,787	34,214
TOTAL LIABILITIES	350,064	293,516
NET ASSETS	1,146,604	906,816

1/ The difference of US\$ 3,348 (US\$ 910,164 – US\$ 906,816) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019**

	In US\$	
	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	3,313,847	3,549,766
Other sources	470,175	1,688,117
Other income	84,797	(13,187)
TOTAL REVENUES	3,868,819	5,224,696
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	273,324	300,813
Training	1,077,712	1,516,537
Information	252,283	258,385
Collaborative	13,685	23,696
Others	285,268	710,961
Administrative	1,272,312	1,548,331
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,174,584	4,358,723
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	694,235	865,973
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	9,286,336 ^{1/}	8,386,199
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	9,980,571	9,252,172 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	10,857,326	10,422,796
Other receivables	127,337	56,589
Advance and deposits	58,223	21,839
Supplies inventory	16,083	16,967
Fuel oil for vessels	170,637	210,265
Prepayments	5,218	6,008
Total Current Assets	11,234,824	10,734,464
Noncurrent assets		
Termination indemnity fund	2,474,403	2,521,454
Total Noncurrent Assets	2,474,403	2,521,454
TOTAL ASSETS	13,709,227	13,255,918
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accrued payable	148,290	62,386
Contribution received in advance	1,105,963	1,419,906
Total Current Liabilities	1,254,253	1,482,292
Provision for staff termination indemnity	2,474,403	2,521,454
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,728,656	4,003,746
NET ASSETS	9,980,571	9,252,172

^{1/} The difference of US\$ 34,164 (US\$ 9,286,336 – US\$ 9,252,172) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019**

	In US\$	
	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	6,038,773	5,431,026
Other sources	269,687	631,247
Other income	461,720	545,559
TOTAL REVENUES	6,770,180	6,607,832
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	3,502,825	3,292,910
Training	70,529	161,180
Information	239,920	365,557
Administrative	1,899,003	1,585,433
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,712,277	5,405,080
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	1,057,903	1,202,752
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	4,994,564 ^{1/}	3,535,330
FUND ADJUSTMENT	(12,948)	(1,162)
FUND BALANCE, End of year	6,039,519	4,736,920 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,781,038	4,594,333
Receivables	245,706	363,334
Materials and supplies inventory	-	-
Inventory	19,752	9,291
Fuel oil for vessels	7,323	5,645
Other current assets	2,028	1,923
Total Current Assets	6,055,847	4,974,526
Noncurrent assets		
Long-term investments	482,140	273,906
Other noncurrent assets	256,001	215,110
Total Noncurrent Assets	738,141	489,016
TOTAL ASSETS	6,793,988	5,463,542
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accounts and other payables	512,670	524,982
Fund held in trust	241,799	201,640
TOTAL LIABILITIES	754,469	726,622
NET ASSETS	6,039,519	4,736,920

^{1/} The difference of US\$ 257,644 (US\$ 4,994,564 – US\$ 4,736,920) 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, 2020 AND 2019**

	In US\$	
	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	760,094	810,461
TOTAL REVENUES	760,094	810,461
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Administrative	760,094	810,461
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	760,094	810,461
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, 2020 AND 2019**

	In US\$	
	2020	2019
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	709,632	588,825
Other income	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	709,632	588,825
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	149,942	181,200
Administrative	559,690	407,625
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	709,632	588,825
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	-	-

Annex 23

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**

	In US\$	
	2021 (Un-audited)	2020 (Audited)
ACCUMULATED FUND		
As at December 31	18,676,435	17,166,694
REPRESENTED BY:		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	18,668,120	17,811,997
Receivables and other receivables	501,116	393,106
Advances and deposits	111,134	58,432
Supplies inventory	56,640	35,835
Fuel oil for vessels	142,966	177,960
Prepayments	193,793	6,515
Other current assets	2,168	2,028
Total Current assets	<u>19,675,937</u>	<u>18,485,873</u>
Noncurrent Assets		
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	337,840	301,466
Termination indemnity fund	2,235,012	2,474,403
Long-term investments	454,005	482,140
Other noncurrent assets	350,397	256,001
Total Noncurrent assets	<u>3,377,254</u>	<u>3,514,010</u>
Total Assets	<u>23,053,191</u>	<u>21,999,883</u>
Less: LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accrued payable	821,505	977,237
Contribution received in advance	981,556	1,139,750
Funds held in trust	338,683	241,799
Total Current Liabilities	<u>2,141,744</u>	<u>2,358,786</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Provision for staff termination indemnity	2,235,012	2,474,403
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>2,235,012</u>	<u>2,474,403</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>4,376,756</u>	<u>4,833,189</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>18,676,435</u>	<u>17,166,694</u>



