



**THE ASEAN-SEAFDEC REGIONAL TECHNICAL CONSULTATION**

**ON**

**INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES RELATED ISSUES 2007**

Chiang Mai, Thailand

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**THE SECRETARIAT**

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER**



## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries Related Issues was organized by SEAFDEC Secretariat from 5 to 7 February 2007 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Consultation was held as part of the program on Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism. The program is funded by the Japanese Trust Fund to SEAFDEC.

2. The Consultation was held with the main objectives to review and discuss important international fisheries related issues relevant to the region, develop coordinated/common positions on each respective issue among the Member Countries, and discuss proposed new modality for regional cooperation in addressing international fisheries issues.

3. The Consultation was attended by national delegates from the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Consultation was also attended by the representative from ASEAN Secretariat as well as SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

## **II. OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION**

4. The representative from ASEAN Secretariat, Dr. Somsak Pipoppinyo, delivered a short remark, highlighting importance of the Consultation in discussing fisheries issues of international concerns. According to the outcome of the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF<sub>i</sub>) held from 6 to 8 June 2006, he cited a request made to SEAFDEC in assisting ASEAN in formulating and presenting draft joint ASEAN positions on fisheries issues in international fora for discussion at future ASWGF<sub>i</sub> meetings. He also expressed sincere appreciation to SEAFDEC in making this forum possible.

5. The Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, welcomed all participants to the Consultation. He stated the importance of this Consultation in providing forum for the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries to discuss several international fisheries related issues especially preparation for the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries and the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (CoP-14) Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). He also stressed on the importance of discussion on modality of regional cooperation in addressing international fisheries related issues, which would strengthen existing cooperation among the Member Countries, ASEAN Secretariat and SEAFDEC. His Welcoming Address appears as **Annex 2**.

6. The Consultation adopted the agenda, which appears as **Annex 3**.

## **III. IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL/REGIONAL FORA RELATED TO FISHERIES IN THE YEAR 2007**

7. In view of monitoring and following-up international fisheries issues, which may have potential impacts on fisheries in the ASEAN and SEAFDEC Member Countries, the Consultation took note of the important international/regional events related to fisheries for the year 2007 as follows:

- 27<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries, 5 -9 March;
- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies Secretariat, 12-13 March;
- 39<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting, 4-7 April;
- 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries, 25-27 April;
- 14<sup>th</sup> Session of Conference of Party (CoP14) of CITES, 3-15 June; and
- 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of UN General Assembly, mid 2007.

#### **IV. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE 27<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (COFI)**

8. SEAFDEC Secretariat introduced background of FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and provisional agenda of its 27<sup>th</sup> Session. The Consultation noted that Brunei Darussalam and Singapore are not the members of FAO, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar are members of FAO and COFI, but lack of financial resources to attend the COFI Meetings, while Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam are members of both FAO and COFI, and send their representatives either from national fisheries agency or embassies in Rome to attend the meeting.

##### **4.1 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)**

9. The Consultation recognized the progress made by the Member Countries with supports from SEAFDEC in implementing CCRF including supporting International Plans of Actions (IPOAs), Strategy and Guidelines particularly through the program on Regionalization of CCRF and development of regional guidelines for responsible fisheries in Southeast Asia. The Consultation also emphasized that the regional guidelines could be used as inputs for FAO for future development of initiatives for small-scale fisheries. However, taking into account of a number issues are being addressed under the CCRF, the Consultation raised the following aspects as common concerns:

- Need and support for capacity building in the implementation of CCRF;
- Addressing IUU fishing and overcapacity in Southeast Asia;
- Application of CCRF and supporting IPOAs, Strategy and Guidelines in the context of small-scale fisheries.

10. The Consultation suggested that collaboration between FAO FishCode program and SEAFDEC should be explored to support the Member Countries in further implementing CCRF.

11. Regarding the conduct of FAO's review on progress of implementation of CCRF, the Member Countries were of the view that it should still be conducted every two years. To support the Member Countries in providing regional progress and inputs on the implementation of the CCRF at the FAO meetings, it is suggested that the submission of FAO questionnaire survey by the Member Countries should also be copied to SEAFDEC Secretariat for further compilation and analysis.

12. In recognition of efforts in promoting the implementation of CCRF, SEAFDEC Secretariat informed the Meeting that the Department of Fisheries, Thailand had nominated SEAFDEC for the Margarita Lizárraga Medal Award for the Biennium 2006-2007. In addition, SEAFDEC is preparing a comprehensive information package on the progress and initiatives in the implementation of CCRF done by SEAFDEC and the Member Countries to

be made available at the COFI. The Consultation requested all Member Countries would support SEAFDEC at the next COFI meeting for the nomination.

