

Malaysia's Intervention

First Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management (15-18 Jan 2024)

Item 2: Current fisheries management practices with special considerations for small-scale fisheries

Thank you Chair.

Malaysia appreciates the report that was presented earlier. The fisheries sector in Malaysia is one of the most important economic sectors that contributes 0.8% to our GDP with an estimated value of USD 3.5 billion for the year 2022. Fish is also one of our main animal proteins whereby our annual consumption per capita is 46.6kg. Capture fisheries remain our main contributor for the sector by contributing 70% of our total fisheries production.

Managing the country's capture fisheries sector is never easy and is becoming more challenging each day. The management strategies require complex efforts to ensure capture fisheries sector can provide sufficient fish supply for food security, without putting unnecessary pressure to the sustainability of fisheries stocks.

Overfishing, the use of destructive fishing equipment, encroachment of foreign fishing vessels, as well as other IUU Fishing activities caused fisheries loss to the country. Besides that, our fisheries resources also face other anthropogenic threats including coastal development, marine sand mining activities as well as other physical development in our waters which caused habitat degradation. These threats, along with the impact from climate change, exacerbated the issue of fisheries resource depletion and habitat degradation.

In order to address these issues, Malaysia has mainstreamed fisheries resource management and conservation of important habitats into Policies, Strategic Plans and Spatial Plans. Our National Agrofood Policy 2.0 has eight (8) specific Goals that pertains to sustainable use and management of fisheries resources as well as development of the fisheries industry. