



**REGIONAL INITIATIVES/PROGRAMS AND CAPACITY BUILDING  
TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 71/257**

SEAFDEC Secretariat

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

SEAFDEC has been continuously providing technical support and platform for the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to meet and discuss international fisheries related issues in order to develop the corresponding regional fishery policies as well as the ASEAN-SEAFDEC common/coordinated positions to be addressed at international/ regional fora. Considering that the global fishery resources have declined due to over-exploitation and un-controlled fishing operations whether within national jurisdictions, sub-regional/regional areas or in the high seas. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing which has been identified as one of the causes of the declining fishery resources, can take place in all aspects of capture fisheries and in all sea areas. Initiatives to conserve and manage fish stocks have been undermined by IUU fishing, the result of which could lead to total collapse of capture fisheries seriously hampering all attempts to rebuild the stocks that may have already been overfished. This situation could also lead to losses of both short and long-term social and economic opportunities and thus, could have negative impacts on food security. In addition, taking into accounts the number of fishing vessels in the Region which is almost 73% of the global fleet, therefore the issue of work in fishing brings together several countries in Southeast Asia, for example, Cambodian and Myanmar migrant workers work on Thai vessels fishing in Malaysian and Indonesian waters. With increased attention being paid to IUU fishing in ASEAN, it is also important to consider the associated issue of exploitative labor practices. Migrant fishers are particularly vulnerable to abuse, even forced labor, for a number of reasons: the nature of the work in fishing means that working hours and periods away from home are long, living and work conditions are tough and there are a number of hazards involved. There is limited inspection of conditions; and migrants have limited access to grievance procedures or complaints mechanisms. In this connection, several international and regional instruments including the market driven measures - related to sustainable fisheries, combating IUU fishing and labors- have being introduced and forced all countries either importing or exporting countries into implementation. The impacts particularly in form of market driven measures are significantly effect to inter- and intra-regional trading. However, considering the long term sustainability, the positive impacts from market driven measures are also taken into consideration by ASEAN Member States.

## **II. REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION 71/257**

The regional initiatives are grouped into three main components namely: A) Strengthening regional cooperation toward combating IUU fishing, and B) Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture. The results of these initiatives are described as follows:

### **A. Strengthening Regional Cooperation Toward Combating IUU Fishing**

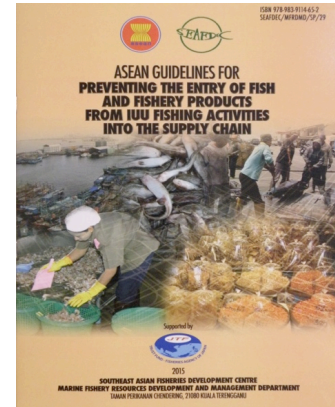
The rapid growth of the fisheries industry in Southeast Asia since late 1970s has led to increased fishing capacity, especially with the use of highly efficient of fishing gear such as trawlers and later purse seiners, and to increased capacities of processing plants. Moreover, fishing areas have been largely expanded covering international waters particularly the South China Sea, and offshore areas within the Southeast Asian region where the EEZs used to be only 12 nm. Adoption of the 200 nm EEZs after 1982 has created significant impacts in many countries including the increasing requirements for more raw fish materials to supply their processing industries. However, the expansion of EEZs to 200 nm without effective MCS and fisheries management schemes was also seen as a primary reason that drives the fishing industry to perform illegal fishing or identified later as Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU fishing). There could be many types of IUU fishing, but among the major forms are unlicensed fishing, landing of fish in neighboring states, using double flags, and illegal fishing and practices.

In practical ways, many ASEAN Member States (AMSs) considered that the implementation of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) scheme plays a key role to prevent and enforce the IUU fishing, particularly illegal fishing. But, recently due to another Market Driven Measures would be also considered where AMSs play high attention to otherwise their fish and fishery products may be prohibited in trading. In addition, improvement of the effectiveness of fisheries management to against the IUU fishing could not be implemented isolately by country, but requiring for cooperation at regional and international levels. In connection to this SEAFDEC works together with all AMSs under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership Mechanism in developing several management tools, guidelines, and measures with aims to enhance the cooperation among the AMS to combat IUU fishing. The regional initiatives toward combating IUU fishing include 6 key activities which are summarized as follows:

**A1) Adoption of the ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain;**

The Guidelines outlines the possible future actions in combating IUU fishing within the ASEAN Region, in accordance with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region towards 2020 adopted in 2011. The Guidelines is developed through series of Regional Technical Consultations since 2011. The final draft of the Guidelines was endorsed at the 17th FCG-ASSP in December 2014, and later at the 47th Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC in April 2015. The Guidelines outlines the possible future actions in the ASEAN region in combating IUU fishing, in accordance with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region towards 2020 adopted in 2011. The Guidelines comprises four main parts. The Introduction as Part 1 includes the objective of ensuring that fish and fishery products in the supply chain do not come from IUU fishing activities. The introduction part also includes the objectives, nature and scope, guiding principle, and definition of terminologies for better understanding of the basic elements and focus of the Guidelines; Part 2 deals with the forms of IUU fishing activities found in the Southeast Asian region; Part 3 which is the most important part of the Guidelines provides guidance on preventing the entry of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing activities into the supply chain based on the root cause of IUU fishing activities that occur in the region. In addition, the AMSs are encouraged to (1) effective manage fishing activities within a Country, (2) regulate transshipment and landing of fish / catch across borders, (3) prevent poaching in the EEZs of other countries, (4) control illegal fishing and trading practices of Live Reef Food Fish (LRFF), Reef-based Ornamentals and Endangered Aquatic Species, and (5) strengthen the management of fishing in the high seas and RFMO Areas. It was also agreed that these Guidelines should be reviewed regularly and update when necessary as proposed by AMS..

Thus, countries' self-initiatives to develop appropriate national implementation plans must be esteemed for the Guidelines based on their own legal and governance frameworks. For smooth and effective implementation, active participation of all stakeholders in decision making processes is essential. In addition, sharing information among countries would also facilitate discussion for further consideration of effective, practical, appropriate actions/protocols at national domestic level. The sharing information would also contribute further harmonization of the common measures among ASEAN countries to enhance the effectiveness in combating IUU fishing by preventing trade of fish and fishery products from IUU fishing.