#### **4.2 Small-scale Fisheries Related Issues**

13. The Consultation noted and supported **social development definition of small-scale fisheries** as well as linking social development and sustainable fisheries by introducing rights-based fisheries approach and co-management. In this regards, the Consultation encouraged Member Countries to share relevant initiatives developed for small-scale fisheries including supplementary guidelines for co-management using group user rights for small-scale fisheries when discussing the issue.

14. The Consultation also discussed approaches that other developing countries and regional fisheries bodies could address issues related to small-scale fisheries at international for a, especially developing of formal dialogues and/or establishment of sub-committee on small-scale fisheries to officiate views from the countries that specializing their fisheries in small scale fisheries at FAO COFI

15. The Consultation suggested that the Southeast Asia Countries would communicate with developing countries in other regions on the results of this Consultation including requesting for their supports prior to and at the next COFI Meeting. The Consultation also requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to initiate similar actions to regional fisheries bodies working on small-scale fisheries. Along this line, SEAFDEC Secretariat will prepare a paper to support the above action.

#### **4.3 Fish Trade Related Issues**

16. The Consultation noted the decisions and recommendations related to fish trade issues made at the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Sub-Committee on Fish Trade held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain from 30 May to 2 June 2006, which will be reported to COFI. Regarding the draft Technical Guidelines for Fish Trade, the Consultation suggested that the regional guidelines on the issue be used as inputs from the region when finalizing such Guidelines.

17. The Consultation noted the adoption of FAO-CITES Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). As a follow-up to that FAO is organizing an Ad-hoc Expert Panel to Evaluate Proposals to CITES from 26 to 30 March 2007. The Consultation identified Mr. Noel C. Barut (the Philippines), Mr. Ahmad B. Ali (Malaysia), Dr. Hansa Chansaeng (Thailand), and Prof. Chou Loke Meng (Singapore) as appropriate experts from the region as requested by FAO. The Consultation requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to coordinate with FAO to obtain names of invited experts from the region and provide them with appropriate background on regional development and consensus.

18. Regarding the application of traceability for small-scale fisheries, the Consultation expressed concern that traceability in capture fisheries was generally developed based on industrialized fisheries context and might not be appropriate to apply in the multi-species fisheries and small-scale fisheries who have limited capacity.

19. Regarding the development of international guidelines on eco-labeling for fish and fishery product particularly for inland capture fisheries, the Consultation suggested that experience from the Mekong River Commission (MRC) could be referred. The Consultation

further requested Sida supported project to SEAFDEC to further explore appropriate and practical approaches in developing such issues particularly for small-scale fisheries in the regional context.

#### **4.4 Aquaculture Related Issues**

20. The Consultation noted the decisions and recommendations related to aquaculture issues made at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Aquaculture held in New Delhi, India from 4-8 September 2006.

21. Considering the future activities to be initiated by FAO particularly the progress made on the implementation of the aquaculture-related provisions of the CCRF and better management of aquaculture in the future, the Consultation supported the development of harmonized shrimp farming standards and review certification procedures for global acceptance and transparency including the guideline on aquaculture certification.

22. The Secretariat informed the Member Countries on FAO meetings which are relevant to aquaculture development in the Region:

- First Expert Workshop on Development of Guidelines for Aquaculture Certification to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 27 to 30 March 2007;
- Global Trade Conference on Aquaculture to be held in Qingdao, China from 29 to 31 May 2007
- A special session on shrimp aquaculture at the 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Fisheries Forum to be held in Kochi, India from 20 to 23 November 2007; and
- Regional Workshop to strengthen the planning and development programme for aquaculture in the Asian Region to be held in late 2007.

23. In this connection, Department of Fisheries, Thailand as a host country informally invited the experts on aquaculture from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries to attend the Workshop, the invitation letter will be sent by Thailand later on. The delegate from Thailand also informed that the Thailand will host the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Sub-committee on Aquaculture in 2010.

24. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries agreed to collaborate and address the issues of concern on sustainable development of aquaculture at the relevant FAO meetings. The representative from Malaysia provided commented that FAO should provide information on the issues of safety and quality that impacts to aquaculture producer and requested other Member Countries to share experiences.

#### **4.5 Outcomes of the Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)**

25. The representative from SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) presented on the Summary Report on the Joint Meeting of Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) (Reference Paper 11) and that included urgent aspects need to be considered by concerned member countries and SEAFDEC. It is stressed that the agreement of all tuna RFMOs can be strengthened and harmonized its approach at the COFI meeting. Supplementary to TD's report, Japan informed the Consultation that FAO reported that most of tuna resources in the world is fully or over-exploited and capacity control was one of the most important topics.

26. Taking note of the reports made, the Consultation encouraged the Member Countries with substantial tuna fisheries to join appropriate tuna RFMOs in order to contribute to the effective management of tunas. While noting that some countries have interests to enter into tuna fishing according to their legitimate rights, the Consultation also called for cautious approach to be taken for further expansion of fishing capacity for tunas taking into account of current status of the world tuna stocks.

