

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

9 and 11 May 2023
(Virtual Meeting)



THE SECRETARIAT
SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

Report of the Fifty-fifth 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.

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(9 and 11 May 2023)

(Virtual Meeting)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fifty-fifth Meeting of the Council (55CM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was conducted on 9 and 11 May 2023 through the online platform.

2. The 55CM 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 SEAFDEC Secretary-General, SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments also attended the 55CM. The list of participants appears in **Annex 1**.

I. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Opening of the Meeting

3. The Director-General of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries Malaysia, *Dato' Adnan bin Hussain*, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2022–2023 welcomed the participants to the 55CM. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Myanmar for hosting the 55CM through the online platform with the support of the SEAFDEC Secretariat. He also expressed appreciation to other SEAFDEC Council Directors, SEAFDEC Secretariat, as well as SEAFDEC Departments for extending support to the former Council Director for Malaysia and Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2022–2023, *Datuk Haji Mohd Sufian bin Sulaiman*, who recently retired prior to the 55CM. He conveyed his sincere appreciation to the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments as well as relevant donors for supporting the Member Countries in the sustainable development of the fishery industry to ensure the food security and livelihood of the people in the region. *Dato' Adnan* also recalled the important developments in 2022, particularly the World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and hoped that SEAFDEC would continue to support Member Countries in fulfilling existing and new obligations. Noting that there will be a number of programs and projects to be implemented by SEAFDEC in 2023, he expressed the willingness of Malaysia to support the implementation of these programs and projects. He then urged all the Council Directors and SEAFDEC for their cooperation toward fruitful discussion and success of the 55CM and declared the 55CM open. His Remarks appear in **Annex 2**.

1.2 Election of the Chairperson for the Year 2023–2024

4. The Director-General of the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar and SEAFDEC Council Director for Myanmar, *Mr. Wai Lin Maung*, was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2023–2024, in accordance with Article 5, Paragraph 4 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC. He then expressed his gratitude for being designated as the SEAFDEC Council Chair for 2023–2024 and thanked the Council Director for Malaysia for his excellent Chairpersonship in the previous year as well as the SEAFDEC Secretariat for supporting Myanmar in the preparation of the 55CM. While reiterating the significant challenges faced by the fisheries sector of the region and the achievements in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, managing fisheries resources, and addressing international fish trade and emerging issues (*i.e.* fisheries subsidies, marine debris, microplastics, ALDFG, and others), he expressed gratitude to SEAFDEC for facilitating regional cooperation and partnerships among the Member Countries. His Remarks appear in **Annex 3**.



1.4 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*, presented the draft SEAFDEC Annual Report 2022 which highlighted the activities and major achievements of SEAFDEC from January to December 2022 in accordance with the SEAFDEC Strategies Towards 2030. She expressed appreciation to the Member Countries and Council Directors for their support that enabled SEAFDEC to come up with good results throughout the year 2022.

7. The Council Director for Thailand expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing activities in 2022 that benefited the Member countries, particularly the conduct of a number of technical trainings that enhanced the knowledge and capacity of the staff of the countries to comply with rules and regulations of trading partners and relevant guidelines developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He particularly expressed appreciation to the SEAFDEC Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management (IFRDMD) for modifying the activity Special Area for Conservation and Fish *Refugia* or SPEECTRA in a timely manner under the project “Management Scheme for Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region” in response to the request of the Member Countries during the 45PCM. Moreover, while encouraging SEAFDEC to continue serving as a technical arm to support the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in undertaking activities toward fisheries and aquaculture development, he urged the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD) and Training Department (TD) to consider the request conveyed during the 25FCG/ASSP in 2022 to organize a training program on broodstock management for the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA) in the year 2023 as a part of the ASA project proposal on regional collaboration for long-term genetic improvement of growth, robustness, and resistance to early mortality syndrome (EMS) in white shrimp.

8. While expressing appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing programs of activities and congratulating its achievements in 2022 despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council Director for Indonesia encouraged SEAFDEC to conduct all activities in 2023 in an in-person manner. He then approved the draft SEAFDEC Annual Report 2022 for publication and dissemination.

9. The Council Director for Lao PDR expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for the implementation of programs and activities in 2022, especially those aiming to support inland fisheries development. He urged SEAFDEC to continue providing technical assistance to the Member Countries including Lao PDR in 2023 in line with the SEAFDEC Strategies Toward 2030.

10. The Council Director for Malaysia expressed appreciation and congratulated SEAFDEC for implementing the programs and activities in 2022, and approved the programs in 2023 which were aligned with the SEAFDEC Strategies Toward 2030. He emphasized the importance of “Strategy II: Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribution to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region” in helping the region meet the increasing demand for food fish and reduce pressure on capture fisheries, and suggested AQD consider conducting more capacity-building activities on broodstock and seed quality improvement as well as relevant research and development programs. Moreover, while noting that TD is planning to organize an online seminar on fishing gear marking in 2023, he requested TD to also include a session for the AMSs to share their respective current status of fishing gear marking, experiences, and best practices to improve the effectiveness of fishing gear marking.

11. While expressing appreciation to SEAFDEC for implementing programs and activities in 2022, the Council Director for the Philippines requested SEAFDEC continue extending capacity-building activities to the AMSs to enhance their readiness to comply with the international obligations and commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.1 and Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). He also expressed gratitude to AQD for its cooperation with the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and other national agencies in conducting several activities in the Philippines.

12. The Council Director for Myanmar approved the draft SEAFDEC Annual Report 2022 which is a comprehensive reference for the Member Countries and collaborating organizations on the achievements of SEAFDEC during the year. He further suggested SEAFDEC continue providing capacity-building activities to the AMSs in line with the SEAFDEC Strategies Towards 2030. Moreover, he suggested SEAFDEC consider reactivating the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) program and allocating sustainable financial resources for this program in the future.

13. After sharing their views and comments on the activities of SEAFDEC, the Council approved the SEAFDEC Annual Report 2022 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-FIFTH MEETING

14. The Council took note of the results of the Forty-fifth Meeting of the Program Committee of SEAFDEC (45PCM) which was held on 5–7 December 2022 in Iloilo City, Philippines (**Annex 5**), as presented by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, *Ms. Malinee Smithrithee*, in her capacity as Chairperson of the Program Committee. Subsequently, the Council provided comments and suggestions for the improvement of the future programs of activities of SEAFDEC.

15. The Council Director for Thailand approved the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2022 and the programs proposed for 2023 as recommended by 45PCM. With regard to the project “Strengthening a Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia,” he recommended TD consider adding a more detailed activity in the regional workshop on the implementation PSM to include the sharing of information among the AMSs on the national legislations, procedures related to the implementation of PSM for foreign fishing vessels at designated ports, and gap analysis of current legal and technical frameworks.

16. While taking note of the Report of the 45PCM and SEAFDEC efforts to implement activities in 2022, the Council Director for Indonesia commended SEAFDEC for its hard work and encouraged SEAFDEC to establish partnerships with relevant universities in Southeast Asian countries which could help facilitate and promote sustainable fisheries practices in the region. Moreover, he also highlighted the successful implementation of the Vocational Goes to Actors (VOGA) and Smart Fisheries Village (SFV) programs of Indonesia that promote the active participation of fisheries communities in running activities such as aquaculture. These programs were instrumental in promoting the welfare of fisheries communities in Indonesia and could serve as models for similar initiatives in other AMSs.

17. The Council Director for Myanmar reiterated the request made by Myanmar during the 45PCM for SEAFDEC to provide technical assistance on the farming technology of tropical eels, and the response of the SEAFDEC Secretariat was that the breeding technology of the species is still limited; thus, Myanmar shall further discuss this matter with AQD. Furthermore, the Council Director for Myanmar informed the 55CM that Myanmar currently does not have the breeding or fattening technology of the species, and the fishers rely only on the wild catch. Noting that AQD has already developed in 2019 the Aquaculture Extension Manual No. 65 “Nursery Culture of Tropical Anguillid Eels in the Philippines,” he requested AQD extend technical assistance to Myanmar, either online or in-person mode, on the fattening technology of anguillid eels.

18. After the discussion, the Council approved the progress of the programs implemented by SEAFDEC in 2022, the proposed programs for 2023, as well as the recommendations of the 45PCM. The Council then requested SEAFDEC to consider incorporating the recommendations of the Council at this 55CM 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-FIFTH MEETING

19. The Council noted and endorsed the results and recommendations of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (25FCG/ASSP) which was held on 8–9 December 2022 in Iloilo City, Philippines (**Annex 6**) as presented by the Head of the Bureau of Public Relations and Foreign Cooperation of Indonesia, *Mr. Ari Prabowo*, on behalf of the ASEAN Co-chair for the 25FCG/ASSP. Subsequently, the Council provided recommendations for the improvement of the programs and projects under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism.

20. The Council Director for Myanmar expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for conducting activities under the FCG/ASSP mechanism and providing technical support to the AMSs. He also expressed the willingness of Myanmar to collaborate with SEAFDEC and Member Countries to address the common issues and challenges in the region under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism.

21. While noting the report of 25FCG/ASSP particularly the progress of SEAFDEC activities related to the 14th Meeting of ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (14AFCF), the Council Director for Brunei Darussalam highlighted the request of Brunei Darussalam for SEAFDEC to provide technical support on the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), particularly developing regional strategies and common understanding of sustainable small-scale aquaculture in the context of food security and poverty eradication to better contribute to food security, generate incomes and livelihoods, create social harmonies, and empower women. She also requested SEAFDEC to extend support to the AMSs in developing indicators to measure the contribution of small-scale aquaculture to better understand the issues on the operations and production of small-scale production.

22. The Council Director for Indonesia informed the 55CM that Indonesia conducted a national consultation regarding the development of ASWGF_i Priority Deliverables on Regional Strategies for the Implementation of SSF Guidelines and the progress of developing a document on the Common Understanding and Initiative on Small-scale Aquaculture. Initially, Indonesia explored support from several organizations, including SEAFDEC, to facilitate the activity. However, after internal discussions, Indonesia committed to conducting a national consultation that aligned with national programs supported by the national budget. In this connection, he informed the 55CM that experts from several organizations and stakeholders would be invited and consulted to enrich the document formulation.

23. After the discussion, the Council supported the results and recommendations of the 25FCG/ASSP and noted that they would be reported to the 31st Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF_i) in 2023. The Council then requested SEAFDEC to continue coordinating and cooperating with the ASEAN Secretariat in implementing programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism in the future.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATION ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

5.1 Efforts to Combating IUU Fishing

5.1.1 Implementation of the SEAFDEC's Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing (RFVR, eACDS, PSM)

24. The Council took note of the progress of ongoing SEAFDEC initiatives aimed at combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia in 2022 (**Annex 7**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD), including the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database, electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS), and regional cooperation in the implementation of port State measures.

25. While taking note of the progress of SEAFDEC initiatives in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia through the RFVR, eACDS, and PSM, the Council Director for Thailand requested SEAFDEC to consider developing a new phase of the RFVR Database to cover information on vessels with the size

ranging from 18 meters to less than 24 meters in length, given that the majority of vessels involved in IUU fishing activities in the region are smaller than 24 meters in length.

26. The Council Director for Viet Nam expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC and AMSs for their effort to combat IUU fishing. She commended SEAFDEC for conducting training courses to support fishing port inspection focusing on shipping containers as this is a new issue for the region and an international legal framework is not available. She, therefore, requested SEAFDEC to support Viet Nam by conducting capacity-building activities on the inspection of shipping containers based on the experiences of other countries and reviewing the existing legal frameworks to enable the AMSs in the inspection of shipping containers. Moreover, she encouraged SEAFDEC to collaborate with other donors and develop the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the port inspection of shipping containers. Regarding the MCS, she informed the 55CM of the new capacity-building program under the RPOA-IUU with funding support from the Government of Australia.

27. With regard to the suggestion of Thailand to include vessels ranging from 18 meters to less than 24 meters in the RFVR Database, the Council Director for Viet Nam, while expressing support for the suggestion, informed the 55CM that Viet Nam has different categories of fishing vessels ranging from 15 meters to 24 meters in length. She added that while the vessels smaller than 15 meters operate in the inshore area, the vessels with the size ranging from 15 meters to 24 meters in length operate in the offshore areas. She, therefore, informed the 55CM of the differences in the size range of vessels in the region.

28. In response to the suggestion of the Council Director for Thailand on the inclusion of vessels smaller than 24 meters in length in the RFVR Database, the Council Director for Indonesia raised the point that this suggestion would affect all AMSs. While expressing the preference toward optimizing the RFVR Database for vessels 24 meters in length and over, he suggested SEAFDEC bring the suggestion on the inclusion of vessels with the size ranging from 18 meters to less than 24 meters in length for discussion at the technical-level meeting before agreeing on this proposal.

29. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the 55CM that the responsibility of inputting the data on vessels 24 meters in length and over into the RFVR Database has already been transferred to the AMSs, and inputting of data on vessels from 18 to less than 24 meters in length into the RFVR Database would be up to the respective countries.

30. The Council Director for Malaysia thanked SEAFDEC and AMSs for their continued effort in combating IUU fishing. He then encouraged SEAFDEC to continue supporting the AMSs in combating IUU fishing through the RFVR Database, eACDS, and PSM. Moreover, he requested TD to organize training courses for stakeholders in Malaysia to harmonize the eACDS with the existing system in the country.

31. The Council Director for Indonesia reiterated the importance of SEAFDEC activities in combating IUU fishing, particularly those aiming to enhance the capacity of fisheries officers to implement the PSMA. He informed the 55CM that Indonesia is conducting the 4th Meeting of the Parties for the PSMA in Bali on 8–12 May 2023 and emphasized that the outcome of such meeting would be practical in implementing PSM to combat IUU fishing. He also expressed the willingness of Indonesia to update the RFVR Database and encouraged SEAFDEC to work closely with RPOA-IUU and AN-IUU to combat IUU fishing in the region. Furthermore, he encouraged SEAFDEC to invite the FAO to participate in regional activities to provide more information on the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment and FAO Global Information Exchange System.

32. While thanking SEAFDEC for implementing the initiatives and developing the RFVR Database to combat IUU fishing, the Council Director for Myanmar requested TD follow up and review the possible activities that could be undertaken by TD in line with recommendations from the Regional Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia organized by TD on 23–24 August 2022.



33. The Council Director for Japan emphasized the importance of addressing IUU fishing to preserve the sustainability of fishery resources. He urged SEAFDEC to avoid duplication of effort among different projects on addressing IUU fishing including the “ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia.”

5.1.2 Intergovernmental Collaboration to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia: AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU, and RFVR

34. The Council took note of the intergovernmental collaboration to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia focusing on the information-sharing platforms developed under the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU), Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU), and Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database (**Annex 8**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

35. The Council Director for Thailand expressed the view that the RFVR Database and the AN-IUU Interactive Platform could share data since the participating countries of these two platforms are also the AMSs. However, after the data sharing, there could be a concern about the duplication of the two platforms. He, therefore, proposed that the data in the RFVR Database should be made accessible by the AN-IUU interactive platform. Considering that SEAFDEC is not an operational arm but a technical arm of ASEAN for fisheries development, the operations of data entry should not be the function of SEAFDEC. In this connection, he informed the 55CM that Thailand would further discuss this proposal at relevant ASEAN-related meetings, such as the 3rd Meeting of AN-IUU which will be more appropriate than at the meeting among the SEAFDEC Council Directors.

36. While informing the 55CM that Myanmar is actively participating in sharing information on IUU fishing vessels with regional fisheries management organizations and through the PSMA and AN-IUU interactive platform, the Council Director for Myanmar informed the 55CM that Myanmar is not a member of the RPOA-IUU but wish to cooperate as an observer. He then requested SEAFDEC to provide the appropriate channel to obtain information from the RPOA-IUU.

5.1.3 Global Initiatives to Combat IUU Fishing: FAO Global Information Exchange System and Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment

37. The Council was informed of the FAO Global Information Exchange System (GIES) and Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment which were endorsed by FAO members during the 35th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (**Annex 9**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

38. While recognizing the relevant efforts of the FAO, the Council Director for Malaysia urged SEAFDEC to promote the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment and consider providing technical support to the AMSs through training and capacity-building programs including vessel tracking by using the common guidelines as a basis for the region as well as seeking funding from potential donors until 2030.

39. The Council Director for Viet Nam informed the 55CM that filling in information to the GIES requires the IMO number of the vessels. She highlighted the importance of using the platform for port inspections and information exchange and the need for technical support for utilizing the GIES, particularly for inspection activities. She concurred with the Council Director for Malaysia that SEAFDEC should provide capacity-building activities in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment and suggested SEAFDEC seek technical support from FAO.

40. The Council Director for Thailand suggested SEAFDEC explore ways to help the AMSs actively and effectively use and provide information to the GIES system. He agreed with the Council Directors for Malaysia and Viet Nam that SEAFDEC should provide training courses to promote the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.

5.2 Progress on the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region

41. The Council was informed of the outcomes of the stock assessment and risk assessment of neritic tunas in Southeast Asia (**Annex 10**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD). The Council noted the results of the genetic population and life history study for Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) in the region that the population is panmictic with shallow genetic structure due to high gene flow and that the average age of *E. affinis* populations in the northeast Peninsular Malaysia is approximately four years. In addition, the Council also noted the proposed plan to conduct the regional workshop on tuna-like species scheduled in the fourth quarter of 2023.

42. The Council Director for Thailand took note of the results of the studies of *E. affinis* and supported the organization of the regional workshop in the fourth quarter of 2023 as proposed by MFRDMD. He hoped that the workshop would enable the AMSs to recognize the current status of fish stock in the region and enhance their capacity in stock assessment as well as contribute to more effective management of tuna-like species.

43. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat suggested MFRDMD follow up on the recent issues regarding the impacts of climate change on tuna stocks, migration routes, and spawning grounds. He also informed the 55CM that the Bay of Bengal Inter-Governmental Organization (BOBP-IGO) recently organized a webinar on the impacts of climate change on the global stock and distribution of tuna.

44. The Council Director for Indonesia congratulated MFRDMD for the effort to conduct the study and welcomed the regional workshop to be organized in the fourth quarter of 2023. While informing the 55CM that Indonesia would send its officers to attend the regional workshop, he encouraged MFRDMD to also involve experts including those from relevant universities in the said regional workshop.

45. The Council Director for Malaysia congratulated MFRDMD for the progress of the study and the outcomes of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific Working Group (SWG)-Neritic Tuna Stock Assessments in the Southeast Asian Region. Additionally, he expressed support for the proposed regional workshop and hoped that its outcomes would support the AMSs toward sustainable management of neritic tunas in the region.

46. The Council Director for Japan expressed appreciation for the effort of MFRDMD in conducting studies on neritic tuna species that are in high demand in the world markets. Moreover, he wished that the regional workshop to be organized in 2023 to be successful and fruitful.

47. The Council Director for the Philippines congratulated MFRDMD for the works on neritic tunas indicating that *E. affinis* population in the region is panmictic. He recommended MFRDMD consider progressing from the activities on assessing the stock status and identifying the genetic characteristics of the species to activities on developing a Harvest Strategy/Management Procedure as a way forward to sustainably manage the species as a regional stock.

5.3 CITES-related Issues

48. The Council took note of the updated information on the voting results of the proposals to amend the Appendices of CITES for commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEAS) during 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) on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama as well as other relevant meetings of CITES (**Annex 11**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

49. The Council Director for Thailand expressed gratitude to SEAFDEC and AMSs for supporting the proposal of Thailand to downlist the Siamese crocodile from Appendix I to Appendix II during the CITES-CoP19. Moreover, he supported the suggestion from the 25FCG/ASSP for SEAFDEC to invite more participants from the AMSs in future regional technical consultations on CITES issues to develop common positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.



50. The Council Director for Indonesia acknowledged the positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of CEAS and the results of the Regional Workshop on Implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species for Seahorses on 14–17 March 2023 in Cebu City, Philippines. He also informed the 55CM that Indonesia had developed the NPOA-Seahorse for 2016–2020 which was still valid and used for non-detriment finding and analysis monitoring in the country.

51. Regarding the suggestion of the Council Director for Myanmar to SEAFDEC facilitate the development of regional policy on the management and conservation of tropical anguillid eel resources, the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the 55CM that SEAFDEC had developed the Policy Guidelines for Regional Conservation and Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels Resources in Southeast Asia which was endorsed by the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-AMAF) in 2019.

52. The Council Director for Japan expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC and respective Member Countries for their collaborative actions during the CITES-CoP19. He reiterated that several CEAS including shark species were listed in the CITES Appendices during the CITES-CoP19 without sufficient scientific evidence. Moreover, he expressed the concern that there could be more species proposed for listing in the CITES Appendices in the future without sufficient scientific basis based on the look-alike provision. He, therefore, emphasized that there is a need for strong collaboration among the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in establishing common positions at the CITES-CoPs.

53. The Council Director for Cambodia expressed gratitude to SEAFDEC and the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) for supporting the participation of Cambodia in CITES-CoP19. He also informed the 55CM that Cambodia has difficulty in the identification of species based on imported shark fins. Moreover, he made an observation that other organizations like the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) had been dominant during the CITES-CoPs and suggested SEAFDEC engage not only FAO but also other organizations in its future activities.

5.4 Combating Marine Debris and ALDFG in Southeast Asia: Policy Frameworks and Collaborative Projects by SEAFDEC

54. The Council noted the issues and SEAFDEC initiatives in combating marine debris, microplastic, and abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) in Southeast Asia (**Annex 12**) as presented by the representative from TD.

55. While noting the issues of marine debris and ALDFG as well as relevant projects to be implemented by SEAFDEC, the Council Director for Malaysia suggested SEAFDEC follow up on the discussion at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) platform relevant to reporting of ALDFG and emphasized that fishing gear marking could be mandatory in the future. Considering that any decision from the IMO platform would affect the Southeast Asian region, he urged SEAFDEC to participate and obtain relevant information from this platform to be able to provide advice to the AMSs. This is considering that the delegates from the AMSs attending the IMO platform may not be from fisheries-related authorities but from the maritime authorities. In addition, he informed the 55CM that the IMO recently organized the 10th session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response on 24–28 April 2023 and decided on the re-establishment of a correspondence group for plastic litter from vessels, and the discussion also included reporting of ALDFG and gear marking.

56. While agreeing with the suggestion made by the Council Director for Malaysia, the Council Director for Thailand proposed SEAFDEC provide technical support and conduct training courses to build the capacity of the AMSs on the implementation of FAO Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gears in order to tackle ALDFG which have adverse impacts on fishery resources and marine environment in Southeast Asia.

57. The Council Director for Indonesia took note of the report and the articles produced by SEAFDEC on ALDFG. Noting that there are several initiatives in the region, he shared information on the initiative of Indonesia called “Bulan Cinta Laut Program” which prohibits fishers to fish for a month during beach cleanup and exchanges the quantity of plastic debris they took from the sea with the value similar to the price of fish they usually catch. Regarding the ALDFG in Indonesia, he informed the 55CM that discarded

fishing gear from local fishers are few due to the expensive price. Fishers try to keep, modify, and continue using the gear for fishing properly rather than discarding it. Moreover, he expressed the view that ALDFG is transboundary which could come from other countries and be stranded in other countries including Indonesia.

58. The Council Director for the Philippines shared similar concerns on ALDFG expressed by other Member Countries. He further urged SEAFDEC to make an effort to provide capacity-building activities to the Member Countries in line with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear.

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

59. The representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), *Dr. Simon Funge-Smith*, on behalf of the Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of the FAO/RAP, *Mr. Jong-Jin Kim*, reiterated several global developments in 2022, particularly the adoption of “WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies” which has implications for the Asian region with respect to the assessment of the status of fish stocks and fisheries and the need for improved information on fishing fleets and the financial support mechanisms provided to the sector. In connection to this, he expressed his appreciation to SEAFDEC for jointly conducting with FAO workshops to strengthen the Member Countries’ capacity on stock assessments and determining stock status in the country, which is important not only with respect to the WTO Agreement on fisheries subsidies but also in terms of delivering on the SDG14 commitment to end overfishing and combatting IUU fishing.

60. On another global development, the “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,” which is anticipated to have strong implications on fishery management in the context of protection and conservation highlighting “Other Effective Conservation Measures” (OECM), he emphasized that this would be another area of cooperation between SEAFDEC and FAO and the projects funded by the Global Environment Facility Large Marine Ecosystem in the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Thailand have the potential to act as pilots for advancing sustainable approaches and promoting fishery management as an OECM. He also shared updated information on small-scale fisheries and aquaculture such as the study “Illuminating Hidden Harvest,” which was developed by FAO, Duke University, and WorldFish; and the joint effort of FAO and NACA in organizing a high-level meeting and producing a White Paper on Aquaculture transformation. He then encouraged the Member Countries to attend the follow-up high-level meeting that will be organized by FAO and NACA at the end of 2023. In the end, he looked forward to continuing the collaboration and partnership between SEAFDEC and FAO toward blue transformation for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia. His Statement appears in **Annex 13**.

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: Result of the 2021 Baseline Information

61. The Council took note of the draft Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information) (**Annex 14**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

62. The Council Director for Thailand expressed appreciation to SEAFDEC for developing the draft Report on the baseline information on the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 by the respective AMSs. According to the draft Report, he shared the view that capacity-building activities should be emphasized in Cambodia and Myanmar. Furthermore, he suggested that the results of the evaluation should support the development of the ASWGF Priority Deliverable “Training Needs Assessment to Identify the Current Demand for Knowledge and Skills Needed for a Sustainable” under the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025 in order to avoid the duplication of works of SEAFDEC and those under the ASEAN Mechanism.



63. While expressing appreciation for the draft Report prepared by SEAFDEC, the Council Director for Viet Nam reiterated the significance of the RES&POA-2030 as a policy framework toward sustainable fisheries in the region, thus, the evaluation of its implementation is important. Nonetheless, she shared the view that the current evaluation is subjective and urged SEAFDEC to come up with clearer and more comprehensive indicators for the respective Plan of Action (POA) in order to obtain an in-depth and better picture of the implementation. She then provided specific examples of how the results of the monitoring and evaluation based on the key indicators developed by SEAFDEC and AMSs did not reflect the nature of specific points of the RES&POA-2030 which made the draft Report meaningless. She, therefore, expressed the position of Viet Nam not supporting the submission of the Report to the ASEAN Mechanism.

64. The Council Director for Malaysia congratulated SEAFDEC on the excellent coordination with the AMSs in preparing the draft Report. He then supported SEAFDEC to further submit the Report to the ASWGFi and higher authorities of ASEAN for consideration. Moreover, he shared the view that this draft Report included only the baseline information on the progress of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030, and urged SEAFDEC to continue extending support to the AMSs to submit the progress in the future. Although some AMSs are facing challenges to provide inputs in this evaluation which is subjective, he informed the 55CM that Malaysia is of the view that the draft Report provides useful information.

65. The Council Director for Indonesia informed the 55CM that Indonesia actively participated in the workshops organized by SEAFDEC to develop the key indicators and approved that the SEAFDEC National Coordinators would also serve as focal persons for the evaluation; therefore, he supported the draft Report.

66. However, the consensus of approval of the Council of the draft Report for submission to the ASEAN Mechanism could not be achieved considering the diverse views of the Council Directors on this matter. The Council, therefore, agreed to cast votes in accordance with Article 7 Paragraph 2 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC. As a result, the draft Report was approved by the majority of the Council Directors for countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand; while the Council Director for Viet Nam expressed the view not to support the draft Report for further submission to the ASEAN Mechanism. In this regard, the Council Director for Viet Nam expressed the view that although matters could be decided by a majority vote of the Council, the further submission of the Report to the ASEAN Mechanism would be decided by consensus. Therefore, when submitting the Report to the ASEAN Mechanism, she requested SEAFDEC reflect that the Report was approved by the majority of the Council as well as include the comments of the Council as supporting dossiers.

67. The Council Director for the Philippines expressed the view that the draft Report could be considered preliminary. He suggested SEAFDEC take into account the concerns of some AMSs that could not approve the draft Report, and a more substantial evaluation should be considered by SEAFDEC in the future. Such suggestion was also supported by the Council Director for Japan and Thailand.

68. The Council Director for Thailand suggested SEAFDEC add more key indicators for some POA as proposed by the Council Director for Viet Nam to be incorporated in the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (Mid-term Evaluation) in 2025.

69. The Council Director for Singapore suggested that the comments of the Council should be conveyed when SEAFDEC submits the Report to the ASWGFi *via* the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP).

70. After the discussion, the Council approved the draft Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information); and approved by the majority the submission of the Report to the ASWGFi and higher authorities of the ASEAN through the FCG/ASSP *ad referendum*.

7.2 Others

71. Considering that the COVID-19 situation is likely to be relieved in 2024, the Council Director for Thailand recommended SEAFDEC consider reactivating the RFPN program which could provide an excellent opportunity for fisheries officers from the AMSs to develop a professional network and gain international working experience. Furthermore, he requested SEAFDEC to conduct research and share with the AMSs the best practices to mitigate the impacts of fishing gear on marine mammals.

72. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat clarified that the discontinuation of the RFPN program in 2018 was not due to the COVID-19 situation but due to the completion of the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project that provided major financial support to the RFPN program. He then informed the 55CM that SEAFDEC would explore potential donors to support the RFPN program in the future.

73. The Council Director for the Philippines recognized the benefits of the RFPN program to the AMSs and encouraged SEAFDEC to reactivate the program by looking into other sources of funds in the future including the cumulative unspent budget of the Minimum Regular Contribution (MRC). His suggestion was also supported by the Council Directors for Lao PDR and Malaysia.

VIII. FUTURE DIRECTION REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL

74. 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

75. The Council noted the Operation of SEAFDEC Training and Research Vessels including the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2022 and the proposed utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2023 (**Annex 15**) as presented by the representative from TD.

76. The Council Director for the Philippines expressed appreciation to TD for collaborating on the development of the cruise plan for the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2023 to conduct a biomass survey of *Sardinella lemuru* and other pelagic resources in the Sorsogon and Zamboanga-Sulu areas. However, due to administrative difficulties faced by the country, he requested SEAFDEC to put on hold the proposal on the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2023 until further notice.

77. While expressing appreciation to the Government of Japan for the financial support to maintain the SEAFDEC research vessels, the Council Director for Thailand informed the 55CM that Thailand would postpone the use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 from 2023 to 2024. He also highlighted the significance of these two vessels in conducting oceanographic surveys and marine living resources assessments in Southeast Asia.

78. The Council Director for Malaysia took note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2022 and approved the proposed plan for the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2023. He also expressed gratitude to SEAFDEC for considering the request of Malaysia to join the training courses onboard M.V. SEAFDEC 2 on the operation of the scientific echosounder SIMRAD EK-80. Moreover, the Council Director for the Philippines also expressed a similar interest.

79. The Council Director for Brunei Darussalam confirmed the request of Brunei Darussalam to utilize the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and would further discuss with TD the survey cruise plan in 2023.

80. The Council Director for Japan emphasized the importance of fully utilizing the M.V. SEAFDEC and M.V. SEAFDEC 2. He expressed concern about the maintenance cost of M.V. SEAFDEC using the budget from the Government of Thailand as the vessel is already about 30 years old and the maintenance cost is increasing year by year. He then expressed the view that M.V. SEAFDEC may no longer be suitable to support the needs of the Member Countries, therefore he suggested that the SEAFDEC Secretariat consider conducting a study on the future use of M.V. SEAFDEC.



81. After the discussion, the Council approved the proposed plan for the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2023 based on the updated information. The Council then urged SEAFDEC to continue the discussion with the requesting countries/parties in finalizing their survey cruise plans to maximize the utilization of the vessel.

9.2 Collaborative Arrangements between SEAFDEC and Other Organizations

82. The Council was informed of the collaborative arrangements between SEAFDEC and other organizations (**Annex 16**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

83. The Council took note of the collaborative arrangements that have already been signed by SEAFDEC, including: 1) Memorandum of Agreement between AQD and Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS); 2) Memorandum of Agreement for the implementation of the project on the rehabilitation of fisheries habitats in the oil rig platform in the Gulf of Thailand; and 3) Agreement on Academic Cooperation between Research Institute for Applied Mechanics, National University Corporation Kyushu University, Japan and SEAFDEC.

84. With regard to the Operational Partners Agreements (OPAs) between SEAFDEC and FAO for the Implementation of the project “Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities (GEFIW funding and NORAD funding), the Council noted that the SEAFDEC Secretariat sent letters to the Council to seek approval of the two OPAs. Considering that the approval of the Council has already been obtained, SEAFDEC would proceed to communicate with FAO on the signing of the OPAs.

85. While taking note of the arrangements established by SEAFDEC and approval of the new and proposed collaborative arrangements, the Council Director for Indonesia informed the 55CM that the BOBLME Phase II project is still under discussion with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

86. The Council approved the new collaborative arrangement between SEAFDEC and US-DOI concerning Supporting Participation in Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFiA), and requested SEAFDEC to proceed to the signing process.