## **A2) Enhancing the Traceability System for Marine Capture Fisheries through Promotion of the ASEAN Catch Documentation Scheme (ACDS);**

Development of the ACDS concept have been started off by SEAFDEC Secretariat in close collaboration with MFRDMD and experts/ fisheries managers from SEAFDEC Member Countries with the support from Japanese Trust Funds since 2014. One expert group meeting and one Technical consultation meeting were convened in October and December, 2014 for the 1st Draft of ACDS, respectively. Another expert meeting convened in 2015 for finalizing the draft ACDS, was also organized in accordance with the recommendations made by the 47th SEAFDEC Council Meeting. The results from three meetings in 2014 and 2015 could come up with the final draft ACDS Concept and draft info-graphic on usage of ACDS for 18 scenarios of catch/trade flows into and or among the AMS in the region. To ensure that ACDS are applicable and benefit to the relevant stakeholders namely operators of fishing vessels, suppliers, seafood processors for export and traders who export and transship, SEAFDEC convened the Stakeholder Consultations in March 2016 with aims to introduce the concept and compile their views for further development of the appropriate system of ACDS for both electronic and manual system to cover all requirements of the SEAFDEC Member Countries. SEAFDEC is recommended to develop the electronic system of ACDS that should be included not only commercial fisheries but also considering to support small-scale fishers. In addition, at the 49th meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2016, the Council suggested that the e-ACDS should be developed in harmonization with other existing catch documentation schemes to ensure that this would be acceptable to the EU and US Presidential Task Force, and thus, enhance trading of fish and fishery products from the Southeast Asian region, while the Council endorsed Brunei Darussalam as a pilot testing country for the eACDS.

### *Development of the Electronic ASEAN Catch Documentation System (e-ACDS)*

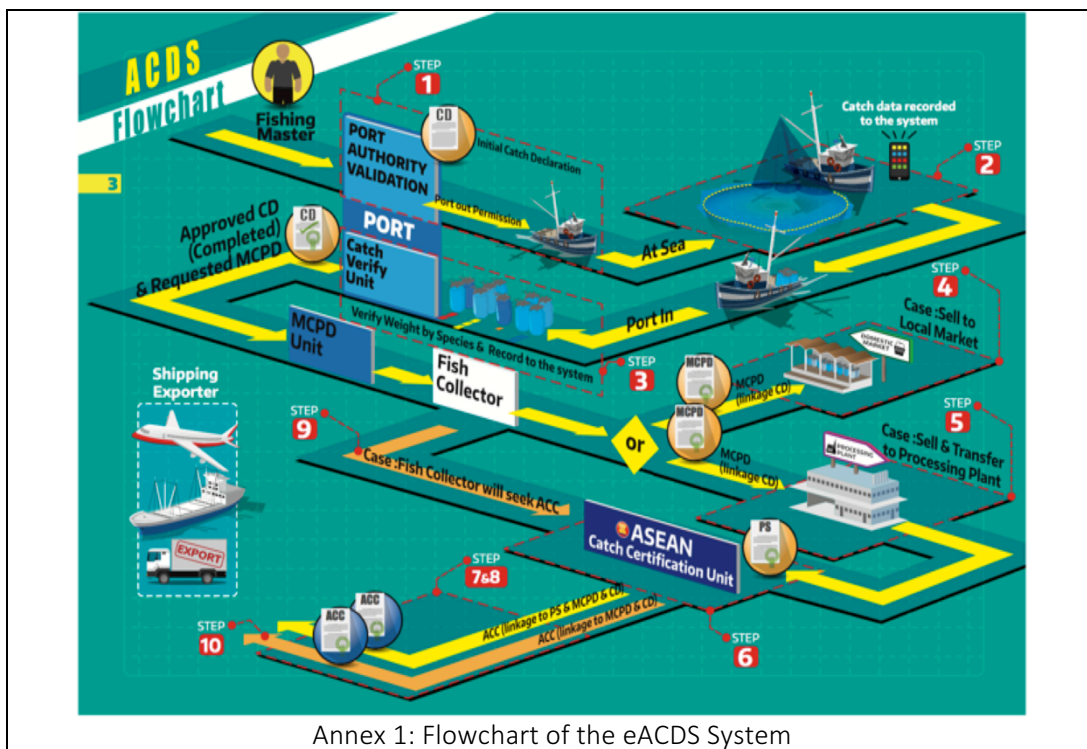
To support the pilot testing of the ACDS in Brunei Darussalam, SEAFDEC secretariat compared the existing CDS from ASEAN Member States such as Indonesia (Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries –MMAF), Thailand (Department of Fisheries) that operating the CDS to accommodate the fish trades to EU. SEAFDEC also observed the CCAMLR CDS system which is mandatory system for their party. Additionally, the lessons learnt from Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) are also very useful particularly on monitoring the fishing vessels activities and catch flow system from sea to landing site, processing producers and/or consumer market. In addition, SEAFDEC observed the electronic Movement Catch Purchasing Documents (MCPD) developed by the Fish Marketing Organization (FMO), Thailand, where in after SEAFDEC signed the MOU in November 2016 to get support on development of the electronic system for

ACDS. Based on the above-mentioned lessons learnt, SEAFDEC starts working on the architecture design of the e-ACDS (Annex 1) taking into accounts the e-ACDS structures/designs are prepared for all AMS in future. The eACDS system required many modules of Key Data Elements (**Annex 2**) which are the basic information from AMS such as: fishing vessels particulars/information, boat owners, buyers, processing producers, exporter/traders, etc.

- The eACDS for Brunei Darussalam are prepared through the following consultations,
- The 1st Consultation visit to Brunei Darussalam in August 2016 to compile all basic information and observe over all traceability procedures of fish and fishery products in Brunei Darussalam.
  - The 2nd Consultative visit was made in January 2017 with aims to introduce the draft e-ACDS and discuss on establishment of vessel and catch validation Unit to ensure that fishing vessel have a validated license for fishing and verify the weight by species when the vessel back to port. In addition, establishment of the Competent Authority Unit for issuing the ASEAN/Brunei Darussalam Catch Certificate (ACC).

Software/applications for eACDS consists of two main applications namely:

1. Web-based application: URL: <http://163.44.197.130/e-ACDS/>
2. Mobile application: e-ACDS application can be downloaded from pay store for Android system



*ONSITE TRAINING PROGRAM AND EACDS COMMITTEE MEETING*

While finalizing the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of eACDS system for pilot-testing in Brunei Darussalam in tentatively June 2017, the introduction of overall system of eACDS was launched by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism of Brunei Darussalam, Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, during the Inaugural Ceremony of the Forty-ninth Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council. In this connection, to continue the pilot testing of eACDS by Country, SEAFDEC proposes to organize the Onsite Training program on the use of eACDS by all relevant Stakeholders from 19-21 June 2017 in Department of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam. In addition, to further follow-up the implementation and improvement of the eACDS system while testing the system, SEAFDEC

proposes to set the eACDS Committee to meet and discuss on the eACDS testing in order to ensure that the system benefits to the country in term of enhancing traceability of marine capture fisheries. The committee would consist of 1) DOF Officers, 2) SEAFDEC staffs, 3) experts, 4) representatives from stakeholders e.g. fishing boat owner/fishing master, processor, fish agent, etc. The committee meeting will be held on 22 June 2017 back to back after the Onsite Training program.

## Annex 2: Key Data Elements

+ 1) Catch Landing Point		
	Key Data Element (KDE)	Remarks
1	Scientific Name (species)	Yes
2	Common Market Name and Local Name	Yes
3	ASFIS Code Number, 3 Alphabet Fish Code	Yes
4	Estimated Weight (kg)	Yes
5	Verified Weight (kg) or Volume (quantity)	Yes
6	Location of Catch	Yes
7	Catch Description	No
8	Date of Departure	Yes
9	Date and Time of Catch	Date only
10	Type of Gear/method used	Yes
11	Name of Fisher(s)	Yes
12	Name of Captain/ Fishing master	Yes
13	Names and Nationality(ies) of Fishers/Crew	Yes
14	Fishing Company Name	Yes
15	Fishing Vessel Owner name	Yes
16	Company Address contacts	Yes
17	Name of Fishing Vessel	Yes
18	Unique Vessel id/ Registration Number	Yes
19	VMS Unit Number	Yes
20	Vessel Type/ Tonnage (MT)	Yes
21	Fishing License Number, and Validation date	Yes
22	Validation date for fishing license	Yes
23	Flag State of Vessel	Yes
24	Date of port out and landing port name	Yes
25	Date of Port in and Landing Port Name	Yes
26	Date, Time, Location of Trans-shipment; Name and Vessel ID of Receiver	Yes (2 <sup>nd</sup> phase)
25	IMO/Lloyd's Number	Yes
26	Inmarsat Number	Yes
27	Call sign number	Yes
28	Name of approved fishing authority at Port	Yes
29	Address of approved fishing authority at Port	Yes
30	Stamp of approved fishing authority at Port	Yes

2) Buyers and Receivers/Suppliers		
	Key Data Element (KDE)	Remarks
1	Name of Buyer/Receiver/Company	Yes
2	Address of Buyer/Receiver/Company	Yes
3	Name of Company Owner	Yes
4	Buyer/Receiver business registration number	Yes
5	Description of purchased catch by buyer or receiver	Yes
6	Verified total weight (kg) of purchased catch by species (3A code)	Yes
7	Barcode for Movement document	Yes
8	Date of purchasing	Yes

+ 3) Processors		
	Key Data Element (KDE)	Remarks
1	Name of Processing Company	Yes
2	Address of Processing Company/Plant	Yes
3	Registration/License No.	Yes
4	Batch No.	Yes
5	Description of Seafood Processed	Yes
6	Validation Date (of Processing)	Yes
7	Total weight (kg) of Processed Fishery Product	Yes
8	Gov. catch certificate	Yes
9	Gov. health certificate	Yes

4) Sellers (Broker/Wholesale)		
	Key Data Element (KDE)	Remarks
1	Name of Seller (broker/wholesale)	Yes
2	Address of Seller (broker/wholesale)	Yes
3	Seller register/License No.	Yes
4	Date of purchase (by seller/broker)	Yes
5	Product Code /GTIN	Yes
6	Verified Weight (kg)	Yes
7	Name of Buyer	Yes
8	Buyer Registration No.	Yes
9	Date of sale (to buyer)	Yes

At the 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council, the Council Director viewed that the process of improving the eACDS based on pilot testing in Brunei Darussalam and introduction of improved system to other AMSs should be done after the completion of pilot testing in Brunei Darussalam in which expected by end of this year.

### A3) Establishing the Regional Fishing Vessels Record for Vessels 24 Meters in Length and Over (RFVR-24m)

Establishment of the RFVR-24m - as a management tool to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian Region through the AMSs cooperation on sharing of the fishing vessels information which are helpful for monitoring, control and surveillance to avoid and eliminate the IUU fishing vessels operated in the Southeast Asian region.

Through the series of expert group and regional technical consultations, the 28 elements of vessels information for vessel of 24m in length and over is agreed by the Council at its 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 2013. Later, the concept for establishment of the RFVR-24m was also supported by the Special

Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-34<sup>th</sup> AMAF) in 2013. The launching of Database System for RFVR-24m to the AMSs was made at the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2015. The Database System for RFVR-24m is a closed system for all AMSs only, the URL for the system is [www.seafdec.or.th/rfvr/index.php](http://www.seafdec.or.th/rfvr/index.php), the User's Account has been provided to all AMSs during the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council.

Information on fishing vessels	Information on fishing vessels
1) Name of vessel	15) International Radio Call sign
2) Vessel Registration Number	16) Engine Brand
3) Owner Name	17) Serial number of engine
4) Type of fishing method/gear	18) Hull material
5) Fishing License number	19) Date of registration
6) Expiration date of fishing licenses	20) Area (country) of fishing operation
7) Port of registry	21) Nationality of vessel (flag)
8) Gross tonnage (GRT/GT)	22) Previous name (if any)
9) Length (L)	23) Previous flag (if any)
10) Breadth (B)	24) Name of captain/master
11) Depth (D)	25) Nationality of captain/master
12) Engine Power	26) Number of crew (maximum/minimum)
13) Shipyard/Ship Builder	27) Nationality of crew
14) Date of launching/Year of built	28) IMO Number (If available)

#### STATUS OF THE RFVR FOR 24M IN LENGTH AND OVER

- Currently, the RFVR for 24m in length and over (RFVR-24m) are involved by 8 AMSs namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- The RFVR-24m was develop on web-based database system with the security system, users access to the system is required for registration.
- Sharing mechanism of the KDLs is based on the appropriate time period set by AMS such as

Period of updating information	Country
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter of year (January –March)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brunei Darussalam</li> <li>• Malaysia</li> <li>• Philippines</li> <li>• Singapore</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter of year (April-June)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thailand</li> </ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter of year (July-September)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myanmar</li> </ul>
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter of year (October-December)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• Viet Nam</li> </ul>

- Data transferring from AMS to SEAFDEC via e-mail in a format of Excel file
- National focal points were established for coordinating and submission the Data
- Noted that the RFVR-24m is established based on the regional cooperation requirements by AMSs to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing vessels from/among the AMSs. In addition,



the RFVR-24m is very useful for port State measures implementation particularly the initial inspection of the foreign vessels that came from other AMSs.