#### 4.6 Others

- **SEAFDEC-Sida project on tsunami reconstruction and rehabilitation**

27. The Consultation took note of background and progress of SEAFDEC-Sida project on tsunami reconstruction and rehabilitation presented by SEAFDEC Secretariat. The project addresses on the problems on coastal communities, fishing capacity, maintaining/restore geographical features in coastal area, as well as local knowledge and local organization. The presentation appears as **Annex 4**. In addition, the Consultation also noted the progress and activities made by respective affected Member Countries in the tsunami reconstruction and rehabilitation.

28. The Consultation encouraged the affected Member Countries to provide comprehensive information at the next COFI meeting and also support that establishment of a simple early warning system for coastal fishing communities is of important priority.

- **Sea Turtle Initiative in Southeast Asia**

29. The representative from SEAFDEC Training Department, Mr. Bundit Chokesanguan presented on the background and proposed organizing the Workshop on Assessing the Relative Importance of Sea Turtle Mortality due to Fisheries in Southeast Asia in Bangkok, Thailand from 19 to 23 March 2007. The Workshop is organized in close collaboration with FAO to review the conservation status of the main sea turtle stocks and sources of mortality in Southeast Asia. The prospectus is appeared as **Annex 5**.

30. The Consultation also noted the report of comparative studies between circle hook and J-hook in longline fishing presented by Dr. Somboon Sirilaksophon, indicating that the circle hook, as compared to the J-hook, has higher catch rate of target species and lower by-catch. In addition, the circle hook also show higher performance than the J-hook. The Consultation also acknowledged the progress on studies related to interaction between fishing and sea turtles in Southeast Asia. The Consultation suggested that where appropriate such information should be presented to COFI.

- **Introduction of Non-paper by Japan on Deep Sea Fisheries**

31. The Consultation noted the Non Paper on the Deep Sea Fisheries Issue by Japan on the current development and the Japan's positions on the issue. The Member Countries emphasized the importance to strike the balance between conservation and sustainable use of marine fisheries resources while expressing concerns on the adverse impact on high sea bottom trawls to the vulnerable marine ecosystem. The discussion to tackle these issues should be based on precautionary approach with best scientific evidences. Japan also

informed the Consultation that she would propose a time frame of FAO work on this issue and the Consultation generally supported such idea.

32. The Consultation noted the United Nations General Assembly in its 2006 Resolution (A/61/L.38) called for a management system to avoid significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystem by bottom fisheries rather than moratorium. However, the Consultation expressed concern on applicability of the approach in regional fisheries context and suggested all Member Countries to carefully study the relevant FAO paper and provide appropriate inputs at the next COFI meeting. It was also suggested that the Member Countries should explore the way to support FAO development of alternative approach for deep sea fisheries.

- **SEAFDEC Participation into First Meeting of the Regional Fishery Bodies - Secretariats Network**

33. The Consultation took note of background of RFB meetings and supported participation of SEAFDEC Secretariat in the future RFB meetings. The Consultation also welcomed the proposal by SEAFDEC Secretariat in promoting dialogues among RFBs working on small-scale fisheries in order to identify and package issue of common concerns, exchange of experience on research and study to support the issues at the international fora, and appeal for supports of the sustainable development for small-scale fisheries. However, the Consultation suggested the Secretariat to find appropriate approach and mechanism in coordination among RFBs.

## **V. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA**

### **5.1 Issues under Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**

34. The Consultation took note of the presentation made by the Secretariat on the overview of concerned aquatic species under CITES. Note was made to the proposed proposals at the CITES CoP-14 in relevant to aquatic commercially exploited species, which include proposal submitted by Australia on additional measures on shark, proposal submitted by Germany to include Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) and Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) in CITES Appendix II and the proposal submitted by Kenya on the inclusion of rays in family Pristidae into CITES Appendix I. The Consultation noted information and concern made by MFRD on inclusion of Spiny Dogfish into CITES Appendices as this might affect shark fin trade in Southeast Asia. Other commercially exploited species in relevant to the ASEAN Region are sea cucumbers in family Holothuriidae and Stichopodidae and the proposal on *Corallium* sp. to be listed under CITES Appendix II proposed by the United State of America.

35. The representatives from MFRDMD, AQD and TD presented on the progress and initiatives on related species under international concerns, which are ‘Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles in Southeast Asia and Research for Stock Enhancement for Sea Turtles’; ‘Experience in Stock Enhancement’; and ‘Interaction between Sea Turtle and Fisheries’ respectively as appears in **Annex 6**, **Annex 7** and **Annex 8**.

36. To provide reasonable supporting information to put-up the aquatic species in the listing of Appendix, the Consultation urged SEAFDEC to enhance visibility of the region in

conservation and management of aquatic resources and urged the Member Countries to report the progress on development of NPOAs-shark that should be strengthened and echo at 27COFI. In addition, the coordination with CITES Authority is encouraged to strengthen reporting from shark related agencies of the Countries in the Region. The Consultation emphasized the importance of in-country coordination in order for CITES responsible agency to take into consideration of recommendations of the FAO ad-hoc expert panel to evaluate proposals to CITES.

