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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

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Report: SEAFDEC

SEAFDEC SUMMARY PROGRESS REPORT ON FISHERY STATISTICS AND INFORMATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN REGION

Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics, Twenty-second Session

Rome, Italy, 26February – 2 March 2007

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II. Introduction

SEAFDEC has been provided assistance to the ASEAN Member Countries in the implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action adopted at the Millennium Conference in 2001, the priority issues on the necessity to improve fishery statistics and information systems as a tool for planning and management of fisheries was highlighted as an important basis and prerequisite to tackle with the various problems toward the sustainable fisheries and food security.

In form of collaboration for strengthening capacity in implementing statistics activities, SEAFDEC established collaboration with the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) in September 2004 with endorsement of the SEAFDEC Council during its 36th Meeting. The collaboration is envisaged to benefit to the Member Countries in allowing SEAFDEC to improve quality of fishery statistics and enhance the development and harmonization of common definitions, classifications and internal standards in the region under SEAFDEC's area of competence as well as to obtain technical advice on fishery statistical matters. It is further envisaged that the collaboration would also encourage the streamlining process of submission of fishery statistics from Member Countries to FAO and SEAFDEC.

A. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES SINCE CWP 21

Since CWP 21 in March 2005 and in 2006, SEAFDEC continued the implementation on fishery statistics and information activities in collaboration with the Member Countries as follows.

1. Visit of FAO officials in June 2005

On 10 June 2005, FAO officials, Dr. Richard Grainger and Mr. Shunji Sugiyama, visited SEAFDEC Secretariat in order to discuss the follow-up actions from CWP21 and FAO-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on the Improvement of Fishery Data and Information System held in Bali as well as other issues related to fishery statistics. The issues discussed are as follows:

- The new Framework of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin in Southeast Asia;
- The proposed change of geographical areas for reporting of fishery statistics of Indonesia and Malaysia of the demarcation between the Fishing Area 71 and 57, to be consistent with the national reporting system, and considering the EEZ of the relevant countries;

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- The termination of the MoU between FAO and SEAFDEC in compilation of tuna fisheries statistics for the South China Sea Area (Fishing Area 71). The Secretariat had prepared an official letter and sent to FAO in order to formally terminate the MOU.

2. Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics

The Consultation was organized from 18-21 October 2005 in Thailand with the objectives to identify future directions to be undertaken in improving fishery statistics and information in the region; to finalize the regional guidelines on fishery statistics as well as proposal for new framework of Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia; and to enhance cooperation among SEAFDEC and Member Countries through the ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics.

- *Regional Guidelines on Fishery Statistics*

Draft Guidelines was in principle adopted by the Consultation to be further promoted as a regional reference to support the improvement of national fishery statistical system of the Member Countries. However, in the process of finalization, the Consultation requested further actions on revising the regional understanding of key terminologies reflecting specific fisheries situation in the region as well as investigating consistency of terms used.

In addition, the highlighted priority issues covered disseminating the Regional Guidelines to agencies concerned of countries in the region and raising awareness on the role of fishery statistics in planning and management of fisheries to high-level authorities to ensure their understanding and support.

- *Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia*

The Consultation generally agreed to the new framework, which will be finalized and published as a handbook to be used as a reference to facilitate future data compilation for 2005 onward. The Consultation requested SEAFDEC to take into account on the following issues;

Geographical Areas – confirming the proposed adjustment of the geographical area of the Area 57 and 71 between the border of Indonesia and Malaysia. SEAFDEC would further follow-up with Indonesia and Malaysia, and propose the change to the next Meeting of CWP for formal modification. The Consultation also supported that fishery production of Vietnam will be reported under the Fishing Area 71.

Sub-sectors of Aquaculture – should be divided into: 1) Mariculture/Coastal Aquaculture, and 2) Freshwater Aquaculture, based on ecological characteristics and species. The Secretariat would further collaborate with the SEAFDEC/AQD and the CWP Sub-group for Issues in Aquaculture and Statistics to verify the definition and classification.

- *Fish Trade Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia*

The Bulletin was developed in response to the direction given during the 37th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council. The statistics should be in accordance with users' requirement, and support fisheries policy planning. It was suggested that SEAFDEC should coordinate with ASEAN Secretariat to make use of the existing fish trade statistics classification system and

data. The classification of fishery commodity under the Bulletin would depend on the availability of data from Member Countries, and the necessity for management purposes.