#### *IMPROVEMENT OF THE RFVR-24M FOR MORE EFFECTIVE TOOL OF PSM*

The issues have been addressed and discussed in many SEAFDEC meeting related to RFVR and Port State measures including the last 49C that it is necessary to improve the RFVR system in term of more near real time or link or online updated fishing vessel list to ensure that fishing vessels in the RFVR system is updated and or validated. In addition, the mechanism of data sharing to SEAFDEC and or among the AMSs are needed to be improved. In this connection, SEAFDEC Training Department in collaboration with the Secretariat will convene the meeting in 3rd quarter of 2017. SEAFDEC requires its Member Countries to nominate experts and/or fisheries manager to active participate to the meeting that will be announced soon.

#### **A4) Strengthening the Implementation of the Port State Measures through the cooperation among AMSs"**

Refers to the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) adopted the International Plan of Action to prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IPOA-IUU) in 2001, in which the requirement for port State measure are included. FAO has worked on the PSM to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing including identified the need for human resources development to implement port State measures while developed as minimum standards - a "FAO Voluntary Model Scheme on Port State Measures" to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in 2004. Later, the FAO Conference adopted resolution 12/2009 approving the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, as a legally binding instrument in 2009. The Objective of the PSM Agreement is to "prevent illegally caught fish from entering international markets through ports". Port State needs to take the actions on restriction of entry into port, use of port, access to port services, in addition the inspection and other enforcement activities are also mentioned in the agreement. Taking into account the important of seafood products from Southeast Asian to around the world market, trade in and out are ones of the important activities. To avoid any impact on trade either international or intra-regional trade, the implementation of port State measures are therefore needed together with other regional management measures developed under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Collaborative Framework such as ASEAN Catch Documentations, RFVR-24m, ASEAN Guidelines to prevent the entry of IUU products into the supply chain, etc. However, implementation of Port State Measure Agreement required inter-agency as well as regional and international cooperation. But due to adequate of the human capacity to work on port state control, many trade-in and out among the AMSs and from high-sea including 3rd countries outside the region. SEAFDEC therefore proposes the Regional Approaches for Implementation the Port State Measures Agreement in effective manners. The said approaches required full operation of the port state measures for all foreign-flagged vessels from the highseas or countries outside the region. In addition, another approaches for all foreign-flagged vessels of the AMSs in which the port state measures needed to be harmonized and agreed by all AMS but aligned with the international and regional agreement/measures, as well as apply the existing ASEAN-SEAFDEC regional management measures such as ACDS, the Guideline on Preventing IUU products, and the RFVR for their implementation. This concept idea is proposed to consideration and support by the 24<sup>th</sup> ASWGFj, for further action by SEAFDEC in cooperation with AMSs under the ASSP Programs (20150-17).

#### *ACHIEVEMENTS/PROGRESS ON ACTIVITIES/PROGRAM BY SEAFDEC*

SEAFDEC has conducted many meetings and consultations with the aims to enhance the capacity of AMSs, examining the other management tools and enhancing the regional cooperation to support the effective implementation of the PSM within the region. There are many activities has been done as follows:

Activity	Target	Year/period
Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries-related Issues: Reviews the draft PSMA	Awareness building on the draft PSMA	2-4 Feb.2010
Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries-related Issues: introduction of PSMA	Capacity building on the draft PSMA	18-20Feb.2011
The Experts Group Meeting on Port State Measures	Identified problems and challenges and way forward	12-14Nov.2012
Tailor-made Training Program: Overseas Training on the Implementation of Port States Measures in Thailand	Observation of the PSM pilot program by FAO in Phuket For Directorate of Fishing Port, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia	4-8 Jun. 2013
Expert meetings and consultations to support the implementation of PSM	Management tools e.g. RFVR-24m, ACDS, ASEAN Guidelines, etc	2014-present
Technical Consultation on Regional Cooperation to support PSM implementation	Draft regional cooperation in supporting the implementation of PSM among AMSs	2-4 Feb. 2016
Workshop on Regional Cooperation for Implementation of Port State Measures to Improve Fisheries Management and Reduce IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia (co-organized with FAO, USAID-RDMA, Marino-forum 21)	Final draft ( <b>Annex1</b> ) of the regional cooperation in supporting the implementation of PSM among AMSs  Updated AMSs challenges in implementation of PSM  Updated list of designated port for PMS  Identified list of curriculum and training modules on implementation of the Port State Measures ( <b>Annex 2</b> )  Workplan on capacity building for AMSs in collaboration with other relevant international organization.	7-10 Nov. 2016

Since 2012, many AMSs were inadequate to implement the PSMA while initially implement the PSM for foreign vessels from outside the ASEAN region. But recently, the PSM is also applied for foreign fishing vessels from among the AMSs. The designated port in each AMS is also discussed, due to alignment with the human resources and effective implementation.