37. Government of Japan has submitted the proposal on Cetaceans to review of the Appendices all cetaceans in Appendix I that are managed by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and evaluating the listing of these species against the criteria for inclusion of species in Appendix I. In this connection, Japan requested support from the ASEAN Member Countries for the listing of Whale in the Appendix as less scientific information was used in compiling and criteria for amendment.

38. For species of international concerns that are allowed for commercialization, report on the current status of resources should be submitted in timely manner. In this connection, the Meeting addressed on the needs of capacity building for the Member Countries to report on the data on resource population to CITES obligation there is a need for capacity building of the Member countries to assess and check the population and develop certain kind of guidelines to fulfill the obligation and request support from the Japanese Trust Fund.

39. With the view to address and prepare the issues related to commercially exploited aquatic species at the CITES CoP-14, the Consultation agreed on the following:

- Now until the Expert Consultation held by FAO from 26 to 30 March 2007:
  - SEAFDEC in consultation with the Member Countries will identify and providing name of experts on particular species to FAO to participate in the Ad-hoc Expert Consultation to provide technical advise to the Animal Committee of CITES and monitoring the feed back
  - SEAFDEC will also provide support to the Experts that will participate the Expert Meeting to be held by FAO on background and development and common concern/consensus on particular issues and species
- After the Expert Consultation until the 39<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting: SEAFDEC will compile information on progress and position from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries in particular issue will be submitted as well as the agenda to be proposed to the Meeting of ASEAN Expert Group on CITES to be organized in Singapore before CITES CoP-14, and what might be the coordinated position to be voiced at the CoP-14 CITES
- At the 39<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting : SEAFDEC will coordinate and follow-up then submit the outcomes to the next Council Meetings and ASWGFi, in order to establish common coordinated position and bring to CITES CoP14
- The Secretariat will develop the information package and exhibition to express our concern in the region in conservation and management of aquatic species, as well as coordination with the Member Countries in the participation to the CoP-14 CITES

40. While noting that no listing proposal on sea cucumbers will be made at the CoP-14 CITES, the Consultation reaffirmed the need to develop mechanism to assess the population and prepare the region for this species for potential list of the species in the future.

41. The Member Countries reiterated that SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Member Countries should conduct the regional study on data collection, utilization and trade of sea

cucumber fisheries and organize the Expert Meeting on sea cucumbers before CITES CoP-14. This is to prepare and elaborate current status of sea cucumbers in the region and further develop common/coordinated position for Southeast Asia and safeguard the benefit of the region at the CITES fora.

## **5.2 Fisheries Subsidies under WTO**

42. The Consultation took note of progress of development on fisheries subsidies issues under WTO by SEAFDEC Secretariat and Japan.

43. While taking note on the next informal WTO Negotiating Group on Rules that will be organized from 12 to 13 February 2007, the Consultation suggested the Member Countries to conduct careful review of revised proposals by various negotiating groups and provide appropriate inputs considering nature of proposals that is simple, broad-based, accommodative and favorable to developing countries.

44. Thailand delegate expressed that a joint proposal submitted by Japan, Taiwan and Korea to prohibit subsidies that increase fishing capacity of developing countries that account for more than a minimum percentage of the world market share of fish or above a certain weight threshold is very broad, and would support the proposal relies on stock capacity rather than market share. Japan replied that even though it is aware of concern of developing countries on their proposals, it is necessary to have effective disciplines to avoid further deterioration of the world fisheries resources.

## **5.3 Other Issues**

45. The representative from Singapore made a presentation on responsible fishing practices in the region resulted from the 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Official Meeting (SOM) held from 29 to 30 November 2006 in Jakarta, Indonesia, information on the 2<sup>nd</sup> SOM to be held from 22 to 23 March 2007 in Canberra, Australia, and the preparation of a draft Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) to promote Responsible Fishing Practices in regional seas (including South China Sea and Sulu Sea) to be considered at the Regional Ministerial Conference to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in May 2007.

46. The Consultation viewed that the proposed RPOA is too advanced for near future adoption and implementation. Considering that work of SEAFDEC in responsible fishing operations, the Consultation requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to develop a proposal on appropriate regional fisheries management framework for consideration at the next SEAFDEC Council meeting. The Consultation also agreed that SEAFDEC collaborates with APFIC in developing such a proposal.

## **VI. NEW MODALITY FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION IN ADDRESSING INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES ISSUES**

47. The Secretariat introduced the document on proposed new modality for regional cooperation in addressing international fisheries issues (**Annex 9**), providing a brief background and concept of the paper focusing on Terms of Reference of Lead Member Countries, roles and responsibilities of all Member Countries, roles and functions of SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments as well as ASEAN Secretariat.