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

87. The Council Director for Japan informed the 55CM that Japan has secured the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) budget for SEAFDEC for the year 2024 nearly the same amount in Japanese Yen (JPY) as in 2023 although the amount decreased by 20 % in US Dollar (USD) due to the depreciation of JPY. He then informed the 55CM that Japan would make an effort to secure the amount of the JTF budget for the ongoing development of JTF 7 for the year 2025 onwards. In this regard, he encouraged the Member Countries to express their recognition of the contribution of the Government of Japan to the fisheries development of the region during international fora such as the AMAF, AMAF+3, and other relevant meetings. The cooperation of the Member Countries would be helpful for the Fisheries Agency of Japan in facilitating the JTF budgetary request.

88. The Council Director for Malaysia expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the continued support to SEAFDEC and Member Countries. He also acknowledged the updated information on the JTF budget request process in Japan.

89. The Council Director for Thailand took note of the JTF budget request process and expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan which provided a significant contribution to the fisheries development of the Southeast Asian region.

90. The Council Director for Indonesia took note of the JTF budget request process in Japan and expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the support to the fisheries development of the region. He hoped that the process would be carried out smoothly to ensure that all scheduled program of activities could be implemented in a timely manner.

91. Furthermore, the Council Directors for the Philippines, Cambodia, and Lao PDR also thanked the Government of Japan for the support extended to SEAFDEC and Member Countries and hoped for continued support in the future.

92. On behalf of the SEAFDEC Council, the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for the continued support to SEAFDEC and Member Countries. He emphasized that financial support is crucial in implementing the projects aimed at addressing the various concerns and issues of responsible fisheries development for food security in the region.

9.4 SEAFDEC IMCS Network Membership

93. The Council noted that SEAFDEC has become a member of the International Monitoring Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network in early 2023 (**Annex 17**) as presented by the representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

94. The Council Director for Thailand expressed the view that SEAFDEC should have sought the approval of the Council prior to becoming a member of the IMCS Network. He also added that although the IMCS Network is an informal arrangement, its members are mostly external to SEAFDEC. He further referred to Article 6, Paragraph 2 (vii) and Article 12 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC stating the power of the Council to approve arrangements for SEAFDEC to cooperate with external organizations and governments; this should be regardless of whether the arrangements are formal or informal. He then expressed the view that the membership of SEAFDEC in the IMCS Network should strictly follow the said Articles.

95. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat clarified that SEAFDEC was invited by the IMCS Network to be a member and that the membership of SEAFDEC is an informal arrangement without obligation, cost, and signing of formal/legal documents. He added that SEAFDEC could gain benefits from being a member of the IMCS Network in terms of access to global expertise and resources, improved coordination and cooperation, enhanced capacity building and training opportunities, access to funding opportunities, and improved compliance with international obligations.

96. The Council Director for the Philippines also shared a view similar to the Council Director for Thailand. While recognizing the importance of membership in the IMCS Network that could benefit SEAFDEC, he suggested SEAFDEC consult and seek the approval of the Council prior to entering into cooperation with other organizations.

97. The Council Director for Japan informed the 55CM that the IMCS Network is a worldwide network for combating IUU fishing and being a member would be beneficial to SEAFDEC in creating a synergistic effect in combating IUU fishing. While supporting the suggestion of the Council Director for the Philippines that the prior approval of the Council should be obtained, he expressed support for SEAFDEC to enter into the membership of the IMCS Network.

98. While supporting SEAFDEC to be a member of the IMCS Network, the Council Director for Singapore expressed the view that cooperation with other organizations, either formal or informal, is the power of the Council to decide.

99. The Council Director for Indonesia shared a similar position with other Council Directors that although the membership in IMCS Network is beneficial, it is also important for SEAFDEC to recognize the function and power of the Council. He further suggested that to establish cooperation arrangements with similar conditions in the future, SEAFDEC may have flexibility by communicating through email correspondence to seek the approval of the Council.

100. After the discussion, the Council noted the benefits of being a member of the IMCS Network and approved SEAFDEC to be a member of the IMCS Network. The Council requested SEAFDEC seek prior approval of the Council in accordance with Article 6 and Article 12 of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC when establishing cooperation with other organizations and governments in the future.



X. FINANCIAL MATTERS

10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2021

101. In accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 2 (ii) of the Agreement Establishing SEAFDEC, the Council approved the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Center for the year ending on 31 December 2021 including that of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and four Departments, namely: TD, AQD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD, for the year 2021 (**Annex 18**) as audited by the official Auditor of the Center, *Mr. Phongsakorn Suwannasaksin*, from the P. Polymaths Audit Co., Ltd., Thailand.

10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2022, and Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2023

102. The Council took note of the Un-audited Financial Report of SEAFDEC for the Year 2022 and the Status of the Financial Situation of SEAFDEC for the Year 2023 which appear in **Annex 19**.

103. While taking note of Un-audited Financial Report of SEAFDEC for the Year 2022 and the Status of the Financial Situation of SEAFDEC for the Year 2023, the Council Director for Indonesia encouraged SEAFDEC to explore alternative sources of funding and donors to ensure a sufficient budget to support the planned activities of SEAFDEC for the year 2023 which would be conducted in person and could be more expensive compared to virtual activities due to the associated travel and accommodation costs as well as other logistical expenses.

104. While taking note of the Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2022 and the Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2023, the Council Director of Lao PDR informed the 55CM that Lao PDR would send the MRC to SEAFDEC as soon as possible.

10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2024

105. While expressing satisfaction with the manner in which the budget is utilized by SEAFDEC, the Council approved the proposed budgetary requirements of the Center for the Year 2024 (**Annex 20**).

106. The Council Director of Indonesia noted the proposed budgetary requirements and urged SEAFDEC to efficiently allocate the budget and consider the new programs and activities proposed by the Council.

XI. CONCLUDING MATTERS

11.1 Adoption of the Report and Press Statement

107. The Council adopted the Report of the Fifty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Press Statement on the results of the 55CM (**Annex 21**) on 11 May 2023.

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

108. Considering the date and venue of the Fifty-sixth Meeting of the Council, the Council Director for the Philippines informed the 55CM that the Government of the Philippines accepted the responsibility of hosting the next Council Meeting in the Philippines in 2024.

XII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

109. The Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council expressed appreciation to the Council Directors for their active participation and inputs to the Fifty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. He also thanked the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments for the support and successfully conducting the 55CM. With that note, he declared the 55CM closed. His Closing Remarks appears as **Annex 22**.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

OPENING REMARKS

By Dato' Adnan bin Hussain,

*Director-General of Fisheries, Department of Fisheries Malaysia
and SEAFDEC Council Director for Malaysia*

Bismillahirrahmanirahim, Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Ta'ala Wabarakatuh.

Good morning,
Dear 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,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the 55th SEAFDEC Council Meeting. On behalf of all Council Members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Myanmar and SEAFDEC Secretariat for hosting this Meeting today albeit virtually. On behalf of my predecessor, *Dato' Haji Mohd Sufian bin Sulaiman* who has officially retired on the 3rd January 2023, I would like to thank the SEAFDEC Secretariat and all Council Members who have supported him and Malaysia throughout his Chairmanship.

Last year was indeed a very productive year. As we ease into opening our countries to the world, there were many physical attendance programs that were organized. I hope that such momentum continues to this year and years to come. The year 2022 was also a very important year for the fisheries sector. Two landmark international instruments were concluded namely the World Trade Organization's Fisheries Subsidies Agreement (FSA) and the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF). On behalf of all council Directors, I would like to express sincere appreciation to SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments and our donor organizations for your support to the member countries in ensuring the sustainable development of the fisheries industry. The industry is very important for this region, both for ensuring food security as well as ensuring the livelihood of our people. Therefore, it is our hope that your support will continue as we have more obligations on our plates. We need to ensure our countries are ready to implement new obligations both technically and financially.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, As we gear into the year 2023, we took note that there will be 17 ongoing and 5 new projects under the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP) Mechanism; 7 programs Departmental Programs; and 2 Other Programs. Such huge tasks and responsibilities will require relentless support and good coordination. I hope that SEAFDEC Secretariat will get all the support they need from SEAFDEC Departments and countries. Malaysia will continue give our fullest support for the good of our region.

As I am about to relinquish Malaysia's chairmanship of the SEAFDEC Council, I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all Council Directors and SEAFDEC Secretariat for your support and cooperation. I wish the 55th SEAFDEC Council Meeting a success and look forward to have fruitful discussions with everyone. On this note, I hereby, declare the 55th SEAFDEC Council Meeting open.

Annex 3

REMARKS

By Mr. Wai Lin Maung,

*Director-General of the Department of Fisheries of Myanmar
and Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2023–2024*

My colleagues, SEAFDEC Council Directors,
Delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries,
Ms. Malinee Smithrithee, SEAFDEC Secretary-General,
Officials from SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, everyone. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Council Directors for choosing me as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for 2023–2024. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve this position and I am committed to advancing SEAFDEC's mission. I also want to thank *Dato' Adnan bin Hussain* for his exceptional leadership as the previous chairperson. His dedication to SEAFDEC's goals and accomplishments over the past year has been truly inspiring, and I look forward to building upon his successes in the year ahead.

I also wish to thank SEAFDEC Secretariat, Madam Secretary-General, and her staff for preparing and supporting Myanmar to hosting the 55th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council.

I just have few words to say before starting our session.

The fisheries sector in our region has faced significant challenges in recent years, and it is important to acknowledge this reality. However, we should also recognize and celebrate the notable achievements made during the past year, particularly in our collaborative efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, manage fisheries resources in marine and inland waters, to address on international fisheries related issues such as CITES, fisheries subsidies, to recognize the issues and explore ways to tackle marine debris, abandoned, lost, discarded, and otherwise fishing gear (ALDFG), a major source of marine plastic pollution, with ultimate goals improving the healths of aquatic ecosystem.

Despite the progress made in combating IUU fishing, managing of fisheries resources, and addressing marine debris and ALDFG among others, the fisheries sector still faces various challenges and obstacles. It is therefore essential for Member Countries to maintain their cooperation and partnership through the SEAFDEC Council Meeting. This serves as a crucial platform to gather all efforts and ensure the continuity and enhancement of regional cooperation for sustainable fisheries development. Additionally, reinforcing collaboration with other international and regional organizations is crucial to ensure the sustainable management and utilization of the region's fisheries resources.

We have a very busy day ahead, without further ado, ladies and gentlemen, I kindly request your attention to proceed with the Meeting procedures.

AGENDA

Agenda 1: Procedural Matters

- 1.1 Opening of the Meeting by Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2022–2023
- 1.2 Election of Chairperson for the Year 2023–2024
- 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-fifth 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-fifth Meeting

Agenda 5: Policy Consideration on Important Issues

- 5.1 Efforts to Combating IUU Fishing
 - 5.1.1 Implementation of SEAFDEC’s Initiatives for Combating IUU Fishing (RFVR, eACDS, PSM)
 - 5.1.2 Intergovernmental Collaboration to Combat IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia: AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU, and RFVR
 - 5.1.3 Global Initiatives to Combat IUU Fishing: FAO Global Information Exchange System and Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment
- 5.2 Progress on the Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region
- 5.3 CITES-related Issues
- 5.4 Combating Marine Debris and ALDFG in Southeast Asia: Policy Frameworks and Collaborative Projects by SEAFDEC
- 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: Results of the 2021 Baseline Information
- 7.2 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 Updates on JTF Budget Request Process in Japan and Needs of SEAFDEC Member Countries Cooperation
- 9.4 SEAFDEC IMCS Network Membership
- 9.5 Others



Agenda 10: Financial Matters

- 10.1 Adoption of Audited Financial Report for the Year 2021
- 10.2 Un-audited Financial Report for the Year 2022, and Status of the Financial Situation for the Year 2023
- 10.3 Proposed Budgetary Requirements of the Center for the Year 2024
- 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-sixth Meeting of the Council

Agenda 12: Closing of the Meeting

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

The Forty-fifth Meeting of the Program Committee (45PCM) of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) was organized from 5 to 7 December 2022 in Iloilo City, Philippines and hosted by the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (AQD). 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 2022 and scrutinized the programs to be implemented in 2023 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 2022 and those for implementation in 2023 appears in *Appendix 1*.

The 45PCM noted **Programs under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism**, which comprise nineteen (19) 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 five (5) new projects that are scheduled to commence in 2023. In addition, the 45PCM noted one (1) Pipeline Project, of which SEAFDEC is under discussion with potential donors for funding support and implementation. After the deliberations, the 45PCM approved the implementation of the implementation of the projects in 2022 and those for implementation in 2023, and provided recommendations on the Pipeline Project, which are 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

- TD to work with the Fisheries Administration (FiA) of Cambodia on fish catch monitoring at landing sites
- TD to develop a handbook on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) prior to the conduct of the training to ensure effectiveness of the training
- TD to discuss with FAO regarding the integration of the Database on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR Database) with the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) subject to confirmation from the AMSs on their intention to share the data with FAO
- AMSs to raise the issue of integrating the RFVR Database and the FAO Global Record at the FAO/COFI meeting in order to facilitate the process of integration of the RFVR Database and Global Record
- TD to include an activity on the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment in the Project activity for 2023
- TD to explore the possibility of organizing an online regional meeting inviting the AMSs and representatives from AN-IUU and RPOA-IUU to discuss on how the three platform could complement each other in combating IUU fishing
- TD to support Malaysia to organize training for stakeholders in Malaysia and IT experts to facilitate the harmonization of eACDS with the existing traceability system in the country
- TD to consider continuing activities on regional training course on Port States Measures in Inspection focusing on other modes of transportation other than shipping container
- AMSs to share experiences to SEAFDEC on the process to develop eACDS



- (2) **Harmonization and Enhancing Utilization of Fisheries Statistics and Information**
 - The 45PCM took note of the progress of this Project in 2022
- (3) **Responsible Fishing Technology and Practice**
 - TD to strengthen the capacity of the AMSs in the assessment of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) and fishing gear marking by organizing training and online seminar following the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear
 - TD to consider the development of technologies to improve fuel efficiency, especially for small-scale fishing vessels
 - TD to share the information to Malaysia on the experiment on the efficiency comparison between the use of Vee type and rectangular flat otter boards of trawls in the Gulf of Thailand by M.V. PLALUNG as well as consider the possibility of having officers from the Fisheries Research Institute Kampung Acheh, Malaysia to participate in such activity
 - TD to provide a regional platform to share experience and discuss mitigation measures on the impacts of climate change on the fisheries sector based on the outcomes of the M.V. PLALUNG's activities on innovation and technology for optimizing energy use and carbon emission reduction
 - TD to include research on fishing gear and technologies that could reduce the incidental catch of marine mammals
- (4) **Research for Enhancement of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Sharks and Rays in the Southeast Asian Region**
 - SEAFDEC to follow up on the movement of CITES-related issues, review the proposed listings based on scientific evidence, and facilitate the Member Countries to develop common positions related commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEAS)
 - SEAFDEC to conduct activities on the identification of priority key shark species to build capacity on data collection and stock assessment
 - AMSs to consider having a sub-regional collaboration for the management of sharks and rays
- (5) **Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia**
 - TD to explore GIS applications that could generate images in better resolution for the conduct of future training courses on GIS for marine resources management
- (6) **Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region**
 - AMSs to consider the results of the study conducted by MFRDMD as a scientific reference and develop their respective national fisheries management plans
- (7) **Management Scheme of Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region**
 - IFRDMD to consult with the Inland Fisheries Research and Development Institute of Cambodia and other development partners to supplement the research activities on fish catch monitoring in inland fisheries
 - IFRDMD to consider Thailand to be one of the project sites to apply the Special Area for Conservation and Fish *Refugia* (SPEECTRA) system
 - IFRDMD to include fisheries management in reservoirs in this Project
 - IFRDMD to consider conducting activities in Malaysia with the objective to improve the management of inland fisheries in Malaysia, especially in East Malaysia (*i.e.* Sabah and Sarawak)
- (8) **Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources**
 - TD to consider providing additional activities such as training or extension to assist EAFM pilot sites in Cambodia to implement their fisheries management plan
 - SEAFDEC to follow up on the previous training and facilitate the management plan at the pilot site in Lao PDR

- (9) **Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**
- The 45PCM noted the project technical closure will be completed by December 2022 and financial closure by June 2023
 - Project participating countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam to submit their respective audited financial reports for 2022 to SEAFDEC by 31 March 2023
- (10) **Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS (Geographic Information System) & RS (Remote Sensing) Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at AMS**
- The 45PCM took note of the progress of this Project in 2022 and the completion of the Project by December 2022 was also noted.
- (11) **Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region**
- SEAFDEC to provide technical assistance to Malaysia and Myanmar on the breeding technology of tropical eels
- (12) **Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia**
- The 45PCM took note of the progress of this Project in 2022
- (13) **Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia**
- TD to refer to the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear in developing the technical manual for fishing gear marking especially for the AMSs with multigears
- (14) **ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia**
- The 45PCM took note of the Project status and proposed activities for 2023, SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to the Program Committee *ad referendum* the information on the proposal once agreed by JICA

Strategy II: Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region

- (15) **Sustainable Aquaculture through Cost-Effective Culture Systems, and Prompt and Effective Aquatic Animal Health Management**
- SEAFDEC to consider mentioning the title of activities from “training course” to “knowledge sharing” or “seminar” when sending invitation letters to Myanmar in order to enable the participation of the representatives in the event

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

- (16) **Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products**
- The 44PCM took note of the progress of this project in 2022
- (17) **ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project**
- The 45PCM took note of the Project status and proposed activities for 2023, SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to the Program Committee *ad referendum* the information on the proposal once agreed by JICA
 - SEAFDEC to consider the inclusion of the study on zoonotic diseases in addition to the study on parasites in fish



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

- This strategy has no project in 2022

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

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

- SEAFDEC Secretariat to continue facilitating the ASEAN-SEAFDEC platform to review regional proposals and develop common positions to be conveyed to CITES CoP meetings
- SEAFDEC Secretariat to conduct a regional workshop or webinar on the U.S. Maritime Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act or Maritime Safe Act

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

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

- AMSs requesting to use the M.V. SEAFDEC or M.V. SEAFDEC 2 to submit the "Request for Utilization of SEAFDEC Research Vessel" form to SEAFDEC together with an official letter requesting the use of the research vessels
- SEAFDEC to consider the request from Brunei Darussalam to use the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the marine fisheries resources and environmental surveys in the coming years
- SEAFDEC to consider the request from Malaysia to use the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for an acoustic survey in 2024 subject to the availability of the budget from Malaysia
- SEAFDEC to provide capacity-building programs to the Philippines on the analysis of data from hydroacoustic equipment EK80
- SEAFDEC to coordinate with Myanmar on the cruise plan and to obtain the official letter and request form for the utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the fishery resource survey in Myanmar

New Projects

(20) USAID/SEAFDEC/Sustainable Fish Asia-SEA Project

- SEAFDEC to consult with USAID SUFIA to include the activities, 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 enhance the capacity of the AMSs to comply with the U.S. MMPA in the USAID SUFIA Project
- AMSs to share information with SEAFDEC on technical issues faced when dealing with NOAA on comparability findings and how SEAFDEC could support the AMSs to solve these issues in order to serve as inputs for the development of appropriate activities under this Project

(21) Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities

- The 45PCM took note of the Project status in 2022 and SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to the Program Committee *ad referendum* the information on the proposal once agreed by FAO

(22) Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)

- The 45PCM took note of the Project status in 2022 and SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to the Program Committee *ad referendum* the information on the proposal once agreed by FAO

(23) Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia

- The 45PCM took note of the Project status in 2022 and SEAFDEC Secretariat to circulate to the Program Committee *ad referendum* the information on the proposal once agreed by WWF-US

(24) Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia

- The 45PCM took note of the Project status in 2022

The 45PCM endorsed the progress of the **Departmental Programs** in 2022 which comprise eight (8) programs, five (5) of which were implemented by AQD, namely; 1) Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture; 2) Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture; 3) Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture; 4) Meeting Social and Economic Challenges in Aquaculture; and 5) Collaborative Projects with the Philippine Government; 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 Activities; and 3) USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Local Capacity Development Activity. The 45PCM then provided recommendations on these programs which could be summarized as follows:

1) Aquaculture Department

- AQD to provide technical assistance on specific pathogen-free (SPF) for *Penaeus monodon*, as its aligned with the project proposal under the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA)
- AQD to transfer milkfish breeding technologies through either the conduct of a training program at AQD or a visit of AQD researchers to Malaysia
- AQD to share the information and knowledge of the use of local materials to produce good quality local fish feed
- AQD to organize an online meeting to discuss the future collaboration between Myanmar and AQD on how to support the work of the new research department
- AQD to explore the possibility of sending missions to Cambodia every year to support the aquaculture development of the country. Detailed information on the required support from AQD would be discussed later so that the experiences of AQD could be shared with the country

2) Training Department

- TD consider the possibility of conducting activities to facilitate sharing of experience between the fisheries management areas (FMAs) in the Philippines and Thailand

The 45PCM took note of the activities of the **Other Programs** implemented in 2022 and approved the proposed activities for 2023 which comprise six (6) programs, four (4) 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; one (1) program would be implemented by AQD on “Seminar-Workshop on Aquaculture Development in Southeast Asia (ADSEA)”; and one (1) program was implemented by the SEAFDEC Secretariat on “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 Resource”. The 45PCM 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 45PCM noted the progress and achievements this Other Program of TD and also noted that the Program has been successfully completed in 2022

(2) Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia

- The 45PCM noted the progress and achievements this Other Program of TD and also noted that the Program has been successfully completed in 2022

(3) Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea

- The 45PCM noted the progress and achievements of this Other Program of TD



- (4) **Survey to Estimate levels of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Thailand Gillnet and Trap Fisheries**
 - The 45PCM noted the progress and achievements this Other Program of TD and also noted that the Program has been successfully completed in 2022
- (5) **Seminar-Workshop on Aquaculture Development in Southeast Asia (ADSEA)**
 - The 45PCM was informed by AQD that the ADSEA would be conducted through face-to-face, hybrid, or online mode in 2023
 - AQD to consider emphasizing and promoting both freshwater and marine aquaculture which could enhance the mutual interest of the region in the ADSEA program
- (6) **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 Resource**
 - The 45PCM noted the progress and achievements this Other Program of Secretariat and also noted that the Program has been successfully completed in 2022

Pipeline Projects:

- (1) **Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity**
 - The project proposal was submitted to the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) for possible funding support and is now under final consideration by Japan
 - The 45PCM approved this Project to be placed under the FCG/ASSP mechanism and for the Project to be implemented in 2023 once the fund could be secured
 - SEAFDEC to assist the Member Countries to monitor their ratification and implementation of the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA)
 - MFRDMD to identify key target species that are common for several countries as the focus of the Project and the framework of managing fishing capacity should be based on the stock status

The 45PCM noted the statements delivered virtually by non-member governments and international/regional organizations, namely: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United States Agency for International Development and Regional Development Mission for Asia (USAID/RDMA), and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The 45PCM took note of the progress of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030, including the preliminary report of the 2021 Baseline Information. The 45PCM also noted the request made by the SEAFDEC Secretariat for the AMSs that have not yet submitted inputs to the 2021 Baseline Information to submit their respective inputs by the end of January 2023.

While expressing gratitude to the Government of Japan for allocating funds to SEAFDEC, the 45PCM noted on the update 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 and convey the significance of SEAFDEC activities and contributions from the Government of Japan during various ASEAN fora, such as the AMAF and the AMAF Plus Three.

The 45PCM took note of the outline of Japanese Trust Fund-7 which is expected to succeed the JTF-6 Phase II for a period of five years from 2025 to 2029, and also noted that the budget request process for JTF-7 will proceed every year according to the single-year basis of the Government of Japan.

The 45PCM took note of the requirements of the Letter of Agreement (LOA) to Support the Implementation of National Activities under SEAFDEC Projects. Specifically, the 45PCM noted that LOA should be signed by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and respective Council Directors prior to transferring grants from SEAFDEC to the Member Countries for the implementation of national activities under the LOA.

The Program Committee adopted the **Report of the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee** for submission to the 55th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, and to the ASEAN through the 25th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (FCG/ASSP).

SEAFDEC Programs and Projects for the Year 2022–2023

I. Programs of Activities under FCG/ASSP Mechanism

Ongoing Projects

Strategy/Project Title	Lead Department	2022	2023
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 Fisheries Resources and Resources Enhancement in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
6. Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region	MFRDMD	Y	Y
7. Management Scheme for Inland Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	Y	Y
8. Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources	TD	Y	Y
9. Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries <i>Refugia</i> in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand	TD	Y	N
10. Strengthening the Effective Management Scheme with GIS (Geographic Information System) & RS (Remote Sensing) Technology for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture at AMS	TD	Y	N
11. Sustainable Utilization of Anguillid Eels in the Southeast Asian Region	IFRDMD	Y	Y
12. Development of Stock Assessment Method for Strengthening of Resources Management Measures of Tropical Anguillid Eels in AMS	SEC	Y	Y
13. Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia	TD	Y	Y
14. ASEAN-JICA Capacity Building Project on IUU Fishing Countermeasures in Southeast Asia	TD	N	Y
Strategy II: Supporting the sustainable growth of aquaculture to complement fisheries and contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the region			
15. Sustainable Aquaculture through Cost-Effective Culture Systems, and Prompt and Effective Aquatic Animal Health Management	AQD	Y	Y
Strategy III: Ensuring the food safety and quality of fish and fishery products for the Southeast Asian region			
16. Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products	MFRD	Y	Y
17. ASEAN-JICA Food Value Chain Development Project	SEC	N	Y
Strategy IV: Enhancing trade and compliance of the region's fish and fishery products with market requirements			
Nil			

Strategy/Project Title	Lead Department	2022	2023
Strategy V: Addressing cross-cutting issues, such as labor, gender and climate change, where related to international fisheries			
18. 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			
19. Fisheries Resource Survey & Operational Plan for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	TD	Y	Y

New Projects

Project Title	Lead Department	Period
1. USAID/SEAFDEC/Sustainable Fish Asia-SEA Project	TD	2023–2027
2. Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities	SEC	2023–2026
3. Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project)	TD	2023–2027
4. Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture	TD	2023–2026
5. Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia		

Pipeline Project

Project Title	Lead Department
1. Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	MFRDMD

II. Departmental Programs

Program Title	Lead Departments
1. Quality Seed for Sustainable Aquaculture	AQD
2. Healthy and Wholesome Aquaculture	AQD
3. Maintaining Environmental Integrity through Responsible Aquaculture	AQD
4. Meeting Social and Economic Challenges in Aquaculture	AQD
5. Collaborative projects with the Philippine Government	AQD
6. Promotion on Strengthening of SEAFDEC Visibility and Enhancing Human Capacity Building	TD
7. Improvement of Fisheries Technology and Reduction of the Impact from Fishing Activities	TD
8. SEAFDEC Capacity Development through USAID Sustainable Fish Asia Activity	TD

III. Other Programs

Program Title	Lead Departments	Period
1. Implementing the Lower Mekong Fish Passage Initiative in Cambodia, Thailand, and Viet Nam	TD	2018–2022

Program Title	Lead Departments	Period
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
4. Survey to Estimate levels of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear in Thailand Gillnet and Trap Fisheries-ALDFG	TD	2021–2022
5. Seminar-Workshop on Aquaculture Development in Southeast Asia (ADSEA)	AQD	2023
6. 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 Resource	SEC	2022

Remarks:

Y = Program implemented during the year

N = Program not implemented during the year

Annex 6

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

1. The Twenty-fifth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) or the 25FCG/ASSP was organized in Iloilo City, the Philippines from 8 to 9 December 2022 and was co-chaired by the representative from Indonesia on behalf of the Chairperson of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) and the Secretary-General of SEAFDEC to discuss the programs implemented in 2022 and endorse the programs proposed for 2023 under the FCG/ASSP Mechanism that had been scrutinized by the Forty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (45PCM). The 25FCG/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 25FCG/ASSP was attended by the representatives from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, the representative from the ASEAN Secretariat, as well as the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, and senior officials of the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments.

2. The 25FCG/ASSP was informed of the “Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given at the Fifty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership” and provided suggestions as follows:

- On the implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), SEAFDEC was requested to facilitate the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in developing the regional strategies for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture, and collaborate with Indonesia in the conduct of the Workshop to be organized by Indonesia to discuss this matter during the first quarter of 2023, the results of which would be subsequently reported to the forthcoming ASWGFi Meeting in 2023.
- On CITES-related Issues, SEAFDEC was encouraged to continue facilitating the platform to review proposals and develop common positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to be conveyed to CITES CoP meetings.

3. On the “Follow-up Actions to the Directives Given by the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries during 2022,” the 25FCG/ASSP was informed on the results of the discussions of the ASEAN Bodies Related to Fisheries, namely: 1) the 30th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (30th ASWGFi); 2) the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the 43rd Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-43rd AMAF); and 3) the 44th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (44th AMAF). The 25FCG/ASSP specifically took note of the progress and recommendations as follows:

- Regarding the linkage between the Database on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR Database) and the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) as requested by the 45PCM, clear directives from the AMSs are necessary before SEAFDEC could move forward to sharing the data with FAO. In this connection, the AMSs which are also members of FAO were suggested to raise the need for linking the RFVR Database with the FAO Global Record at FAO/COFI meeting.
- SEAFDEC was encouraged to coordinate with the ASEAN Secretariat on the development of possible project proposals aiming to support the implementation of key priorities of ASEAN focusing on the promotion of sustainable and circular agriculture, upscaling of nature-based solutions, and decarbonization of the agriculture/fisheries sector.
- The ASEAN Secretariat was requested to provide information on the future events of the ASEAN Secretariat to SEAFDEC, especially on technical and policy matters related to fisheries and aquaculture where SEAFDEC can provide relevant technical inputs.



4. On the “FCG/ASSP Collaborative Programs for the Year 2022–2023,” the 25FCG/ASSP noted the progress and achievements of the projects implemented by SEAFDEC in 2022 and endorsed the proposed projects and activities for 2023. These include nineteen (19) ongoing projects and five (5) new projects which would be commenced in 2023, namely: 1) USAID/SEAFDEC/Sustainable Fish Asia-SEA Project; 2) 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; 3) Promoting the Blue Economy and Strengthening Fisheries Governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish Project); 4) Blue Horizon: Ocean Relief through Seaweed Aquaculture; and 5) Regional Technical Consultation on Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies in Southeast Asia. Furthermore, one pipeline project “Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity” was approved to be placed under the FCG/ASSP mechanism and for the Project to be implemented in 2023 once the fund could be secured. The 25FCG/ASSP specifically provided recommendations as follows:

- SEAFDEC was encouraged to define the purpose of the RFVR Database which could be used to verify the fishing vessels operating in the waters of the Southeast Asian region and support the compliance of the AMSs of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies which requires the IUU fishing vessels list. SEAFDEC was therefore suggested to expand the RFVR Database to include the IUU fishing vessels. Moreover, while the AMSs were recommended to participate more actively in the continuous negotiation on the forbidden subsidy to fishing operations that contributed to overfishing and overfishing capacity (OFOC); SEAFDEC was requested to undertake programs to support the AMSs to implement the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
- With regards to linking the RFVR Database with the FAO Global Record, technically the two databases could be linked, but this is subject to the agreement of the AMSs that the information could be shared. The AMSs noted that there is a need for further discussion among the AMSs on whether the information should be shared only among the AMSs or with others.
- With regards to cooperation for combating IUU fishing, SEAFDEC was proposed to serve as a regional platform regarding the IUU fishing vessels list concerning the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. Moreover, it was noted that a regional platform would be provided by inviting representatives from AN-IUU, SEAFDEC, and RPOA-IUU Secretariat to discuss a suitable mechanism to identify the common grounds of work and cooperation to avoid duplication of their initiatives. It was also noted that SEAFDEC will organize a workshop to discuss the aforementioned issues, where SEAFDEC could provide technical recommendations and report the result further to the higher authority of relevant mechanisms.

5. The 25FCG/ASSP noted the “Progress of SEAFDEC-related Activities/Proposals under the ASEAN Fisheries-Related Bodies,” and the relevant recommendations as follows:

- Results of the 11th Meeting of the ASEAN Steering Committee on Climate Change and Food Security, which was held virtually on 18 August 2022
- Results of the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) which was held virtually on 21 June 2022:
 - SEAFDEC was requested for technical assistance to formulate the regional strategies for the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and the common understanding and initiatives on sustainable small-scale aquaculture.
 - The ASWGF_i was requested to include the issue of the U.S. Marine Security and Fisheries Enforcement Act (Maritime SAFE Act) in the future discussion of the AFCF.
- Progress of the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021–2025:
 - SEAFDEC was requested to make use of the results of the monitoring and evaluation of the RES&POA-2030 and identify priority actions to support one of the activities under the SPA-Fisheries (2021–2025) on “Training Needs Assessment to Identify the Current Demand for Knowledge and Skills Needs for a Sustainable Fisheries Development” with support from Thailand in 2023.