Nevertheless, the **achievements** from SEAFDEC activities from past till present are concluded as follow:



- Improved Better understanding on the PSM by AMSs:
- Identified problems and challenges on implementation of the PSM
- Harmonized the regional cooperation to support the implementation of PSM among AMSs
- Developed other management tools to support the implementation of PSM e.g. RFVR, CDS etc.
- Identified the curriculum of training program to support the implementation
- Provided capacity to implement the PSM (on going)

#### **A5) Developing the Regional Plan of Action for Managing the Fishing Capacity**

The issue of managing fishing capacity has been raised during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2020, held in Bangkok, Thailand, 13-17 June 2011, under Sub-Theme 1.2: Management of Fishing Capacity. In order to support AMSs in developing the National Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity (NPOA-Capacity), therefore DOF/Malaysia as a Lead Country for the cluster “Promoting Sustainable Fisheries Practices - Fishing Capacity and Responsible Fisheries Practices” under the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) - developed the Guidelines for Development of the NPOA-Capacity based on the DOF/Malaysia’s experiences. The Guidelines focuses on strategies relating to the effective management of national fishing capacity for sustainable exploitation of the fishery resources for future generation. Nevertheless, the said Guidelines had not been finalized yet through the technical consultation process with other ASEAN Member States. To facilitate the discussion and finalization of the Guidelines, SEAFDEC was requested to provide the platform for all ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to meet. In response to this, SEAFDEC has worked with DOF/Malaysia on the approaches to support for Management of Fishing Capacity for the ASEAN region, while agreed in principle that the Regional Plan of Action for Managing Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) are needed to enhance the regional cooperation on implementation. In addition, the Guidelines for Development of NPOA-Capacity will be also included within the RPOA-Capacity.

The Regional Technical Consultation on the Development of RPOA-Capacity was organized with the aims to review the AMSs’ management of fishing capacity and identify the issues/problems as basic information to be included in the RPOA-Capacity. The Meeting was held on 24-26 February 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The results of the RTC are used for further drafting the RPOA-Capacity and revising the guidelines for development of NPOA-Capacity for consideration and finalization by AMSs at the 2nd RTC in December 2015. The final draft of the RPOA-Capacity was then submitted to the 48th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in 2016 for consideration and approval, and later it was endorsed by the 24th ASWGF and SOM-AMAF during the same year.

Make use of the adopted RPOA for management of fishing capacity at regional or sub-regional levels requires on the integration with the scientific based results from the stock assessment and risk assessment such as the neritic tunas program. It is also useful to support the development of the regional common fisheries policy in near future for managing of the shared stocks

#### **A6) Strengthening Cooperation on Trans-Boundary Issues through Bi-Lateral Dialogues**

Over the years, SEAFDEC has facilitated bilateral dialogue through sub-regional approach to discuss and look for effective ways to improve management of fisheries in order to sustain fisheries resources in each sub-region in Southeast Asia. Highlights are given on importance of trans-boundary important aquatic species and integration of fisheries and habitats managements, as well as control IUU fishing and destructive fishing activities. Since 2013, a series of Sub-regional Technical Meetings (STMs) on effective fisheries management for the Gulf of Thailand sub-region,

the bilateral dialogues between Thailand-Cambodia and Cambodia-Viet Nam as well as the dialogues between Thailand-Malaysia for sub-regional Andaman Sea have been organized. It was envisaged that the bilateral dialogues would facilitate opportunity to agree upon relevant activities of neighboring countries including combatting IUU fishing and to strengthen bilateral cooperation on management for sustainable utilization of trans-boundary fisheries resources.

#### **A7) Regional Cooperation on Labor Aspects within the Fishing Industry in the ASEAN Region**

SEAFDEC recently organized the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Labor Aspects within Fishing Industry in the ASEAN Region on 25-27 February 2016 in Bangkok, which was participated by representatives from government agencies responsible for fisheries and labor from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, Embassies and Independent organizations. Representatives included Fisheries Agencies, Department of Labor (of some countries); representatives from international and regional organizations such as ILO, FAO/AFPIC, USAID-Oceans, ICSF, UNACT, EU delegation to Thailand, Swedish Embassy, Sustainable Development Foundation, SEAFish for Justice and others including representatives from Trade Unions, Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations. Key international agreements including the requirements of those agreements in relation to labor engaged in fisheries were highlighted and discussed with participants at the Consultation. Participating countries from the ASEAN region provided an update on their current national legal provisions and implementation guidelines for securing the rights and well-being of labor engaged in the fishing sector, including the recruitment and treatment of migrant workers.

After the discussion, recommendations were formulated with regards to the rights and working conditions of people engaged in the fisheries sector, including migrant workers (domestic and foreign), to secure their decent working conditions in the spirit of the ASEAN Community. A summary of the recommendations during the RTC that are supportive of decent working and living conditions of all fishers and fish-workers in the ASEAN Region. In this conjunction, SEAFDEC is requested to develop the “**ASEAN Guidelines on Implementation of Labor Standards for the Fisheries Sector**”. The results from the meeting was raised at the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council while the council support and endorse the proposed development of the ASEAN Guidelines as above mentioned. In response to this, SEAFDEC will plan to develop the final draft for consideration by the next FCG/ASSP and 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council before submission to the next 25ASWGF for support.

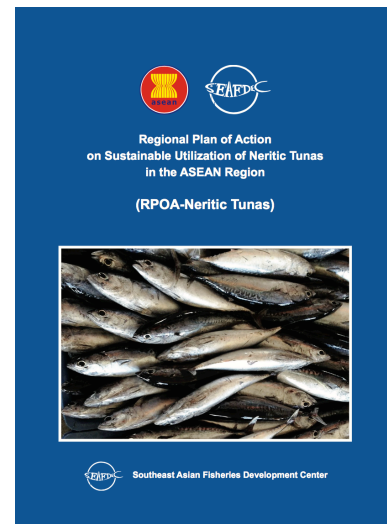
### **B. Promotion of the Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture**

Considering the impacts from market driven measures on fish trade are related to the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture practices recently. Fishes resources are mostly in the same large marine ecosystem within the Southeast Asian region where the regional or sub-regional cooperation for effective fisheries management are needed. Even though, the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and the Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security toward 2020 was adopted, but the supplementary Regional Plan of Action or Policy Guides for some important economically species including trans-boundary species, and shared stock are also needed taking into accounts the enhancing cooperation among AMSs in promoting the sustainable utilization of fisheries resources and sustainable aquaculture. In response to the requirements, SEAFDEC in collaboration ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, proposed develop several Regional Policy Guides and Recommendations on the specific objectives covering the management of fisheries resources, aquaculture and ensuring the sustainable small-scale fisheries for ASEAN region as follows:

#### **B1) Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region**

Recognizing the importance of neritic tuna fisheries in the Southeast Asian waters, the 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council endorsed the proposal of SEAFDEC Secretariat to conduct regular stakeholders' consultations for the development of the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tunas Fisheries (RPOA-Neritic Tunas) and to enhance the regional or sub-regional cooperation on promotion of the sustainable utilization of neritic tunas in the Southeast Asian region. Accordingly, SEAFDEC with funding support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project worked with ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries through series of Expert and Regional Technical Consultations since 2013 with the aims to identify the main issues/problems on conservation and management of neritic tunas in the region, while to drafting the RPOA-Neritic Tunas, consequently.