48. After go through the proposal presented by the Secretariat, the Consultation made several comments on the proposed text and requested SEAFDEC Secretariat to revise the proposal accommodating the comments made for circulation to the Member Countries, SEAFDEC Departments and ASEAN Secretariat for comments. The revised proposal will be submitted to SEAFDEC Council as advance information one month prior to its next meeting for consideration.

## **VII.CLOSING OF THE CONSULTATION**

49. The Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC expressed appreciation to all the participants for their active participation and contribution which enable the Consultation to conclude fruitful outcomes, and declared the Consultation close.



**Annex 1**

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Ms. Saowanee Wanothayaranchai

Mr. Julasak Markawat

Mr. Sonthikarn Soetphannuk

## **OPENING ADDRESS**

*by Dr. Siri Ekmaharaj, SEAFDEC Secretary-General*

Distinguished Delegates from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries,  
ASEAN Secretariat,  
SEAFDEC Senior Officials,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning and see so many familiar faces of ASEAN-SEAFDEC family at this Consultation. Firstly, I would like to express my warmest welcome to you all to the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on International Fisheries Related Issues, in Chiang Mai, which is renowned for its beautiful sceneries and landscape, memorable history, and cultural heritage.

Since 1999, SEAFDEC in collaboration with the Member Countries has conducted the regional program on fish trade and environment under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) mechanism. The program was initiated in response to the importance and impacts of trade to fisheries in the ASEAN region. So far, SEAFDEC has been continuously monitoring the international issues related to fish trade through appropriate channels in order to support the development of fisheries in the region.

Currently, the activities is on-going and executing under the succeeding program entitled “Assistance of Capacity Building in the Region to Address International Trade Related Issues” with funding support from the government of Japan through her Trust Fund to SEAFDEC. The program stresses on the need to effectively safeguard its member countries’ interests and welfare against unfair treatment, which may jeopardize the national or regional fisheries resources sustainability, in line with SEAFDEC Strategic Plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen

To me, this Consultation is another important gathering provides us a chance to review and discuss important international fisheries related issues relevant to the region that we are facing a turning of international situation and that in line with the suggestion made at the 29<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Program Committee Meeting (PCM) held from 4 to 7 December 2006 and the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG) Mechanism held from 7 to 8 December 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand; requesting the Secretariat to keep monitoring international issues and assist the Member Countries for appropriate preparation.

Along that line, there are two importance international events that I would like to emphasize in this year, the first one is the forthcoming 27<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries and the other is CITES CoP14. This RTC aims to allow the Member Countries to discuss, share experiences, formulate policy recommendations and coordinated positions for the Member Countries on each substantive issue in connection to those of FAO and CITES meetings.

Moreover, international fisheries related issues are currently increasing and expanding the scope to various fisheries aspects, it was therefore agreed at the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-SEAFDEC FCG

Meeting that ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries should take leading role in monitoring the progress and proposing joint actions on respective issues of their interests with technical support by SEAFDEC Departments and to be coordinated by SEAFDEC Secretariat. Accordingly, this is a pleasant moment to have your great effort in discussion and conclude new modality for regional cooperation in addressing international fisheries issues. It is expected that the outcome of this Consultation will be submitted to the forthcoming meetings SEAFDEC Council and the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries for their consideration and support.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for your time. I wish you welcome to cooperate towards the goals of this consultation and further strengthen the spirit of Region –and again I wish you all a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Chiang Mai.

At this auspicious moment, I officially declare the Meeting open.

Thank you.

## **PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

- Agenda 1**      Opening of the Consultation
- Remarks by Representative from ASEAN Secretariat
  - Opening Speech by SEAFDEC Secretary-General
- Agenda 2**      Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangement of the Consultation
- Agenda 3**      Background and Introduction of the Consultation
- Agenda 4**      Issues to be addressed at the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of FAO Committee on Fisheries
- 4.7 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF)
  - 4.8 Small-scale Fisheries Related Issues
  - 4.9 Fish Trade Related Issues
  - 4.10 Aquaculture Related Issues
  - 4.11 Outcomes of the Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs
  - 4.12 Others
  - 4.13 Actions by Party Concern
- Agenda 5**      Issues to be addressed at other International Fora
- 5.1 Issues under CITES
  - 5.2 Fisheries Subsidies under WTO
  - 5.3 Other Issues
- Agenda 6**      New Modality for Regional Cooperation in Addressing International Fisheries Related Issues
- Agenda 7**      Adoption of Conclusion, Recommendation and Report of the Consultation
- Agenda 8**      Closing of the Consultation



**SEAFDEC-SIDA PROJECT  
ON  
SUPPORT TO TSUNAMI REHABILITATION OF AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN  
THE ASEAN REGION**

**Program Title:** SEAFDEC-Sida Project on Support to Tsunami Rehabilitation of Affected Countries in the ASEAN Region

**Lead Department:** Secretariat in collaboration with all Departments

**Prospect Funding Agency:** Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

**Duration:** 2007

**Introduction**

During the Seventh Meeting of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group (FCG), Hanoi, Vietnam, 4 April 2005 and the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Council of SEAFDEC, Hanoi, Vietnam, 5 – 8 April, 2005 the ‘ASEAN-SEAFDEC Plan of Action on Its Regional Cooperation for the Rehabilitation and Restoration of Fisheries in ASEAN Tsunami Affected Areas’ were discussed and endorsed based on recommendations provided by the Informal Consultation on SEAFDEC Supports to Fisheries Relief Program for the Tsunami Affected Countries of ASEAN in Hanoi, Vietnam on 3 April 2005. The Plan of Action has also been endorsed by the ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF).