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF REVENUES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020
(IN US\$)**

	Operating Fund		Fellowship Fund	Others Fund	Total	
	Host Department	MRC			2021 (Un-audited)	2020 (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	703,590	52,000	-	-	755,590	761,632
Government of Japan	-	280,000	-	-	280,000	280,000
Government of Lao PDR	-	6,500	-	-	6,500	6,500
Government of Malaysia	667,019	21,500	-	-	688,519	781,594
Government of Myanmar	-	22,500	-	-	22,500	22,500
Government of Philippines	6,078,550	25,000	-	-	6,103,550	6,063,773
Government of Singapore	-	13,500	-	-	13,500	13,500
Government of Thailand	2,819,985	33,000	45,249	-	2,898,234	3,346,847
Government of Viet Nam	-	26,000	-	-	26,000	26,000
Sub-total	10,269,144	499,000	45,249	-	10,813,393	11,321,346
Other Income						
Other sources	-	-	-	195,614	195,614	739,682
Other income	502,614	100,624	352	342,978	946,568	559,447
TOTAL REVENUES	10,771,758	599,624	45,601	538,592	11,955,575	12,620,655

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020
(IN US\$)

	Operating Fund		Fellowship Fund	Others Fund	Total	
	Host Department	MRC			2021 (Un-audited)	2020 (Audited)
EXPENDITURES						
Operating Expenditures						
Program of Activities:						
Research	3,533,762	-	-	153,467	3,687,229	3,926,091
Training	696,882	-	192	5,913	702,987	1,148,241
Information	419,945	37,224	-	15,992	473,161	554,779
Collaborative	10,841	103,700	-	-	114,541	131,709
Others	-	-	-	68,136	68,136	297,510
Total Operating Expenditures	4,661,430	140,924	192	243,508	5,046,054	6,058,330
Administrative & Capital expenditures	3,829,797	33,932	-	44,725	3,908,454	4,573,747
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,491,227	174,856	192	288,233	8,954,508	10,632,077
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	2,280,531	424,768	45,409	250,359	3,001,067	1,988,578

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FUND BALANCES AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020
(IN US\$)

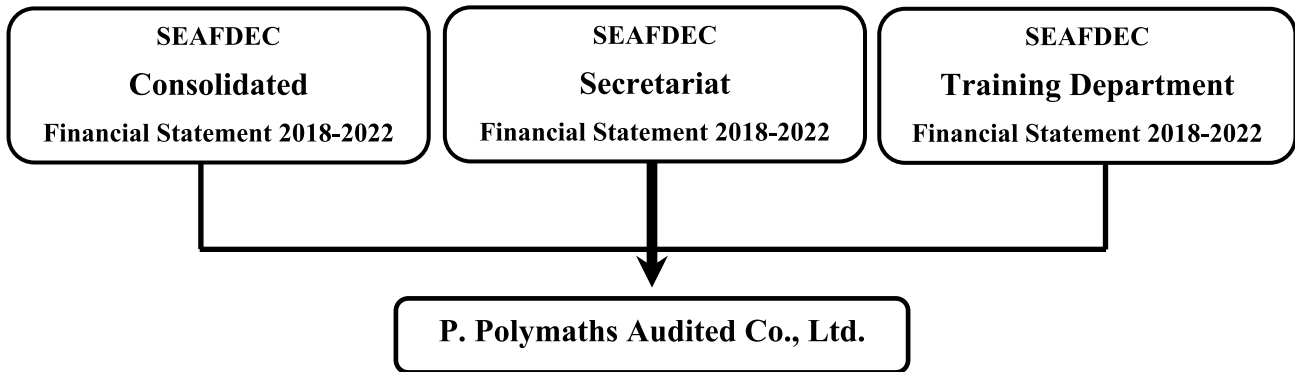
	Balance as at January 1, 2021	Adjustment of Fund	Surplus (Deficit)	Balance as at December 31, 2021 (Un-audited)	Balance as at December 31, 2020 (Audited)
Operating fund	13,197,288	(11,073)	2,705,299	15,891,514	14,421,084
Fellowship fund	267,773	-	45,409	313,182	297,976
Other funds	2,470,753	(249,373)	250,359	2,471,739	2,447,634
Net	15,935,814	1/ (260,446)	3,001,067	18,676,435	17,166,694

