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منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Intersessional Meetings of Aquaculture and Fisheries Subject Groups - Joint Session

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SEAFDEC activities report to CWP

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I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Since 1978, SEAFDEC has been undertaking initiatives in compiling fishery statistics from the Member Countries bordering the South China Sea Area. Harmonization of data is vital in facilitating the exchange and compilation of fishery statistics at regional and international levels. Therefore, SEAFDEC developed the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia including the “standard definitions and classifications” harmonized with the international standards and “area of coverage” and “statistical usage” consistent with the areas of competence of SEAFDEC. The framework has been applied since 2008 for the compilation of fishery statistics from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs).

Nevertheless, after 2008, several new statistical standards were developed by the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP). In 2017, SEAFDEC organized the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Fishery Statistics and Information in Southeast Asia to update the Southeast Asian countries on the recent developments made by the CWP on new global frameworks and standards related to fishery statistics.. It was agreed that after the adoption of the new CWP standards (*i.e.* at the 26th Session of the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) in 2019), SEAFDEC should organize a meeting among the members of the ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics to revise the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia. Upon the recommendations of Consultation, SEAFDEC plans to organize a series of RTCs to consult the AMSs on the revision of different parts of the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia, including the addition of statistics on fish trade and fish processing for regional compilation.

II. PROGRESS OF FISHERY STATISTICS ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

SEAFDEC continued coordination with the AMSs to support their submission of national statistics for regional/international compilation, while also followed-up on the progress on discussion on fishery statistics and information at the international levels as part of its regular works. Specifically in 2021, SEAFDEC attended in the Coordinating Working Party (CWP) Task Group Meeting on Catch Concept and Fishing Effort (6 July 2021, online meeting), FIRM Technical Working Group on the Global Record of Stock and Fisheries (30 September and 1 October 2021), the 12th FIRM Steering Committee (18-21 October 2021), and

the CWP Intersessional Meeting (2-5 November 2021, online meeting) to share view situation on fishery statistics of the region.

In 2021, SEAFDEC also organized the First Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics and Information in Southeast Asia on 21-22 September 2021. The Consultation was attended by members of the ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics from AMSs, and representative from FAO. The Consultation focused on revision of the Regional Framework for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia in the part of the Explanatory Notes, inclusion of statistics on fish processing and statistics on fish trade (export and import) for regional compilation, overall workplan for revising the Regional Framework, as well as update on the progress made and difficulties faced by the AMSs in reporting of fishery statistics. During the discussion, while agreeing on future compilation by SEAFDEC of statistics on fish processing, and statistics on fish trade (export and import), the Consultation also raised the following specific recommendations for improving the Regional Framework and statistics to be compiled by SEAFDEC, which would be finalized after the Consultation, or to be discussed during the future Consultations:

- Updating sub-areas of the respective countries under FAO Fishing Areas
- Updating of the definition of terms by the respective AMSs, *e.g.* small-scale fisheries
- Possible categorization of fish workers and fish farmers as “national workers” and “foreign workers”
- Possible expansion of statistics on ornamental fishes to cover additional species, *e.g.* ornamental aquatic plants
- Possible categorization of inland fishing areas (04) by habitats
Possible inclusion of data on per capita fish consumption of the respective AMSs

During the discussion, the Consultation was informed that FAO is currently compiling the statistics from countries using the “Form for reporting statistics on international trade of fishery and aquaculture commodities (FISHSTAT-FTR).” In this connection, the AMSs asked SEAFDEC to communicate with FAO to share the data of the countries that provided the required statistics to FAO.

In addition, during this year, SEAFDEC also prepare the publication “Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022”, by making use of the fishery statistics compiled by SEAFDEC as well as some statistics data of FAO, as well as data from research studies, and other available sources. The publication is expected to be available by April 2022.

III. SEAFDEC AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Based on the foregoing account of SEAFDEC programs and activities, it is clear that SEAFDEC has always been working towards the sustainability of fisheries in the Southeast Asian region. The various significant outputs from such SEAFDEC programs and activities are in line with targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), more particularly the SDG14. Through its Secretariat and technical Departments, SEAFDEC implemented programs and activities aiming at development of regional/national policies serve as guides for the Southeast Asian Countries in the sustainable development of their respective fisheries, especially to support the understanding on status of some transboundary species, *e.g.* Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the ASEAN Region (RPOA-Neritic tunas), Regional Action Plan for Management of Transboundary Species: Indo-Pacific Mackerel on the Gulf of Thailand sub-region, etc. Meanwhile, there are activities of SEAFDEC that respond to the other SDGs *e.g.* Gender Dimension in the Value Chain of Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast as supported by FAO which is along the targets of SDG 5, Small-scale Fisheries Management for Better Livelihood and Fisheries Resources along the line with SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 5, and SDG 8, Enhancing Food Safety and Competitiveness of Seafood Products which is along the line with the targets of SDG 2 and SDG 12, among others

While fishery statistics is an important basis for countries in monitoring their achievement of SDG goals and respective target in the future, SEAFDEC also collaborated with FAO in supporting the AMSs to attain the SDGs, *e.g.* through capacity building on stock assessment and development of appropriate reference point for small-scale fisheries. Furthermore, SEAFDEC recently has on-going discussion with the FAO on the

possibility of SEAFDEC in supporting collection of research and datasets from Southeast Asia in support of SDG 14.4.1 through identifying and record on OpenASFA.