The FCG and Council Meetings, respectively, also endorsed the priority areas for SEAFDEC assistance as identified by the tsunami affected Member Countries. These priority areas are recommended to accommodate common areas of required assistance into existing programs of activity within the available resources or develop them into a new program to appeal to donors for funding supports. The common areas are:

- Assessment of impacts on fisheries resources and eco-system,
- Policy and technical advise on national fisheries rehabilitation policy and action plan, and
- Awareness and capacity building including technical training to support rehabilitation activities and safety at sea.

The Eight Meeting of FCG and the Thirty-Eighth Council Meetings held in Brunei in April 2006, endorsed and expressed appreciation on/to the support from Sida to the tsunami rehabilitation activities, and agreed that sustainable approach should be used in dealing with tsunami rehabilitation, and capacity building activities should be applicable not only for affected countries but for all ASEAN countries.

The Goal and Immediate Objective of the program that has been discussed with, and submitted to, Sida included the support continued rehabilitation and restoration of fisheries and livelihoods of fisher-folk in ASEAN Tsunami affected countries. More specifically the aim is to build up/rebuild capacity for the management of fisheries and important coastal habitats, based on the active involvement of coastal communities including integration of traditional practices and rights-based fisheries in support of poverty alleviation.

## Project Summary

Countries:	ASEAN-SEAFDEC Tsunami Affected Countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand)
Project Area:	The Andaman Sea Region
Sectors:	Aquatic Resources/fisheries, coastal environment and livelihoods
Project Title:	SEAFDEC Activities in Follow up to the Tsunami
Executing Agency:	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
Key Collaborators:	FAO and other CONSRN members (NACA, WorldFish Centre and BOBP-IGO), and ADB in Banda Ache
Keystone:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Restoration and rehabilitation of the coastal importance resources and habitats for sustainable fisheries management and to a better management of fishing capacity through project implementation and coordination among international, regional and institutions at various level, and</li><li>2) Utilization of available local knowledge and practices to establish/develop a simple early warning system and response packages to the natural disaster.</li></ol>
Duration:	Three years
Starting date:	from early 2007 (proposed)
National partners:	Key institution are mainly aquatic resources/fisheries, coastal resources management authorities and local NGO's
National inputs:	Mainly in kind

## Project description:

Fishing and aquaculture households and coastal communities in the region were especially hard hit by the tsunami in December 2004. The impacts caused the death of fisher-folk as well as loss of fishing and aquaculture assets and related onshore infrastructure, both of which have reduced the ability of households to earn income and sustain livelihoods. This has also directly hit the pre-tsunami most vulnerable groups (poor fisher-folk communities, single headed households, illegal migrant workers, and others).

Large efforts have been made by agencies, groups of people, NGO's and international organizations in support of rehabilitation and restoration. During consultations by SEAFDEC with organizations, such as FAO and other CONSRN members and a field visit to Banda Ache, Indonesia, in April 2006, it was made known that important aspects to address include:

- Maintain and restore habitats and coastal features of importance for mitigation against natural hazards and of importance for sustainable fisheries
- Keep monitoring and manage fisheries capacity (reports indicates that there have been an increase in fishing capacity in some areas through the number of boats, gear, etc being provided)

In the process of implementation the basic strategy is to build upon expressed needs and in the wake of the tsunami, to improve management of fisheries, fishing capacity and to better manage coastal environments, including coastal restoration as needed, as a protection against future hazards while at the same time provide an important element to the sustainability of the fisheries by securing important habitats. Capacity will be built to better involve – and listen to – villagers in affected areas.

The general approach to be taken is to pay attention to the interface in moving from restoration and rehabilitation to longer-term management responses. Co-ordination among regional, international and local organizations is another pillar of the project strategy. The task of restoration and rehabilitation involves the co-operation of a range of agencies and institutions at

various levels. This includes institutions that are concerned with environment and conservation issues, as well as those mandated to consider the production and sustainable use of the natural resources and fisheries in the affected countries.