Remark: 1/ The difference of -US\$ 1,230,880 (US\$ 15,935,814 - US\$ 17,166,694) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED FROM SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES
AS ANNUAL MINIMUM REGULAR CONTRIBUTION (MRC) IN 2016 – 2022
(IN US\$)**

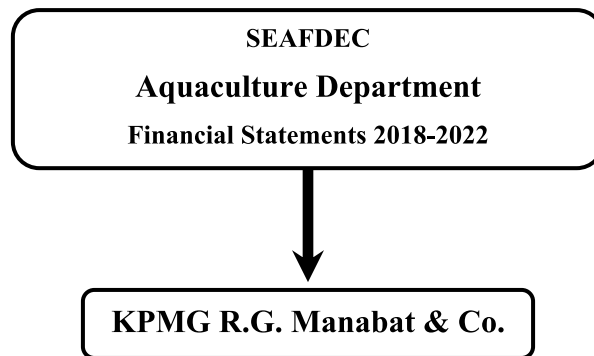
Countries	Actual received in 2016	Actual received in 2017	Actual received in 2018	Actual received in 2019	Actual received in 2020	Actual received in 2021	Amount received in 2022 as at 7/03/2022
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Cambodia	11,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	-
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
Lao PDR	5,000	6,500	6,500	6,500	-	-	-
Malaysia	21,000	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500
Myanmar	21,000	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	-
Singapore	13,000	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
Viet Nam	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000
Total	494,000	499,000	499,000	499,000	492,500	492,500	406,000

CONTACT PERSON AND EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM



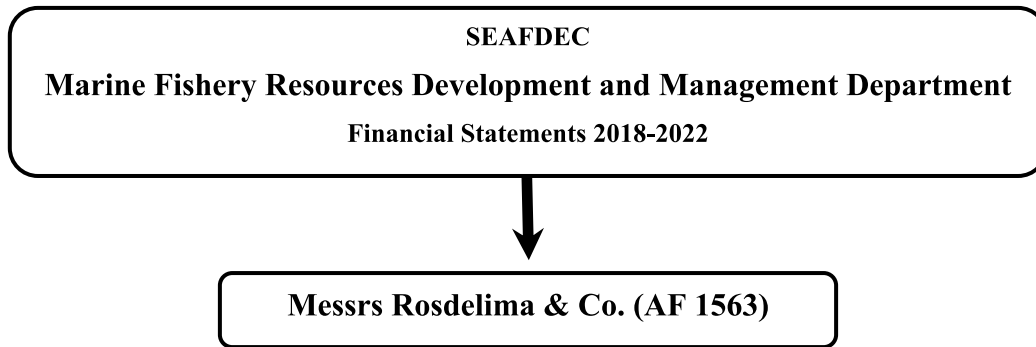
Auditor Name : Mr. Phongsakorn Suwannasaksin
Address : 33/6 Moo 14, Bangna-Trad Road, Bangkaew Sub-District,
Bangplee District, Samuth Prakarn 10540, Thailand
Telephone : (662) 7450316
Mobile : (661) 9499-4994
Email : Pong.audit57@gmail.com

CONTACT PERSON AND EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM



Auditor name : Mr. Tireso Randy F. Lapidez
Address : The KPMG Center, 9/F,
6787 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines 1226
Telephone : (632) 855-7000
Fax : (632) 894-1985
Email : tlapidez@kpmg.com

CONTACT PERSON AND EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM



Auditor name : Mrs. Rosdelima Binti Mohd Ali Jaafar
Address : No. 68-3, Suite 1, Blok H, Platinum Walk Danau Kota, Jalan Langkawi,
53300 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Telephone : 03-4143-2725

CONTACT PERSON AND EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM



Auditor name : Ir. Teuku Nilwan, M.M, QIA
Address : Gd. Mina Bahari III Lt. 4-6
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
JI Medan Merdeka Timur No. 16,
Jakarta 10110, Indonesia

PROPOSED BUDGETARY REQUIREMENT OF THE CENTER FOR THE YEAR 2022

Table 1: Estimated Contributions Received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other Sources (In US\$) in Fiscal Year 2022

Sources	Secretariat	TD	MFRD	AQD	MFRDMD	IFRDMD	Total	%
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	7,000	0.04
Cambodia	12,000	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	0.06
Indonesia	52,000	-	-	-	-	674,881 ^{h/}	726,881	3.91
Japan	280,000	-	-	-	-	-	280,000	1.51
Lao PDR	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	6,500	0.03
Malaysia	21,500	-	-	-	2,315,483 ^{g/}	-	2,336,983	12.58
Myanmar	22,500	-	-	-	-	-	22,500	0.12
Philippines	25,000	-	-	6,767,590 ^{f/}	-	-	6,792,590	36.55
Singapore	13,500	-	-	-	-	-	13,500	0.07
Thailand	33,000	3,066,000 ^{d/}	-	-	-	-	3,099,000	16.67
Viet Nam	27,000	-	-	-	-	-	27,000	0.16
Sub-total	500,000	3,066,000	-	6,767,590	2,315,483	674,881	13,323,954	71.70
Others	2,113,410 ^{b/}	2,451,082 ^{e/}	-	695,156 ^{i/}	-	-	5,259,648	28.30
Total	2,613,410 ^{a/}	5,517,082	-	7,462,746	2,315,483	674,881	18,583,602	100.00

- 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\$ 1,550,361 (Excluding MRC = US\$ 280,000), Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) = US\$ 321,024 ASEAN JICA Project = US\$ 189,500 and SEAFDEC FAO Project = US\$ 52,525
 - c/ Includes extra-budgetary sources from UNEP/GEF = US\$ 2,451,082
 - d/ Contribution 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 agencies/agencies and miscellaneous receipts

Table 2: Estimated Expenditures of the Center for 2022 (In US\$)

Category	SEC ^{1/}	TD ^{2/}	MFRD ^{3/}	AQD ^{4/}	MFRDMD ^{5/}	IFRDMD ^{6/}	Total	%
1. Program of Activities								
1.1 Research Programs	-	329,000	-	3,876,117	-	-	4,205,117	22.63
1.2 Training Programs	5,000	1,232,000	-	938,786	-	-	2,175,786	11.71
1.3 Information Programs	86,000	15,000	-	700,645	-	-	801,645	4.31
1.4 Collaborative Programs	150,000	16,500	-	-	-	-	166,500	0.90
1.5 Other Programs	2,176,410	2,451,082	9/	310,277	10/	-	4,937,769	26.57
Sub-total	2,273,381	4,043,582	-	5,825,825	-	-	12,286,817	66.12
2. Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures								
2.1 Operating Expenditures	188,500	1,473,500	-	1,340,926	-	-	3,002,926	16.16
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500	-	-	295,995	-	-	303,495	1.63
2.3 In-kind Expenditures	196,000	1,473,500	-	1,636,921	-	-	3,306,421	17.79
Sub-total	196,000	1,473,500	-	1,636,921	2,315,483	674,881	6,296,785	33.88
Total	2,613,410	5,517,082	-	7,462,746	2,315,483	674,881	18,583,602	100.00

- Remarks:**
- 1/ Secretariat
 - 2/ Training Department: The Program of Activities already includes administrative and others 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, insurance, and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of the M. V. SEAFDEC 2.
 - 8/ Includes program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$ 1,550,361, Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund = US\$ 321,024, SEAFDEC-JICA = US\$ 189,500 and Other Programs from MRC Fund = US\$ 63,000.
 - 9/ Includes program expenses from UNEP/GEF = US\$ 2,451,082
 - 10/ Includes program expenses from non-member governments, international/regional/national organizations and other agencies.