- *ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics*

The Consultation suggested that members of the ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics should be expanded for SEAFDEC, FAO and ASEAN Secretariat, considering their close linkages of the work; and encouraged close coordination among Network members to enhance regional cooperation on Fishery Statistics and Information. At the initial stage, the Network should be mobilized to accommodate the situations of ASEAN Member Countries into the Regional Guidelines and the new Framework of Fishery Statistical Bulletin, as well as to provide inputs to SEAFDEC to appropriately reflect the tropical fishery situation in the CWP. The Consultation agreed to streamline the National Focal Point both to FAO and SEAFDEC through appropriate communication to the policy-makers of the ASEAN Member Countries.

Apart from the mentioned issues, the Consultation also took note on the termination of the MoU between FAO and SEAFDEC on Collaboration of Tuna Fishery Statistics for the South China Sea Area (FAO Fishing Area 71), as well as the proposed establishment of the SEASOFIA.

3. Visit of an FAO official in August 2006

On 17 August 2006, an FAO official, Dr. Tsuji Sachiko, Senior Fishery Statistician visited SEAFDEC Secretariat in order to discuss:

1. Finalization of the Framework of the new Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia
2. Streamline reporting of fishery statistics from the Member Countries to FAO and SEAFDEC
3. Collaboration in the promotion in the implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics, and indicators in Southeast Asia
4. Preparation of issues for the discussion at the 22nd Session of CWP

Discussion and conclusions

- *Background and Introduction*

- SEAFDEC informed the Meeting of previous activities of SEAFDEC related to fishery statistics in the Southeast Asian region, including: production of Fishery Statistical Bulletin in the South China Sea Area; workshops and meetings to improve regional fishery statistics; activities under the Special 5-year program (2002-2005) in capacity building on fishery statistical systems and mechanisms in CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam) countries; overall improvement of fishery data and information system through the promotion of implementation of the Supplementary Guidelines on Fishery Statistics and Indicators; and the current initiative in improvement of the framework and geographical coverage of the fishery statistical bulletin of Southeast Asia.

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- *Finalization of the Framework of the new Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia*
 - SEAFDEC informed the Meeting of the major changes in the new framework for fishery statistical bulletin as follows:
 1. Change in geographical coverage to cover Southeast Asia (all ASEAN countries), and the boundary between Fishing Area 57 and 71 (for Indonesia and Malaysia)
 2. Change in species classification to be in-line with ISSCAAP (Year 2000) for species found in the region
 3. Change in classification of “Disposition of Fishery Production” and “Processed Fish Products” – currently FAO collect the data on “disposition”, while SEAFDEC collect on both.
 - Updated definition and classification of the following items:
 1. Small-scale and large-scale fisheries – based on definitions provided by each country
 2. Fishers and farmers
 3. Fishing gears – to be in-line with international standard, but changing the term to be understandable and applicable for the region
 4. Fishing boats – difficult to be in-line with international standards, as most countries classified into boat length (meter), engine (with/without), and size of engine (gross tonnage).
 - FAO informed the Meeting that FAO is now trying to adjust the international standard for classification of fishing **gears** and **vessels** to facilitate data collection at a global level.
 - FAO also informed the Meeting of FAO intention in improving statistics on fishing vessel and list of High Sea Fishing Vessels to support management of fisheries incorporating fishing capacity control, particularly for the High Sea.
 - *Streamline reporting of fishery statistics from the Member Countries to FAO and SEAFDEC*
 - After finalization of the new SEAFDEC bulletin framework; SEAFDEC would seek for further harmonization of the questionnaires with those of FAO in order to avoid duplication of effort of Member Countries in providing data, and to fasten the compilation process.
 - The Meeting noted many points to be considered in finalizing the scheme (working process, channel, timeframe) for countries to provide data.
 - Ms. Tsuji agreed to discuss this issue within FAO and come up with a proposal of work plan to further discuss with SEAFDEC.
 - *Collaboration in the promotion in the implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics, and indicators in Southeast Asia, under Projects of Fishery Statistics, and Fishery Indicators of SEAFDEC; and FishCode STF Project of FAO;*
 - SEAFDEC and FAO generally agreed to collaborate in activities/pilot projects etc. to enhance the use of fishery statistics and indicator to support fisheries management in the region. Ms. Tsuji agreed to investigate the existence of field activities plans within FAO in this region.

- *Preparation of issues for the discussion at the 22nd Session of CWP (March 2007)*
- The Meeting took note of issues from SEAFDEC to be proposed/discussed at the next CWP Meeting as follow:
 1. Proposal on the adjustment of the geographical areas for reporting of fishery statistics of 57 and 71 between border of Indonesia and Malaysia;
 2. New framework of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia
 3. SEAFDEC inputs on behalf of the region, based on AQD experience, to assist development and improvement of aquaculture statistics;
 4. Collaboration in the promotion in the implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics, and indicators in Southeast Asia, under Projects of Fishery Statistics, and Fishery Indicators, and other fisheries information related projects of SEAFDEC; with the FishCode STF Project of FAO.