- Progress of the ASEAN Roadmap on Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing:
 - The Roadmap which was adopted by the AMAF in November 2020 contained seven action programs and 24 activities and to date, there are two completed activities, nine ongoing activities, one pending activity or under project appraisal and approval process, and twelve (12) activities requiring further action from ASWGFi.
- Results of the 2nd Meeting of the ASEAN Network for Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (AN-IUU), which was held virtually from 22 to 23 February 2022:
 - Thailand is developing a draft action plan for the effective implementation of the Guidelines on Sharing, Access to, and Use of IUU Fishing-related Information, which was endorsed by the 44th AMAF. The draft action plan will be proposed for consideration at the upcoming 3rd Meeting of the AN-IUU in 2023.
- Results of the 12th Meeting of the ASEAN Shrimp Alliance (ASA), which was held online on 20 June 2022:
 - In response to the request of the ASA Secretariat for possible support from SEAFDEC on the implementation of the project proposal on “regional collaboration for long-term genetic improvement of growth, robustness, and resistance to Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) in white shrimp for ASEAN Shrimp Alliance,” particularly on the possibility of providing assistance in organizing a training program on broodstock management, the Chief of AQD informed the 25FCG/ASSP that AQD has relevant training on the management of *Penaeus monodon* broodstock and looked forward to supporting the workshop on broodstock management of white shrimp. Moreover, the SEAFDEC Secretariat would further discuss with ASA Secretariat on this matter.

6. With regards to the “Policy Consideration on Important Issues,” the 25FCG/ASSP took note of the implementation of relevant initiatives and provided the following recommendations:

- Combating IUU Fishing
 - The 25FCG/ASSP noted the progress of the implementation of ongoing regional initiatives promoted by SEAFDEC to support the AMSs in combating IUU fishing, including the RFVR, the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS), and the Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures (PSM).
 - SEAFDEC was requested to consider supporting the activities on enhancing the capacity of the AMSs for effective implementation of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.
 - The AFCF was requested to include the issue on the “Maritime SAFE Act” in the agenda of its annual meeting for discussion.
 - The FCG/ASSP was requested to consider seeking a channel for Myanmar to obtain information from the RPOA-IUU that could be useful and relevant to Myanmar considering that Myanmar is not a member of the RPOA-IUU.
- Promotion on Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture in ASEAN Region
 - The 25FCG/ASSP noted the progress of implementation of the “Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region” including the training course on stock and risk assessment in 2021, annual meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessments in the Southeast Asian Waters in 2022, population study, DNA analysis, and life history study of neritic tuna species in Southeast Asian region.
- Fish Trade-related issues
 - On the CITES-related Issues:
 - The 25FCG/ASSAP took note of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries Positions on Inclusion of the Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) to the CITES Appendices at the CoP19; the results of the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices organized on 30 August–1 September 2022 which were reported to the SEAFDEC Council *ad referendum*; as well as the results of the CITES CoP19 particularly the proposals related to CEAS.



- SEAFDEC was requested to increase the number of invited participants from the Member Countries when organizing the RTC since different CEAS are under the responsibility of different departments.
 - The AMSs were suggested to pay attention to emerging issues of the listed species such as livelihood, purpose code on CITES permits and certificates, and scientific basis for proposed listing; while SEAFDEC was encouraged to continue conducting activities similar to RTC to discuss emerging issues in the fisheries sector.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to continue to support the AMSs including capacity building for species identification and taxonomy.
- On the Fisheries Subsidies:
- Noting that the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies has already been adopted and not many agencies in fisheries participated in the previous discussion on fisheries subsidies, there is a need for AMSs to develop a self-assessment tool to see the impacts of ratification of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to consider establishing a platform for sharing information on IUU fishing vessels to facilitate the determination of the IUU fishing vessels under the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.
 - Viet Nam offered to share information on the compilation of textual proposals on OFOC with SEAFDEC so that it could be further shared with other AMSs.
 - SEAFDEC was requested to assist the AMSs to develop a joint proposal on technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries for the purpose of implementation of the disciplines under the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and upon agreement by the AMSs, and submit the proposal to WTO. It was, however, noted that the development of the joint proposal could be undertaken through either SEAFDEC or ASEAN mechanisms.
- On the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), Indonesia is willing to explore the opportunity of capacity development in partnership with the U.S. agencies under the ASWGFi mechanism.
- On Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme, while appreciating SEAFDEC for jointly organizing the Webinar on the Japan's Catch Documentation Scheme under the Act Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants, Japan will continue to endeavor to combat IUU fishing as well as exert effort to cooperate with the AMSs and facilitate the smooth implementation of the scheme.

7. Under Other Matters, the 25FCG/ASSP took note of the information and the progress of related activities as follows:

- On monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030):
 - The 25FCG/ASSP took note of the progress including the preliminary report of the 2021 Baseline Information.
 - The AMSs that have not yet submitted inputs to the 2021 Baseline Information were requested to submit their respective inputs to SEAFDEC by the end of January 2023.
 - Key indicators should be made clear and reflect the real implementation of the RES&POA-2030 before submitting through the ASEAN mechanism.
- On the Study on the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Fisheries Sector of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, the 25FCG/ASSP noted the result of the study.

On International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022, the 25FCG/ASSP noted the publication "Small-scale Fisheries of Southeast Asia: A Regional Digest" produced by SEAFDEC in celebration of IYAFA and that Thailand organized an event in the hybrid platform on 2 August 2022 under the theme of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture toward Security, Prosperity and Sustainability.

8. The Report of the 24FCG/ASSP was adopted on 25 November 2021.

Annex 7

IMPLEMENTATION OF SEAFDEC'S 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 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 2022, can be summarized as follows:

The Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) database is available for the vessel 24 meters in length and over, including information of 28 Key Data Elements as agreed by AMSs. Since 1 November 2021, the AMSs can update information in the RFVR Database by themselves.

To capacity building for the implementation of PSM, “The Regional Training Course on Port State Measures Inspection in Focus of Shipping Container for Fish and Fisheries Product” was organized from 13 to 15 September 2022. The Training aims to build up the understanding and capacity of the participants on inspection of fish and fisheries product importation via sea in container vessels, and enhance the knowledge, skills, through the experience of the participants on inspection of fish and fisheries product importation. The training focused on lectures and practice on how to inspect containers. Moreover, “The Regional Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia” was organized from 23 to 24 August 2022. The Workshop shared and updated information on MCS implementation activities to combat IUU fishing. In addition, the Workshop identified obstacles and challenges of MCS Implementation, and the specific requirements to enhance the MCS capacity of the countries in combating IUU fishing such as technical assistance on NPOA capacity; capacity building on the electronic traceability; training on risk analysis of the pattern of fishing operation in each fishing gear by using VMS and AIS; technical assistance on data collection, stock assessment, and research survey of marine resources; training on inspection for foreign flag vessels (PSMA); sharing information on port inspection; and fisheries intelligence/technology/application with notification such as VMS, AIS, and other new technology for surveillance and MCS integration.

Regarding implementation of eACDS and traceability, “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)” was organized for Myanmar in January 2022 and “The Online Training on Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server” was organized for Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Viet Nam in May, June, and August 2022 respectively. Moreover, “The Regional Workshop to Exchange Information on Catch Documentation Scheme and Traceability of Fish and Fishery Products” was organized in November 2022. In the end, the workshop came up with updated information and current implementation on traceability of fish and fishery products activities to combat IUU fishing in AMSs and international organizations. As a way forward, cooperation and information exchange among the AMSs, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), and other States will be strengthened through capacity-building and awareness-raising activities to implement traceability system for fish and fishery products to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.

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 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 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 present, SEAFDEC in collaboration with AMSs have been implementing activities and conducting regular updates on the progress and following-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 with the intention to share information on fishing vessels among AMSs on fishing vessels. The RFVR Database is 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.

Currently, information in the RFVR database is available for the vessel 24 meters in length and over, including information of 28 Key Data Elements as agreed by AMSs. Since 1 November 2021, the AMSs can update information in the RFVR Database by themselves.

In 2022, SEAFDEC/TD monitors update information in the RFVR Database by AMSs. The updated information and the total number of fishing vessels in the database as of 1 March 2023, are as follows.

Country	Last update	Fishing vessels	Fish carriers and reefers	Processing vessels	Support vessels	Total
Brunei Darussalam	1 Dec 2021	8	1	-	-	9
Cambodia	3 May 2022	6	-	-	-	6
Indonesia	1 Nov 2021	866	-	-	-	866
Lao PDR	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	11 Nov 2022	211	-	-	-	211
Myanmar	12 May 2022	1,156	187	-	-	1,343
Philippines	1 Nov 2021	67	93	-	7	167
Singapore	1 Nov 2021	-	1	-	-	1
Thailand	1 Aug 2022	329	18	-	-	347
Viet Nam	1 Nov 2021	2,144	492	-	-	2,636

3.2 Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of Port State Measures

Since 2016, TD has conducted a series of capacity-building activities on the implementation of port state measures with different focuses and target participants through regional cooperation to support the implementation of Port State Measures (PSM) with AMSs and other organizations as partners. Following the request from the Forty-fourth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee (44PCM) to support and capacity building on inspection of fish and fisheries product importation using such other modes of transportation, *i.e.* sea in container vessels, land, and air transportation. Therefore, “The Regional Training Course on Port State Measures Inspection in Focus of Shipping Container for Fish and Fisheries Product” was organized in collaboration with partners, namely the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and USAID from 13 to 15 September 2022, at SEAFDEC/TD, Samut Prakan, Thailand. The target

participants were fisheries officers who have been engaged in the implementation of port control and inspection of fish and fisheries product importation via sea in container vessels attending this training. The Training aims to build up the understanding and capacity of the participants on inspection of fish and fisheries product importation via sea in container vessels, and enhance the knowledge, skills, and experience of the participants on inspection of fish and fisheries product importation. The training focused on lectures and practice on how to inspect containers. In the end, the participants are expected to Increase their knowledge, skills, and experience in the inspection of fish and fisheries product importation via sea in container vessels.

Moreover, “The Regional Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia” was organized from 23 to 24 August 2022 in Chonburi Province, Thailand. The aims of the Workshop were to share updated information on MCS implementation activities to combat IUU fishing, enhance and promote fisheries management tools for combating IUU fishing, and identify the needs for MCS capacity building for combating IUU fishing. The current MCS activities were presented by the respective AMSs and international organizations including FAO, AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU, International MCS Network (IMCS), Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), and Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). During the Workshop, the initiatives SEAFDEC of toward combating IUU fishing were presented. In addition, the Workshop identified obstacles and challenges of MCS Implementation, and the specific requirements to enhance the MCS capacity of the countries in combating IUU fishing such as technical assistance on NPOA capacity; capacity building on the electronic traceability; training on risk analysis of the pattern of fishing operation in each fishing gear by using VMS and AIS; technical assistance on data collection, stock assessment, and research survey of marine resources; training on inspection for foreign flag vessels (PSMA); sharing information on port inspection; and fisheries intelligence/technology/application with notification such as VMS, AIS, and other new technology for surveillance and MCS integration as *Appendix 1*.

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

The eACDS is an application that links all 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.

The module on promotion and implementation of the eACDS in the participating countries is conducted to five (5) process activities, as follows:

1. *Introduction activities.* the participating countries were introduced to eACDS, and the scheme’s structure and function were demonstrated.
2. *Baseline survey and situation analysis.* A baseline survey with relevant authorities on the process of issuing CDs, MDs, and CCs in each country was conducted and analyzed. KDEs were discussed with the representative from each country and cooperation for implementing the eACDS was requested.
3. *Prototype development.* The eACDS prototype was developed and modified to the context of each implementing country.
4. *Training, Testing, and improving the system.* The eACDS was piloted with relevant users. Problems identified were solved and the system was further tailored to each country context. Relevant authorities, master fisherman, fishing vessel owners, buyers, and processors were trained on using the application.
5. *IT transfer.* During the testing phase, all data were stored on the SEAFDEC cloud server. When testing was completed, the database was transferred to each country to be maintained.



In 2022, the eACDS activities implementation were conducted in participating countries as follows:

Myanmar

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 were organized from 26 to 28 January 2022 via zoom platform. The aim is to strengthen and enhance understanding on the use of eACDS application for Myanmar officers. In the end, the online training came up with an understanding on the use of eACDS application through capacity building for Myanmar officers to be trainers for relevant stakeholders in supply chain for the use of eACDS application in the future.

Brunei Darussalam

The Online Training on Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server was organized from 26 to 27 May 2022 for Brunei Darussalam via Zoom platform. The Training aims to strengthen and enhance understanding on preparation and installation of eACDS application to server through transferring of eACDS application as a prototype for traceability of fish and fishery products to the country.

Malaysia

The Online Training on Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server was organized from 9 to 10 June 2022 for Malaysia via Zoom platform. The Training aims to strengthen and enhance understanding on preparation and installation of eACDS application to server through transferring of eACDS application as a prototype for traceability of fish and fishery products to the country.

Viet Nam

The Online Training on Preparation and Installation of the eACDS Application to Server was organized from 16 to 17 August 2022 for Viet Nam via Zoom platform. The Training aims to strengthen and enhance understanding on preparation and installation of eACDS application to server through transferring of eACDS application as a prototype for traceability of fish and fishery products to the country.

Cambodia

The discussion between TD and FiA, Cambodia on eACDS implementation in the part of CD and confirmation of the project site at Koh Kong was conducted on 11 May 2022. The Key Data Elements (KDEs) form was sent to Cambodia for collection information. The input KDEs in the form was sent to TD for development and uploading into the database.

Moreover, “The Regional Workshop to Exchange Information on Catch Documentation Scheme and Traceability of Fish and Fishery Products” was organized from 29 to 30 November 2022, at SEAFDEC/TD, Samut Prakan, Thailand. The speakers from other international organizations such as the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), Seafood Alliance for Legality & Traceability (SALT project), FAO, and USAID were invited to participate in this workshop. In the end, the workshop came up with updated information and current implementation on traceability of fish and fishery products activities to combat IUU fishing in AMSs and international organizations. As a way forward, cooperation and information exchange among the AMSs, regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), and other States will be strengthened through capacity-building and awareness-raising activities to implement traceability system for fish and fishery products to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region.

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To take note of the updated information on RFVR Database which is the responsibility by AMSs since 2021
- To take note on the progress of on-going regional initiatives promoted by SEAFDEC to support combating IUU fishing of AMS
- To provide directive guidance on new areas of work for SEAFDEC to pursue in combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia

The Results from a Discussion on Obstacles and Challenges of MCS Implementation and Identification Needs of MCS Capacity Building in the Regional Workshop on Monitoring Control and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia, 23-24 August 2022

Obstacles and Challenges of MCS Implementation

MCS Implementation/ activities	Obstacles and Challenges	Support activities	Requested by country
Budget/Finance to conduct MCS activities such as E-logbook, in each AMS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited budget Budget Adjustment due to COVID-19 pandemic 	Find some donors (Australia, USA, Norway) to support the PSMA implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation Fund from SEA IUU Fishing program supported by Australia EU delegation for support MCS or combating IUU fishing Norway (Norad) USAID Japanese Trust Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMSs
A sufficient number of MCS staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited the number of MCS staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government should recruit MCS staff AMS request FAO, SEAFDEC, NGO, and other agencies gap analysis and recommendation to your country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMSs
The skill of human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of understanding of the overview of MCS Lack of the MCS skills Limitations of information on MCS activities on Inland Fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage countries to join regional organizations such as RPOA-IUU or some regional organizations to engage and seek potential funding. Improve the skill of staff via training and workshop by SEAFDEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMSs Potential Inputs: Training of Trainers for each AMS.

MCS Implementation/ activities	Obstacles and Challenges	Support activities	Requested by country
Technology/Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of appropriate equipment such as VMS Limited skill of fishermen to understand/use the mobile device High cost for fishermen and government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training for fishermen Government assistant and support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMSS
Law and regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of enforcing the law and regulation Lack of collaboration with several agencies Lack of harmonized SOP between inter-agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU and MOA among inter-agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMSS

Identification Needs of MCS Capacity Building

No.	Capacity Needs	Timeframe	Responsible Agency	Requested by country
1	Technical assistance on NPOA capacity	Immediately	SEAFDEC etc.	PH
2	Capacity building on the e-traceability such as e-logbook, eACDS, etc.	Immediately	SEAFDEC, CCALMR, IOTC, Brunei Darussalam, Development Partner	PH, ID, MY, MM, VN
3	Training on risk analysis of the pattern of fishing operation in each fishing gear by using VMS and AIS	Long term	SEAFDEC, CAPFISH Project, IMCS, MRC	AMSS
4	Technical assistance with scientific data collection, stock assessment, and research survey for marine resources	Long term	SEAFDEC, CCALMR, DA-NFRDI (Department of Agriculture - National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (PH)), Biofish Center, WWF	MM, LA
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing information on port inspection Training on Inspection for foreign flag vessels (PSMA) 	Immediately	SEAFDEC, CAPFISH Project, IOTC, NOAA, WCPFC	AMSS
6	Fisheries intelligence/technology/application with notification such as VMS, AIS, other new technology, etc. for surveillance and MCS integration	Immediately	SEAFDEC, NOAA, DOF-TH, etc.	ID, MM, VN, PH, BN, CM, MY

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION TO COMBAT IUU FISHING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU, AND RFVR

I. INTRODUCTION

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing poses a significant threat to aquatic resources and marine ecosystems, and international frameworks such as the IPOA-IUU and FAO PSMA have been established to combat it. In Southeast Asia, various regional programs have been implemented under regional frameworks such as the Strategic Plan of Action on ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries 2021-2025, ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Actions on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030), and Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU), to address the issue. Regional information sharing platforms such as Regional Fishing Vessels Records (RFVR), ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU), and the Vessel Watchlist of the RPOA-IUU have been established to promote regional collaboration in combating IUU fishing. SEAFDEC contributes to these platforms and provides technical support to the Member Countries to effectively combat IUU fishing.

Followings are brief summaries of major regional information sharing platforms which are required for future possible collaboration/coordination in order to reduce burden of work of the concerned States.

ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU)

The ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU) is a regional initiative established by the ASEAN Member States in 2017 to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Southeast Asian region, and endorsed by ASEAN Ministers during the 42nd AMAF Meeting in 2020. AN-IUU aims to enhance regional collaboration and cooperation among ASEAN Member States in addressing IUU fishing activities, sharing information and experiences, and promoting capacity building activities. AN-IUU has a comprehensive approach to address IUU fishing, including efforts to improve monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) systems, strengthen regional cooperation among port States, and enhance transparency and traceability in the seafood supply chain. AN-IUU organizes the meeting annually since its establishment in 2020. AN-IUU created the AN-IUU interactive platform¹, which is real-time information and assistance when dealing with IUU fishing activities whereby the AMSs' AN-IUU focal point can access this platform.

Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU)

The Regional Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (RPOA-IUU) is an, including Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam in May 2007. Its objective is to strengthen the overall level of fisheries management in the region to sustain fishery resources, protect the marine environment, and promote responsible fishing practices. Indonesia serves as the Secretariat of RPOA-IUU and organizes the RPOA Coordination Committee meetings annually. During these meetings, participating countries receive strategic advice and direction on coordination and implementation, including marine environment conservation, sustainable management of fisheries resources, managing fishing capacity, building competency in fisheries management, and combating IUU fishing.

A critical aspect of the RPOA-IUU is its strong enforcement network, which allows participating countries to share data and information on enforcement strategies, provide advice and capacity building, and report illegal fishing activities through the RPOA-IUU MCS hotline, email, and online form. The RPOA-IUU website is an essential tool for sharing information among participating countries, particularly about IUU Vessel watch list movements and sightings (<https://www.rpoaiuu.org/iuu-vessel/>), which can help countries take action in accordance with their respective national laws and consistent with the IPOA-IUU and other

¹ operation manual AN-IUU Interactive Platform is available at https://www4.fisheries.go.th/bin/an_iuu_manual.pdf.

relevant international fisheries instruments. The procedure for listing of IUU vessels (<https://www.rpoaiuu.org/listing-procedure/>) is decided by each RPOA participating country during its annual Coordination Committee meeting, and the procedure for listing IUU vessels is provided on the RPOA-IUU website.

Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR)

The Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database was created by SEAFDEC/TD, in collaboration with AMSs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) mechanism, and was approved by the ASEAN Ministers during their meeting in 2014. The RFVR serves as a crucial tool for relevant authorities of the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) in monitoring and taking appropriate measures against any inappropriate behavior by fishing vessels, thus contributing to the eradication of IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian region. The RFVR Database contains 28 key data elements (KDEs) that constitute the basic information requirements that can be shared by the AMSs with the RFVR. The information in the RFVR Database includes the number of fishing vessels, carrier vessels, processing vessels, and support vessels of the AMSs that are 24 meters in length and over. The RFVR focal points can access and upload data to the RFVR Database via <http://www.seafdec.or.th/rfvr/index.php>.

The table below presents a summary comparison of the various aspects and contexts of these three intergovernmental collaborations for the purpose of sharing data and information.

Table 1. Comparison of the various aspects and contexts of these three intergovernmental collaborations.

	AN-IUU Interactive Platform	RPOA-IUU Vessel Watchlist	ASEAN-SEAFDEC RFVR
Membership	All ASEAN Member States (10 countries)	8 ASEAN Member States (not including Lao PDR and Myanmar), Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste	All ASEAN Member States
Key Data Elements and Information	<p><u>Key Data Elements</u></p> <p>a) Vessel name b) IMO Number c) MMSI Number d) IRCS Number e) Current Flag is the vessel’s flag state. f) Vessel Type</p> <p><u>Information:</u></p> <p>1. Records of all incidents regarding the vessels suspected IUU fishing as reported by the concerned AMS Focal Points</p> <p>2. Link of the Database of IUU fishing vessels derived from Combined IUU Fishing Vessel List Website: https://www.iuu-vessels.org which contains the IUU</p>	<p><u>Key Data Elements</u></p> <p>a) Name of vessel, and previous names if any; b) Flag of vessel, and previous flags if any; c) National registration number d) Owner of the vessel including the beneficial owner, and previous owners if any e) Operators of vessel, and previous operators if any f) Call sign and previous call signs if any i) Lloyds/IMO number if any Photographs of the vessel j) Initial date of listing and any subsequent listing</p>	<p><u>Key Data Elements (28)</u></p> <p>Vessel name Vessel registration number Vessel owner name Vessel owner nationality Vessel operator name Vessel operator nationality Vessel type Vessel flag state Vessel IMO number (optional) Vessel MMSI number Vessel length Vessel gross tonnage Vessel engine power Vessel construction material Vessel year of build Vessel fishing gear type Vessel fishing gear number Vessel fishing gear mesh size Vessel port of registration Vessel home port Vessel fishing area</p>

	AN-IUU Interactive Platform	RPOA-IUU Vessel Watchlist	ASEAN-SEAFDEC RFVR
	<p>fishing vessel listed on 13 RFMOs.</p> <p>This Combined IUU Fishing Vessel List is maintained by TM-Tracking, a Norwegian not-for-profit organisation that provides fisheries intelligence, analysis and capacity support to national authorities and relevant international institutions. The website is intended as a public service to provide an updated and consolidated real time listing of all the main RFMO IUU vessel lists.</p>	<p>k) Summary of the alleged activities of the vessel</p> <p>l) Any sanctions that may have been applied.</p> <p><u>Information:</u> RPOA IUU Vessel Watch list as agreed upon and recorded as a decision taken at the annual Coordination Committee meeting by RPOA' Parties.</p>	<p>Vessel fishing method</p> <p>Vessel target species</p> <p>Vessel crew nationality</p> <p>Vessel capacity</p> <p>Vessel satellite tracking system</p> <p>Vessel insurance coverage</p> <p>Vessel safety equipment.</p> <p><u>Information:</u> Registered fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over (whitelist) of AMSs. This RFVR Database does not include the list of IUU fishing vessels</p>
Accessibility	Limited access, permission is only for AN-IUU National Focal points	Opened access to the public	Limited access, permission is only for RFVR Focal points as assigned by SEAFDEC Council Director
Responsible officer to provide data and information inputs	AN-IUU National Focal Points	RPOA-IUU participating country through the respective RPOA-IUU Focal Point	RFVR National Focal points
Benefits	Alert and obtain information of the suspect IUU vessels entry into port	Information among RPOA-IUU participating countries about IUU Vessel movements and sightings.	Support the fishing vessel inspection by Port State to protect the IUU fishing vessels' entry into port

Source: Operation Manual AN-IUU Interactive Platform

<https://www.rpoaiuu.org/>

<http://www.seafdec.or.th/rfvr/>

Observing that in terms of validity and accessibility, the AN-IUU Interactive Platform and RFVR share a major similarity and difference. Both platforms are closed system databases, which means that only authorities from ASEAN Member States can access them. However, the RFVR contains detailed information on non-IUU fishing vessels, while the AN-IUU Interactive Platform focuses on IUU fishing vessels.

The RPOA-IUU's Vessel Watchlist differs from the AN-IUU Interactive Platform and RFVR as it relies on collaboration among several regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to compile a list of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing vessels. This list includes information on the movement and sightings of these vessels, as reported and combined by the RFMOs. The RPOA-IUU also includes countries that are not members of ASEAN, such as Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste, while two ASEAN member states, Lao PDR and Myanmar, are not Parties to the RPOA-IUU.



Additionally, the RFVR is a database of registered fishing vessels in ASEAN member states with a size of 24 meters and over. In contrast, the AN-IUU Interactive Platform and RPOA-IUU Vessel Watchlist provide information on vessels suspected of engaging in IUU fishing activities or listed on the IUU watchlist.

During the 45th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee and the 25th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) in December 2022, concerns were raised regarding the effectiveness and potential duplication of the existing regional platforms for combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, namely AN-IUU, RPOA-IUU, and RFVR. As suggested by these meetings, SEAFDEC has been tasked with exploring the commonalities and potential for cooperation between these initiatives, with the aim of finding suitable mechanisms to complement each other and avoid duplication of efforts in combatting IUU fishing in the region. Such efforts are expected to lead to more effective and coordinated actions to address IUU fishing in the region.

During the 25th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP), concerns were also raised regarding the sharing of information from the RFVR Database. The issue at hand was whether the information contained in the database should only be shared among ASEAN Member States (AMSs) or with others as well. As a result, it was suggested that further discussions should take place among the AMSs to provide guidance on this matter. The FCG/ASSP was requested to explore and discuss this issue further, and to provide recommendations to ASWGFⁱ for consideration and approval. This will ensure that the appropriate measures are in place for the effective management and sharing of information to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To take note of the results on comparison of various aspects and contexts of these three intergovernmental collaborations, as presented by SEAFDEC; and
- To provide guidance whether SEAFDEC should conduct a regional meeting among three initiatives, noting that in order to move forwards regarding organization of such regional meeting, SEAFDEC should have a clear policy directive from AMSs under the ASEAN mechanism.

GLOBAL INITIATIVES TO COMBAT IUU FISHING: FAO GLOBAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM, AND VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR TRANSSHIPMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing poses a global threat to the sustainability of fisheries resources, marine biodiversity, and ecosystems. It also severely affects the livelihoods of fishers, exacerbates poverty, and contributes to food insecurity. Addressing IUU fishing has become a top priority at the national, regional, and global levels. The elimination of IUU activities is a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG14) under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to "effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics," by 2020.

Various international instruments, such as UNCLOS, UNSFA, FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, IPOA-IUU, and PSMA, have been developed to combat IUU fishing. International organizations, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), have also made efforts to address IUU fishing. Furthermore, some national governments, such as those of importing countries like the EU, USA, and Japan, have required exporting countries to comply with their regulations.

In recent years, various new developments and initiatives by international organizations and importing countries have been introduced to eliminate IUU fishing. This paper provides updated information on these developments and ongoing initiatives developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

FAO Global Information Exchange System (GIES)

The FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (PSMA) is an international agreement that was endorsed in 2009 and came into force in June 2016. Its main objective is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by preventing vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches. The PSMA provisions apply to fishing vessels seeking entry into a designated port of a State that is different from their flag State. These provisions typically include prior notification of port entry, use of designated ports, restrictions on port entry and landing/transshipment of fish, restrictions on supplies and services, documentation requirements, port inspections, and related measures, such as IUU vessel listing, trade-related measures, and sanctions. As of April 2022, there were 70 Parties¹ to the agreement, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

To support the effectiveness of the implementation of the PSMA, FAO developed the prototype of the PSMA Global Information Exchange System (GIES), which launched its pilot phase on 15 December 2021. The GIES will assist states in having timely access to certified information, thus being in a better position to close their ports to vessels engaged in IUU fishing or subject them to port inspection. It contains information on port entry/use denials and inspection reports of foreign vessels under reasonable suspicion of having engaged in IUU fishing. As of 17 October 2022, the PSMA application contained information on 67 National Contact Points (NCPs), which included Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, while Malaysia as a non-party also provided information to the system. There are 575 Designated Ports (DPs), of which Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam uploaded information on DPs into the PSMA application, except Cambodia. These recent developments and ongoing initiatives developed by FAO could have significant impacts on member countries in the fight against IUU fishing.

¹ <https://www.fao.org/3/nj467en/nj467en.pdf>



FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment

Transshipment, the direct transfer of catch from one vessel directly to another vessel, is a widely practiced activity all across the world and in various fisheries, be it to another fishing vessel or to a transport vessel, and takes place in various locations, including ports, coastal waters and the high seas. FAO conducted the in-depth study on transshipment, titled “Transshipment: a closer look”² which publicized in 2020, the finding was revealed that five major types of transshipment namely: catching vessel to refrigerated cargo vessel (Reefer), catching vessel to containers, catching vessel to small transport vessel, catching vessel to other fishing vessel, catching vessel to floating storage vessel/Floating storage vessel to reefer. They expressed concern on the risks that inadequately regulated, controlled and monitored transshipment poses in relation to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing (FAO, 2020).

During the 34th Session of FAO COFI, FAO was requested to develop the draft Voluntary Guidelines for the regulation, monitoring and control of transshipment (Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment), subsequently, FAO convened an Expert Consultation to review the draft Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment³ in October 2021, followed by the Technical Consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment⁴ in June 2022, prior to the 35th Session of FAO COFI in September 2022. Finally, the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment was endorsed by the FAO Member during its COFI35 as a new instrument within the framework of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

The objective of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment will be to provide assistance to States, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, regional economic integration organizations and other intergovernmental organizations for their development of new transshipment regulations or review of existing regulations, with a view to integrating these within the broader regulatory framework for fisheries management.

According to FAO, this guideline can be a powerful tool with the potential to make a meaningful contribution to combat IUU fishing. States and relevant international organizations are encouraged to apply alternative measures, comparable in effectiveness to the provisions of this guidelines, to the transshipment between vessels entitled to fly its flag that occur in areas under its national jurisdiction, taking into account different national realities and capacities.

With this newly Guidelines, the AMSs raised their interest during the 45th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee (5-7 December 2022) and the 25th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP (8-9 December 2022) in Iloilo city, Philippines, suggested SEAFDEC to include an activity on this matter in the Project activity for 2023 to enhance the capacity of the AMSs for effective implementation of the Guidelines.

SEAFDEC can provide various technical supports to promote the implementation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Transshipment. For example, SEAFDEC conducts training and capacity building activities for port officials, fisheries officers, and inspectors to enhance their knowledge and skills on transshipment control measures, or facilitates the development of regional policies on transshipment. Additionally, SEAFDEC also can work with its partners to explore or introduce the deployment of modern tracking technologies and electronic monitoring systems to improve monitoring and control of transshipment activities if requested.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To take note of the progress of PSMA made by FAO and updated information on FAO global information exchange system (GIES)
- To take note of the Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment which was recently endorsed by FAO members during its 35th Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries and provide the directive for SEAFDEC to move forward

² <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb2339en>

³ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb7783en>

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc1964en>

Annex 10

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

I. BACKGROUND

In the Southeast Asian region, neritic tuna fisheries are a vital fisheries sector providing food for domestic consumption, generating job opportunities, and giving high revenue to many countries through export activities. However, this optimistic fisheries sector will be depleted if no action is taken to ensure the sustainability of neritic tuna stocks in this region. To establish sustainable neritic tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian region, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in collaboration with SEAFDEC Secretariat and SEAFDEC/TD, organized a series of consultations with the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) to study the stock status of the neritic tuna and tuna-like species in this region.

Under the Japanese Trust Fund VI Phase II project, titled “Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in Southeast Asia,” where the second objective is to study the stock assessments and risk assessments of major neritic tuna species. In December 2021, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, in collaboration with DOF Malaysia, organized an internal “Workshop on Seerfish in Malaysian Waters using ASPIC.” This internal workshop was held as a capacity-building program among MFRDMD staff to gain experience and knowledge regarding the ASPIC program.

As for 2022, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD successfully organized the “Seventh Meeting of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) - Neritic Tuna Stock Assessments in the Southeast Asian Region” via teleconference on 23rd and 24th August 2022. The report for this meeting can be found at <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12561/1930>. The output from the internal “Workshop on Seerfish in Malaysian Waters using ASPIC” organized by MFRDMD in collaboration with DOF Malaysia was presented during this meeting.