In the process of implementation four main aspects that have been highlighted in various *fora* will be addressed and incorporated in the process:

- The vulnerability of poorer coastal communities to natural hazards and the risk of them being (further) marginalized during the restoration process.
- Fishing capacity – concerns have been raised that in the process of restoration and rehabilitation there seems to be a risk of a potential increase in fishing capacity compared to before the tsunami.
- Maintaining geographical features in the coastal areas, recognizing the importance of features (mangroves, corals, dunes, etc.) in the coastal areas for protection against natural hazards needs to be assessed. As some of these areas are also important habitats to maintain fish productivity plans for their management and conservation should be developed with a view on sustainable fisheries management.
- Local knowledge and local organization: Several reports have pointed at the way in which certain coastal communities, based on their traditional knowledge, were facing less damage than other communities.

The immediate objective is, in the wake of the tsunami, to build up/rebuild capacity for the management of fisheries, fisheries capacity and important coastal habitats in selected areas. Results are to be delivered in four main categories:

1. Management options provided for the sustainable management of fisheries and habitats of importance for fish reproduction and protection against future natural hazards (introduction of the refugia concept).
2. Management of fishing capacity in the post-tsunami rehabilitation addressed.
3. Policy advice, technical advice and awareness raising on fisheries rehabilitation, sustainable fisheries and sustainable development provided.
4. A training programme for safety-at-sea and rescue at sea is initiated and partly implemented through training (of trainers).

Activities have been identified to support achievement of expected results, including activities of regional as well as national nature. Among general regional activities work will be done to develop criteria to identify important areas, identification of areas (refugia) for special management, synthesis and analysis of fisheries situation, establish priorities for restoration and maintenance of geographical features, establish management regimes for identified areas and in various related fields advises will be provided together with attempts to raise the awareness on the need for better management.

With a specific focus on fishing capacity surveys will be done on the actual numbers, sizes, seaworthiness, etc of boats available after the restoration stage and in conjunction an action plan will be developed to address over-capacity and the need to manage fishing effort. In terms of safety-at-sea and sea rescue a training programme will be developed and training for trainers will be provided with a focus on how to deal with natural hazards including integration, as applicable, of local knowledge and responses.

With a more national focus activities will be implemented that would include surveys of local knowledge and actions among ethnic groups and coastal communities in terms of responses to natural hazards and following that providing means of making local knowledge and practices available as input to processes to work out simple early warning system and response packages. In preparing and development of habitat and fisheries management activities will be done to review fisheries management systems in selected areas, to establish system to protect important nursery grounds and spawning areas in areas identified as critical habitats, to provide information on fish stocks conservation and sustainable fisheries practices (including efforts to

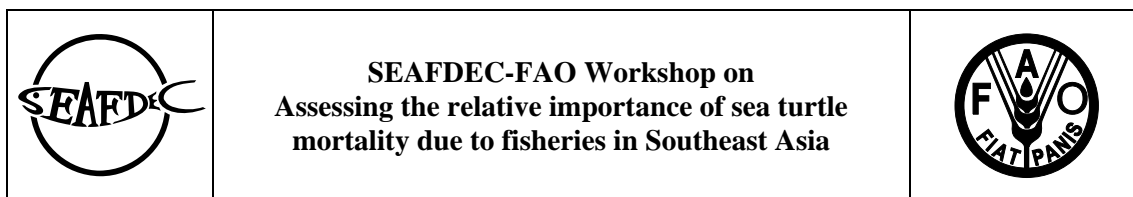
mitigate effects of future natural disasters), to provide information on the importance to maintain coastal features (mangroves, sandy beaches, coral reefs, etc) and to develop and establish management regimes for the identified areas.

## SEAFDEC-Sida Project on activities in follow up to the tsunami

### Proposed First Year (2007) Activities

	M 1	M 2	M 3	M 4	M 5	M 6	M 7	M 8	M 9	M 10	M 11	M 12
Project management												
Inception meetings (regional, Banda Aceh, Thai)												
Regional to first output:												
Develop criteria for significance of specific areas												
Prepare a regional synthesis on state of Andaman fisheries												
Fish stock conservation and sustainable fisheries practices												
Priorities for management of significant areas												
Priorities for rest and maintenance of geographical features												
Criteria and indicators for fish stock cons and protection	Y2											
Priorities and areas to develop a regional system of refugia	Y2											
Management regimes for identified areas	Y2											
Organize training sessions				----	----	----	----	---	---	----	----	----





**Prospectus  
of  
WORKSHOP ON ASSESSING THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF  
SEA TURTLE MORTALITY DUE TO FISHERIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**Bangkok, Thailand  
19 – 23 March 2007**

## **I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), adopted in 1995, calls for a sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems and requires that fishing be conducted with due regard for the environment. The CCRF addresses specifically biodiversity issues and conservation of endangered species and, in so doing, calls for the catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, to be minimised. The CCRF also promotes the maintenance, safeguarding and conservation of biodiversity by minimizing fisheries impacts on non-target species and the ecosystem in general. These concepts were reiterated and reinforced in the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem (2001).