4. The Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics, Information and Indicators, 27-29 November 2006, Bangkok, Thailand

The Meeting came up with conclusion and recommendation: Future Actions and Collaboration. The Meeting suggested the following areas to be undertaken by SEAFDEC and Member Countries in improving fisheries statistics, information and indicators, and their usage for fisheries planning and management:

- **Support implementation of Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia**
 - SEAFDEC should provide technical support Member Countries in implementation of Guidelines at national level.
 - Level of implementation would depend on readiness of the countries and relevancy of issues. Support from high-level authority of ASEAN is also required in implementation of the Guidelines.
- **Investigate and promote linkages among fishery-related statistics, data, information and indicators for usage in development planning and management**
 - At national level, by initiating communication and linkages among key government agencies and the industry concerned.
 - At regional level, mechanisms to coordinate/harmonize approaches in improvement and usage of quality fishery data and information should be developed.
- **For fishery statistics continue to streamline framework for Regional Statistical Bulletin**
 - To facilitate data sharing with emphasis on support to be given to countries to meet minimum requirements for usage for fishery planning and management
 - To continue streamlining the statistics reporting with FAO and the Member Countries
 - To coordinate with CWP and the Member Countries in the development of norms, standards and classification including those of aquaculture

Immediate future actions and collaboration

- *Development of National and Regional Status and Trends of Fisheries of Southeast Asia (STF)*

SEAFDEC to explore further the initiative to support the Member Countries in developing the national status and trend of fisheries (STF) by utilizing available fishery statistics, related data and information/databases, and indicators as well as other concerned fisheries issues of the country. The development process for publication will facilitate coordination among agencies concerned and industries to improve and maximize the usage of data and information to support development planning and management. The national status and trend could also provide basis for to facilitate data and information exchange and sharing in the region.

- *Establishment of Regional Scientific Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management*

SEAFDEC to explore possibility and process to be undertaken for the establishment of the Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management. It is envisaged that the Committee could also be mobilized for production of the national STF.

5. Progress in implementation of the project on “Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region” (2006-2010)

The overall objective of the project objective is to improve better understanding and knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture in the region as a basis for development planning and management through effective management of statistics and information systems and capacity building. The specific objectives are to: 1) develop strategies and initiatives to support improvement on the use of fishery statistics, data and information for management and planning of fisheries and aquaculture; and 2) promote statistics and information sharing and usage among the Member Countries through compilation of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the Southeast Asian Region.

The project will support the Member Countries in achieving sustainable fisheries objectives based on sound fisheries policies and management strategies that will be derived from quality statistics, data and information. The project aimed to improvement of better usage and linkages of fishery statistics, data and information at national level in terms of quality, availability, reliability, accuracy and timeliness of statistics and other data and information in line with the minimum requirements and the regionally standardized definitions and classifications for fishery statistics to facilitate regional compilation, analysis and data exchange, as well as ways and means to present information in user-friendly manner for management and decision-making.

The project have the linkage with other projects related to data and information in fisheries by providing guidelines and HRD for sustainable national fishery statistical systems to support development and management planning and actions as well as effective usage of statistics, data and information. In addition, the project introduces the use of statistical data to understand status and trend of fisheries and provides linkages and coordination between routine and non-routine data collection.