On the other hand, the AMSs representative shared their countries’ current stock status of two seerfish species (*Scomberomorus commerson* and *S. guttatus*). Last but not least, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD officials shared the progress of the genetic population study and the life history study of Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*). In the fourth quarter of 2023, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD plans to organize a regional workshop on the stock and risk assessments of two tuna-like species in this region.

The genetic population study entitled “Clarification of the stock structure for one neritic tuna species in the Southeast Asian Region” collected 710 *E. affinis* samples from 15 different locations in this region. Currently, the samples were analyzed using mitochondrial DNA d-loop region, and 430 DNA samples were successfully sequenced, generating 275 haplotypes. The phylogenetic analysis using the maximum likelihood (ML) tree method displayed no obvious separation pattern for all populations, and the AMOVA analysis also revealed a high contribution within the population. Thus, it is suggested that *E. affinis* population in this region was panmictic with shallow genetic structure due to high gene flow. Furthermore, the outcome of the genetic population study was also presented during the 46th Annual Conference of the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 2022, and the Second Core Expert Meeting on Fisheries Management Strategies for Pelagic Fish Resources in the Southeast Asian Region”

As for the “Life-history study for major neritic tuna species in the Southeast Asian region”, MFRDMD collected 623 samples of *E. affinis* were collected from Tok Bali, Kelantan, or Kuala Besut, Terengganu. Although laboratory work for this study is still underway, MFRDMD has already analyzed 360 samples which show the average age of *E. affinis* populations in the northeast of Peninsular Malaysia is approximately four years.

This preliminary output from the life-history research of *E. affinis* was published in the Special Report of SEAFDEC Newsletter (Volume 45 No. 2), emphasizing how this study could contribute to science-based management approaches to reduce fishing pressure, particularly on *E. affinis* populations in the northeast of Peninsular Malaysia.



Lastly, MFRDMD plans to organize a regional workshop on the stock and risk assessments of two tuna-like species in this region in the fourth quarter of 2023.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To take note of the achievements of MFRDMD:
 - *E. affinis* population in this region was panmictic with shallow genetic structure due to high gene flow.
 - The average age of *E. affinis* populations in the northeast of Peninsular Malaysia is approximately four years.
- To take note and comment on the proposed regional workshop on tuna-like species in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Annex 11

CITES-RELATED ISSUES

I. BACKGROUND

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is a globally recognized agreement between governments, also known as Parties, that was signed on 2 March 1973 and came into effect on 1 July 1975. The primary objective of the Convention is to ensure that the international trade of wild animal and plant specimens does not pose a threat to their survival in their natural habitats. With almost all countries in the world being Parties to the Convention, CITES has become an essential tool in protecting the world's biodiversity. Currently, CITES regulates the international trade of over 38,700 species of animals and plants, including their products and derivatives, in order to safeguard their survival in the wild while simultaneously benefiting the livelihoods of local people and the global environment. These species are categorized into Appendices I, II, and III, depending on the degree of threat they face from international trade. To review the implementation of the Convention, CITES regularly organizes the Conference of the Parties (CoPs), which convenes every two to three years. The CoPs provide a platform for Parties to discuss and make decisions on trade restrictions and other measures necessary for the effective implementation of the Convention. Overall, CITES has played a critical role in promoting sustainable trade and protecting endangered species, making it an essential global agreement for preserving biodiversity.

The fisheries sector in Southeast Asia plays a significant role in supplying fish and fish products to the global markets. However, the listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) in the CITES Appendices presents a major challenge for the region. This is because it could not only impact fisheries management but also the economies of Southeast Asian countries. The impacts of listing CEAS in the CITES Appendices are expected to be far-reaching, affecting not only the trade of the listed species but also the trade of look-alike species and parts or processed forms of the listed species. Furthermore, the delisting or down-listing of a species once listed in the CITES Appendices could also present significant difficulties. As such, the fisheries sector in Southeast Asia must be vigilant in monitoring the listing of CEAS in the CITES Appendices and take proactive measures to mitigate any negative impacts. This includes developing sustainable management practices and diversifying their trade portfolio to reduce dependence on listed species. It is crucial for the region to strike a balance between sustainable fisheries management and maintaining economic growth. By doing so, Southeast Asian countries can continue to contribute to global food security while conserving the rich biodiversity of the region.

SEAFDEC is committed to supporting the ASEAN Member States' efforts to achieve the objectives outlined in the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030). Plan of Action no. 82 aims to strengthen cooperation and mechanisms among AMSs to work towards common positions that could be reflected in international fish trade-related fora such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/COFI Sub-committee on Fish Trade, Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). SEAFDEC provides regional platforms to facilitate the exchange of technical information on the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic (CEA) species into the CITES Appendices at CITES CoPs. This allows for discussions among member states towards the development of coordinated positions that reflect the regional interest. Additionally, SEAFDEC undertakes projects to enhance the capacity of national fisheries officers in collecting data on aquatic species under international concerns such as marine turtles, sharks and rays, sea cucumbers, tunas, anguillid eels, and others. This includes training in species identification, collection of data on catch/landings, stock assessment, socioeconomic assessment, and development of non-detriment findings, as well as aquaculture and stock enhancement of these species.

Through these efforts, SEAFDEC is committed to supporting the ASEAN Member States in promoting sustainable fisheries management practices, conserving aquatic biodiversity, and ensuring the continued contribution of the fisheries sector to food security and economic development in the region.



II. UPDATE INFORMATION ON REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND MEETINGS RELATED CITES

2.1 Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at the CITES CoP19

In 2022, the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP19) was organized on 14–25 November 2022, by CITES Secretariat with the kind invitation of the government of Republic of Panama, in Panama City. In order to facilitate the discussion of the proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices at CoP19, SEAFDEC with funding support by the Japanese Trust Fund convened the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Positions on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) into the CITES Appendices on 30 August–1 September 2022, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Positions were reported to the SEAFDEC Council *ad referendum* in September 2022, the Positions appear as **Appendix 1**.

2.2 Outcomes of the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP19)

The 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CoP19) was held on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama. 52 proposals were submitted by the proponents and considered at the CoP19, of which the proposals of CEAS were discussed among others.

Regarding concerned proposals as mentioned above, as resulted from the CoP19, it can be concluded as follows:

Proposals	Results of Voting* at CoP19
# 37 to include <i>Carcharhinidae</i> spp. in Appendix II	Adopted
# 38 to include <i>Sphyrnidae</i> spp. in Appendix II	Adopted
# 39 to include <i>Potamotrygon albimaculata</i> , <i>P. henlei</i> , <i>P. jabuti</i> , <i>P. leopoldi</i> , <i>P. marquesi</i> , <i>P. signata</i> , and <i>P. wallacei</i> in Appendix II	Adopted
# 40 to include <i>Rhinobatidae</i> spp. in Appendix II	Adopted
# 42 to include <i>Thelenota</i> spp. in Appendix II	Adopted
# 41 to include <i>Hypancistrus zebra</i> in Appendix II (original proposal, Brazil proposed to includes in Appendix I)	Adopted
# 13 to downlist <i>Crocodylus siamensis</i> (Siamese crocodile) (captive breeding population of Thailand) from Appendix I to Appendix II with zero quota export for wild specimens	Rejected

More detailed results of the voting of the proposals of CEAS to amend the Appendices of CITES at the CITES CoP19, appear in **Appendix 2**.

In addition, during the CoP19, SEAFDEC convened the side event titled, “Resource Utilization of Commercially–exploited Aquatic Species (CEAS) in Southeast Asia: Regional Cooperation to Support National Actions” on 18 November 2022. The objective of this side event is to share the experiences of SEAFDEC regional initiatives and lessons learned in supporting ASEAN Member States with regards to conservation and management of CEAS *e.g.* sharks and rays in Southeast Asia, and to disseminate the outcomes from discussions made among SEAFDEC Member Countries through the regional technical consultation on ASEAN-SEAFDEC common positions the proposed listing of commercially-exploited aquatic species into the CITES Appendices at the CoP19 which was organized in September 2022.

2.3 Recommendations from the 45th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee and the 25th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)

During the 45th Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee and the 25th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP) was organized in Iloilo City, Philippines on 5–7 and 8–9 December 2022, respectively. The recommendation was summarized as follows:

- SEAFDEC to increase the number of invited participants from the respective Member Countries since different CEAS are under the responsibility of different departments in future RTCs
- SEAFDEC to continue to support the AMSs including capacity building for species identification and taxonomy
- AMSs should also pay attention to emerging issues of the listed species such as livelihood, purpose code on CITES permits and certificates, and scientific basis for proposed listing

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

On 14–17 March 2023, SEAFDEC participated in the Regional Workshop on Implementation of the CITES for Seahorses in Asia in Cebu, the Philippines. The Regional Workshop was co-hosted by Project Seahorse, IUCN SSC Seahorse, Pipefish and Seadragon Specialist Group, and Zoological Society of London-Philippines in collaboration with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and National Fisheries Research and Development Institute. The Regional Workshop was attended by the representatives from relevant government agencies (fisheries, forestry, coastal and marine resources, marine parks, environment), experts from universities and local NGOs as well as representatives from FAO, TRAFFIC and SEAFDEC.

All seahorses are listed in CITES Appendix II since 2002. During the 74th Standing Committee, in particular to seahorses, it was noted that Parties can meet their obligations to seahorses under the Convention by either “a) increasing their efforts to address illegal trade or b) ensuring that the seahorses being traded are sourced sustainably and apply the CITES Appendix II listing following precautionary approach.” Hence, the Regional Workshop was aimed at country-based assessment on the aspects of CITES implementation for Appendix II species: non-detriment findings (NDFs), legal acquisition findings (LAFs), monitoring in support of adaptive management, and enforcement. Each country analyzed the country’s situation and develop possible actions considering that exporting seahorses is legal and sustainable. The results of the Workshop will be reported at the 32nd Meeting of Animals Committee in June 2023.

III. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To take note of the results of voting the proposals of commercially-exploited aquatic species (CEAS) to amend the Appendices of CITES at the CITES CoP19
- To note the recommendations from the 45PCM and 25FCG/ASSP
- To take note of the updated information of the Regional Workshop on Implementation of the CITES for Seahorses
- To provide policy directives to SEAFDEC for the follow-up actions from the CITES CoP19

**Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices at
the CITES-CoP19**

I. Introduction

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in collaboration with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, with funding support from the Government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund, convened the “Regional Technical Consultation on Development of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Common Position on the Proposed Listing of Commercially-exploited Aquatic Species into the CITES Appendices” on 30 August–1 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) was attended by fisheries experts and National Coordinators from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam; technical officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments, namely: TD, AQD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD; as well as resource persons from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), academes, and relevant agencies of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

The RTC was informed of the proposals to be discussed at the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Aquatic Animals and Plants (CITES-CoP19) which will be organized on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama for inclusion of commercially exploited aquatic species (CEAS) in CITES Appendices I and II as follows:

CoP19 Proposal 37

Inclusion of the grey reef shark (*Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*), dusky shark (*C. obscurus*), smalltail shark (*C. porosus*), Ganges shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*), sandbar shark (*C. plumbeus*), Borneo shark (*C. borneensis*), Pondicherry shark (*C. hemiodon*), smoothtooth blacktip shark (*C. leiodon*), sharp-toothed lemon shark (*Negaprion acutidens*), Caribbean reef shark (*C. perezi*), daggernose shark (*Isogomphodon oxyrinchus*), night shark (*C. signatus*), whitenose shark (*Nasolamia velox*), blacknose shark (*C. acronotus*), whitecheek shark (*C. dussumieri*), lost shark (*C. obsoletus*), Pacific smalltail shark (*C. cerdale*), Borneo broadfin shark (*Lamiopsis tephrodes*) and the broadfin shark (*Lamiopsis temminckii*) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A and B in Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

Inclusion of all other species in the family Carcharhinidae (requiem sharks): Genus *Carcharhinus*, Genus *Isogomphodon*, Genus *Loxodon*, Genus *Nasolamia*, Genus *Lamiopsis*, Genus *Negaprion*, Genus *Prionace*, Genus *Rhizoprionodon*, Genus *Scoliodon*, Genus *Triaenodon* and any other putative species of family Carcharhinidae in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A in Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Proposal 38

Inclusion of *Sphyrna tiburo*, commonly referred to as the bonnethead shark, in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A and B in Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

Inclusion of all remaining species in the Family Sphyrnidae (hammerhead sharks) which are not already listed in CITES Appendix II, including: *S. media*, *S. tudes*, *S. corona*, *S. gilberti*, and *Eusphyra blochii*, as well as any other yet to be identified species of the Family Sphyrnidae, in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A in Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Proposal 39

Inclusion of *Potamotrygon wallacei* and *P. leopoldi* in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II of the Convention and satisfying criteria A and B in Annex 2a of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Proposal 40

Inclusion of the six species of guitarfish (*Acroteriobatus variegatus*; *Pseudobatos horkelii*; *Rhinobatos albomaculatus*; *R. irvinei*; *R. rhinobatos* and *R. schlegelii*) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2(a) of the Convention, and satisfying criteria A and B in Annex 2a of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). In addition, to add another 37 species as “look-alikes” in the list.

CoP19 Proposal 42

Inclusion of all species in the genus *Thelenota*, which includes the three species *T. ananas*, *T. anax*, and *T. rubralineata* in Appendix II, in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention.

CoP19 Proposal 41¹

Inclusion of *Hypancistrus zebra* in Appendix I in accordance with Article II, paragraph 1 of CITES Convention, and satisfying criterion in Annex 1 B (iii; iv) and Annex 1 C (i; ii) of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).

CoP19 Proposal 13²

Downlisting of *Crocodylus siamensis* (Siamese crocodile) (captive breeding population of Thailand) from Appendix I to Appendix II with zero quota export for wild specimens.

During the RTC, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries provided information on the proposed CEAS including abundance, utilization, and conservation measures applied by the respective species.

This document compiles the technical information as well as views and positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the proposed listing of CEAS into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19. It is expected that the positions derived from the RTC and subsequently approved by the SEAFDEC Council and higher authorities of ASEAN would serve as basis for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to communicate with the authorities responsible for CITES of the respective countries and be reflected by the countries during the CITES-CoP19. It is envisaged that this would help safeguard the fisheries sector in region especially ensuring that the CEAS could be utilized in sustainable manner and would contribute to the people’s livelihood and food security of the region.

¹ The proposal was raised at the RTC.

² The proposal was raised at the RTC; crocodiles are under the purview of fisheries authorities in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam only.

II. Technical Information and Views and Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries on the Proposed Listing of CEAS into the CITES Appendices at the CITES-CoP19

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	
37	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 39 species under the family Carcharhinidae are found in the region. The species are mostly bycatch from commercial or artisanal fisheries, and are fully utilized. Nineteen (19) species of family Carcharhinidae have a range of distinctly different sizes, morphological appearances, productivity, fishery and trade profiles, thus, making evaluation as a group difficult. The most traded species in the region are “look-alike.” Many species can be differentiable from one another, although some look very similar. In certain cases, it is difficult to quickly identify commodities to species level, but there are marked differences in the trade profiles of these species, and for traders the commodities can be differentiated. Identification to species level is more difficult in the case of meat, cartilage, skin, and oil products. <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel¹</p>	<p>Cambodia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some species can be found in Cambodian waters as bycatch from small-scale fisheries and traded in local markets. Indonesia Carcharhinidae caught both as target and bycatch. Several species that are commonly traded such as: <i>P. glauca</i>, <i>C. limbatus</i>, <i>C. sorrah</i>, <i>C. tjutjot</i>. Listing may pose resistance from traders/communities and likely complex in the implementation and management given many species are look-alike. Japan The proposed listing of the species in the Appendix II should not be supported because of many concerns, in particular, the inappropriate use of the “look alike” criteria. Given the listing of many species in block and the various concerns expressed by the ASEAN Member States (AMSs). The 	<p>Support</p>	<p>Not support</p> <p>Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Japan Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Thailand Viet Nam</p>	<p>Position held in Abeyance</p> <p>Singapore*</p>

¹ At the 7th FAO Expert Advisory Panel for the Assessment of Proposals to Amend Appendices I and II of CITES Concerning Commercially-Exploited Aquatic Species (Expert Panel), held at FAO Headquarters from 18 to 22 July 2022.

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three (3) species (<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos</i>; <i>C. porosus</i>; and <i>Glyphis gangeticus</i>) meet the CITES criteria; 12 species do not meet; and 4 species have insufficient information. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two species, <i>i.e.</i> <i>C. longimanus</i> and <i>C. falciformis</i>, are already in Appendix II of CITES. It is anticipated that the listing of all remaining species under the family Carcharhinidae including look-alike species would create difficulty in the implementation and management, and would require a lot of resource investment, <i>e.g.</i> capacity building on species identification, inspection of specimens, development of non-detriment finding (NDF) documents, etc. 	<p>countries may further consider the appropriate approach to deal with such the listing in proposal.</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed listing of the species in the Appendix II should not cover the whole family Carcharhinidae. Considering that there are several look-alike species to be included in the Appendix II, this listing creates difficulty in implementation and management. 			
38	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sphyrna</i> spp. are caught as bycatch in countries of the Southeast Asian region from inshore and offshore areas and utilized for livelihood and food security. <p>View of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed listing of <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i> meets the CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although <i>S. tiburo</i> is not found in the Southeast Asian region, it is anticipated that 	<p>Brunei Darussalam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brunei Darussalam banned all types of trade on shark, which includes their body parts, as well as catching, and collection of sharks since 2014. <p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of all hammerhead species found in Indonesia, only <i>Eusphyra blochii</i> that yet to be included in Appendix II and the species is for local use. 	<p>Indonesia Malaysia Myanmar Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Viet Nam</p>	<p>Lao PDR Thailand Philippines</p>	<p>Japan Singapore*</p>

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
		Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Support	Not support
	<p>inclusion of all species in the family as “look-alike” species would impact the export of other shark commodities from the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is anticipated that the listing of species into the Appendix II would result in not reporting and recording of catch and trade of the species creating difficulty and burden for authorities to collect scientific data to support management of the species. 	<p>Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries</p> <p>Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In general, sharks should be managed under the national laws and regulations of the respective countries. Sufficient evidence was not given to demonstrate that the international trade is the key driver of its stock decline. It is still unclear whether the other species meet the "look alike" criteria. <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hammerhead sharks are protected under the national laws. The implementation of shark conservation and management measures should be enhanced to become effective. <p>Myanmar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hammerhead Sharks are commonly found in inshore and offshore waters, caught by various fishing gears, and domestically traded. Catch of sharks should be legally recorded, while data collection and management of the species should be at the regional level. <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Except for <i>Eusphyr a blochii</i>, the Philippines is not a range state of the rest of species of hammerhead sharks proposed to be listed. FAO Expert Advisory Panel finds the proposal inadequate to meet the criteria for listing Appendix II 		

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries			Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
		Thailand	Viet Nam	Japan	Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
		<p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharks and rays are managed under the NPOA-Sharks with data collection program in place in the country. <p>Viet Nam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many species of sharks are protected in Viet Nam, which include three hammerhead shark species listed into Appendix II. 					
39	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No species of the family Potamotrygonidae occurs in the natural habitats of the Southeast Asian region. Potamotrygons are cultured for ornamental purposes (mostly as hybrids) and traded by countries in the region, e.g. Thailand and Malaysia. Breeders that were generally domesticated and imported from other countries were not sourced from the wild. Countries trading (importing/exporting) the species are applying regulations for traders to obtain permit from fisheries authorities. Trade of wild caught stingrays has been regulated in Brazil since 1998, including the export numbers of each species and numbers per species plus maximum size that were in place since 2003. In addition, all the Potamotrygonins in this proposal have already been listed since January 2017 under Appendix III. 	<p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharks and rays are managed under the NPOA-Sharks with data collection program in place in the country. <p>Viet Nam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many species of sharks are protected in Viet Nam, which include three hammerhead shark species listed into Appendix II. 	<p>Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In general, the stock of freshwater aquatic species should be managed by respective countries, and deemed necessary, the countries should consider listing under the Appendix III. <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listing of the species would create difficulty for trading of hybrid specimens from aquaculture industry, while the development of NDF is complicated as there are no wild broodstock in Malaysia. <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater stingrays are not endemic to the Philippines and no record of captive breeding. Listing under CITES would affect non-range countries that engage in aquaculture or captive breeding of these species. Listing 		<p>Brunei</p> <p>Darussalam</p> <p>Cambodia</p> <p>Indonesia</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Lao PDR</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <p>Myanmar</p> <p>Philippines</p> <p>Thailand</p> <p>Viet Nam</p>	Singapore*	

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries			Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
		Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance	Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of Potamotrygonins in aquaculture sector is a positive as it removes pressure on the wild stock. <p>View of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed listing of <i>P. wallacei</i> meets CITES criteria; while listing of <i>P. leopoldi</i> does not meet CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is anticipated that the listing of the species into the Appendix II would pose hurdles in trade of aquaculture bred and reared stingrays, e.g. documentation requirement to certify facilities and sources of breeders, packaging requirements, export checks of live product in transit, which could impact the growth of the industry. In addition, the breeding facilities are developing market-favored hybrids species that are difficult to identify/record. 	<p>under Appendix III would be more appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed listing of the species in Appendix II could pose difficulties in trading in particular with the captive-bred hybrid species. <p>Viet Nam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquaculture production of species provide an alternative livelihood opportunity for local communities. Management of indigenous species should be under the management of the country where the species belong. 					
40	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 7 species of guitarfish (family Rhinobatidae) are commonly found in the Southeast Asian region. The small-sized guitarfish species are caught as bycatch mainly from inshore areas and utilized for people's livelihood and food security. Large-sized guitarfish species are already listed in the Appendix II. This proposal will add small-sized species that are primarily 	<p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species found in Indonesia are <i>R. jimbaranensis</i> and <i>R. penggali</i>. Both of them are considered as local commodities. <p>Japan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International trade is not the key driver of exploitation. <p>Myanmar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Myanmar has NPOA-Sharks in place, and listing of the species into 			<p>Brunei</p> <p>Darussalam</p> <p>Cambodia</p> <p>Indonesia</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>Lao PDR</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <p>Myanmar</p> <p>Philippines</p> <p>Thailand</p> <p>Viet Nam</p>	Singapore*	

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>utilized as food as well as commodities that have lower export value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different species under the same family are difficult to identify/differentiate, especially by parts and in product forms and derivatives. The international trade information on these species is limited. <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed listing of the six species of guitarfish does not meet the CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is anticipated that the listing of species into Appendix II would result in not reporting and recording of catch and trade of the species creating difficulty and burden for authorities to collect scientific data to support management of the species. 	<p>Appendix II would make the collection of data on catch and trade on the species more difficult.</p> <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippines is not a range state of the 7 species of guitarfishes proposed for listing. The proposal does not meet the listing criteria as reviewed by FAO Expert Advisory Panel <p>Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thailand implements national laws to control the import and export of all species under the family Rhinobatidae, and some species are subject to conservation measures. 			
42	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Thelenota ananas</i> and <i>T. anax</i> are harvested by countries in the Southeast Asian region and traded both domestically and internationally; while <i>T. rubralineata</i> is rare in natural habitats and not considered a traded species. However, <i>Thelenota</i> spp. are considered as low-value species compared to other market-preferred sea cucumber species, e.g. <i>Holothuria</i> spp. Identification/differentiation of <i>Thelonota</i> species in live and dried form is relatively simple; however, countries, e.g. Malaysia is 	<p>Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally, does not support the inclusion of all three species into Appendix II. However, species with high utilization (e.g. <i>T. ananas</i>) may be considered to be listed into Appendix. <p>Malaysia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed listing of the three species does not meet the CITES criteria. 		<p>Brunei</p> <p>Darussalam</p> <p>Cambodia</p> <p>Indonesia</p> <p>Japan,</p> <p>Lao PDR</p> <p>Malaysia</p> <p>Myanmar</p> <p>Philippines</p> <p>Viet Nam</p> <p>Thailand</p>	Singapore*

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
		Support	Not support	Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>also producing sea cucumber oil (minyak gamat) from other sea cucumber species, which is harder to identify to species level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of the long debate, CITES Commission I in COP 16 agreed that sea cucumber should be managed by respective countries rather than CITES regulations. <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed listing of the three species in the genus <i>Thelenota</i> does not meet the CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is anticipated that the listing of species into Appendix II would create difficulties to trade concerning identification of species as raw materials for products e.g. sea cucumber oil, balm. 	<p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippines is a range state of these 3 species of sea cucumbers guitarfishes proposed for listing. The proposal does not meet the listing criteria as reviewed by FAO Expert Advisory Panel 				
41	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The habitat of this species is negatively affected by hydroelectric dam in Brazil. Brazil has issued several national legal instruments including banning of collection, transportation and exportation of the species since 2005, and listed the species in Appendix III of CITES since 2017. The species produced from ornamental fish farms are being traded in some AMSs, e.g. in Malaysia and Thailand. Listing of the species in Appendix I would mean that trade in the 	<p>Cambodia, Malaysia, and Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The captive breeding production of this species by the countries in the region contributed to high-valued aquarium species. The listing of this species will threaten the trade and ornamental fish industry of this species. <p>Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philippines is not a range state of zebra catfish. Cannot support the proposal as we share the view of FAO 		<p>Brunei Darussalam Cambodia Indonesia Lao PDR Malaysia Myanmar Philippines Thailand Japan Viet Nam</p>	<p>Singapore*</p>	

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<p>species (including from captive breeding of ornamental fish farms) would also be prohibited that will result in the loss of sustainable production and livelihoods in the ornamental aquaculture sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of Zebra catfish in aquaculture sector is a positive as it removes pressure on the wild stock. <p>Views of FAO Expert Advisory Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed listing of Zebra catfish in CITES Appendix I does not meet the CITES criteria. <p>Impacts of listing in Appendix I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is anticipated that the listing of the species in Appendix I would make trading of the species produce from captive breeding no longer possible. 	<p>Expert Advisory Panel that does not meet the listing criteria for Appendix I.</p>			
<p>13 (Note: The species is under the purview of fisheries authority only in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam)</p>	<p>Information on proposed species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thailand has national laws and regulations protecting the <i>Crocodylus siamensis</i> population as a protected species. There are six protected areas for wild populations in Thailand including national parks, protected areas, and non-hunting areas. All specimens of <i>C. siamensis</i> traded by Thailand are from registered captive breeding farms for commercial production. There is no illegal trade of the species in Thailand. 	<p>Cambodia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downlisting of <i>C. siamensis</i> from Appendix I to Appendix II will enable the trade of farmed specimens and contribute to the livelihood of crocodile farmers in Cambodia. <p>Viet Nam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viet Nam has crocodile farms. The specimens are exported, and downlisting of <i>C. siamensis</i> will create favorable condition for trading of farmed crocodiles. 	<p>Cambodia Myanmar Thailand Lao PDR</p>		<p>Viet Nam**</p>

CITES-CoP19 Proposal No.	Technical information	Views of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries	Positions of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries		
			Support	Not support	Position held in Abeyance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For other countries in the region, e.g. Cambodia and Viet Nam, crocodile farming also contributes to the livelihood of farmers. <p>Impacts of downlisting from Appendix I to Appendix II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is envisaged that the downlisting of <i>C. siamensis</i> would facilitate the trade of farmed specimens from Thailand and other countries in the region. The zerotrade quota from the wild would not create adverse impacts on the wild population of the species. 				

Results of the Proposal Adoption for CEAS at the CoP19
14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama

Results of the Proposal Adoption for CEAS at the CoP19 Proposals	Proponents	Adoption	Remarks
<p>Proposal 37 Inclusion of the grey reef shark (<i>Carcharhinus amblyrhynchus</i>), dusky shark (<i>C. obscurus</i>), smalltail shark (<i>C. porosus</i>), Ganges shark (<i>Glyphis gangeticus</i>), sandbar shark (<i>C. plumbeus</i>), Borneo shark (<i>C. borneensis</i>), Pondicherry shark (<i>C. hemiodon</i>), smoothtooth blacktip shark (<i>C. leiodon</i>), sharptooth lemon shark (<i>Negaprion acutidens</i>), Caribbean reef shark (<i>C. perezi</i>), daggenose shark (<i>Isogomphodon oxyrinchus</i>), night shark (<i>C. signatus</i>), whitenose shark (<i>Nasolamia velox</i>), blacknose shark (<i>C. acronotus</i>), whitecheek shark (<i>C. dussumieri</i>), lost shark (<i>C. obsoletus</i>), Pacific smalltail shark (<i>C. cerdale</i>), Borneo broadfin shark (<i>Lamiopsis tephrodes</i>) and the broadfin shark (<i>Lamiopsis temminckii</i>) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A and B in Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).</p> <p>Inclusion of all other species in the family Carcharhinidae (requiem sharks): Genus <i>Carcharhinus</i>, Genus <i>Isogomphodon</i>, Genus <i>Loxodon</i>, Genus <i>Nasolamia</i>, Genus <i>Lamiopsis</i>, Genus <i>Negaprion</i>, Genus <i>Prionace</i>, Genus <i>Rhizoprionodon</i>, Genus <i>Scoliodon</i>, Genus <i>Triaenodon</i> and any other putative species of family Carcharhinidae in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and</p>	<p>Bangladesh, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, European Union, Gabon, Israel, Maldives, Panama, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*</p>	<p>Accepted Yes: 88 (75.21%) No: 29 (24.79) Abstentions: 17 Total=134</p>	<p>entry into effect of the inclusion in Appendix II delayed by 12 months</p>

Results of the Proposal Adoption for CEAS at the CoP19 Proposals	Proponents	Adoption	Remarks
<p>satisfying Criterion A in Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).</p> <p>Proposal 38 Inclusion of <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>, commonly referred to as the bonnethead shark, in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A and B in Annex 2a of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).</p> <p>Inclusion of all remaining species in the Family Sphyrnidae (hammerhead sharks) which are not already listed in CITES Appendix II, including: <i>S. media</i>, <i>S. tudes</i>, <i>S. corona</i>, <i>S. gilberti</i>, and <i>Eusphyrna blochii</i>, as well as any other yet to be identified species of the Family Sphyrnidae, in Appendix II in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(b) of the Convention and satisfying Criterion A in Annex 2b of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)</p>	<p>Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, the European Union, and Panama*.</p>	<p>Accepted by Consensus</p>	
<p>Proposal 39 Inclusion of <i>Potamotrygon wallacei</i> and <i>P. leopoldi</i> in CITES Appendix II in accordance with Article II of the Convention and satisfying criteria A and B in Annex 2a of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17)</p> <p>Inclusion of look-alikes endemic freshwater stingray species that are on the ornamental fish trade legally as <i>P. hentei</i> and illegally as <i>P. albimaculata</i>, <i>P. jabuti</i> from the black stingray group. The illegally exported species such as <i>P. marquesi</i> and <i>P. signata</i> of the brown stingray group such as <i>P. wallacei</i> in</p>	<p>Brazil</p>	<p>Accepted by Consensus</p>	

Results of the Proposal Adoption for CEAS at the CoP19 Proposals	Proponents	Adoption	Remarks
<p>accordance with Criteria A of Annex 2b (Conf. 9.24, Rev. CoP17).</p>			
<p>Proposal 40 Inclusion of the six species of guitarfish (<i>Acroteriobatus variegatus</i>; <i>Pseudobatos horkelii</i>; <i>Rhinobatos albomaculatus</i>; <i>R. irvinei</i>; <i>R. rhinobatos</i> and <i>R. schlegelii</i>) in Appendix II in accordance with Article II, paragraph 2(a) of the Convention, and satisfying criteria A and B in Annex 2a of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17). In addition, to add another 37 species as “look-alikes” in the list.</p>	<p>Israel, Kenya, Panama and Senegal</p>	<p>Accepted Yes: 101 (87.83%) No: 14 (12.17%) Abstentions: 13 (%) Total: 128</p>	
<p>Proposal 42 Inclusion of all species in the genus <i>Thelenota</i>, which includes the three species <i>T. ananas</i>, <i>T. anax</i>, and <i>T. rubralineata</i> in Appendix II, in accordance with Article II paragraph 2(a) of the Convention.</p>	<p>European Union, Seychelles and United States of America</p>	<p>Accepted Yes: 97 (85.54%) No: 16 (14.16%) Abstentions: 16 Total: 129</p>	<p>entry into effect of the inclusion in Appendix II delayed by 18 months</p>
<p>Proposal 41 Inclusion of <i>Hypancistrus zebra</i> in Appendix I in accordance with Article II, paragraph 1 of CITES Convention, and satisfying criterion in Annex I B (iii; iv) and Annex I C (i; ii) of CITES Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP17).</p>	<p>Brazil</p>	<p>Original proposal was Rejected Yes: 62 (54.39%) No: 52 (45.61%) Abstentions: 15 Total: 129</p> <p>At the end of the Meeting, the Committee reopened for voting and Adopted consensus to move <i>Hypancistrus zebra</i>, to Appendix II with a zero quota for wild specimens.</p>	<p>Not meet 2/3 majority of vote</p>



Results of the Proposal Adoption for CEAS at the CoP19 Proposals	Proponents	Adoption	Remarks
Proposal 13 Downlisting of <i>Crocodylus siamensis</i> (Siamese crocodile) (captive breeding population of Thailand) from Appendix I to Appendix II with zero quota export for wild specimens.	Thailand	Rejected Yes: 27 (26.21%) No: 76 (73.79%) Abstentions: 20 Total: 123	

Annex 12

COMBATING MARINE DEBRIS AND ALDFG IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS BY SEAFDEC

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marine debris is a major global concern because it causes marine pollution that is toxic to both human health and the environment. The poor management of land-based waste from human activities is a leading cause of marine debris. Plastic materials are the most commonly found type of marine debris, which can fragment into smaller pieces known as microplastics. The negative impact of microplastics on marine organisms has been well-documented, and these microplastics can eventually end up in humans through the food chain. Most microplastics often contain additives such as stabilizers or flame-retardants, and other potentially toxic chemical substances that are harmful to humans who ingest them.

Abandoned, lost, discarded, and otherwise fishing gear (ALDFG) is considered a major type of marine plastic from fishing activities. This type of debris has the ability to continue fishing even when it has been abandoned or lost, a process known as Ghost Fishing. The impacts of ALDFG are serious and can harm habitats and fish stocks, including both target and non-target species. ALDFG considers cases of discarded and abandoned fishing as being associated with IUU fishing, as such actions may enable vessels to avoid detection and subsequent penalties or fines by inspection authorities.

To address these issues, senior officials of the ASEAN have adopted regional policy frameworks, including the *Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region* (2019), *ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris* (2019), *Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Cooperation on Fisheries (SPA-Fisheries) 2021-2025* (2019), and *Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030* (2020).

The SEAFDEC Departments collaborate with SEAFDEC Member Countries (MCs) and relevant organizations such as FAO and ASEAN Secretariat to initiate projects and activities aimed at improving the research techniques and human resources of the MCs. In 2015, 2018, and 2019, SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) conducted preliminary assessments of seafloor marine debris through trawling operations by using M.V. SEAFDEC 2 and local trawler. Additionally, TD conducted preliminary ALDFG surveys by interviewing in 2019 and 2020.

To enhance the capacity of SEAFDEC MCs in sampling techniques, laboratory analysis, and data processing of marine debris and microplastics, as well as to establish a network for sharing knowledge, experience, and information among scientists and researchers in the field of marine debris and microplastics in the Southeast Asian region, Regional Training Courses on Marine Debris and Microplastics Sampling Collection and Analysis were organized in 2019 and 2022.

SEAFDEC is currently providing technical support and human resource development to MCs for the data collection and analysis of marine debris, microplastics, and ALDFG through the Japanese Trust Fund Project on Responsible Fishing Technology and Practices, Sustainable Utilization of Fisheries Resources, and Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asia. In addition, there are upcoming projects aimed at addressing issues related to marine debris, microplastics, and ALDFG in Southeast Asia. One such project is the JAIF Project "Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia." This project will gather information on the ALDFG situations at selected pilot sites, such as the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea, investigate microplastics in marine and freshwater fish, and provide human resource development for ALDFG and microplastics in Southeast Asia. Another project is the FAO Project BOBLME, which aims to promote the marking of fishing gear.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is kindly invited to provide directive guidance to address the issues related to marine debris, microplastics, and ALDFG in Southeast Asia.

STATEMENT

By *Dr. Simon Funge-Smith*,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Ms. Malinee Smithrithee, Secretary-General of SEAFDEC,
Distinguished Council Members,
SEAFDEC colleagues and delegates from regional organizations and arrangements,

On behalf of *Mr Jong-Jin Kim*, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, I would like to thank SEAFDEC for providing the opportunity to provide a statement regarding areas of cooperation and coordination between FAO, SEAFDEC and her member countries.

There have been some important global developments since the 54th meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. In June 2022, the “WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies” was adopted at the 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO. The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies aims to contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with three key provisions on the prohibition of subsidies relating to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, the fishing of overexploited stocks, and fisheries on the high seas outside the competence of regional fisheries management organisations. There are also provisions on special and differential treatment in favour of developing and least developed countries. There are implications for the Asian region, particularly with respect to the need to improve the ways in which the status of fish stocks and fisheries are assessed for sustainability and the need for improved information and transparency on composition and operations of fishing fleets and the financial support mechanisms provided to the sector. It is also clear that the Asian region needs to develop tailored solutions that are applicable to the context of Asian fisheries, and that there is some urgency on the need to cooperate around this.

FAO and SEAFDEC have cooperated on a series of capacity building workshops to start this process, of strengthening capacity on stock assessments and exploring ways in which fisheries sustainability can be assessed, particularly for the complex multispecies, multi gear and multiscale fisheries that are a particular feature of the region’s coastal and offshore fisheries. This not only important with the respect to the WTO Agreement on fisheries subsidies, but also on terms of delivering on the SDG14 commitment to end overfishing and combatting IUU. FAO would like to appreciate SEAFDEC Secretariat and our mutual Member’s cooperation in these workshops and we hope that this may form the basis for a more comprehensive regional capacity building programme in the future.

The “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” is another development with strong implications for the way we approach fishery management in the context of protection and conservation. The recognition that effective implementation of sustainable fisheries management is recognized as an “Other Effective Conservation Measures” (OECM), that contributes to supporting and conserving biodiversity, is an important development. It emphasizes that the fishery sector has a responsibility to promote its sustainability to continue to have a license to operate, but also that well managed fisheries contribute to meeting Member countries commitments to the 30 by 30 goals under the CBD. This another area where cooperation between SEAFDEC and FAO, through the Global Environment Facility Large Marine Ecosystem Projects in the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Thailand have the potential to act as pilots for advancing sustainable approaches and promoting fishery management as an OECM.

The recent Regional closing of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 hosted by the Government of Thailand, highlighted the importance of the sub-sector to the Asian region and reiterated the importance of ensuring that small-scale actors are not disenfranchised and marginalized by global developments such as those that I have just mentioned. The recently released “Illuminating Hidden Harvest” study, developed by FAO, Duke University and WorldFish, quantifies global small-scale fisheries for the first time and shows just how important this sector is to the region. I urge you to access this important study. FAO hopes to extend and deepen its programme of support to small-scale fisheries at country level in the coming biennium. (<http://www.fao.org/3/cc4576en/cc4576en.pdf>).



In the sphere of aquaculture, FAO and NACA convened a High Level Meeting and produced a White Paper on Aquaculture transformation – Innovation and investment for sustainable intensification and expansion of aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific region, This outlines the needs and strategies for the region’s aquaculture sector in order to meet the growing need for aquatic foods from aquaculture and how to promote the investments that will be required to secure this. A follow up High Level Meeting is to be convened at the end of 2023 and I would like to encourage you to attend this. (<https://www.fao.org/3/cc4962en/cc4962en.pdf>).

In closing, I would like to thank the SEAFDEC 55th Council Meeting again for affording FAO the opportunity to make this short statement on our cooperation and mutual efforts to support each other’s work programmes, and I look forward to continuing our strong collaboration and partnership towards blue transformation for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in South East Asia.

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

I. BACKGROUND

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030) was adopted by the ASEAN Senior Officials and Ministers to serve as a policy framework and direction for the region's fisheries development towards sustainability in the coming decade. Specifically, the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (POA-2030) has six Components, namely: 1) Planning and Information, 2) Fisheries Management, 3) Aquaculture, 4) Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, 5) Fish Trade, and 6) Regional and International Policy Formulation. These Components had a total of 88 actions for the implementation by SEAFDEC and ASEAN Member States (AMSs) at the regional, sub-regional, and/or national levels through programs, projects, and activities under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC mechanism.

To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RES&POA-2030, 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 for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 during the 53rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (53CM). The Council supported such ideas and suggested several issues. Firstly, SEAFDEC was suggested to engage AMSs in the implementation of RES&POA-2030. Secondly, the Council suggested SEAFDEC to develop and disseminate the key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030 in order that the countries could provide valuable inputs during the Workshop. Thirdly, SEAFDEC and the Member Countries were recommended to take cognizance toward complementation and cooperation, and to minimize duplication of efforts in this aspect. Lastly, the Council suggested SEAFDEC to consider developing the scale for the monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the Council wished that the majority of the RES&POA-2030 would be achieved within the projected timeline while the promotion of RES&POA-2030 in the region and support of the monitoring and evaluation would be possible through the roles of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network.

SEAFDEC therefore organized the "RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Development of Key Indicators and Detailed Roadmap" on 23–24 March 2022 through a virtual platform to discuss the key indicators and detailed roadmap including the scale for monitoring and evaluation, baseline data and information, targets, reporting and timeframe for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. The Workshop came up with the key indicators and timeframe for monitoring implementation of the RES&POA-2030. During the Workshop, the participants proposed to conduct the trial exercise in providing inputs to the reporting template before the key indicators is finalized at the second Regional Workshop in June 2022.

Subsequently, SEAFDEC organized the "RES&POA-2030: Regional Workshop on Finalization of the Key Indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030" on 14 June 2022 through a virtual platform. The Workshop aimed at discussing the results of the trial exercise and finalizing the key indicators, reporting template, and timeframe for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. Based on trial exercise, to gather comments and recommendations from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs) to revision of the key indicators and how to rating the score and the revision of the draft reporting template, the countries provided feedbacks and comments and made the adjustment of some key indicators and finally, the Workshop agreed on the key indicators of POA-2030. During the discussion, the AMSs agreed on the timelines of the submission of country inputs for the baseline information 2021. The results of this Workshop and results of baseline evaluation 2021 would be reported to the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Program Committee, the 25th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership, the 55th Meeting SEAFDEC Council and through the ASEAN mechanism, respectively.



II. SUGGESTIONS BY THE 45PCM AND 25FCG AND THE RESPONSES

After compilation of the inputs from the AMSs, the SEAFDEC Secretariat analyzed and drafted the Report Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information). Then, the SEAFDEC Secretariat presented the draft Report to the 45th Meeting of the Program Committee (45PCM) and the 25th Meeting of the Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (25FCG). In this connection, SEAFDEC Secretariat was recommended to conduct a country-based gap analysis should be made for each of the components and come up with more detailed criteria, *e.g.* the elements that the country should achieve in order to give a particular rating for each key indicator of the POA.

In response, the SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the countries that the clear definition for each rating would be difficult as the rating would have to be applicable to all POAs which are different in nature and require different types of actions. Moreover, each AMS may have different targets to be achieved for each of the POA. Based on the results of two Workshops earlier, AMSs agreed that the criteria used for rating in each key indicator should be specified by each AMS. As the situations, priorities, and elements that need to be achieved in fulfilling the POA could be different in the respective countries. Thus, it would be difficult to obtain an agreed set of criteria for all AMSs for each POA. Therefore, the AMSs were encouraged to provide as much details as possible on their ratings.

III. SUMMARY OF THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RES&POA-2030 (2021 BASELINE INFORMATION)

The monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 are to assess, identify gaps, and provide recommendations to enhance the implementation of the RES&POA-2030. The survey template was circulated to all AMSs for the 2021 Baseline Information in August 2022. Among the 10 AMSs, eight AMSs *i.e.* Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand submitted the inputs to SEAFDEC. The information was analyzed using descriptive statistics, *i.e.* frequency and mode.

The analyzed information showed that the regional implementation of all 88 Plan of Actions (POAs) was at a good level. Under Components A–E, all AMSs implemented the POAs at a good level, while the POA under Component F was implemented at an excellent level. At the national level, more than 11 percent of 88 POAs were implemented at an excellent level, about 39 percent at a good level, 22 percent at a fair level, 17 percent at a limited level, and 8 percent were not implemented at all; while, around three percent were not applicable for some AMSs.

The gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs by AMSs were identified which include fisheries development planning process still depend on collaboration with international organizations and development partners; systems and mechanisms for collection of statistics and data disaggregated at the species level depend on budget allocation which is still limited; need for the establishment of reference points for the management of fish stocks and aquatic species including harvest control rules; request for technical and awareness support on application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears, fishing vessels and fishing operations; implementation of the requirements of port State measures and flag State responsibility; conduct research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods; need for studies on wild fisheries, migration patterns, spawning grounds and seasons, nursery grounds, and environmental issues/impacts are also conducted to understand the stock populations; monitoring and assessment of the impacts of the construction/operations of man-made structures that could alter the water ways and affect migration and spawning of aquatic animals; development and implementation of ASEAN guidelines and measures for environment-friendly and responsible aquaculture and good aquaculture practices; national competent authority's monitoring system/mechanism on warning of emerging/existing diseases in the country is not yet in place; the official list of national concerned diseases of aquatic animals is not yet available; there is a guideline regarding Good Fish Handling Practices, however the practices still needs improvement related to implementation and monitoring in the field; and implementation of the regional/ASEAN standards on the international trading of fishery and aquaculture products.

The recommendations to enhance the implementation of POA-2030 include establishment of centralized data, statistics, and information system on fisheries; conduct of national stock assessment program including

capacity building of local staff to collect fishery statistics data; development of reference points, harvest control rules, and fishing grounds for major commercially important species; development of guidelines for identification and monitoring of species under international concern; execution of research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods; implementation of approaches to sustainable management of major critical coastal habitats; conduct of fisheries vulnerability assessment to climate change and development of climate adaption and resilience plan; develop guidelines on hygiene onboard fishing vessel; conduct of regular artificial reef, habitat restoration, and restocking programs; adoption of the Regional Technical Guidelines on an Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies; establishment of accredited laboratories according to ISO/OIE standards; provision on responsible use of antibiotics in aquaculture; R&D on local ingredients for alternative protein sources; cooperation in various platforms which involves trade at regional level such as ASEAN in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and ASEAN +1; and alignment of national standards with the ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP. These recommendations could be seen as enhancing the way POAs carried out and should be applied according to the national contexts.

The draft Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information) appears in *Appendix 1*. The full draft report is downloadable from <https://repository.seafdec.org/handle/20.500.12066/7185>.

IV. TIMELINE 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

Taking the abovementioned suggestions by 53CM and two Regional Workshops, the timeline to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 appears in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Timeline for 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)

Date	Activities	Responsibility
Dec 2022	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and analysis of results of baseline evaluation 2021 to the 45 th Meeting of the Program Committee and 25 th Meeting of Fisheries Consultative Group of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership	SEAFDEC SEC
Jan 2023	AMSs that not submitted/not completed the baseline information to provide the inputs to SEAFDEC	Relevant AMSs
May 2023	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and analysis of results of baseline evaluation 2021 to the 55 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN mechanism	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 Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030	SEAFDEC and ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries
2025	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and mid-term evaluation to the 48 th Meeting of the Program Committee	SEAFDEC SEC
2026	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and mid-term evaluation 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 and final evaluation to the 52 nd Meeting of the Program Committee	SEAFDEC SEC
2030	Report the results of the Regional Workshop and final evaluation to the 62 nd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	SEAFDEC SEC



V. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To approve the draft Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information)
- To approve the submission of the said Report to the ASWGFi and higher authorities of the ASEAN through the FCG/ASSP Focal point *ad referendum*

**(Draft) Report of the
Monitoring and Evaluation of the
Implementation of the RES&POA-2030
(2021 Baseline Information)**

Prepared by Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

SEC/SP/211

xxxx 2023



PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT

The Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information) was prepared by the Secretariat of Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), in collaboration with the SEAFDEC Departments, namely: Training Department (TD), Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), Aquaculture Department (AQD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) and Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD) as well as the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The document is distributed to the SEAFDEC Member Countries and Departments, fisheries-related agencies, and to the public to promote the activities and visibility of the Center.

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Executive Summary

The monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 are conducted to assess, identify gaps, and provide recommendations to enhance the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 by the ASEAN Member States (AMSs). The survey template was circulated to all AMSs for the 2021 Baseline Information in August 2022. Among the 10 AMSs, eight AMSs *i.e.* Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand submitted the inputs to SEAFDEC. The information was analyzed using descriptive statistics, *i.e.* frequency and mode.

The analyzed information showed that the regional implementation of all 88 Plan of Actions (POAs) was at a good level. Under Components A–E, all AMSs implemented the POAs at a good level, while the POA under Component F was implemented at an excellent level. At the national level, more than 11 percent of 88 POAs were implemented at an excellent level, about 39 percent at a good level, 22 percent at a fair level, 17 percent at a limited level, and 8 percent were not implemented at all; while, around three percent were not applicable for some AMSs.

The gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs by AMSs were identified which include fisheries development planning process still depend on collaboration with international organizations and development partners; need for the establishment of reference points for the management of fish stocks and aquatic species including harvest control rules; request for technical and awareness support on application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears, fishing vessels and fishing operations; implementation of the requirements of port State measures and flag State responsibility; conduct research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods; need for studies on wild fisheries, migration patterns, spawning grounds and seasons, nursery grounds, and environmental issues/impacts are also conducted to understand the stock populations; monitoring and assessment of the impacts of the construction/operations of man-made structures that could alter the water ways and affect migration and spawning of aquatic animals; development and implementation of ASEAN guidelines and measures for environment-friendly and responsible aquaculture and good aquaculture practices; national competent authority's monitoring system/mechanism on warning of emerging/existing diseases in the country is not yet in place; and implementation of the regional/ASEAN standards on the international trading of fishery and aquaculture products.

The recommendations to enhance the implementation of RES&POA-2030 include establishment of centralized data, statistics, and information system on fisheries; conduct of national stock assessment program including capacity building of local staff to collect fishery statistics data; development of reference points, harvest control rules, and fishing grounds for major commercially important species; development of guidelines for identification and monitoring of species under international concern; execution of research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods; implementation of approaches to sustainable management of major critical coastal habitats; conduct of fisheries vulnerability assessment to climate change and development of climate adaption and resilience plan; develop guidelines on hygiene onboard fishing vessel; conduct of regular artificial reef, habitat restoration, and restocking programs; adoption of the Regional Technical Guidelines on an Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies; establishment of accredited laboratories according to ISO/OIE standards; provision on responsible use of antibiotics in aquaculture; R&D on local ingredients for alternative protein sources; cooperation in various platforms which involves trade at regional level such as ASEAN in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and ASEAN +1; and alignment of national standards with the ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP. These recommendations could be seen as enhancing the way POAs carried out and should be applied according to the national contexts.



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I. Background and Objectives

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 (RES&POA-2030) were adopted by the Senior Officials and Ministers of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to serve as a policy framework and direction for the region's fisheries development towards sustainability in the coming decade. To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the RES&POA-2030, 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 for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030 during the 53rd Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. The Council supported such ideas and suggested SEAFDEC to develop and disseminate the key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030 in order that the countries could provide inputs.

The objectives of monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 are to: 1) assess the level of regional and national implementation of the RES&POA-2030; 2) identify the gaps, challenges, and lessons learned from the implementation of the RES&POA-2030; and 3) provide recommendations to the ASEAN Member States to enhance the implementation of the RES&POA-2030.

II. Material and Methods

2.1 Information compilation

The survey template for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of RES&POA-2030 (Appendix 1) was developed through a series of online Regional Workshops organized by SEAFDEC in March and June 2022, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member States (AMSs), namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. All AMSs adopted this survey template including the key indicators to be used for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 for the three periods (*i.e.* in 2021 for baseline information, 2025 for midterm evaluation, and 2029 for final evaluation).

The survey template was composed of a table with four columns *i.e.* column 1: POA-2030 no., column 2: Key indicators, column 3: Rating, and column 4: Criteria used for rating. Each Plan of Action (POA) was designated with 1–2 key indicators. The AMSs were requested to rate each key indicator of all POAs using common criteria (*e.g.* policies, programs, legal frameworks, working mechanisms, human resources, financial resources, others). Each key indicator was rated as 1 = not at all, 2 = at a limited level, 3 = at a fair level, 4 = at a good level, and 5 = at an excellent level. If the key indicator is not applicable to the country, it was indicated as N/A.

In addition, the SEAFDEC National Coordinators were designated as the focal persons to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of RES&POA-2030. They were also requested to coordinate with the relevant agencies/institutions in their respective countries to gather and compile the relevant information as inputs to the survey template. The survey template was circulated to all AMSs for the 2021 Baseline Information to be submitted to SEAFDEC Secretariat on 14 October 2022 and 31 January 2023. The list of respondents is in Appendix 2.

2.2 Analysis

The average rating was calculated for POAs with more than one key indicator. Then, the ratings of all actions of the POA-2030 were analyzed using descriptive statistics, *i.e.* frequency and mode.

The best and good practices of the countries were identified from each component of RES&POA-2030 with the POAs rated with 5 (excellent level) or 4 (good level). On the other hand, the gaps and challenges in the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 were identified from each component of RES&POA-2030 with the POAs rated with equal to or less than 3 (fair level). Based on the identified gaps and challenges of specific POA, recommendations would be provided by SEAFDEC and AMSs to enhance the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 at the regional and national levels.



III. Results and Discussion

Among the 10 AMSs, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Philippines, and Thailand submitted the inputs to SEAFDEC (Appendix 3). The level of regional and national implementation of the RES&POA-2030 was analyzed for the eight AMSs which are discussed below.

3.1 Level of regional and national implementation of the RES&POA-2030

Overall, the implementation of all POAs by the AMSs was at a good level. All AMSs implemented the POAs under Components A–E generally at a good level, while the POA under Component F generally at an excellent level (**Figure 1**).

For Brunei Darussalam, the POAs were in overall implemented at a fair level. The POAs under Components A, C, D and E were implemented most frequently at a fair level, while POAs under Components B, B1 and B2 were implemented averagely at a limited level. In addition, the country implemented the POA under Component F was implemented averagely at a good level.

For Cambodia, all POAs were in overall implemented at a limited level. The POAs under Component A were implemented averagely at a good level, while POAs under Component B were not been implemented at all. In addition, the POAs under Components B1 and B2 were implemented averagely at a fair level. Moreover, the country implemented the POAs under Components C, D, and E averagely at a limited level while the POA under Component F was implemented averagely at an excellent level.

For Indonesia, all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Components A–C were implemented at a good level, while POAs under Component E were implemented averagely at a fair level. In addition, the POAs under Components D and F were implemented averagely at an excellent level.

For Malaysia, all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Components A–E were implemented averagely at a good level, while POA under Component F was implemented averagely at an excellent level.

For Myanmar, all POAs were in overall implemented at a limited level. The POAs under Components A–C were implemented averagely at a fair level, while POAs under Components E and F were implemented averagely at an excellent level. In addition, the POAs under Component D were not applicable for the country.

For the Philippines, all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Component A–C were implemented averagely at a good level, while POAs under Components D and E were implemented averagely at a fair level. In addition, the POAs under Components F were implemented averagely at a good level.

For Singapore, all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Components A, B1 and E were implemented averagely at a fair level, while POAs under Components B1, E and F were implemented averagely at a good level. In addition, the POAs under Components B and B2 were not applicable.

For Thailand, all POAs were in overall implemented at a good level. The POAs under Component A were implemented averagely at a fair level, while POAs under Components B, B2, C, and D were implemented averagely at a good level. In addition, the POAs under Components B1, E, and F were implemented averagely at an excellent level.

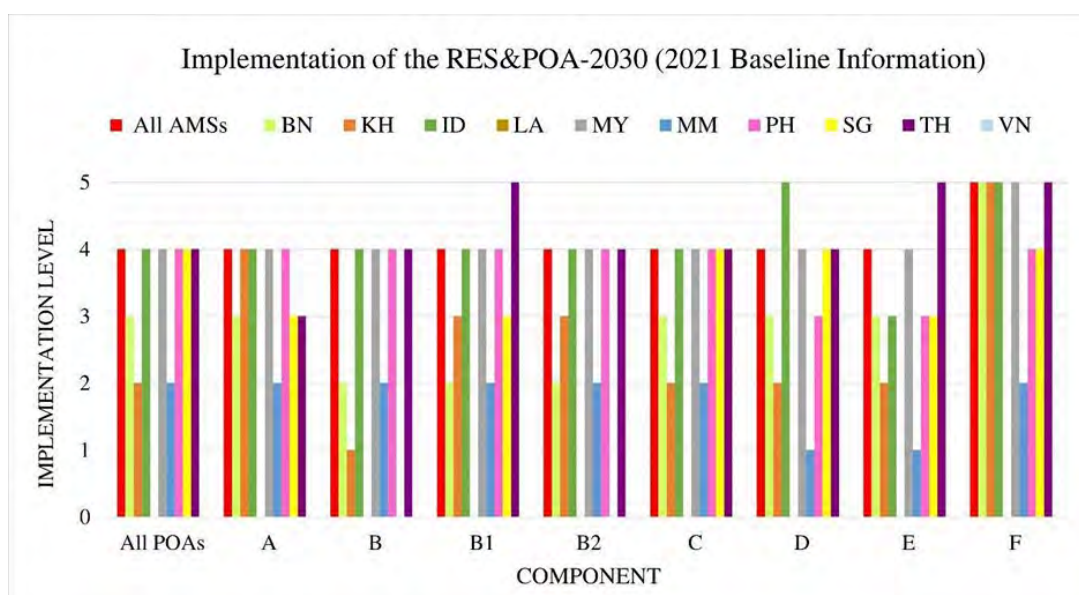


Figure 1. Level of implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by the ASEAN Member States in 2021 (Implementation level: 0 = N/A, 1 = Not at all, 2 = Limited level, 3 = Fair level, 4 = Good level, 5 = Excellent level; Component: A = Planning and Information, B = Fisheries Management, B1 = Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries), B2 = Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries), C = Aquaculture, D = Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products, E = Fish Trade, F = Regional and International Policy Formulation)

3.2 Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030

Figure 2 shows that more than 10 percent of the implementation of 88 POAs by the AMSs are at excellent level, about 39 percent at a good level, 22 percent at a fair level, 17 percent at a limited level, and eight percent were not implemented at all. Around three percent of POAs were not applicable for all AMSs.

By the respective countries, the implementation of the POAs at an excellent level ranged from one percent to 31 percent. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between two percent and 73 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 8–48 percent, while at a limited level were 0–58 percent. Moreover, 0–25 percent of all POAs were not implemented at all and 0–26 percent of the POAs were not applicable.

The AMSs that have very good level of implementation of POAs under this Component are Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, with more than 75 % of the POAs implemented at a good or an excellent level; while Philippines also has good level of implementation with nearly 75 % of the POAs implemented at a good or an excellent level. For Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Singapore, more than 50 % of the POAs were implemented at a fair level or below. It should however be noted that more than 25 % of the POAs are considered not applicable for Singapore. Specifically for Cambodia and Myanmar, more 25 % of the POAs were not implemented at all.

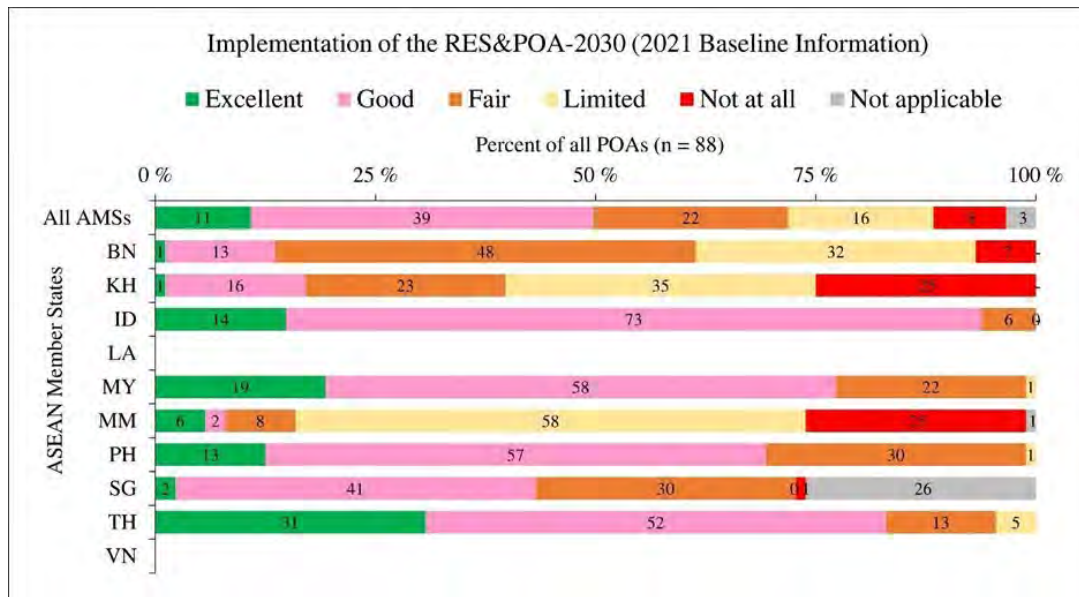


Figure 2. Implementation of the POAs of the RES&POA-2030 by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

3.1.1 Component A. Planning and Information

As shown in **Figure 3**, about ten percent of the implementation of nine POAs under Component A. Planning and Information by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 44 percent at a good level, 21 percent at a fair level, 19 percent at a limited level, and around three percent were not implemented and were not applicable.

For the national level, 0–33 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between 0 percent and 100 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 0–56 percent and at a limited level were 0–78 percent, while 22 percent of POAs were not implemented by Myanmar. In addition, 22 percent of the POAs were not applicable by Singapore.

The AMSs that have a very good level of implementation of POAs under this Component are Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines. For Indonesia, and Malaysia, all of the POAs were implemented at good or excellent level; while for the Philippines, nearly 90 % of the POAs were implemented at good or excellent level. For Cambodia and Thailand, these countries also have good level of the implementation with nearly 50 % of the POAs implemented at good or excellent level. For Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, more than 50 % of the POAs were implemented at fair level or below; however, it should be noted that out of this more than 20 % of the POAs were considered not relevant to Singapore. The country that still has limited level of implementation is Myanmar, with nearly 80 % of the POAs implemented at limited level, while the rest were not implemented at all.

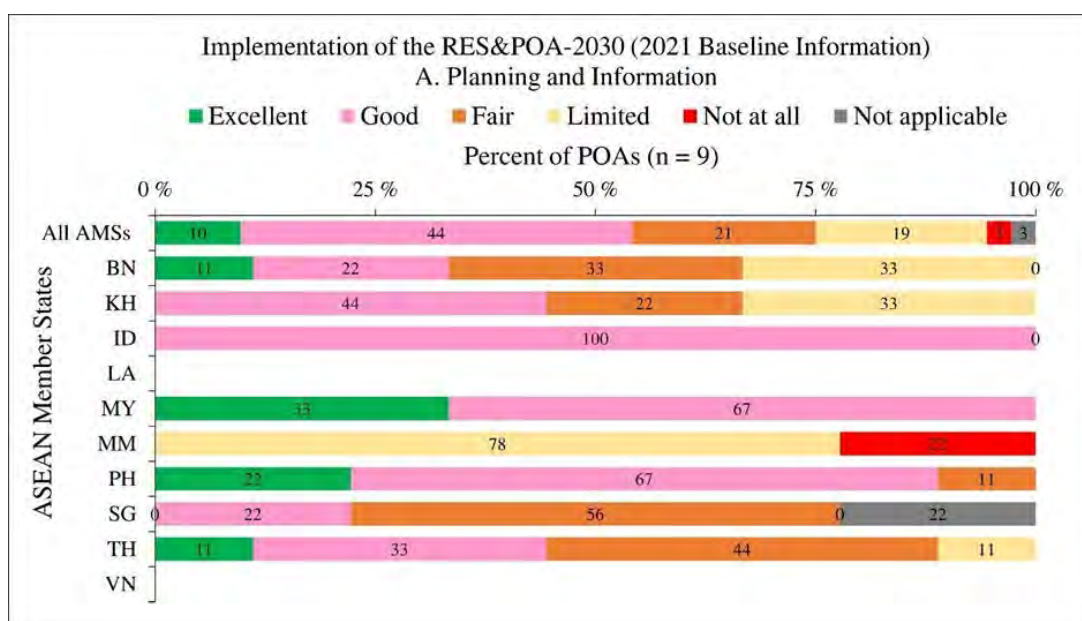


Figure 3. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component A. Planning and Information of the ASEAN Member States in 2021

Under Component A, the AMSs encountered several gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs which are listed below;

- Fisheries development planning process still depend on collaboration with international organizations and development partners,
- Systems and mechanisms for collection of statistics and data disaggregated at the species level depend on budget allocation which is still limited,
- Collections of statistics on catch quantities of overall marine species under the international concerns have been done as a whole, but cannot classify into particular species such as sharks. The quantity is recorded in logbook when rare marine aquatic animals/marine mammals are found by fishing vessels as a preliminary estimation of their quantities. There is no concrete survey and data collection has been carried out,
- Though establishing a framework for standardizing regional data and supported the exchange of information with regional and international organizations, there is still lack of concrete linkage mechanisms including information is not up-to-date, and
- Need for the establishment of reference points for the management of fish stocks and aquatic species including harvest control rules.

To address the abovementioned gaps and challenges, AMSs may consider the following programs, projects, and/or activities that have been implemented by other AMSs at good and excellent levels.

- Establishment of management board to develop strategic plans for fisheries management, policy to promote and solve fishing problem on offshore sea, aquaculture development plan, inland fisheries management plan, coastal resource management plan, related fisheries industries development policy etc.,
- Management of fisheries is implemented in accordance with relevant domestic laws and regulations,
- Designated areas for fisheries management through a consultative process and scientific advisory group,
- Assessment of the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and determination of total allowable catch (TAC),
- Issuance of fishing license based on the TAC,
- Preparation of annual fishery statistics and regularly prepare forecast data (marine fisheries, freshwater and aquaculture),
- Programs on enhancement of fish stock,
- Provide regular inputs and reports for RVFR, FAO Global Records, FAO Statistics and SEASOFIA,
- National fisheries statistics are available online,
- Establishment of systematic data collection and development of centralized data, statistics and information in fisheries in coordination with relevant authorities,

- Conduct of national stock assessment program including capacity building of local staff to collect fishery statistics data,
- Development of guidelines for monitoring population of species under international concern
- Conduct of fisheries observer program on species of special interest, and
- Collaborates with local and regional research institutes, private companies for research, host and attend local and international workshops, seminar to exchange information, and experience at regional fora.

3.1.2 Component B. Fisheries Management

As shown in **Figure 4**, the eight percent of the implementation of eighteen POAs under Component B. Fisheries Management by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 38 percent at a good level, 21 percent at a fair level, and 19 percent at a limited level. Around 10 percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while five percent were not applicable.

For the national level, 0–28 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between zero percent and 94 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 0–33 percent and at a limited level were 0–44 percent. Moreover, 0–39 percent of POAs were not implemented and 39 percent were not applicable by Singapore.

It should be noted that Indonesia led the implementation of POAs under this Component with all POAs implemented at either good or excellent levels. This was followed by Thailand, Malaysia and Philippines, with more than 50 % of the POAs implemented at good or excellent levels. Singapore is the country with fair implementation although nearly 40 % of the POAs were considered not applicable for the country; while for Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia, more than 50 % of the implementation is at limited level or below; 6 % and 33 % of the POAs were not implemented at all for Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia, respectively. Myanmar has limited implementation of the POA with more than 80 % of the POAs implemented at limited level or not implemented at all.

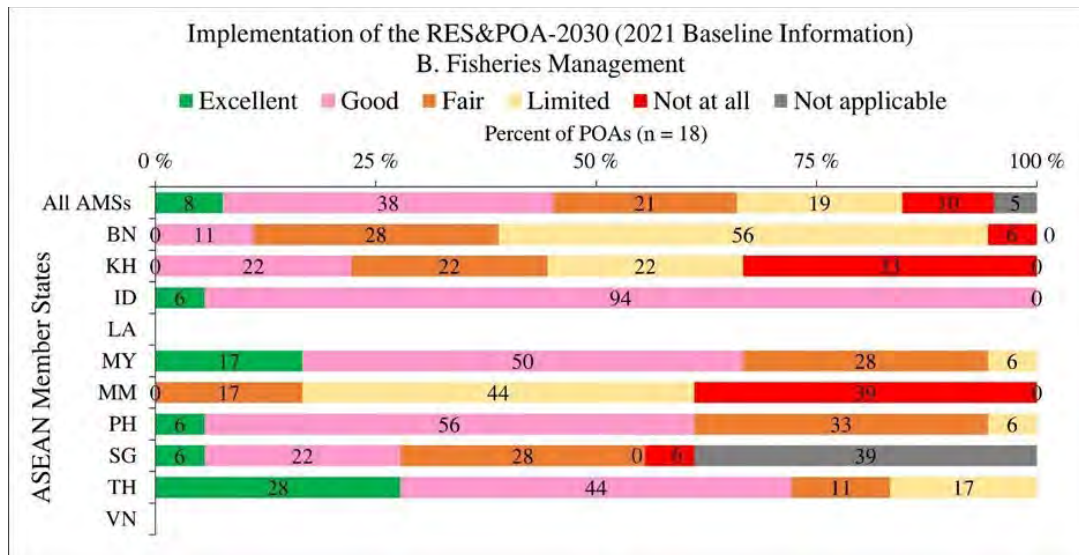


Figure 4. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component B. Fisheries Management by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

- In Component B, the AMSs faced various gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs as listed below;
- Fisheries law is under process of amendment,
 - Since the microcredit offered has restrictions, criteria, and specifications, not all sorts of fishing and agricultural are covered,
 - Operations of fishing vessels are still rely on fishing crews while adoption of energy-efficient technologies on fishing vessels are still low,

- Request for technical and awareness support on application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears, fishing vessels and fishing operations,
- In the process of surveying the area for aquaculture and exploring the marine fishery resources in the offshore area, and
- Implementation of climate adaptation and resilience along the coastal areas.

Under Component B, the POAs implemented by the AMSs at good and excellent levels were carried through the following programs, projects, and/or activities:

- Regular conducts reviews of fisheries management policies through public consultative process and dissemination to various stakeholders,
- Establishment of comprehensive mechanisms of regional policies (*e.g.* RPOA-IUU, AN-IUU) and national regulations/policies (*e.g.* NPOA-IUU) on prevention (such as electronic vessel monitoring, vessel inspections at sea, fisheries observer program, and surveillance at fishing ports), as well as prosecution (*e.g.* inter-agencies enforcement cooperation, employ smart-application for suppression of illegal fishing activities) to combat IUU fishing,
- Conduct of national fisheries reform and management of fisheries in accordance with relevant domestic laws,
- Establishment of local fisheries organizations along with budget support and adoption of fisheries management approaches (*e.g.* co-management, EAFM, *refugia*) to engage them if fisheries resource management,
- Synergy between regional and central governments through top-down and bottom-up approaches,
- Establishment of fisheries cooperative for fishers to access financial resources and support for micro loans with low interest rates,
- R&D on environment-friendly fishing gear and fishing vessel design,
- Adoption of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) as this is a binding treaty that set the minimum training requirements for safety of life at sea of crews of seagoing fishing vessels,
- Introduction and installation of modernized mechanisms onboard *e.g.* net hauler, telescopic crane and power block to optimize the number of crew,
- Setting up the requirements (temporary employment) for foreign crews, and issuance of fisher identity for local fishers,
- Development of guidelines and criteria for accommodation of crew on local fishing vessel,
- Exploration of deep-sea fisheries,
- Sharing information for fishers *e.g.* fish prices for each species,
- Include small-scale fishery products in national and international trade shows,
- Development of marketing channel(s) for fishery products produced by small-scale fishers
- Program to raise awareness of youth who lives in coastal area on the importance of sustainable management of coastal area, and impacts of climate change to their environment,
- Conduct of fisheries vulnerability assessment to climate change and development of climate adaption and resilience plan,
- Issuance of regulations and programs to address marine litter, and marking of fishing gears, and
- Active involvement in international platform to assess and manage transboundary fishery resources (*e.g.* IOTC, WCPFC, GoTFish Project)

3.1.3 Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)

As shown in **Figure 5**, about 14 percent of the implementation of twelve POAs under Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries) by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 39 percent at a good level, 20 percent at a fair level and 17 percent at a limited level. Around seven percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while four percent were not applicable.

For the national level, 0–50 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between 0 percent and 83 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 0–42 percent and at a limited level were 0–67 percent, while 0–25 percent of POAs were not implemented. Moreover, 33 percent of POAs were not applicable by Singapore.

The AMSs that have an outstanding level of implementation of POAs under this Component are Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand, with more than 75 % of the POAs implemented at a good or an excellent level; while Malaysia also has a satisfactory level of implementation with nearly 70 % of the POAs implemented at a good or an excellent level. For Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, and Myanmar and Singapore, more than 40 % of the POAs were implemented at a fair level or below. It should however be noted that about 33 % of the POAs are considered not applicable for Singapore. Specifically for Cambodia and Myanmar, 25 % of the POAs were not implemented at all, while 8 % of the POAs were not implemented by Brunei Darussalam.

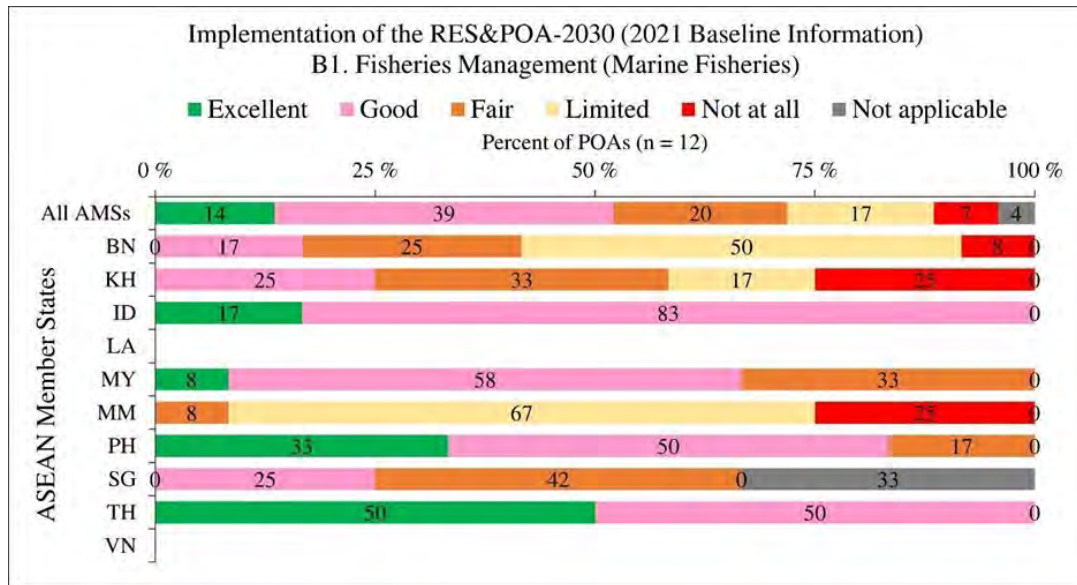


Figure 5. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries) by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

In Component B1, the gaps can be identified on the implementation of POAs by AMSs on several aspects as follows;

- Implementation of the requirements of port State measures and flag State responsibility,
- Conduct research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods,
- Implementation of approaches to sustainable management of major critical coastal habitats,
- Compliance with international standards on safety at sea, decent working conditions, and onboard fishing vessels sanitation.

To address abovementioned challenges, the recommendations are taken from actions by AMSs that implemented POAs at good and excellent level as follow;

- Development of guidelines and SOP of Port State Measures and designated port for foreign fishing vessels,
- Actively involvement in consultative dialogues to address issues in fisheries management at regional/sub-regional levels to share and exchange information on updated legal and regulatory frameworks *e.g.* bilateral meetings between neighboring countries, ASEAN Regional Forum workshop on law of the sea and fisheries, AN-IUU etc.,
- Application of Turtle Excluder Device and mesh size rules for trawlers,
- Report of bycatch and discard in the logbook for endangered species on deep sea and tuna fishing vessel,
- Development of fishing gear specification and value-added on used-nets for other products,
- Conduct of capacity building activities for fishers on the use of biodiesel, motorized sailing boats, solar cells, and wind power,
- Establishment of conservation areas and restoration of fishery resources in critical habitats,
- Conduct of training on safety at sea; ratification of STCW-F and C-188 – Work in Fishing Convention,
- Application of FAO manual on safety at sea for small-scale fishers; and develop guidelines on hygiene onboard fishing vessel,
- Conduct of regular artificial reef, habitat restoration, and restocking programs, and

- Collaboration with local community along the coastal area to conduct conservation and management of coastal habitat.

3.1.4 Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)

Figure 6 showed that nine percent of the implementation of eight POAs under Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries) by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 38 percent at a good level, 13 percent at a fair level, and 16 % at a limited level. Around 13 percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while 13 percent were not applicable.

For the national level, the implementation of the POAs at an excellent level ranged from zero to 38 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between zero percent and 75 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 0–50 percent and at a limited level were 0–63 percent. Moreover, 0–38 percent of POAs were not implemented and 100 percent were not applicable by Singapore.

It should be noted that Philippines and Thailand led the implementation of POAs under this Component with more than 80 % of the POAs implemented at either good or excellent levels. This was followed by Malaysia and Indonesia, with more than 60 % of the POAs implemented at a good level. For Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, and Myanmar, more than 50 % of the POAs were implemented at a fair level or below. It should be also noted that 100 % of the POAs are considered not applicable for Singapore. Specifically for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Myanmar, more than 25 % of the POAs were not implemented at all.

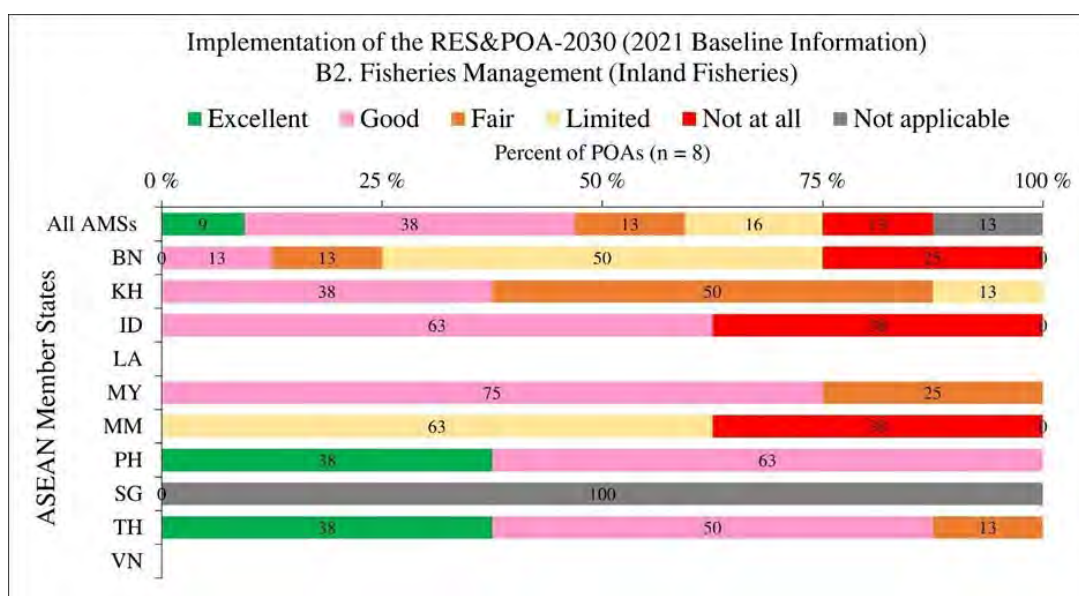


Figure 6. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries) by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

Under Component B2, the AMSs encountered several gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs which are listed below;

- Collection of catch data and target indicators for supporting inland fisheries management,
- Regulations governing inland fishing in lakes and inland waters,
- Conduct activities to involve stakeholders to restore, raise awareness and conserve important inland habitats,
- Integrated collaboration among the following national agencies and a clear mechanism for their actions at both national and regional levels,
- There is a cooperation between countries involved in sub-regional transboundary mechanism, however, there has not been a concrete solution to the management of cross-border freshwater fisheries,
- Studies on wild fisheries, migration patterns, spawning grounds and seasons, nursery grounds, and environmental issues/impacts are also conducted to understand the stock populations,

- Monitoring and mitigation of the negative impacts of invasive/alien species on the inland ecosystem and biodiversity,
- Monitoring and assessment of the impacts of the construction/operations of man-made structures that could alter the water ways and affect migration and spawning of aquatic animals including capacity to implement the mitigation measures, and
- There is a need to develop knowledge of the staff on the assessment and management of inland fishery resources.

For Component B2, the POAs implemented by the AMSs at good and excellent levels were carried through the following programs, projects, and/or activities;

- Prevention and control of fisheries in critical aquatic animal habitats,
- Importation control of invasive/alien species, and
- Establishment of fish passage and monitor the impacts of man-made structures on fish migration and ecological health or under EIA procedures.

3.1.5 Component C. Aquaculture

Figure 7 showed that six percent of the implementation of twenty-two POAs under Component C. Aquaculture by all AMSs implemented are at an excellent level, 43 percent at a good level, 24 percent at a fair level, and 19 percent at a limited level. Around eight percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while one percent was not applicable.

For the national level, 0–23 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between zero percent and 77 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 5–77 percent and at a limited level were 0–96 percent. About 5–41 percent of the POAs were not implemented while 5 percent of the POAs were not applicable.

The AMSs that have a very good level of implementation of POAs under this Component are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand with about 70 % of the POAs were implemented at good or excellent level. For Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Myanmar, more than 50 % of the POAs were implemented at fair or below; while it should be noted that about 40 % of the POAs were not implemented at all by Cambodia, 18 % by Indonesia and 5 % by Brunei Darussalam. In addition, about 5 % of the POAs were considered not relevant to Singapore.

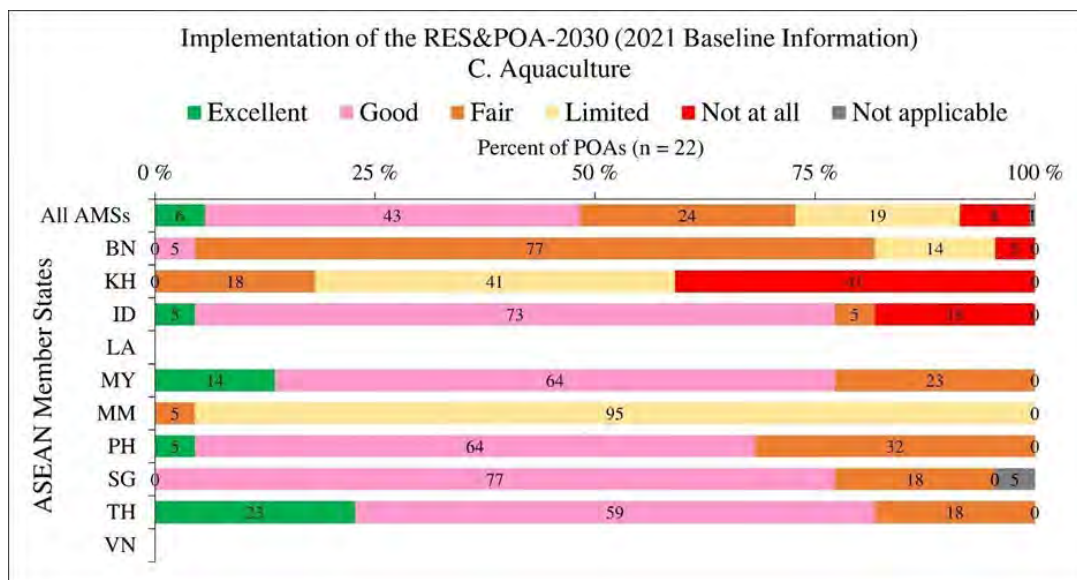


Figure 7. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component C. Aquaculture by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

In Component C, the AMSs faced various gaps and challenges in implementing the POAs as listed below;

- Development and implementation of ASEAN guidelines and measures for environment-friendly and responsible aquaculture and good aquaculture practices,

- Production of local fry/fingerlings are limited,
- Implementation of aquatic biosecurity measures,
- National competent authority's monitoring system/mechanism on warning of emerging/
existing diseases in the country is not yet in place,
- The official list of national concerned diseases of aquatic animals is not yet available
- Capability to diagnose and control aquatic animal diseases,
- Implementation of regional warning systems on aquatic animal health and diseases,
- Promotion of the prudent use of legal antibiotics in aquaculture and monitoring of the impacts of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on aquatic animals,
- Conduct risk assessments of the culture of exotic aquatic species and prevent the escape of high-risk species,
- Since the microcredit offered has restrictions, criteria, and specifications, not all sorts of agriculture and fisheries are covered,
- Adoption of measures to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change in aquaculture sector,
- Application of the precautionary approach to safeguarding the environment from the over-intensification and expansion of inland, coastal, and offshore aquaculture, and
- Conduct of risk assessment and R&D related to the use of GMO products in aquaculture.

Under Component C, the POAs implemented by the AMSs at good and excellent levels were carried through the following programs, projects, and/or activities:

- Formulation and implementation of ASEAN standards and measures for responsible and environment-friendly aquaculture and good aquaculture practices,
- Implementation of regional warning systems on aquatic animal health and diseases, and application of the precautionary approach to safeguarding the environment from the over-intensification and expansion of inland, coastal, and offshore aquaculture.
- Capacity building on biosecurity system and establishment of quarantine measures before importing aquatic species into the country,
- Adoption of the Regional Technical Guidelines on an Early Warning System for Aquatic Animal Health Emergencies,
- Annual budget for aquaculture development, yearly grant and microcredit for farmers,
- Establishment of accredited laboratories according to ISO/OIE standards,
- Provision on responsible use of antibiotics in aquaculture,
- R&D on broodstock development, feed formulation, culture technology, fish health, local ingredients for alternative protein sources,
- Review mitigation measure from time to time to overcome the potential impacts of climate change,
- Application of geographic information system in identification of appropriate areas and carry capacity for aquaculture as well as managing under national regulations, and
- Provision on aquaculture activities related with GMO species.

3.1.6 Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

As shown in **Figure 8**, about 19 percent of the implementation of eight POAs under Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products by all AMSs are at an excellent level while 34 percent of the POAs were implement at a good level, 23 percent at a fair level, and 13 percent at a limited level. Around eight percent of the POAs were not implemented by all AMSs, while three percent were not applicable.

For the national level, 0–63 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between zero percent and 88 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 0–75 percent and at a limited level were 0–88 percent, while 0–50 percent of POAs were not implemented. Moreover, 13 percent of POAs were not applicable by Myanmar and Singapore.

It should be noted that Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand led the implementation of POAs under this Component with more than 70 % of the POAs were implemented at either good or excellent levels. For Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Philippines, more than 60 % of the implementation is at fair level or below. Half of the POAs have not been implemented by Myanmar, and about 13 % of the POAs were deemed not relevant by Myanmar and Singapore.

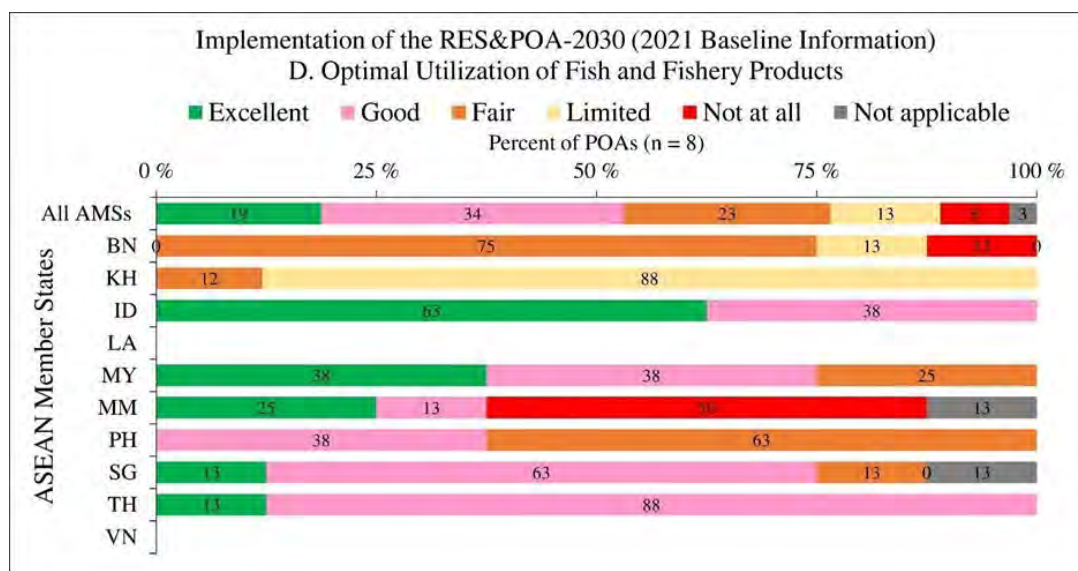


Figure 8. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

Under Component D, the gaps can be identified on the implementation of POAs by AMSs as follows;

- Applicability of technologies to optimize the utilization of catches/farmed products,
- Promotion of the production of and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products, and legislation, and coordinated mechanisms/activities with relevant control agencies throughout the fish value chain
- There is a guideline regarding Good Fish Handling Practices, however the practices still need improvement related to implementation and monitoring in the field.

To address the abovementioned gaps and challenges, AMSs may consider the following programs, projects, and/or activities that have been implemented by other AMSs at good and excellent levels.

- Local organization are encouraged to adopt and develop food waste valorization solutions,
- National program to improve competitiveness and diversification of local food products,
- Improvement of quality assurance systems for small and medium-sized, traditional fishery product processing establishments,
- Facilitation of the facilities and infrastructure of the cold chain system, handling, and processing which aims to stimulate micro and small-scale fish processors to increase business productivity and the quality and quality of processed products,
- Certification system of quality seal for fish and fishery products was established to promote market competitiveness,
- Application of the “Manual of Good Hygiene Practices for Fishing Boats and Fish Landing Sites in Small Scale Fisheries” as a possible guidance for good hygienic practices on fishing boats and landing sites in small scale fisheries,
- Introduction of mechanized harvesting technologies *e.g.* power block to reduce fish loss,
- Use of fish waste to produce aquatic feeds,
- Capacity building for development of local fishery products,
- Improved access to credit and other government financial institutions, and
- Establishment of fishery product traceability and food safety regulations.

3.1.7 Component E. Fish Trade

Figure 9 showed that 16 percent of the implementation of ten POAs under Component E. Fish Trade by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 35 percent at a good level, and 31 percent at a fair level. Around nine percent of POAs were implemented at a limited level as well as were not implemented at all.

For the national level, 0–50 percent of the POAs were implemented at an excellent level. The proportion of POAs implemented at a good level was between zero percent and 50 percent. The POAs implemented at a fair level were 10–60 percent and at a limited level were 0–50 percent. Moreover, 30–40 percent of POAs were not implemented by Myanmar and Cambodia, respectively.

The AMSs that have a very good level of implementation of POAs under this Component are Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. For Malaysia, and Thailand, about 90% of the POAs were implemented at good or excellent level; while for Indonesia, 60 % of the POAs were implemented at good or excellent level. Philippines also has good level of the implementation with 50 % of the POAs implemented at a good level. Myanmar and Singapore have a certain level of implementation with 40 % of the POAs implemented at good or excellent level. For Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, and Singapore, 60 % of the POAs were implemented at fair level or below. It should be noted that Cambodia and Myanmar have not yet implemented 40 % and 30 % of the POAs, respectively.

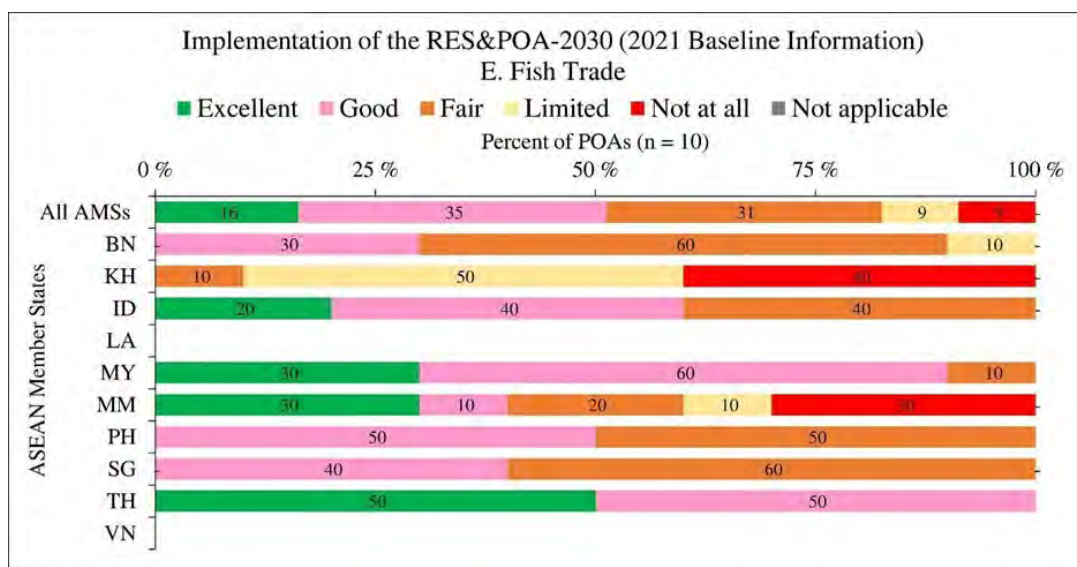


Figure 9. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component E. Fish Trade by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

In Component E, the gaps can be identified on the implementation of POAs by AMSs as follows;

- Implementation of international standards on the trading of fish and fishery products within the region,
- Implementation of the regional/ASEAN standards on the international trading of fishery and aquaculture products,
- Cooperation with other AMSs towards common positions that could be reflected in international fish trade-related fora,
- 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,
- Development/improvement of branding or eco-labeling of fish and fishery products.

For Component E, the POAs implemented by the AMSs at good and excellent levels were carried through the following programs, projects, and/or activities;

- Cooperation in various platforms which involves trade at regional level such as ASEAN in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and ASEAN +1,
- Alignment of national standards with the ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP,
- Actively participation in relevant discussion platforms *e.g.* consultation to develop common position on the listing of aquatic species in the CITES Appendices,
- Development of safety guideline and capacity building of small-scale business actors,
- Development of certification of national eco-labels for fishery products.

3.1.8 Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

Figure 10 showed that 50 percent of the implementation of one POA under Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation by all AMSs are at an excellent level, 25 percent at a good level, 13 percent at a fair level, and 13 percent at a limited level.

For the national level, Cambodia Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand implemented 100 percent of the POA at an excellent level while Philippines and Singapore implemented 100 percent of the POA at a good level.

In addition, Brunei Darussalam implemented 100 percent of the POA at a fair level and Myanmar implemented 100 percent of the POA at a limited level.

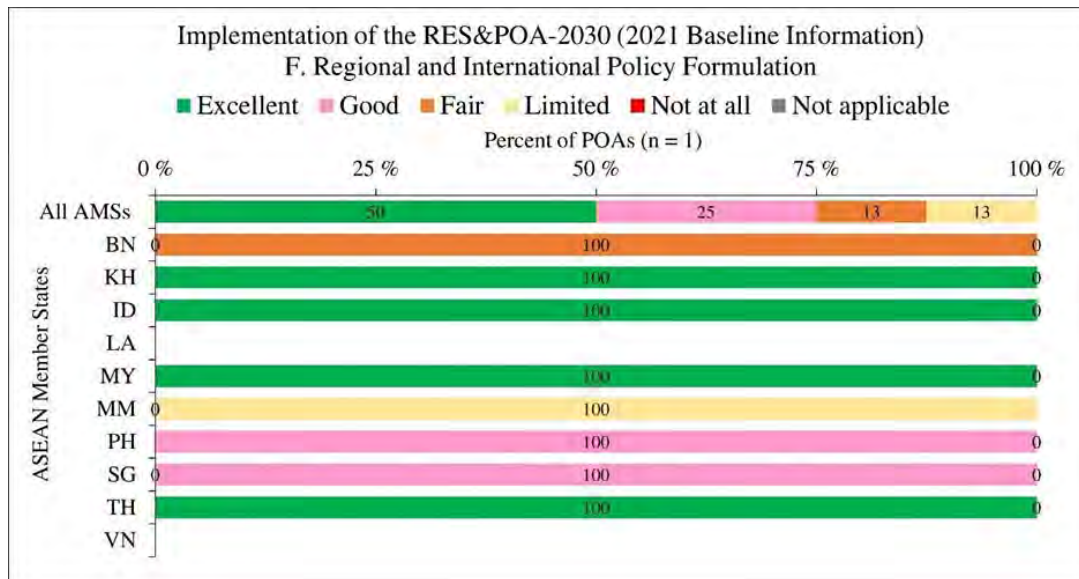


Figure 10. Implementation of POAs of the RES&POA-2030 under the Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation by the ASEAN Member States in 2021

IV. Country-based analysis

Component A. Planning and Information

Brunei Darussalam

The country has systems and mechanisms for data collection from each company operating at the commercial level and the data is shared among the relevant agencies. The country has a certain level of application of simple and practical indicators for planning, monitoring, and evaluation of fisheries and sharing of information on research findings, good practices, and experiences among countries and regional institutions.

Cambodia

The country has low level of sufficiency of the country's systems and mechanisms for collection of statistics and data disaggregated at the species level.

Though, there are some fishing regulations, the country still needs to build up capacity to establish reference points for the management of fish stocks and collect data and information on aquatic species under international concern including the need to develop the fisheries information management system.

Indonesia

The country has formalized the fisheries policy and strategic plan based on data, and statistics which are unified and synchronized with central data through national validation.

Myanmar

The country has limited capacity for fisheries development planning process which is still depending on collaboration with international organizations and development partners including the establishment of reference points for the management of fish stocks.

Malaysia

The management of fisheries is implemented in accordance with relevant domestic laws and there are several strategic plans covering all sub-sectors in fisheries, while the country is in the process of finalizing the fisheries management plan categorized by species and areas. The country has established systematic data collection for fisheries production and conducted fisheries stock assessment to ensure sound development of fisheries management plan subject to financial resource availability.