Table 3 Expected Contributions Received by SEAFDEC from Member Countries and Other Sources (In US\$) in Fiscal Year 2023

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	-	-	-	-	742,369 ^{h/}	794,369	4.56
Japan	280,000	-	-	-	-	-	280,000	1.60
Lao PDR	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	6,500	0.04
Malaysia	21,500	-	-	-	2,379,212 ^{g/}	-	2,400,712	13.77
Myanmar	22,500	-	-	-	-	-	22,500	0.13
Philippines	25,000	-	-	6,568,756 ^{f/}	-	-	6,593,756	37.81
Singapore	13,500	-	-	-	-	-	13,500	0.08
Thailand	33,000	3,680,000 ^{d/}	-	-	-	-	3,713,000	21.29
Viet Nam	27,000	-	-	-	-	-	27,000	0.15
Sub-total	500,000	3,680,000	-	6,568,756	2,379,212	742,369	13,870,337	79.54
Others	1,595,883 ^{b/}	1,286,900 ^{c/}	-	684,109 ^{i/}	-	-	3,566,892	20.46
Total	2,095,883 ^{a/}	4,966,900	-	7,252,865	2,379,212	742,369	17,437,229	100.00

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\$ 1,395,883 (Excluding MRC = US\$ 280,000 and Japan ASEAN JICA Project = US\$ 200,000)
^{c/} Includes extra-budgetary sources from UNEP/GEF = US\$ 1,286,900
^{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 organizations/agencies and miscellaneous receipts.

Table 4: Proposed Expenditures of the Center for 2023 (In US\$)

Category	SEC ^{1/}	TD ^{2/}	MFRD ^{3/}	AQD ^{4/}	MFRDMD ^{5/}	IFRDMD ^{6/}	Total	%
1. Program of Activities								
1.1 Research Programs	-	349,500	-	3,854,678	-	-	4,204,178	24.11
1.2 Training Programs	5,000	1,733,500	-	904,994	-	-	2,643,494	15.16
1.3 Information Programs	86,000	33,000	-	665,499	-	-	784,499	4.49
1.4 Collaborative Programs	150,000 ^{7/}	83,000	-	-	-	-	233,000	1.34
1.5 Other Programs	1,658,883 ^{8/}	1,286,900 ^{9/}	-	272,911 ^{10/}	-	-	3,218,694	18.46
Sub-total	1,899,883	3,485,900	-	5,698,082	-	-	11,083,865	63.56
2. Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures								
2.1 Operating Expenditures	188,500	1,481,000	-	1,273,636	-	-	2,943,136	16.88
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500	-	-	281,147	-	-	288,647	1.66
2.3 In-kind Expenditures	196,000	1,481,000	-	1,554,783	-	-	3,231,783	18.54
Sub-total	196,000	1,481,000	-	1,554,783	2,379,212	742,369	3,121,581	17.90
Total	2,095,883	4,966,900	-	7,252,865	2,379,212	742,369	17,437,229	100.00

- Remarks: ^{1/} Secretariat
^{2/} Training Department: The Program of Activities already includes administrative and others 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, insurance, and expenses for vessel periodic maintenance of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2.
^{8/} Includes program expenses from Japanese Trust Fund = US\$ 1,395,883, and Other Programs from MRC Fund = US\$ 63,000, ASEAN-JICA = US\$ 200,000
^{9/} Includes program expenses from UNEP/GEF = US\$ 1,286,900
^{10/} Includes program expenses from non-member governments, international/regional/national organizations and other agencies.

PRESS STATEMENT

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of Malaysia through its Department of Fisheries Malaysia as the host, the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council was convened on 23 and 25 May 2022 through an online platform due to the situation brought by the COVID-19.

2. In attendance at the Meeting were the Council Directors and delegations from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, and the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, as well as officials from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, and representatives from collaborating organizations. The Opening Session of the Meeting was held on 23 May 2022 and was presided over by the Director-General of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries and the SEAFDEC Council Director for Lao PDR, *Mrs. Vilayphone Vorraphim*. The Meeting unanimously elected the Council Director for Malaysia, *Mr. Haji Mohd Sufian bin Sulaiman*, as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2022–2023.

3. While taking note of the progress and achievements of SEAFDEC programs in 2021, the Council approved the proposed programs of activities to be undertaken in 2022 ensuring that the implementation would correspond to the priorities and needs of the countries in the region.

4. On the regional initiatives for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the Council acknowledged the progress made by SEAFDEC in sustaining the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over, and that the vessel data is to be updated regularly by the respective ASEAN Member States (AMSs) to ensure that the RFVR Database could be used effectively to combat IUU fishing; enhancing the regional cooperation to support the implementation of port State measures (PSM); and promoting the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS).

5. Moreover, the Council discussed several international fisheries-related issues. Noting that the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is planning to organize its 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP19) on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, the Council supported SEAFDEC in the organization of the Regional Technical Consultation in August 2022 to discuss and come up with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/coordinated positions on the proposed listing of commercially exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices. On the negotiation of Fisheries Subsidies under the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Council took note of the updated information on the discussion and expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for organizing a series of Training Workshops that provided capacity building on stock assessment for the Member Countries to fulfill the WTO requirements. In addition, with regards to the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) the Council noted the results of the Webinar on Regional Responses to the U.S. MMPA, and requested SEAFDEC to further coordinate with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to provide technical support to enable the AMSs to fulfill the U.S. MMPA requirements.

6. With regard to the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030), the Council took note of the progress made by SEAFDEC in conducting the “RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Development of the Key Indicators and Detailed Roadmap for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation” in March 2022 and that the draft key indicators will be finalized at the Second Regional Workshop scheduled in June 2022.

7. The Council acknowledged the publication “The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022” produced by SEAFDEC to provide information on the status, issues, challenges, and outlook of fisheries and aquaculture in the region. The Council also took note of the results of the “Study on the Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries” undertaken by SEAFDEC providing a set of recommendations to mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19 and revive the fisheries and aquaculture sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.



8. Noting that the “Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants” of Japan will enter into force on 1 December 2022, the Council welcomed and approved the proposal of Japan for SEAFDEC to jointly conduct the Webinar on Japan’s Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) in late July or August 2022.

9. On the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 which was granted by the Government of Japan to SEAFDEC in 2004, proposals were put forward by some Member Countries such as Thailand and the Philippines for utilizing the research vessel in 2022; while the survey plan utilizing the research vessel by Myanmar in the near future would also be discussed and finalized within 2022.

10. The Council appreciated the extension of close cooperation and collaboration between SEAFDEC and other regional/international agencies/organizations, including the United States Agency for International Development/Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), in undertaking activities towards sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region.

11. At the closing of the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, the Council extended its appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for the excellent hosting of the Meeting. The Council then announced that the Fifty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2023 would be hosted by the Government of Myanmar.

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Yeo Moi Eim, SEAFDEC National Coordinator for Malaysia (meyeo@dof.gov.my)

Ms. Nualanong Tongdee, Information Program Coordinator, SEAFDEC Secretariat (nual@seafdec.org)

CLOSING REMARKS

By Haji Mohd Sufian bin Sulaiman

*Director-General of Department of Fisheries Malaysia, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry and
Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2022–2023*

Dear Colleagues, we have come to an end of this meeting. Together, we have made tremendous progress. We have approved programs and budgets, deliberate on issues and shared views. These inputs will serve as guidance to ensuring sustainable utilization of our precious resources and further develop the fisheries industry for the benefit of our communities and economic growth. It has been a great pleasure for me as Chair. I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to everyone for your kind cooperation. Your support has ensured successful outcomes of the Meeting. On behalf of all Council Directors and delegates, I would like to thank the SEAFDEC Secretariat and all SEAFDEC Departments for facilitating the organization of this meeting.

With that, I would like to declare the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council closed. Till we meet again next year in Myanmar.

Thank you and stay safe.