Progress of Activities in the year 2006

Project/Activity Title	Duration	Remarks
1. Development of guidelines and standards		
<p><i>1.1 Development of regional guidelines on fishery statistics in the ASEAN Region</i></p> <p>- Finalize the draft and published the Supplementary Guidelines for Fisheries Management: Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics</p>	Jan.- March 2006	Completed, The Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics was published as part of the Supplementary Guidelines on Co-Management Using Group User Rights, Fishery Statistics, Indicators and Fisheries Refugia in March 2006
<p><i>1.2 Development of minimum requirement on fishery statistics and harmonization of standard definitions and classification for fishery statistics in Southeast Asia</i></p> <p>- Revise the framework particularly the Classifications and Definitions under the new framework of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia and circulate the revised version to the Member Countries for Comment</p>	Jan-Dec. 2006	80% The final draft of the Framework is under preparation to accommodate comments from the Member Countries
2. Streamline reporting of fishery statistics from the Member Countries to FAO and SEAFDEC:		
<p><i>2.1 Streamline reporting of fishery statistics from the Member Countries to FAO and SEAFDEC through harmonized questionnaires</i></p> <p>- Based on the new SEAFDEC bulletin framework; SEAFDEC will seek for further harmonization of the questionnaires with those of FAO in order to avoid duplication of effort of Member Countries in providing data, and to fasten the compilation process.</p>	Jan-Dec. 2006	70% The preparation of questionnaire of SEAFDEC to be streamlined with FAO is going on
3. Capacity Development		
<p><i>3.1 Regional Expert Meeting on fishery statistics and information to identify important/ priority areas and issues for future actions</i></p> <p>- With the concern to improving quality of statistics, data and information and maximizing the usage for planning and management of fisheries in the ASEAN Region based on various projects/programs and initiatives developed and implementing in the region, the Expert Meeting was conducted from 20-22 November 2006 in Bangkok. The Meeting aimed to discuss and exchange view and experience among the experts and come up with priority issues, directions and recommendations as well as future actions to promote better collection and maximizing the usage of fishery statistics, data and information for planning and management of fisheries. In addition, the outcomes will be use as basis for formulation of the project/program in relation to fisheries data and information for future funding support.</p>	20-22 November 2006	Completed
4. Information Dissemination		
<p>4.1 Annual compilation of regional fishery statistical bulletin for the Southeast Asian region focusing on data required for supporting development planning and management of fisheries</p>	Jan.-Dec.	Completed

6. Progress in implementation of the project on “Towards Better Utilization and Harmonized Information for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (2007-2009)”

Goal and Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to improve better understanding and knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture in the region by maximizing usage of data and information for fisheries management, which can be achieved through development of status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture in the region based on effective utilization and harmonization of information for fisheries management at national level under the harmonized definitions, standards and classification of fishery statistics at regional level. The specific objectives are as follows:

- 1) To improve better knowledge of fisheries for development planning and management through development of status and trend of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia;
- 2) To streamline reporting of fishery statistics from the member countries to SEAFDEC and FAO through the new framework of SEAFDEC Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia;
- 3) To harmonize definitions, standards, and classification of fishery statistics and information to facilitate data sharing and exchange in the region;
- 4) To improve better utilization and harmonize information from projects implemented by SEAFDEC for fisheries management in Southeast Asia; and
- 5) To enhance capacity of the member countries in development, integration and maximizing usage of data and information for development planning and management of fisheries through the process, mechanism and outputs to promote in country coordination and inter-countries coordination based on dialogues among agencies and countries concerned.

Expected output in the year 2007

1. Bulletin framework developed;
2. Streamlined data reporting from the member countries to SEAFDEC, FAO and ASEAN Secretariat, including the harmonized questionnaires;
3. Norms/standards definitions and classifications of fishery statistics and information better harmonized, and issues/areas of regional uniqueness and specification harmonized at regional and international levels;
4. Report on the in-depth study on issues of regional importance i.e. small-scale fisheries, fish trade, IUU, aquaculture, etc; and
5. Better utilization and harmonized information from projects implemented by SEAFDEC relevant to fisheries management in Southeast Asia.
6. Framework/concept, process, and mechanism for production of STF from 3 pilot countries to be applied at regional level and other countries in Southeast Asia.

Proposed Activities for the year 2007

- Component 1: Streamline reporting of fishery statistics from the Member Countries to FAO and SEAFDEC through the new framework and harmonized questionnaires
- Component 2: Harmonization of Standards/norms, Classification and Definition of Fishery Statistics and Information in the Region
- Component 3: Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture

B. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Based on the recommendation made during the RTC on Fishery Statistics in 2005, the issues to be consulted with CWP in technical aspects to further inform to SEAFDEC Member Countries are as follows.

1. *Modification of geographical areas*

The proposed adjustment of the geographical areas 57 and 71 between border of Indonesia and Malaysia was confirmed during the RTC. The demarcation line of those areas for the Malaysian water in the Malacca Strait uses demarcation of east and west coast Peninsular Malaysia. The report of fishery production of Vietnam under the area 71, using the Vietnam-China boundaries in the Tonkin Gulf, was also supported by the Consultation. The issue on formal modification will be submitted for the consideration of CWP22.

2. *Issues in aquaculture statistics*

As part of Framework of Fishery Statistical Bulletin, the details of aquaculture statistics still need to verify. The Consultation suggested SEAFDEC to consult with CWP on classification and definition of aquaculture sub-sectors to be along the line with regional specificity. As far as discussed, the sub-sector of aquaculture in the region, for statistics purpose, should be divided into a) mariculture/coastal aquaculture and b) freshwater aquaculture. Besides, type/method of aquaculture needs clarification including the linkage between international and regional classification.