Philippines

The country has 12 Fishery Management Areas with Management Boards, and Scientific Advisory Groups. The country also has the National Stock Assessment Program and has established reference points for the management of fish stocks as well as issuance of Fisheries Administrative Orders, Manual of Operations for Fisheries Observers, Manual for Species ID.

Singapore

The country is developing plans towards sustainable aquaculture activities while marine and inland capture fisheries are not prevalent. The country has a system to collect local production statistics and maintains a product code listing of aquatic species listed under CITES.

Thailand

The country set up the fisheries board committee to prepare the policy and fisheries management plan. The country determines guidelines for driving policies into practices by requiring external agencies or experts to provide support to develop concrete actions (projects, activities, budgets). The country has classified fisheries statistics by species, however, surveying and integrating information between agencies is still a lack of data linking through the network and some information is not up-to-date while information is mainly on economic aquatic animals.

Component B. Fisheries Management

Brunei Darussalam

The country reviews its national fisheries policies, legal and institutional frameworks in accordance to the progress, developments and issues in the fisheries industry and the fisheries legislative framework comprises a mix of legislation under the control of various Departments. The country involves and participates in regional, sub-regional, and bilateral levels on fisheries management, combating IUU fishing, and MCS network.

The country needs an application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears fishing vessels, and fishing operations. The country still relies on fishing crews but with minimal use of technologies (hydraulic power block, winch). The country encourages fishers to shift from trawl to environmentally sustainable fishing gears (purse-seine, longline) and the country does not provide any form of subsidies to the fisheries industry.

Cambodia

The country needs to develop financial incentives for small-scale stakeholders and cooperatives for the responsible development of fisheries enterprises and developmental activities that optimize economic returns. The country also needs to apply energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears fishing vessels, and fishing operations as well as have a sufficient and competent fishing crew and workers. The country required to apply appropriate technologies to optimize the number of crew onboard fishing vessels and explore potential underutilized fishery resources. In addition, the country has to implement the SSF Guidelines and promote fair distribution of benefits from the intra-regional and international trade of fish and fishery products among small-scale actors along the value chain. Furthermore, the country needs to adjust existing programs taking into consideration the effects of climate change and natural disasters and the impacts of aquatic pollution. The country requires to make effort to assess the possible impacts of subsidies on fisheries. The country has competent in managing inland fisheries especially on policies and provision of support to legal and institutional frameworks for inland fisheries, establishment of fisheries conservation by Community Fisheries and Community Fish Refuge as well as proclamation and announcement issuances for the fishing season (close/open) and banning of fishing for some species and state conservation areas.

Indonesia

The country has regularly conduct reviews national fisheries policies, legal and institutional frameworks based on national needs including policies on prevention and prosecution to eliminate illegal fishing practices, Social-Economy and Ecology, MMAF Sustainable Fisheries Policy, Fishery Management Plan in 11 Fisheries Management Areas, Advance Fisherman Village. In this regard, the country established fisheries cooperatives for fishermen to access financial resources and has developed environmental friendly fishing gear and fishing vessel design. Though, the country facilitates a lot of coastal communities (fisheries) in fisheries management, the local community's participation in providing data on the status of stock is limited. The country adopted the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and



Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel and is in the process to adopt the C188-Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188). The country is currently developing a Climate Change Roadmap and always actively participating in RFMOs.

The country has various program/activity to combat IUU fishing at national, bilateral, sub-regional and regional level *e.g.* RPOA-IUU, AN-IUU, RFVR, ACDS, and Coordinating Patrol (bilateral). The country also has establishing by-catch regulations in order to compliance with one of the RFMO resolutions.

Myanmar

The country has a certain level of implementation of fisheries management and measures to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate illegal fishing practices. The country requires SEAFDEC technical and awareness support on application of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears fishing vessels, and fishing operations.

Malaysia

The country has regularly reviewed national policies and legal framework to ensure that the current policies are relevant for implementation and based on current needs. The country also has issued and implemented several measures to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate illegal fishing practices

Philippines

The country has reviewed and updated national fisheries policies and implemented ecosystem-based fisheries management. The country implements measures and activities to combat IUU fishing activities *e.g.* NPOA-IUU, Task force on IUU, Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System (IMEMS), Fisheries Administrative Orders for conservation and management measures. The country also implements Fisheries Enhancement of Inland Waters, rules and regulations governing fishing in lakes and inland waters within watershed reservations throughout the country.

Singapore

The country is in the process of reviewing legislation on fisheries management to align with international standards, such as FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). License is required for commercial fishing and coast guard patrols to prevent fishing in prohibited areas. Though, the country does not have coastal fishery community, but relevant authorities have adequate capacity for conflict resolution. The country obligates the employment rights and conditions under the Employment Act. The country is reviewing the legislation to restrict introduction from the sea of species of concern such as sharks and sea turtles. The country has no inland fishery activities.

Thailand

The country establishes the fisheries management policies and plans every 5 years by consulting with relevant agencies and all stakeholders as well as the comprehensive mechanisms and measures to prevent IUU fishing. The country applies ecosystem approach to fisheries management in important coastal and freshwater provinces especially local fisheries community organizations with budget support to conserve and restore ecosystems as well as fishing occupation. The country is in the process of research and development of energy-efficient technologies for fishing gears, fishing vessels, and fishing operations. The country conducts skill development programs for crew members and sets up the vessel monitoring system. The country also implements the good and appropriate employment practices, provincial-level mechanism for resolving conflicts, surveying the area for aquaculture, the SSF guidelines, master plan of water resource management, and action plan for inland fisheries 2023–2027.

Component C. Aquaculture

Brunei Darussalam

The country has a good level of implementation of aquatic biosecurity measures while has a certain level of implementation of programs and policies on aquaculture such as Brunei Good Aquaculture Practices, utilization of modern technology for aquaculture, disease surveillance program, selective breeding program, financial assistance.

The country has limited production of local fry/fingerlings, therefore importation of quality of fry/fingerlings are permitted from accredited oversea suppliers.

Cambodia

The country needs to utilize advanced technologies for marine and inland aquaculture and implement good and appropriate employment practices through the good aquaculture practice training program. The country also needs to increase the capability to diagnose and control aquatic animal health and diseases especially establishing the national competent authority monitoring system for warning of emerging diseases as well as the official list of national concerned diseases of aquatic animals should be available. The country has to use aquafeeds more efficiently, including the use of alternative protein sources to reduce fish meal and other fish-based products and conduct risk assessments of the culture of exotic aquatic species. The country requires to have policies and strategies that enable the aquaculture sector to adopt measures to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change and precautionary approach to safeguarding the environment from the over-intensification and expansion of inland, coastal, and offshore aquaculture.

Indonesia

The country has a good level of aquaculture development and management. These can be realized from the national regulations regarding good fish cultivation methods, establishment of the aquaculture process and certification body, integration of aquaculture into rural development activities, a breakthrough program focusing on export-oriented and high value commodities, mitigation plan and emergency response on fish disease.

However, the country needs to increase the capacity to produce and distribute specific pathogen-free and specific pathogen-resistant broodstock and seeds; reduce the risk of negative environmental impacts and disease transmission by regulating the introduction and movement of aquatic organisms in accordance with relevant regional and international guidelines as well as conduct risk assessments of the culture of exotic aquatic species and prevent the escape of high-risk species.

Myanmar

The aquaculture industry has developed to a certain level in the country. The National Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) is in align with ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices and EU Guidelines. The country has trained more than 4,000 farmers on Good Aquaculture Practices. There is the report of disease outbreak and national level of emergency plan for aquatic diseases control measures as well as improvement of the capacity of aquatic species diseases diagnosis including upgrading of lab infrastructures and human resources capabilities and cooperation with international and regional organizations.

Malaysia

The country Revised of Malaysian Standard (MS) 1998: 2017 Good Aquaculture Practice (GAqP) towards ASEAN benchmark as a voluntarily program of Malaysian Good Aquaculture Practices (MyGAP) certification. The country designates permanent areas for food production and Aquaculture Industry Zone (AIZ) are jointly identified and zoned between the Department of Fisheries and state government. The country has issued the Aquaculture Strategic Plan 2021–2030 and annual budget for aquaculture development.

Philippines

The country has formalized aquaculture programs and policies and integrated aquaculture in rural development activities as supervised by the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) in partnership with fisheries stakeholders and national government agencies. The country utilizes advanced technologies for marine and inland aquaculture and supports R&D on aquaculture. The country enacts labor and social laws to provide protection for workers, employment and development of human resources.

Singapore

The country increases local food production including fish to fulfill 30 % of national nutritional need by 2030 and has the Singapore GAqP standard. The country supports R&D on aquaculture and incubator spaces for commercialization and test-bedding of R&D results. The country is capable to diagnose and conduct research activities to support the national animal health bio-surveillance programs.

Thailand

The country has a good level of implementation of programs and policies on aquaculture. The country has formulated the Fisheries Management Plan and Policy on Aquaculture 2023–2027 to enhance and push forward the aquaculture and fishery processing industry to be more sustainable and friendly to the environment. The county has advanced technologies for marine and inland aquaculture *e.g.* recirculating



aquaculture systems for off-season fish culture, biosecurity system for marine shrimp culture, and breeding of endangered aquatic species. The country also has established standard operating procedures on the movement, import, and export of aquatic animals under the ASEAN cooperation as well as regional technical guidelines on an early warning system for aquatic animal health emergencies. The country also applies the geographic information system in the development of its aquaculture database.

Component D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products

Brunei Darussalam

The country requires mechanized harvesting technologies for capture fisheries and provision of market platform to promote fisheries products. The country promotes and implements several certification programs including capacity building for personnel in public and private sectors on fisheries post-harvest technologies.

Cambodia

The country still has low competent in optimizing the utilization of catches/farmed products, diversifying traditional fish products, implementing quality and safety management systems that support the competitive position of ASEAN fish and fishery products, standards and guidelines for handling fish and fishery products, and implementing hygienic fish handling onboard fishing vessels and market places.

Indonesia

The country has an excellent level of optimizing the utilization of catches/farmed products. These could be evidenced from the technology transfer using automobiles which has been attempted by the Center for Testing the Application of Marine and Fishery Products, diversification of local food products, quality development in all fish handling and processing units, facilitation of facilities and infrastructure of the cold chain system, handling, and processing, harmonization of policies from internal and national agencies relevant to quality control, strengthening the competitiveness of marine and fishery products, application of good hygienic practices. Though, there are standards and guidelines for handling fish and fishery products, practices still need improvement related to implementation and monitoring in the field.

Myanmar

The country has a high level of implementation of quality and safety management systems while there is a need for implementation of good and appropriate employment practices in accordance with domestic laws and regulations or relevant international instruments as well as the adoption of standards and guidelines for handling fish and fishery products, and implement hygienic fish handling onboard fishing vessels and market places.

Malaysia

The country has a good level of promotion of certification and food safety programs as well as various post-harvest capacity building programs. The country also has an excellent implementation of good and appropriate employment practices in accordance with domestic laws.

Philippines

The country has extension programs and availability of the National Standards for traditional products, and Food Safety Act. The country has also improved access to credit through Agricultural Credit Policy Council and other government financial institutions.

Singapore

Local organizations are being encouraged to adopt and develop food waste valorization solutions and the country has stringent food safety standards and has put in place an effective integrated food safety system to ensure that food is safe for consumption. The country minimizes food waste/loss by implementing relative guidelines and cold chain requirement on food processor as part of the licensing requirements to ensure food safety.

Thailand

The country has applied technologies to optimize the utilization of catches/farmed products e.g. development of large cage aquaculture, use power block in fishing vessels. The country has national strategy on building competitiveness including standards to promote the competitiveness of fisheries products such

as GAP and ISO standards. The country promotes and implements good manufacturing practices in small-scale processing establishments, good labor practices, good hygienic practices for handling fish and fishery products.

Component E. Fish Trade

Brunei Darussalam

The country enacts national laws, rules, and regulations on trading of species in accordance with international laws such as Fisheries Order 2009, CITES regulations and compliances with WTO. The country has certain level of application of traceability systems to certify or validate the information for the whole supply chain.

Cambodia

The country has limited cooperation on importing requirements for trading of fish and fishery products while the country also needs capacity to implement the regional/ASEAN standards. The country requires the engagement of private sector to address trade-related issues and application of traceability systems to certify or validate the information for the whole supply chain.

Indonesia

The country has high engagement of private sectors to address trade-related issues especially on the associations and willingness of business actors in the fisheries improvement program as well as training activities to increase the capacity of small-scale business actors. Though, the country has established a web-based traceability system, the implementation is still voluntary and requires a data validation mechanism that is input by business actors.

Myanmar

The country has facilitated export of fishery products in accordance with the regional and international market requirements while developing food safety management systems in fish industry supply chains and improvement of quality assurance systems for small and medium-sized, traditional fishery product processing establishments are still necessary.

Malaysia

The country has cooperated in various platform which involves trade at regional and international levels such as ATIGA, RCEP, ASEAN +1, WTO, CITES. The country also implements programs to assist and build the capacity of small-scale producers and process of improving traceability from paper-based documentations to electronic system.

Philippines

The country has regulated trade of species especially CITES management and scientific authority to monitor and prevent trading of CITES species in place. The country also assists small-scale producers through credit facilitation and continuous assistance.

Singapore

The country co-led the ASEAN Joint Steering Committee for the Mutual Recognition Agreement on Processed Food that includes processed fishery products, to establish SOPs and protocols for AMS' mutual recognition. The country's fish trade requirements are risk-based in relation to aquatic animal health and food safety.

Thailand

The country cooperates with other AMSs to implement international standards on the trading of fish and fishery products within the region such as the alignment of national standards with the ASEAN GAqP and ASEAN Shrimp GAP, and revision of relevant law and regulations in accordance with the CITES. The country promotes the production of processed marine products of small-scale producers to meet the quality and safety standards. The country applies the traceability systems to certify and validate the information for the whole supply chain such as catch documentation schemes, Fisheries Single Window, port state measure, processing statement endorsement. The country has certifications of organic aquaculture standard, green flag fishery products, and national standard on sustainable small-scale fisheries.



Component F. Regional and International Policy Formulation

Brunei Darussalam

The country participates in various fisheries-related international fora.

Cambodia

The country actively participates and involves in fisheries-related international fora and technical committees to promote the ASEAN interests at the global level.

Indonesia

The country actively participates in CITES, WTO, FAO and ASEAN.

Myanmar

The country only occasionally participates and involved in fisheries-related international fora.

Malaysia

The country actively engaged in fisheries-related international fora.

Philippines

The country actively participates in fisheries-related international fora.

Singapore

The country actively involves and participate in fisheries-related international fora and technical committee.

Thailand

The country is being a member of various international and regional organizations such as ASEAN, FAO, OIE, APEC etc.

V. Summary and Recommendations

Based on the implementation of all POAs at the regional level, the AMSs implemented all POAs at a good level. All AMSs implemented the POAs under Components A–E at a good level, while the POA under Component E at an excellent level. At national level, there were five countries implemented all POAs at a good level *i.e.* Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand while Brunei Darussalam implemented all POAs at a fair level and two countries implemented all POAs at a limited level *i.e.* Cambodia and Myanmar. For the 88 POAs, all AMSs implemented about 11 percent at an excellent level, about 39 percent at a good level, 22 percent at a fair level, 17 percent at a limited level, and 8 percent were not implemented at all. Around three percent of POAs were not applicable for the AMSs. The gaps and recommendations on the implementation of POAs in each component are as follows.

Gaps	Recommendations
A. Planning and Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries development planning process still depend on collaboration with international organizations and development partners • Systems and mechanisms for collection of statistics and data disaggregated at the species level depend on budget allocation which is still limited • Collections of statistics on catch quantities of overall marine species under the international concerns have been done as a whole, but cannot classify into particular species • Need for the establishment of reference points for the management of fish stocks and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of management board to develop strategic plans for fisheries management • Establishment of systematic data collection and development of centralized data, statistics and information in fisheries in coordination with relevant authorities, • Conduct of national stock assessment program including capacity building of local staff to collect fishery statistics data, • Development of guidelines for monitoring population of species under international concern

Gaps	Recommendations
aquatic species including harvest control rules	
B. Fisheries Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries law is under process of amendment • Adoption of energy-efficient technologies on fishing vessels are still low • In the process of surveying the area for aquaculture and exploring the marine fishery resources in the offshore area • Implementation of climate adaptation and resilience along the coastal areas • Optimization of the number of crew onboard fishing vessels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct reviews of fish stock assessment including public consultation to engage relevant stakeholders and disseminate the significant information • Establishment of comprehensive mechanisms of regional policies and national regulations/policies on prevention and prosecution to combat IUU fishing • Management of fisheries in accordance with relevant domestic laws • R&D on environment-friendly fishing gear and fishing vessel design • Introduction and installation of modernized mechanisms onboard to optimize the number of crew • Establishment of local fisheries organizations along with budget support • Conduct of fisheries vulnerability assessment to climate change and development of climate adaptation and resilience plan
B1. Fisheries Management (Marine Fisheries)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port State measures and flag State responsibilities • Execution of research on the impacts of various fishing gear types and methods, • Implementation of approaches to sustainable management of major critical coastal habitats, • Compliance with international standards on safety at sea, decent working conditions, and onboard fishing vessels sanitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of guidelines and SOP of Port State Measures and designated port for foreign fishing vessels • Development of fishing gear specification and value-added on used-nets for other products • Application of Turtle Excluder Device and mesh size rules • Application of FAO manual on safety at sea for small-scale fishers • Develop guidelines on hygiene onboard fishing vessel
B2. Fisheries Management (Inland Fisheries)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch data and target indicators for supporting inland fisheries management • Regulations governing inland fishing in lakes and inland waters • Conduct activities to involve stakeholders to restore, raise awareness and conserve important inland habitats • Integrated collaboration among the following national agencies and a clear mechanism for their actions at both national and regional levels • There has not been a concrete solution to the management of cross-border freshwater fisheries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importation control of invasive/alien species • Establishment of fish passage and monitor the impacts of man-made structures on fish migration and ecological health or under EIA procedures • There is a need to develop knowledge of the staff on the assessment and management of inland fishery resources.

Gaps	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and mitigation of the negative impacts of invasive/alien species on the inland ecosystem and biodiversity 	
C. Aquaculture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulation and implementation of ASEAN standards and measures for responsible and environment-friendly aquaculture and good aquaculture practices National warning systems on aquatic animal health and diseases is not yet in place Official list of national concerned diseases of aquatic animals is not yet available Capability to diagnose and control aquatic animal diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting national good aquaculture practices in line with the ASEAN Good Aquaculture Practices Capacity building on biosecurity system and establishment of quarantine measures before importing aquatic species into the country Establishment of accredited laboratories according to ISO/OIE standards
D. Optimal Utilization of Fish and Fishery Products	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicability of technologies to optimize the utilization of catches/farmed products Promotion of the production of and preserve the diversity of traditional fish products, Legislation, and coordinated mechanisms/activities with relevant control agencies throughout the fish value chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the “Manual of Good Hygiene Practices for Fishing Boats and Fish Landing Sites in Small Scale Fisheries” as a possible guidance Introduction of mechanized harvesting technologies <i>e.g.</i> power block to reduce fish loss; use of fish waste to produce aquatic feeds Capacity building for development of local fishery products Establishment of fishery product traceability and food safety regulations
E. Fish Trade	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement international standards on the trading of fish and fishery products Cooperation with other AMSs towards common positions that could be reflected in international fish trade-related fora 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 Development/improvement of branding or eco-labeling of fish and fishery products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate in various platforms which involves trade at regional level such as ASEAN in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and ASEAN +1 Alignment of national standards with the ASEAN GAqP and SEAN Shrimp GAP Actively participate in relevant discussion platforms <i>e.g.</i> consultation to develop common position on the listing of aquatic species in the CITES Appendices Development of safety guideline and capacity building of small-scale business actors Development of certification of national eco-labels for fishery products
F. Regional and International Policy Formulation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a country that has limited participation and involvement in fisheries-related international fora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The countries considered the level measurement could be done through their membership in the international fora <i>e.g.</i> ASEAN, FAO, WTO, CITES

In short, AMSs have implemented the RES&POA-2030 actively. However, there are many gaps and challenges in the implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (the Baseline Information). There is possibility to improve such implementation at national level to ensure that existing regional policies are implemented

and translated into national policy, program, and legislation (where appropriate). As many countries had a certain level of implementation of the RES&POA-2030 and reported various good practices to be used as guide and applied in each local context. The recommendations were shared among AMSs for improving such implementation. Upon the implementation in the coming years, these gaps would be expected to decrease, hence, enhancing the sustainable fisheries of the region.

OPERATION OF SEAFDEC TRAINING AND RESEARCH VESSELS

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 (MCs) 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 machineries.

In 2022, the total number of service days of M.V. SEAFDEC in 2022 is thirty-one (31) days. TD in collaboration with the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) conducted a cruise on the Tsunami Warning System Deployment in the Andaman Sea during 9 November to 9 December 2022. In 2023, TD is still open for the request for utilization of M.V. SEAFDEC from MCs and other government-related agencies upon the request.

Regarding M.V. SEAFDEC 2, the total number of service days in 2022 is six (6) days. It was carried out for research study in the Gulf of Thailand. The research cruise aims to conduct trawl fishing operations to study on the comparison on the Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of fisheries resources survey between the Research Vessel of SEAFDEC/TD and the Department of Fisheries Thailand, and study on microplastic contamination in sea surface layer.

In 2023, TD will coordinate with Government of MCs and other government-related agencies to develop the cruise survey as follows:

- The National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, the Philippines for one (1) cruise survey on biomass estimation of *Sardinella lemuru* and other pelagic species in species in Sorsogon and the Zamboanga-Sulu,
- The Department of Fisheries (DoF), Brunei Darussalam for two (2) cruise surveys on fisheries resource in Brunei Darussalam marine territorial area,
- The Department of Fisheries (DoF), Thailand for one (1) cruise survey on pelagic fisheries resource in the Andaman Sea (*based on discussion with the representative from DoF Thailand on 29 March 2023, Thailand would like to delay the cruise until the budget for conducting the cruise can be secured*).
- Project for Formation of a Center of Excellence for Marine Plastic Pollution Studies in the Southeast Asian Seas¹ for one (1) cruise survey on the estimation of marine debris and microplastic in the Gulf of Thailand
- Additionally, TD will utilize M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for shipboard trainings for two (2) cruises, the period of training cruise is one (1) day in March 2023 and three (3) days in May 2023

I. INTRODUCTION

SEAFDEC/TD operates two (2) 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 MCs has confronted coastal fisheries resources depletion. To mitigate the issue of seafood supply and reduce the fishing pressure of the coastal fisheries resources in their national waters, some SEAFDEC MCs are increased to promote the offshore fisheries resources exploitation. This

¹ Project for Formation of a Center of Excellence for Marine Plastic Pollution Studies in the Southeast Asian Seas is the international joint research between Japan and Thailand by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) program of Japan. Project is led by Kyushu University in collaboration with Chulalongkorn University, having Chula Unisearch as a coordinating Agency.



is consistent with the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Regional Towards 2020, as mentioned in the Plan of Action # 18 “Investigate the potential of under-utilized fisheries resources and promote their exploitation in a precautionary manner based upon analysis of the best available scientific information”.

To fulfill the needs of SEAFDEC MCs in national, sub-regional, and regional initiatives in the fisheries resources exploration, and monitoring on marine fisheries resources 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.

Since SEAFDEC/TD operated both vessels, M.V. SEAFDEC 2 as a major research vessel has conducted sixty-four (64) cruises and M.V. SEAFDEC has conducted one hundred and twelve (112) cruises 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 machineries.

II. UTILIZATION OF THE TRAINING/RESEARCH VESSELS OF SEAFDEC TRAINING DEPARTMENT IN 2022

1. M.V. SEAFDEC

In 2022, M.V. SEAFDEC has successfully conducted one (1) cruise to provide technical support to Government-Thailand. The total number of service days is thirty-one (31) days from 9 November to 9 December 2022. The objective was to conduct the tsunami warning buoy deployment of NDWC under the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Thailand, and Raydant International Company. The port of call was Phuket, Thailand.

2. M.V. SEAFDEC 2

In 2022, SEAFDEC/TD conducted one (1) cruise No. 64-1/2022, from 23 to 28 January 2022 (6 days). The trawl net was operated to study on the comparison on the Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of fisheries resources survey between Research Vessel of SEAFDEC/TD and the Department of Fisheries Thailand, neuston net were employed to study on microplastic contamination in sea surface layer, visual observation application was applied to study the density of floating marine debris and CTD, seabird 911 was deployed to collect the water properties through the water column. The cruise completed with twelve (12) trawl fishing operations, twelve (12) stations of underwater marine debris sample collections, seventeen (17) tracks of marine debris visual observation, and twenty (20) stations of oceanographic survey. The envisaged output of the cruise survey was not only the data obtained from the research survey but also capacity building to researchers (7 persons) and crew members (17 persons) of SEAFDEC/TD and the Department of Fisheries, Thailand (3 persons).

Table 1 shows the total number of days of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 spent at sea since 2004. The total number is 1,450 days, range of operation day/year is from 3 – 204 days (excluding COVID-19 period, 2020–2022, it becomes 30–2004 days). The averaged operation days were approximately 76.3 days/year (excluding COVID-19 period: 89.81 days/year). It was also recorded that Thailand, Malaysia and Viet Nam waters were the top three areas that M.V. SEAFDEC 2 operated and occupied nearly 50% of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 utilization by countries.

Table 1. Number of days at sea of M.V. SEAFDEC utilized at the SEAFDEC Member countries waters

Year	BRN	KHM	IDN	MYS	MMR	PHL	THA	VNM	Total days
2004	34						14		48
2005	27	13	20	42		46	26	30	204
2006	29		22	29		23	40	30	173
2007					43	40	40		123
2008	31						64		95
2009			30						30
2010	41			45					86
2011	27						24		51
2012								143	143
2013							23		23
2014			28*	3*		23*			54*
2015			54*	86			8		148*
2016				65			4		69
2017							5	69	74
2018		13**					49**		62**
2019				25			32		57
2020							4		4
2021							3		3
2022							6		6
Sub-total	189	26	154	292	43	132	342	272	1,450
Percentage composition of the utilization by countries	9.95	1.37	8.11	15.37	2.26	6.95	18.00	14.32	100

Remark * Joint Research Program for Tuna Research Survey in Sulu-Sulawesi Seas

** Joint Research Program for Marine Fisheries Research and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand

III. OPERATIONS OF THE TRAINING/RESEARCH VESSELS OF SEAFDEC TRAINING DEPARTMENT IN 2023

1. M.V. SEAFDEC

M.V. SEAFDEC still has no plan to be utilized. TD plans this year for ship maintenance to be in well working condition.

2. M.V. SEAFDEC 2

TD received the requests from MCs to utilize M.V. SEAFDEC 2 that includes three (3) fisheries agencies namely: 1) Brunei Darussalam, 2) Philippines and 3) Thailand, and the international joint research project Formation of a Center of Excellence for Marine Plastic Pollution Studies in the Southeast Asian Seas. Additionally, TD plans to organize two (2) shipboard trainings in 2023. The summary of cruises of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for year 2023 is as follows:

- One (1) cruise survey for biomass estimation of *Sardinella lemuru* and other pelagic species in Sorsogon and the Zamboanga-Sulu in collaboration with the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute, the Philippines
- Two (2) cruises surveys for fisheries resource in Brunei Darussalam marine territorial area in collaboration with DoF, Brunei Darussalam
- One (1) cruise survey for pelagic fisheries resource in the Andaman Sea in collaboration with DoF, Thailand (Remark: based on discussion with the representative from DoF Thailand on 29 March 2023, Thailand would like to delay pending the use of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 until the budget for conducting the cruise is allocated)



- One (1) charter cruise survey for the estimation of marine debris and microplastic in the upper Gulf of Thailand to support the Project Formation of a Center of Excellence for Marine Plastic Pollution Studies in the Southeast Asian Seas
- Two (2) shipboard training cruises for SEAFDEC human resource development on the operation of scientific echosounder (SIMRAD EK-80)

The annual operation plans of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for the year 2023 appears as **Table 2**

Table 2. Tentative program of activities plans of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 for year 2023

M.V. SEAFDEC 2												
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Biomass estimation of <i>Sardinella lemuru</i> and other pelagic species in Sorsogon and the Zamboanga-Sulu (Philippines)												
Fisheries resource in Brunei Darussalam marine territorial area (Brunei Darussalam)												
Pelagic fisheries resource in the Andaman Sea (Thailand) (<i>pending</i>)												
Estimation of marine debris and microplastic in the upper Gulf of Thailand												
Marine environment and fishery resources survey by using a research vessel, and evaluate the impacts of microplastics on the fisheries resources												
Shipboard training cruises for the use of newly hydro-acoustic equipment, a scientific echosounder (SIMRAD EK-80)												

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To take note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2022, and to endorse the proposed plan of operation of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 in 2023; and
- To take note of the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC in 2022

COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN SEAFDEC AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

I. ARRANGEMENTS SIGNED DURING 2022–2023

From 2022 to 2023, SEAFDEC established collaborative arrangements with other organizations (that have not yet been reported to the 54th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council) as follows:

1. Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)

On 29 March 2022, AQD signed a “**Memorandum of Agreement between AQD and Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)**” Under the MOA, AQD and JIRCAS shall mutually plan and implement research projects in accordance with their intended cooperation; and facilitate the exchange of scientists through related research projects, seminars, trainings, and site visits. Research collaboration project under this MOA is under the theme “Development of an aquaculture system that introduces high-valued seedling production and intermediate culture in harmony with environment in tropical areas,” with three sub-studies, namely: 1) assessment and development of an intermediate culture system for tropical aquaculture species, 2) development of surrogation technique and genetic resource conservation system by transplantation and cryopreservation of germ cells in fish, and 3) improvement of larval settlement and post-larval production for abalone *Haliotis asinina* and sandfish *Holothuria scabra*. Subject to personnel and budgetary limitations and as may be mutually decided upon, JIRCAS shall provide Visiting Scientists to work on the research projects that are in line with the mandate of AQD and that of JIRCAS, together with salaries and miscellaneous expenditures for the visiting scientists, equipment required for research projects, and financial support to general workers mobilized for the projects; while AQD shall provide office, laboratory space, and access to field research sites for the project, administrative mechanisms for the research projects, counterpart scientists for JIRCAS visiting scientists, as well as other necessary arrangements and clearance for the JIRCAS visiting scientists. The MOA is effective from the signing date until 31 March 2026.

2. PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP) Public Company Limited, Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand, Faculty of Fisheries of Kasetsart University, and Prince of Songkla University

On 19 December 2022, TD signed with the PTT Exploration and Production (PTTEP) Public Company Limited, the Department of Fisheries (DOF) of Thailand, the Faculty of Fisheries of Kasetsart University, and the Prince of Songkla University the “**Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the implementation of the project on the rehabilitation of fisheries habitats in the oil rig platform in the Gulf of Thailand**”. The objectives of the project are to enhance fishing activities by developing and restoring aquatic habitats, fishery resources, and marine ecosystems, as well as promote aquatic resource management in accordance with the concept of sustainable and balanced marine ecosystems. The MOA is effective from 19 December 2022 to 18 December 2025.

3. Research Institute for Applied Mechanics, National University Corporation Kyushu University, Japan

On 1 May 2023, SEAFDEC signed with the Research Institute for Applied Mechanics, National University Corporation Kyushu University, Japan to cooperate through the “**Agreement on Academic Cooperation between Research Institute for Applied Mechanics, National University Corporation Kyushu University, Japan, and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center**”. The aim of this cooperation is to support the development of scientific, academic, and educational cooperation through the exchange of staff and students, joint research in the field of mutual interests, exchange of academic information and publications, as well as other academic exchanges that are of interest to the two organizations. Areas of collaboration under this Agreement focus mainly on marine debris research surveys. The duration of the Agreement is five (5) years from the signing date.



II. ARRANGEMENTS UNDER PROCESS

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

SEAFDEC and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are planning to cooperate in the Implementation of the Project “Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities.” The Project aims to promote sustainable management of fisheries, marine living resources, and their habitats in the Bay of Bengal region for the benefit of coastal states and communities. The Project comprises five (5) Components, *i.e.*, 1) Sustainable management of fisheries; 2) Restoration and conservation of critical marine habitats and conservation of biodiversity; 3) Management of coastal and marine pollution to improve ecosystem health; 4) Improved livelihoods and enhanced resilience of the BOBLME; and 5) Regional mechanism for planning, coordination, and monitoring of BOBLME. SEAFDEC will serve as an Operational Partner and will be responsible for the activities under Component 1, and some part of activities under Components 3 and 5. The participating countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. To facilitate the provision of funding to SEAFDEC for the implementation of this Project, FAO and SEAFDEC are planning to enter into two Operational Partner Agreements (OPAs) for the funding from the Global Environment Facility's International Waters (GEFIW), and NORAD with a total amount of fund up to United States Dollars (USD) 2,352,515 (two million three hundred fifty-two thousand five hundred fifteen), and USD 394,450 (three hundred ninety-four thousand four hundred and fifty), respectively.