Because of the concern on the status of sea turtles and the possible negative effects of fishing on these populations, the Twenty-fifth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI, 2003) raised the question of sea turtles conservation and interactions with fishing operations, and asked FAO to organize a Technical Consultation on this issue. The Technical Consultation on “Sea Turtles Conservation and Fisheries” was held in Bangkok in 2004 and resulted in a set of “Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations” (Appendix 1) and recommendations (Appendix 2) endorsed by COFI in connection with its 26<sup>th</sup> meeting in March 2005.

In Southeast Asia, all five species of sea turtles occurring in the region are believed to be severely depleted or threatened (FAO 2004) and interactions with bottom trawls, gillnets, longlines, and other types of gear are considered to contribute to these declines.

In response to the international concern, the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) as a regional organization with a leading role in fisheries development in Southeast Asian Region, has been implementing a project “Research for stock enhancement of sea turtle” under the program on Research and development of stock enhancement for species under international concerns” since the year 2005. The project activities cover several research areas including DNA and tissue study, tagging, study on satellite telemetry, head-staring technique, and study on interaction between sea turtles and fisheries. Reducing fisheries impacts on sea turtles and enhancing sea turtle populations are presently key issues for SEAFDEC in its efforts to develop sustainable fisheries in Southeast Asia.

Therefore SEAFDEC in collaboration with FAO will organise a regional workshop on assessing the relative importance of sea turtle mortality due to fisheries in Southeast Asia. This

workshop is organized within the framework of the Japanese Trust Fund Program of SEAFDEC and the FAO project GCP/INT/919/JPN “Interactions between Sea Turtles and Fisheries within an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management”. The participating countries will be from Southeast Asia. Participants from other relevant regional organisations such as IOSEA, IUCN, WWF are also warmly invited.

The workshop consists of two main activities namely; 1) Collation of data and information on sea turtle occurrence, natural and man-induced mortality, and 2) Modelling, to assess the relative importance of the various sources of mortality and particularly of fishery-related mortality. This workshop will attempt to provide information on the relative importance of the various threats. Furthermore, given that sea turtle populations are distributed throughout the region, a regional approach, such as the one adopted by this workshop, is essential.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

In collaboration with fisheries research institutes and relevant NGOs, and in view of identifying the relative importance of fishery related mortality as compared to other natural and man-induced sources of mortality the workshop will:

- review the conservation status of the main sea turtle stocks in Southeast Asia
- review the regional situation of sea turtle by-catch in coastal and offshore fisheries
- review fisheries management actions and tools to reduce sea turtle mortality
- collate sea turtle population data, including distribution, main sources of man-made and natural mortality
- estimate the relative importance of fishery-related mortality through modelling
- identify data gaps and advise on sampling programmes to improve the information base

## **III. OUTPUTS**

At the end of the workshop participants will:

- Have exchanged information on sea turtle populations status and sources of mortality
- Have a better insight of the relative importance of the various threats on sea turtle population
- Be in a better position to provide advice to fishery authorities as regards possible management measures that may reduce sea turtle interactions and/or mortality.

## **IV. TENTATIVE AGENDA**

1. Presentation of country reviews of sea turtle conservation work in the region
  - Brunei Darussalam
  - Cambodia
  - Indonesia
  - Malaysia
  - Myanmar
  - Philippines
  - Thailand
  - Vietnam
2. Review fisheries management tools to reduce interactions with sea turtles
  - 2.1) Implementation of Turtle Excluder Devices in Southeast Asia
  - 2.2) Implementation of Circle hook in longlining
3. Data/information available by country
4. Integration of data/ information available into a model
5. Modelling and results

## V. PARTICIPANTS

A crucial factor for the success of the workshop is the careful selection of the participants. Keeping in mind the overall objectives, the participants should be persons that have: an extensive knowledge of fisheries of their countries; extensive knowledge and experience with sea turtle conservation programmes, including reduction of fishery related mortality.

Participants should be employed by relevant national fisheries or environmental institutions or affiliated Universities or non-governmental Organizations.

**Each country is required to prepare a paper on sea turtle conservation and main sources of mortality and provide any relevant data on sea turtles occurrence and mortality.** A schema of the paper and data requirements and formats will be forwarded to nominated participants.

*Support:* Two candidates will be supported for each of the following countries Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Other countries, partners, organisations or additional country applicants are welcome to participate at their own cost. All participants will be required to source their visas from their home country.

Nominations of participants for support, which are to be received from national fisheries authorities, should be sent to:

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SEAFDEC Training Department  
PO Box 97 Phrasamutchedi  
Samutprakan 10290 Thailand  
Email: [bundit@seafdec.org](mailto:bundit@seafdec.org)

with a copy to

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**Annex 6**

**CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SEA TURTLES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA  
AND  
RESEARCH FOR STOCK ENHANCEMENT FOR SEA TURTLES**

*Presented by Ms. Mahyam Bt. Mohd. Isa, Senior Research Officer  
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