The draft RPOA-Neritic Tunas was addressed at the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the FCG/ASSP in December 2014 for further consideration and support under the ASEAN framework, due to the RPOA-Neritic tunas is one of the regional cooperation that would be aligned with the promotion of AEC-2015. With the comments from 17FCG/ASSP, the The Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the Southeast Asian waters (RPOA-Neritic Tunas) was amended and later was endorsed by the 47th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council on April 2015, the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (23ASWGF). The RPOA-Neritic Tuna was also supported by Special Senior Official Meeting (S-SOM) the Thirty Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (36AMAF) in late 2015.



## 1) Implementation of the RPOA-Neritic Tuna and Capacity Building

One of the key actions in implementation of the RPOA-Neritic Tunas is to enhance the regional cooperation in which aims to develop/enhance Sub-regional Action Plans for neritic tuna fisheries, support the assessment of the status and trends of neritic tuna at sub-regional level. In connection to this the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tuna Assessment was therefore established by SEAFDEC Council directors.

- The 1st SWG-Neritic Tunas was held in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries (DOF), Malaysia at BlueWave Hotel, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia from 18-20 November 2014. The meeting reviewed the Updating Status and Trends of Neritic Tuna Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region especially the status of the longtail tuna, drafting of the Term of Reference (TOR) for long term establishment of the working group in which the Member Countries agreed to support its implementation after end of the project. The meeting also discussed the work plan for data improvement, requirement of the capacity building.
- The 2nd Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters (SWG-Neritic Tunas) was convened in cooperation with the Directorate of Fisheries Viet Nam (D-Fish) at the Research Institute of Marine Fisheries (RIMF), Hai Phong, Viet Nam from 15 to 17 June 2015. The Meeting was updated on Council's decision pertaining to the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries and Management (RPOA-Neritic Tunas) and Terms of Reference (TOR) for SWG-Neritic Tunas. The meeting discussed on the work plan - for genetic study and stock assessment of longtail tuna (LOT) and eastern little tuna or Kawakawa (KAW), reviewed the country status based on existing statistic data. The meeting also discussed the prioritization of capacity building programs particularly on the Stock Assessment to support the future

effective neritic tuna fisheries management which is aligned with the implementation of the adopted RPOA-Neritic Tunas.

- In response to the recommendations, Secretariat in collaboration with TD organized the basic and advance Stock Assessment Training Courses in January and March 2016 under the funding support from Government of Sweden through the SEAFDEC-Sweden project. The training course are focused on general stock assessment to some SEAFDEC Member Countries namely Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar. In addition, Secretariat in collaboration with MFRDMD also conducted the Special Training/Workshop on Stock Assessment of the LOT-KAW using the specific software such as CPUE standardization, A Stock-Production Model Incorporating Covariates (ASPIC)-ver.5, Kobe I (Kobe plot) and Kobe II (Risk assessment) and other relevant software. The training/workshop could come up with some recommendations that would be useful for further stock assessment of the LOT and KAW of the Southeast Asian region. It is also noted that the Genetic studies for LOT and KAW was postponed in 2015 due to some revision of the work plan and process for data collection are needed in order to ensure that good in quantity and quality of samples are used for genetic analysis.

To follow-up the program and the progress of works implemented during the past years as well as to discuss on the results of the Stock Assessment for LOT and KAW based on the country data compilation and massaging by resources person, the SEAFDEC secretariat in collaboration with the MFRDMD plans to organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters on 27-29 June 2016 in Chonburi province, Thailand. It is expected that the Results of Stock Assessment for LOT and KAW including the Risk Assessment will be ones of the key outputs for further submission to the National Coordinator and SEAFDEC Council and ASEAN high-level for consideration and decision on management measures of the LOT and KAW for Sustainable Utilization and conservation.

## **2) Adoption of the Management Measures for Neritic Tunas**

The stock and risk assessment for Longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*) and Kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*) resources were conducted in 2016 based on the assumption that there are two stocks of LOT and KAW in the Southeast Asian waters, i.e., Pacific ocean (FAO fishing area 57) and Indian ocean stocks (FAO fishing area 71). Using the CPUE standardization, ASPIC and Kobe plots, the results of the stock and risk assessment of LOT and KAW are shown in the Annex 1. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SWG-Neritic Tunas, the meeting proposed policy recommendations for further consideration by the SEAFDEC Councils and higher authority under the ASEAN Mechanism. The policy recommendations for LOT and KAW are as follows:

1. Indian Ocean Side of the Southeast Asian Region
  - KAW: TAC should be less than the MSY level (55,380 t). This means that the current catch level (59,800 t) (Average of 2012-2014) should be decreased by 4,400 t.
  - LOT: TAC should be less than the MSY level (37,580 t), This means that the current catch level (43,000 t) (Average of 2012-2014) should be decreased by 5,400 t.
2. Pacific Ocean Side of the Southeast Asian Region
  - KAW: TAC should be less than the MSY level (185,400 t). This means that the current catch level (170,900 t) (Average of 2012-2014) can be increased by 14,100 t.
  - LOT: TAC can be increased to the MSY level (196,700 t). This means that the current catch level (88,200 t) (Average of 2011-2013) can be increased by 108,500 t.

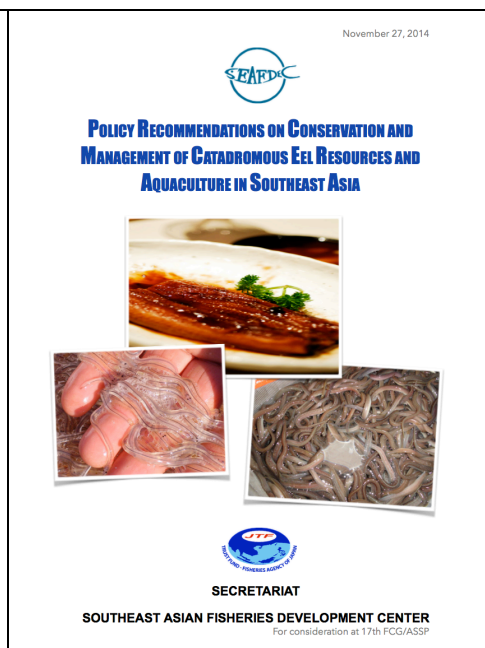
However, the 3<sup>rd</sup> SWG-Neritic Tunas noted that increasing the fishing capacity and efforts may affect to other 2<sup>nd</sup> species and by-catch due to multispecies fisheries concerns.

Taking into accounts, SEAFDEC is not regional fisheries management body, but ASEAN treaty is. Therefore, ASEAN adopted the management measures in May 2017, based on the regional stock assessment would be valuable for shared-stock management at regional and sub-regional levels.

## **B2) Regional Policy Recommendations on Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources and Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture**

Taking into accounts the high demand of catadromous eels from East Asia Country for Un Refer to the 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Program Committee in November 2013 requested SEAFDEC to spearhead the conduct of a study on eel resources - through the collaboration with member countries - covering the following issues: a) Compilation of basic information on eel species in Southeast Asia; b) Research on eel biology; c) Development of eel fishery management measures; and d) Promotion of sustainable aquaculture of eels. In response to this, SEAFDEC organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Technical Meeting on Information Gathering of Eel Resources and Aquaculture Production in Southeast Asia on 27 January 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, with aims to compile information related to eel resources from the wild and status of aquaculture in the Southeast Asian Countries and developed the way forward and future meeting of eel experts of the Southeast Asian Region.

In addition, SEAFDEC also organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Consultation on Development of Regional Policy Recommendation on Sustainable Management of Eel Resources and Aquaculture Production in Southeast Asia in Palembang, Indonesia from 31 August to 1 September 2014. The results from the consultation are the Regional Policy Recommendations and Strategic Actions for the Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources (*Anguilla spp.*) and Sustainable Development of Catadromous Eel Aquaculture in Southeast Asia. Due to the Regional Policy Recommendation and Strategic Actions are one of the regional cooperation, this issues therefore was raised for consideration and endorsement under the ASSP mechanism at the 17FCG/ASSP in December 2014, and later was adopted by the 47CM in April 2015 and later it was endorsed by the 23ASWGFi in June 2015 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.



### **Achievements:**

The 1st Workshop on Enhancement of Sustainability of Catadromous Eels in Southeast Asia was organized by SEAFDEC/IFRDMD on 27-29 April 2016 in Palembang, Indonesia. The Workshop noted the “Policy Recommendations for the Conservation and Management of Catadromous Eel Resources, and Sustainable Development of Catadromous Eel Aquaculture in Southeast Asia,” which was adopted by the SEAFDEC Council at its 47th Meeting in 2015. The Workshop further discussed and agreed on actions that should be undertaken to enhance the sustainability of catadromous eels in Southeast Asian region in the near future.

## **B3) Strategic Plan of Action on Resources Enhancement/Rehabilitation**

Recognizing the need to enhance the fisheries resources in the jurisdictions of the respective Southeast Asian countries as well as their transboundary areas due to the declining and/or over exploitation of several economically important fish stocks and the loss of relevant habitats. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region Towards 2020 adopted in June 2011, stipulated the need for the Southeast Asian countries to “optimize the use of inshore waters through resources enhancement programs such as promoting the installation of artificial reefs and structures, encouraging coordinated and effective planning for coastal fisheries management programs, undertaking environmental impact assessment studies, restocking of commercially important fish species, as appropriate, and give priority to human resources development for the implementation of such programs”. To support ASEAN Member States as aforementioned, SEAFDEC conducted the “Symposium on Strategy for Fisheries Resources Enhancement in the Southeast Asian Region” on 27-30 July 2015 in Pattaya, Thailand with the support from the government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund. The symposium aims to share knowledge and lessons learnt from resources enhancement initiatives undertaken by SEAFDEC and the Southeast Asian countries. The fishery resources enhancement activities discussed in the Symposium focused on 2 themes: 1) Habitat Improvement and Management that includes deployment of artificial reefs, establishment of fisheries refugia, habitat rehabilitation; and 2) Artificial Propagation and Stock Release. During the Symposium, it was also recognized that based on reports, country inputs, resource enhancement through artificial propagation and stock release of the region’s economically important species, is one of the effective approaches that would help protect and restore the aquatic resource habitats and target stocks. The Symposium therefore identified and adopted the Policy Recommendations and Strategic Plan for the Implementation of Fisheries Resources Enhancement Activities in the Southeast Asian region. The Policy Recommendations and Strategic Plan was raised at the 17FCG/ASSP and then later was endorsed by the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council, in April this year. Taking into account the results are aligned with the Program on “Promotion of Sustainable Aquaculture and Resource Enhancement in Southeast Asia” which was endorsed by the 9th AMAF Plus Three Meeting held on 11 November 2009 in Brunei Darussalam and implemented by SEAFDEC during the 2010-2014.

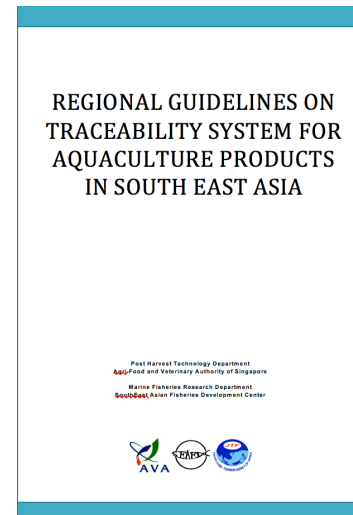
#### **B4) Regional Guidelines on Traceability System for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region**

The Regional Guidelines on Traceability System for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region is the major output of the Japanese Trust Fund V project on Traceability System for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region. The Guidelines had been developed through a series of workshops, participatory and consultative process involving fishery officials from the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries organized under the Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD) Programs. The Guidelines was finalized and adopted by senior fishery officials from Member Countries at the End-of-Project (EOP) Meeting held on 26 – 27 August 2015 in Singapore.