Relevant documents were provided through

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jb0x9jf3WfGpaZ812qMZ88pagAFxXBKZ/view?usp=drive_web.

The duration of the two OPAs would be from the date of signature until 31 October 2027.

The SEAFDEC Secretariat sent out letters, dated 13 April 2023, to the SEAFDEC Council to seek approval for the two OPAs. The SEAFDEC Secretariat will provide updates on the status of the Council's approval during the 55th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

III. NEW ARRANGEMENTS TO SEEK APPROVAL

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

Under the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States Department of the Interior (US-DOI) and SEAFDEC which was established in March 2017, the US-DOI and SEAFDEC discussed and agreed to expand the cooperation through the signing of “**Annex 3 to the MOU between the US-DOI and SEAFDEC Concerning Supporting Participation in Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFiA)**”. The overall objective of this “Annex 3” is for SEAFDEC and DOI to collaborate to promote sustainable fisheries and marine biodiversity conservation in Southeast Asia through capacity building on fisheries management and fisheries resilience in the context of a changing climate. Activities to be undertaken by SEAFDEC were formulated to fulfill three specific objectives, namely: 1) Fisheries Resilience & Management; 2) Climate Change and Fisheries Stock Assessments; and 3) Strengthening Capacity of the Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environmental Research Survey. Under Annex 3, the US-DOI will provide a total budget of USD 100,000 for the implementation of activities. The term of this Annex 3 is from the date of signature until 30 September 2023.

Annex 3 is currently in principle agreed by SEAFDEC and the US-DOI although some details on activity under objective 3 are still subject to confirmation by the US-DOI.

IV. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

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

- 1) Memorandum of Agreement between AQD and Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS)
- 2) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the implementation of the national project on the rehabilitation of fisheries habitats in the oil rig platform in the Gulf of Thailand

- 3) Agreement on Academic Cooperation between Research Institute for Applied Mechanics, National University Corporation Kyushu University, Japan and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

The Council is requested to **take note** of the status of the new arrangements under process, namely:

- 1) Operational Partners Agreement between SEAFDEC and FAO for the Implementation of the Project “Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities (GEFIW funding)
- 2) Operational Partners Agreement between SEAFDEC and FAO for the Implementation of the Project “Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities (NORAD funding)

The Council is requested to **consider approving** SEAFDEC to establish new cooperation through:

- 1) Annex 3 to the MOU between the US-DOI and SEAFDEC Concerning Supporting Participation in Sustainable Fish Asia (SuFiA)

SEAFDEC IMCS NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

I. BACKGROUND

Over the years, SEAFDEC has been working actively to combat IUU fishing and promote the implementation of port State measures in its member countries. IUU fishing refers to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities that undermine the sustainability of fisheries resources and threaten the food security and livelihoods of coastal communities.

One of the primary strategies of SEAFDEC to combat IUU fishing is through promoting the adoption and implementation of port State measures by its member countries. Port State measures are a set of measures that enable port States to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing by foreign-flagged vessels in their ports. These measures include inspection of vessels, documentation checks, and the prohibition of entry or use of ports and landing facilities for vessels suspected of engaging in IUU fishing.

SEAFDEC provides technical assistance and capacity building to its member countries to help them develop and implement effective port State measures. This includes facilitating the development of national guidelines and standard operating procedures for port inspections, training port officials on how to identify IUU fishing activities, and providing support for the development of legal and regulatory frameworks to govern port State measures.

SEAFDEC also works closely with other regional and international organizations, such as the ASEAN, FAO, NOAA, and other collaborative partners to promote the adoption and implementation of port State measures in the region. Through these collaborations, SEAFDEC aims to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination on IUU fishing issues and promote sustainable fisheries management in Southeast Asia.

In addition to promoting port State measures, SEAFDEC also conducts research and development activities to support the sustainable management of fisheries resources and combat IUU fishing. This includes developing and implementing monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) technologies to enhance fisheries management and combat IUU fishing, as well as conducting research on the economic, social, and environmental impacts of IUU fishing. SEAFDEC has organized several meetings in past years to enhance sub-regional cooperation among relevant agencies in the MCS sub-regional network for the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea. Most recently, SEAFDEC/TD invited a representative from the IMCS Network to share their work during the Regional Workshop on Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia on 23-24 August 2022 in Chonburi Province, Thailand. The workshop aimed to share and update information on MCS implementation activities for combating IUU fishing, enhance and promote fisheries management tools such as RFVR, eACDS, and identify the need for capacity building on MCS to combat IUU fishing.

SEAFDEC's works to combat IUU fishing and promote the implementation of port State measures in its member countries are critical for the sustainable management of fisheries resources and the protection of the livelihoods and food security of coastal communities in Southeast Asia.

The International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (IMCS) Network¹ is an informal, voluntary network that comprises states, countries, territories, and other governmental agencies and ministries, as well as Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, Regional Fisheries Bodies, and Regional Economic Integration Organizations. Currently, six Southeast Asian countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam) and the RPOA-IUU are members of the IMCS Network. Established in 2001, the network provides a mechanism for fisheries law enforcement professionals to share information, calibrate tools, and collaborate on policy development to monitor the increasingly complex harvesting and marketing of fish around the world. The mission of the IMCS Network is to promote and facilitate cooperation and coordination among members through information exchange, capacity development, and collaboration to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of monitoring, control, and surveillance activities.

¹ <https://imcsnet.org/>



The ultimate goal is to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing and related fisheries activities at local, regional, and international levels.

In early 2023, SEAFDEC becoming a member of the International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (IMCS) Network can provide several benefits for the member countries. Here are some examples:

- Access to global expertise and resources: As a member of the International MCS Network, SEAFDEC, and its member countries can access a vast network of experts, resources, and information related to MCS. This can help to improve the capacity of fisheries and enforcement officers to combat IUU fishing effectively;
- Improved coordination and cooperation: The International MCS Network provides a platform for improved coordination and cooperation among member countries. This can help to develop a more coordinated approach to combatting IUU fishing, including sharing of intelligence and data, conducting joint patrols, and developing a common approach to MCS;
- Enhanced capacity building and training opportunities: The International MCS Network provides opportunities for capacity building and training programs for fisheries and enforcement officers. These programs can cover a range of topics, including fisheries management, MCS techniques, and the use of modern technology for monitoring and control of fishing activities;
- Access to funding opportunities: The International MCS Network may provide access to funding opportunities for member countries to support the development and implementation of effective MCS measures; and
- Improved compliance with international obligations: Becoming a member of the International MCS Network can help SEAFDEC and its member countries to improve compliance with international obligations related to MCS, including those set out in the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and the Port State Measures Agreement.

Overall, becoming a member of the International MCS Network can provide significant benefits for SEAFDEC and its member countries in combatting IUU fishing and promoting sustainable fisheries management in Southeast Asia.

II. REQUIRED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

- To take note that SEAFDEC is a member of International MCS Network

Annex 18

**AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE CENTER FOR THE YEAR
ENDING ON 31 DECEMBER 2021**

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER AUDITED ABRIDGED
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**

	In US\$	
	2021	2020
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	10,836,612	11,321,346
Other sources	195,614	739,862
Other income	1,026,856	559,447
TOTAL REVENUES	12,059,082	12,620,655
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	3,794,833	3,926,091
Training	709,187	1,148,241
Information	537,291	554,779
Collaborative	114,541	131,709
Others	91,344	297,510
Administrative	4,003,425	4,573,747
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	9,250,621	10,632,077
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	2,808,461	1,988,578
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	15,686,443 ^{1/}	15,191,064
FUND ADJUSTMENT	(9,437)	(12,948)
FUND BALANCE, End of year	18,485,467	17,166,694 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	19,049,694	17,805,787
Receivables and other receivables	365,724	394,025
Advance and deposits	24,407	58,432
Materials and supplies inventory	41,631	35,835
Fuel oil for vessels	145,004	177,960
Prepayments	170,895	6,515
Other current assets	2,168	2,028
Total Current Assets	19,799,523	18,480,582
Noncurrent assets		
Restricted bank deposit	5,581	6,210
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	337,841	301,466
Termination indemnity fund	2,235,012	2,474,403
Long-term investments	196,082	482,140
Other noncurrent assets	367,724	256,001
Total Noncurrent Assets	3,142,240	3,520,220
TOTAL ASSETS	22,941,763	22,000,802
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accrued payable	609,971	676,690
Contribution received in advance	932,793	1,139,750
Fund held in trust	356,010	241,799
Total Current Liabilities	1,898,774	2,058,239
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	322,510	301,466
Provision for termination indemnity	2,235,012	2,474,403
TOTAL LIABILITIES	4,456,296	4,834,108
NET ASSETS	18,485,467	17,166,694

^{1/} The Difference of US\$ 1,480,251 (US\$ 15,686,443 – US\$ 17,166,694) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
SECRETARIAT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**

	In US\$	
	2021	2020
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	499,000	499,000
Other income	100,625	12,930
TOTAL REVENUES	599,625	511,930
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Training	-	-
Information	37,225	62,576
Collaborative	103,700	118,024
Others	-	12,242
Administrative	71,283	82,648
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	212,208	275,490
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	387,417	236,440
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	1,030,388 ^{1/}	910,164
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	1,417,805	1,146,604 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,422,148	1,173,633
Other receivables	37,367	20,063
Advance and deposits	441	209
Prepayments	1,445	1,297
Total Current Assets	1,461,401	1,195,202
Noncurrent assets		
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	337,841	301,466
Total Noncurrent Assets	337,841	301,466
TOTAL ASSETS	1,799,242	1,496,668
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accounts and other payables	29,063	14,811
Contribution received in advance	29,864	33,787
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	322,510	301,466
TOTAL LIABILITIES	381,437	350,064
NET ASSETS	1,417,805	1,146,604

^{1/} The difference of US\$ 116,216 (US\$ 1,030,388 – US\$ 1,146,604) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**

	In US\$	
	2021	2020
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	2,865,234	3,313,847
Other sources	16,364	470,175
Other income	355,636	84,797
TOTAL REVENUES	3,237,234	3,868,819
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	244,667	273,324
Training	623,620	1,077,712
Information	200,418	252,283
Collaborative	10,841	13,685
Others	91,344	285,268
Administrative	1,076,431	1,272,312
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,247,321	3,174,584
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	989,913	694,235
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	8,968,966 ^{1/}	9,286,336
FUND ADJUSTMENT	-	-
FUND BALANCE, End of year	9,958,879	9,980,571 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	10,550,273	10,851,116
Other receivables	10,838	127,337
Advance and deposits	23,966	58,223
Supplies inventory	15,208	16,083
Fuel oil for vessels	142,966	170,637
Prepayments	169,450	5,218
Total Current Assets	10,912,701	11,228,614
Noncurrent assets		
Restricted bank deposit	5,581	6,210
Termination indemnity fund	2,235,012	2,474,403
Total Noncurrent Assets	2,240,593	2,480,613
TOTAL ASSETS	13,153,294	13,709,227
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accrued payable	56,474	148,290
Contribution received in advance	902,929	1,105,963
Total Current Liabilities	959,403	1,254,253
Provision for staff termination indemnity	2,235,012	2,474,403
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,194,415	3,728,656
NET ASSETS	9,958,879	9,980,571

^{1/} The difference of US\$ 1,011,605 (US\$ 8,968,966 – US\$ 9,980,571) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT
ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**

	In US\$	
	2021	2020
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	6,078,551	6,038,773
Other sources	179,250	269,687
Other income	570,595	461,720
TOTAL REVENUES	6,828,396	6,770,180
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	3,434,971	3,502,825
Training	85,567	70,529
Information	299,648	239,920
Administrative	1,577,079	1,899,003
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,397,265	5,712,277
SURPLUS (DEFICIT), For the year	1,431,131	1,057,903
FUND BALANCE, Beginning of year	5,687,089 ^{1/}	4,994,564
FUND ADJUSTMENT	(9,437)	(12,948)
FUND BALANCE, End of year	7,108,783	6,039,519 ^{1/}
REPRESENTED BY:		
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,077,273	5,781,038
Receivables	317,519	246,625
Materials and supplies	-	-
Inventory	26,423	19,752
Fuel oil for vessels	2,038	7,323
Other current assets	2,168	2,028
Total Current Assets	7,425,421	6,056,766
Noncurrent assets		
Long-term investments	196,082	482,140
Other noncurrent assets	367,724	256,001
Total Noncurrent Assets	563,806	738,141
TOTAL ASSETS	7,989,227	6,794,907
LESS: LIABILITIES		
Accounts and other payables	524,434	513,589
Fund held in trust	356,010	241,799
TOTAL LIABILITIES	880,444	755,388
NET ASSETS	7,108,783	6,039,519

^{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, 2021 AND 2020**

	In US\$	
	2021	2020
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	667,019	760,094
TOTAL REVENUES	667,019	760,094
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Administrative	667,019	760,094
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	667,019	760,094
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, 2021 AND 2020**

	In US\$	
	2021	2020
REVENUES		
Contributions from: -		
Member governments	726,808	709,632
Other income		-
TOTAL REVENUES	726,808	709,632
EXPENDITURES		
Operating and Capital Expenditures		
Research	115,195	149,942
Administrative	611,613	559,690
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	726,808	709,632
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 19

UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT OF SEAFDEC FOR THE YEAR 2022 AND THE STATUS
OF THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF SEAFDEC FOR THE YEAR 2023

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

	In US\$	
	2022 (Un-audited)	2021 (Audited)
ACCUMULATED FUND		
As at December 31	19,404,441	18,485,467
REPRESENTED BY:		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	19,480,868	19,049,694
Receivables and other receivables	689,660	365,724
Advances and deposits	27,863	24,407
Supplies inventory	35,578	41,631
Fuel oil for vessels	174,825	145,004
Prepayments	9,069	170,895
Other current assets	20,082	2,168
Total Current assets	<u>20,437,945</u>	<u>19,799,523</u>
Noncurrent Assets		
Restricted bank deposit	5,395	5,581
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance	262,962	337,841
Termination indemnity fund	2,108,939	2,235,012
Long-term investments	270,832	196,082
Other noncurrent assets	142,317	367,724
Total Noncurrent assets	<u>2,790,445</u>	<u>3,142,240</u>
Total Assets	<u>23,228,390</u>	<u>22,941,763</u>
Less: LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accrued payable	561,485	609,971
Contribution received in advance	759,166	932,793
Funds held in trust	131,459	356,010
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,452,110</u>	<u>1,898,774</u>
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Reserved budget for vessel periodic maintenance for M.V. SEAFDEC 2	262,900	322,510
Provision for staff termination indemnity	2,108,939	2,235,012
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>2,371,839</u>	<u>2,557,522</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>3,823,949</u>	<u>4,456,296</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>19,404,441</u>	<u>18,485,467</u>



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF REVENUES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021
(IN US\$)**

	Total			
	Operating Fund Host Department	MRC	Fellowship Fund	Others Fund
			2022 (Un-audited)	2021 (Audited)
REVENUES				
Revenues from: -				
Government of Brunei Darussalam	-	7,000	-	7,000
Government of Cambodia	-	12,000	-	12,000
Government of Indonesia	661,197	52,000	-	713,197
Government of Japan	-	280,000	-	280,000
Government of Lao PDR	-	6,500	-	6,500
Government of Malaysia	613,862	21,500	-	635,362
Government of Myanmar	-	22,500	-	22,500
Government of Philippines	5,829,074	25,000	-	5,854,074
Government of Singapore	-	13,500	-	13,500
Government of Thailand	2,675,197	33,000	7,290	2,715,487
Government of Viet Nam	-	26,000	-	26,000
Sub-total	9,779,330	499,000	7,290	10,285,620
Other Income				
Other sources	-	-	486,518	195,614
Other income	495,588	43,421	404	1,026,856
TOTAL REVENUES	10,274,918	542,421	7,694	11,411,894
			586,861	12,059,082

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021
(IN US\$)

	Operating Fund		Fellowship Fund	Others Fund	2022	2021	
	Host Department	MRC	Fund	Fund	(Un-audited)	(Audited)	
						Total	
EXPENDITURES							
Operating Expenditures							
Program of Activities:							
Research	3,303,719	-	-	170,039	3,473,758	3,794,833	
Training	1,067,543	-	3,783	25,246	1,096,572	709,187	
Information	373,751	65,633	-	9,648	449,032	537,291	
Collaborative	33,866	100,709	-	-	134,575	114,541	
Others	-	-	-	197,583	197,583	91,344	
Total Operating Expenditures	4,778,879	166,342	3,783	402,516	5,351,520	5,247,196	
Administrative & Capital expenditures	3,995,702	121,585	-	33,332	4,150,619	4,003,425	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,774,581	287,927	3,783	435,848	9,502,139	9,250,621	
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	1,500,337	254,494	3,911	151,013	1,909,755	2,808,461	



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FUND BALANCES
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021
(IN US\$)**

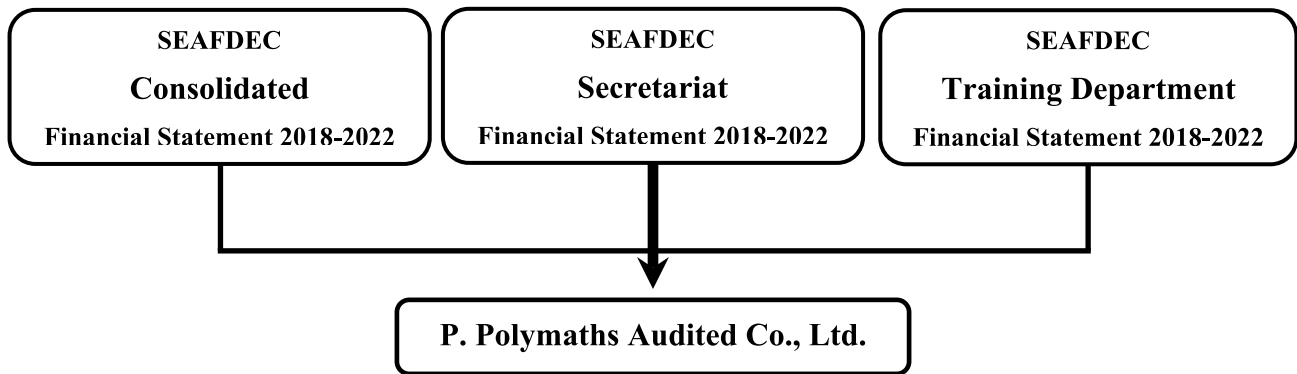
	Balance as at January 1, 2022	Adjustment of Fund	Surplus (Deficit)	Balance as at December 31, 2022 (Un-audited)	Balance as at December 31, 2021 (Audited)
Operating fund	14,939,586	(3,009)	1,754,831	16,691,408	15,813,361
Fellowship fund	302,771	-	3,911	306,682	313,183
Other funds	2,258,492	(3,154)	151,013	2,406,351	2,358,923
Net	17,500,849	1/ (6,163)	1,909,755	19,404,441	18,485,467

Remark: 1/ The difference of US\$ 984,618 (US\$ 17,500,849 - US\$ 18,485,467) resulted from the change of rate in US\$ translation.

**CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED FROM SEAFDEC MEMBER COUNTRIES
AS ANNUAL MINIMUM REGULAR CONTRIBUTION (MRC) IN 2017 – 2023
(IN US\$)**

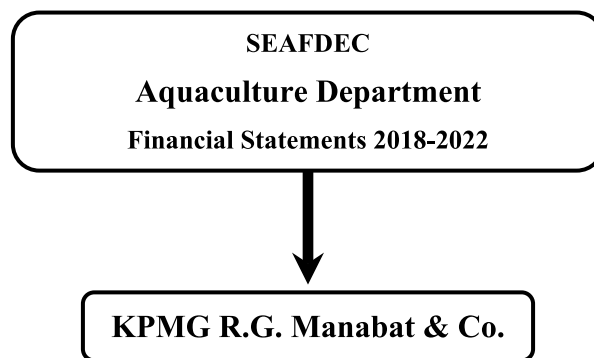
Countries	Actual received in 2017	Actual received in 2018	Actual received in 2019	Actual received in 2020	Actual received in 2021	Actual received in 2022	Amount received in 2023 as at 7/03/2023
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Cambodia	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	-
Indonesia	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	6,500	6,500	6,500	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500	-
Myanmar	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500
Philippines	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Singapore	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
Thailand	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
Viet Nam	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000
Total	499,000	499,000	499,000	492,500	492,500	492,500	407,000

CONTACT PERSON AND EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM



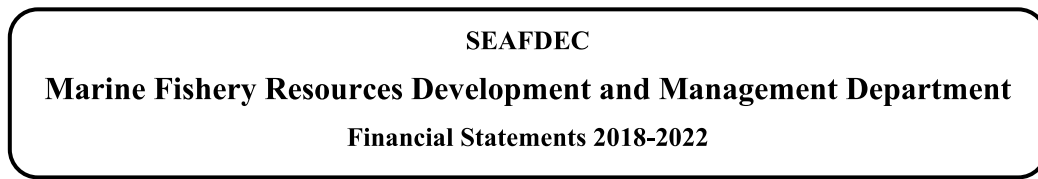
Auditor Name : Mr. Phongsakorn Suwannasaksin
Address : 33/6 Moo 14, Bangna-Trad Road, Bangkaew Sub-District,
 Banglee District, Samuth Prakarn 10540, Thailand
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Mobile : (661) 9499-4994
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CONTACT PERSON AND EXTERNAL AUDIT FIRM



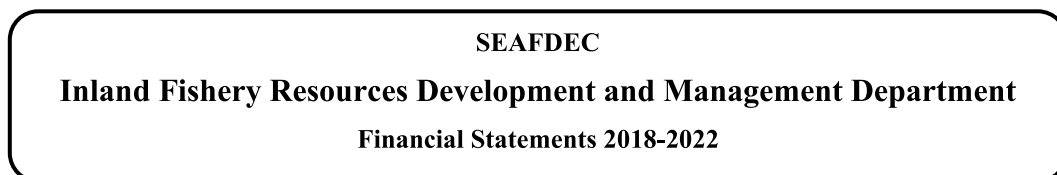
Auditor name : Mr. Tireso Randy F. Lapidez
Address : The KPMG Center, 9/F,
 6787 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines 1226
Telephone : (632) 855-7000
Fax : (632) 894-1985
Email : tlapidez@kpmg.com

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 2024

Table 1: Estimated 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	-	-	-	-	704,873 ^{h/}	756,873	4.64
Japan	280,000	-	-	-	-	-	280,000	1.72
Lao PDR	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	6,500	0.04
Malaysia	21,500	-	-	-	2,379,212 ^{g/}	-	2,400,712	14.74
Myanmar	22,500	-	-	-	-	-	22,500	0.14
Philippines	25,000	-	-	6,568,756 ^{f/}	-	-	6,593,756	40.46
Singapore	13,500	-	-	-	-	-	13,500	0.08
Thailand	33,000	2,644,000 ^{d/}	-	-	-	-	2,677,000	16.43
Viet Nam	27,000	-	-	-	-	-	27,000	0.17
Sub-total	500,000	2,644,000	-	6,568,756	2,379,212	704,873	12,796,841	78.53
Others	2,345,399 ^{b/}	470,000 ^{c/}	-	684,109 ^{i/}	-	-	3,499,508	21.47
Total	2,845,399 ^{a/}	3,114,000	-	7,252,865	2,379,212	704,873	16,296,349	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\$ 1,510,518 (Excluding MRC = US\$ 280,000), SEAFDEC-JAIF Fund = US\$ 626,431, and ASEAN JICA Project = US\$ 208,450

^{c/} Includes extra-budgetary sources from USAID-DOI = US\$ 100,000, and UNEP/GEF = US\$ 370,000

^{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 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	-	267,100	-	3,854,678	-	-	4,121,778	25.29
1.2 Training Programs	5,000	1,038,400	-	904,994	-	-	1,948,394	11.96
1.3 Information Programs	86,000	29,000	-	665,499	-	-	780,499	4.79
1.4 Collaborative Programs	150,000	189,600	-	-	-	-	339,600	2.08
1.5 Other Programs	2,408,399	470,000	-	272,911	-	-	3,151,310	19.34
Sub-total	2,649,399	1,994,100	-	5,698,082	-	-	10,341,581	63.46
2. Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures								
2.1 Operating Expenditures	188,500	1,119,900	-	1,273,636	-	-	2,582,036	15.85
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500	-	-	281,147	-	-	288,647	1.77
2.3 In-kind Expenditures	196,000	1,119,900	-	1,554,783	-	-	2,870,683	17.62
Sub-total	196,000	1,119,900	-	1,554,783	2,379,212	704,873	5,954,768	36.54
Total	2,845,399	3,114,000	-	7,252,865	2,379,212	704,873	16,296,349	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\$ 1,510,518, Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund = US\$ 626,431, SEAFDEC JICA = US\$ 208,450 and Other Programs from MRC Fund = US\$ 63,000
- 9/ Includes program expenses from UNEP/GEF = US\$ 370,000, and USAID-DOI = US\$ 100,000
- 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 2024

Sources	Secretariat	TD	MFRD	AQD	MFRDMD	IFRDMD	Total	%
Brunei Darussalam	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	7,000	0.05
Cambodia	12,000	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	0.08
Indonesia	52,000	-	-	-	-	775,360 g/	827,360	5.55
Japan	280,000	-	-	-	-	-	280,000	1.88
Lao PDR	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	6,500	0.04
Malaysia	21,500	-	-	-	2,442,941 f/	-	2,464,441	16.53
Myanmar	22,500	-	-	-	-	-	22,500	0.15
Philippines	25,000	-	-	6,277,464 e/	-	-	6,302,464	42.27
Singapore	13,500	-	-	-	-	-	13,500	0.09
Thailand	33,000	2,992,000 c/	-	-	-	-	3,025,000	20.29
Viet Nam	27,000	-	-	-	-	-	27,000	0.18
Sub-total	500,000	2,992,000	-	6,277,464	2,442,941	775,360	12,987,765	87.11
Others	1,320,000 b/	-	-	601,254 h/	-	-	1,921,254	12.89
Total	1,820,000 a/	2,992,000	-	6,878,718	2,442,941	775,360	14,909,019	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\$ 1,100,000 (Excluding MRC = US\$ 280,000 and ASEAN JICA Project = US\$ 220,000)
- c/ Contributions in cash from Thailand
- d/ Contributions in cash from Singapore
- e/ No Contributions from Philippines
- f/ Contributions in cash from Malaysia
- g/ Contribution in kind from Indonesia
- h/ Includes contributions from non-member governments, international organizations/agencies, and miscellaneous receipts

Table 4: Proposed Expenditures of the Center for 2024 (In US\$)

Category	SEC ^{1/}	TD ^{2/}	MFRD ^{3/}	AQD ^{4/}	MFRDMD ^{5/}	IFRDMD ^{6/}	Total	%
1. Program of Activities								
1.1 Research Programs	-	279,600	-	3,685,940	-	-	3,965,540	26.60
1.2 Training Programs	5,000	1,298,600	-	867,066	-	-	2,170,666	14.56
1.3 Information Programs	86,000	29,000	-	601,113	-	-	716,113	4.80
1.4 Collaborative Programs	150,000	192,400	-	-	-	-	342,400	2.30
1.5 Other Programs	1,383,000	-	-	320,239	-	-	1,703,239	11.42
Sub-total	1,624,000	1,799,600	-	5,474,358	-	-	8,897,958	59.68
2. Administrative and Non-Program Expenditures								
2.1 Operating Expenditures	188,500	1,192,400	-	1,150,413	-	-	2,531,313	16.98
2.2 Capital Expenditures	7,500	-	-	253,947	-	-	261,447	1.75
2.3 In-kind Expenditures	196,000	1,192,400	-	1,404,360	-	-	2,792,760	18.73
Sub-total	196,000	1,192,400	-	1,404,360	2,442,941	775,360	6,011,061	40.32
Total	1,820,000	2,992,000	-	6,878,718	2,442,941	775,360	14,909,019	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\$ 1,100,000 and Other Programs from MRC Fund = US\$ 63,000, ASEAN JICA = US\$ 220,000

9/ Includes program expenses from non-member governments, international/regional/national organizations, and other agencies

Annex 21

PRESS STATEMENT

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of Myanmar through its Department of Fisheries as the host, the Fifty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council (55CM) was convened on 9 and 11 May 2023 through the online platform.
2. In attendance at the Meeting were the Council Directors and delegates from the SEAFDEC Member Countries, namely: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam, SEAFDEC Secretary-General, SEAFDEC Deputy Secretary-General, as well as officials from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments. The Opening Session of the 55CM was held on 9 May 2023 and presided over by the Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia and SEAFDEC Council Director for Malaysia, *Dato' Adnan bin Hussain*. The 55CM unanimously elected the Council Director for Myanmar, *Mr. Wai Lin Maung*, as the Chairperson of the SEAFDEC Council for the Year 2023–2024.
3. While taking note of the progress and achievements of the SEAFDEC programs and projects in 2022, the Council approved the proposed programs of activities to be undertaken in 2023 ensuring effective implementation corresponding to the priorities and needs of the countries in the region.
4. On the regional initiatives in 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 the data of which was updated regularly by the respective ASEAN Member States (AMSs); promoting the electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (eACDS), and enhancing regional cooperation for the implementation of Port State Measures. Discussions were made on the possibility of expanding the RFVR Database to cover vessels smaller than 24 meters in length which are the majority in the region, noting that the provision of the data is up to the respective countries.
5. Moreover, the Council also noted the intergovernmental collaboration to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia focusing on information-sharing platforms developed under the ASEAN Network for Combating IUU Fishing (AN-IUU), RFVR Database, and Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including Combating IUU Fishing in the Region (RPOA-IUU). The proposal was made on making the data of the RFVR Database accessible by the AN-IUU in order that the AMSs could fully utilize the two platforms to support combating IUU fishing in the region, noting that this is subject to further discussion under the relevant ASEAN-related fora.
6. On the global initiatives in combating IUU fishing, the Council took note of the progress of the implementation of the Port States Measure Agreement by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the updated information on the FAO Global Information Exchange System (GIES) and FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment which were recently endorsed during the 35th Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries. In this connection, SEAFDEC was urged to provide technical support to the Member Countries, especially on the utilization of GIES for inspection activities and the implementation of FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Transshipment.
7. The Council congratulated SEAFDEC for its achievements in coming up with the results of the genetic population and life history study for Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) in the region. The Council encouraged SEAFDEC to consider progressing from the activities on assessing the status of stock and identifying the genetic characteristics of the species to activities on developing a Harvest Strategy/Management Procedure as a way forward to the sustainable management of neritic tunas in the region.
8. The Council discussed several international fisheries-related issues including the results of voting on the proposals of commercially-exploited aquatic species to amend the CITES Appendices during 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 was convened on 14–25 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama.



9. Furthermore, the Council also recognized the issues related to marine debris, microplastics, and abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear in Southeast Asia. In this connection, SEAFDEC was urged to follow up on the relevant discussion at other fora such as those of the International Maritime Organization, and to provide technical support and capacity-building activities to the AMSs on the implementation of FAO Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gears.

10. 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 approved by the majority the draft Report of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementation of the RES&POA-2030 (2021 Baseline Information) and supported its submission to the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries and higher authorities through the ASEAN Mechanism.

11. On the utilization of the M.V. SEAFDEC 2 which was granted by the Government of Japan to SEAFDEC in 2004, Brunei Darussalam confirmed their request for utilizing the vessel to conduct fishery resources surveys in their waters in 2023; while Thailand postponed the utilization of the vessel to 2024 and the Philippines until further notice.

12. The Council acknowledged that SEAFDEC has become a member of the International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (IMCS) Network in early 2023. Such membership could provide several benefits to SEAFDEC and Member Countries in combating IUU fishing and promoting sustainable fisheries management.

13. The Council appreciated the cooperation and collaboration between SEAFDEC and other regional/international agencies/organizations, particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP), in undertaking activities toward sustainable development of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region through the project “Sustainable Management of Fisheries, Marine Living Resources and Their Habitats in the Bay of Bengal Region for the Benefit of Coastal States and Communities” that would commence in 2023.

14. At the closing session, the Council expressed appreciation to the Government of Myanmar for the excellent hosting of the 55CM. The Council then announced that the Fifty-sixth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2024 would be hosted by the Government of the Philippines.

For further information, please contact:

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

Annex 22

CLOSING REMARKS

By Mr. Wai Lin Maung,

*Director-General of Department of Fisheries Myanmar and Chairperson of SEAFDEC Council for the
Year 2023–2024*

Distinguished Council Directors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the end of meeting, we received valuable advice and proposals about enhancing the sustainable use and responsible fishing practices in the area by developing and managing fishery resources.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the SEAFDEC Council Directors and their delegations, for their cooperative efforts and support, which resulted in a successful meeting.

On behalf of the Council. I would also like to thank the Madam Secretary-General and the staff from Secretariat and Departments for the excellent support in organizing the Meeting smoothly.

With that note, my dear colleagues, ladies, and gentlemen, let me now declare the Fifty-fifth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council closed.

Thank you and stay safe!