3. *Classification and definition*

In relevant to the Framework, the statistics on *price of fresh fish, fish processing, and disposition of fishery production* will be presented. To be in line with the international standard, it was suggested to seek the views from CWP on classification and definition of fish processing as well as disposition of fishery product (or disposition of catch) due to such information unavailable in CWP Handbook. Definition of price is another issue needs appropriate development considering the usefulness of data.

4. *Streamlining of reporting of fishery statistic to FAO and SEAFDEC*

As FAO and SEAFDEC will be jointly develop an integrated questionnaire and a common work timeframe based on FAO requirements and the Minimum Requirements and Framework for Fishery Statistics in the Southeast Asian Region, SEAFDEC would like to have advise and suggestion from the CWP on the issues of streamline reporting of fishery statistics as well as between FAO and other RFBs.

5. *Collaboration of ASEAN Network on Fishery Statistics*

During the RTC, issue on member of the Network was discussed to be expanded for FAO and ASEAN Secretariat. It was requested FAO and ASEAN Secretariat to nominate appropriate staff to be the Network member. The Network should be mobilized to provide inputs to SEAFDEC to appropriate reflect the tropical fishery situation in the CWP.

Based on the recommendation made during the Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics, Information and Indicators, 27-29 November 2006, the issues to be consulted with CWP in technical aspects to further inform to SEAFDEC Member Countries are as follows.

1. *Support implementation of Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics of Southeast Asia*
2. *Investigate and promote linkages among fishery-related statistics, data, information and indicators for usage in development planning and management*

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3. *For fishery statistics continue to streamline framework for Regional Statistical Bulletin*

Immediate future actions and collaboration

- *Development of National and Regional Status and Trends of Fisheries of Southeast Asia (STF)*
- *Establishment of Regional Scientific Advisory Committee for Fisheries Management*

C. PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION

1. *New framework of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia*
2. *SEAFDEC inputs on behalf of the region, based on the Aquaculture Department (AQD) experience, to assist development and improvement of aquaculture statistics;*
3. *Collaboration in the promotion in the implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Fishery Statistics, and indicators in Southeast Asia, under Projects of Fishery Statistics, and Fishery Indicators, and other fisheries information related projects of SEAFDEC; with the FishCode STF Project of FAO.*
4. *Collaboration based on the proposed activities of the project on “Towards Better Utilization and Harmonized Information for Fisheries Management in Southeast Asia (2007-2009)”, SEAFDEC would like to invite and welcome cooperation from the CWP and the RFBs Members, and FAO(including projects initiatives e.g. FishCode-STF) in particular on the following activities:*

Component 1: Streamline Reporting of Fishery Statistics from the Member Countries to FAO and SEAFDEC under the new framework of SEAFDEC Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia

Activity 1.1: Streamline Reporting of Fishery Statistics from the Member Countries to key partner agencies and SEAFDEC through harmonized questionnaires

Activity 1.3: Regional Workshop on Fishery Statistics Reporting to SEAFDEC and FAO

To ensure the common understanding on the new framework of SEAFDEC Bulletin as a framework to facilitate long-term improvement of fishery statistics at the national level as well as the minimum requirement targets as a basic data set to facilitate timely provision of quality fishery statistics compiled at regional level, the Regional Workshop on Fishery Statistics Reporting will be conducted. In addition, to facilitate the member countries in providing fishery statistics to SEAFDEC and FAO through the new harmonized questionnaire, capacity building to the focal point from each Member Countries will also be conducted for data reporting in this workshop.

Component 2: Harmonization of Standards/Norms, Classification and Definition of Fishery Statistics and Information in the Region

Activity 2.1: Conduct in-depth study on issues of regional importance

To start project activity in harmonization of standards, norms, classification and definition of fishery statistics and information in the region, the in-depth study on issues of regional importance will be first conducted particularly on small-scale fisheries, fish trade, IUU, aquaculture, etc.

Component 3: Status and Trends of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Southeast Asia (STF)

To develop status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture in the region as basis for development planning and management of fisheries, 3 pilot countries will be selected for this development including the process and mechanism to be conducted. Those are a country that has advance development of fishery statistics and information such as Thailand or Malaysia, a country that inland fisheries play very important role such as Cambodia, or Lao PDR, or Myanmar, and another one country that is archipelago nature and fisheries is diversified such as the Philippines or Indonesia.