The Guidelines which was drafted based on consensus of and in accordance to the collective inputs and efforts from all the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries will serve as a common platform and reference for Member Countries in their implementation of traceability for aquaculture products. The Guidelines comprise of eleven Chapters and one Annex. The first six Chapters serve as an introduction and includes the background, scope, acronyms, terms and definitions used in the Guidelines, traceability principles, advantages of traceability implementation and the types of traceability systems, to provide a better understanding of the basic elements and focus of the Guidelines; the next two Chapters describe the issues and challenges faced by industry in the region with respect to traceability implementation and recommendations. Chapter IX describes a generic supply chain for aquaculture products which identifies the various stakeholders involved in the aquaculture production, distribution, trade and retail of the aquaculture products

(fish and shrimp). Finally, Chapter X provides the actual guidelines for Member Countries in their implementation of traceability for aquaculture products and highlight where traceability information is critical as well as the responsibilities of individual stakeholders to ensure that traceability along the supply chain is established. The last Chapter XI lists the references used in the Guidelines while the Annex is a listing of competent authorities responsible for implementing and regulating traceability of aquaculture products in the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

At the 18th FCG/ASSP Meeting held in November 2015 in Manila, Philippines, the Guidelines was endorsed without further comments or amendments. At the 48<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting in April 2016, Viet Nam suggested that other aquatic species, e.g. molluscs should also be focused in the implementation of the Regional Guidelines. However, MFRD clarified that under the project, the Member Countries agreed to focus on fish and shrimp. After the discussion, the Council endorsed the **Regional Guidelines on Traceability System for Aquaculture Products in the ASEAN Region** for consideration by the 24th ASWGF and high-level authority of ASEAN to promote and enhance the implementation of traceability system for aquaculture products in the region.



#### **B5) Acute Hepato-pancreatic Necrosis Disease and Other Transboundary Aquatic Animal Health Diseases**

The most serious problems faced by the aquaculture sector are diseases spread and introduced through movements of hatchery produced stocks, new species for aquaculture, and development and enhancement of the ornamental fish trade. The Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) or currently known as Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND) is one of the diseases that resulted in heavy mortalities of cultured shrimp in several Southeast Asian countries, where one million people depend on shrimp aquaculture for their livelihoods. EMS outbreaks resulted in the significant drop in shrimp production in Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam. Last 22-24 February 2016, over 60 delegates representing the technical experts, the ASEAN Member States and Japan, regional and international organizations and private sector gathered in Makati City, Philippines to discuss the EMS/AHPND and other transboundary diseases affecting the Southeast Asian region and how these should be managed to improve aquatic animal health and ensure sustainability of aquaculture operations. This regional meeting assessed the status of AHPND in ASEAN Member States, identified gaps, priority areas for R&D collaboration, regional policy recommendations and enhanced the cooperation among member countries, regional/international organizations and other relevant stakeholders on initiatives that support aquatic animal health.

#### **B6) Regional Approaches for Ensuring the Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication**

In its objectives, the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) explicitly specified the need to promote and sustain the contribution of fisheries to food security and food quality while giving priority to the nutritional needs of local communities. The CCRF also calls for States to protect the rights of fishers and fish-workers, particularly those engaged in subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisheries, and to secure just livelihoods. To further enhance the CCRF objectives in support of small-scale fisheries FAO in collaboration with SEAFDEC and DOF of



Thailand organized in 2008 in Bangkok the Global Conference on Small-Scale Fisheries. Three main priority areas in support of small-scale fisheries were identified. These are: 1) Securing sustainable resource use and access rights; 2) Securing post-harvest benefits; and 3) Securing social, economic and human rights.

The priorities defined in Bangkok in 2008 has been important in framing the development of the “FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines/VGSSF)”. The SSF Guidelines were endorsed at the 31st Session of COFI in June 2014. It should be noted that the SSF Guidelines/VGSSF was developed through global consultation processes that involved more than 4,000 representatives from member governments, small-scale fishers, fish workers and their organizations, researchers, development partners, and other relevant stakeholders representing more than 120 countries in six regional and more than 20 civil-society organization-led national consultative meetings.

The SSF Guidelines/VGSSF has the objective of: a) enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to global food security and nutrition, in order to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, b) contributing to the equitable development of small-scale fishing communities and poverty eradication, to improve the socio-economic situation of fishers and fish workers within the context of sustainable fisheries management, c) achieving sustainable utilization, prudent and responsible management and conservation of fisheries resources consistent with the CCRF and related instruments, d) promoting the contribution of small-scale fisheries to an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for the planet and its people, e) providing guidance that could be considered by States and stakeholders for the development and implementation of ecosystem friendly and participatory policies, strategies and legal frameworks for the enhancement of responsible and sustainable small-scale fisheries, and f) enhancing public awareness and promoting the advancement of knowledge on the culture, role, contribution and potential of small-scale fisheries, considering ancestral and traditional knowledge, and its related constraints and opportunities. The SSF Guidelines/VGSSF clearly states that the objectives should be achieved through the promotion of a human rights-based approach, by empowering small-scale fishing communities – including both men and women, to participate in decision-making processes and to assume responsibilities for sustainable use of fishery resources.

The SSF Guidelines/VGSSF is voluntary in nature, but even if it includes specific focus on the needs of developing countries, it is global in scope. In addition, taking into account the high concentration and importance of small-scale fisheries that continues to provide significant contribution to the national and local economies of the countries in the Southeast Asian region, the regional application of the SSF Guidelines/VGSSF need to be designed to meet the demands of the region. The variety in profiles and the importance of SSF in the region indicates that there is a call for a defined Regional “Approach” for the countries to cooperate, based on national laws and regulations, in support of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines/VGSSF in Southeast Asia. In this perspective employment in fisheries related activities, post-harvest activities, access to local markets and trade, as well as the importance of part-time fishers and the complexity of fisher-folk livelihoods, should be considered in a gender balanced perspective while addressing both inland and marine fisheries.

An initial step to discuss the SSF Guidelines/VGSSF and its applicability to the Southeast Asian region was taken through the organization of the “South East Asia Regional Consultation Workshop on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication” that was held in Bali, Indonesia, on 24-27 August 2015. The Meeting provided an extensive list of recommendations on how to proceed in a Southeast Asian perspective. In connection to this, the 48th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council recommended SEAFDEC to continue the regional dialogue by identifying a Regional

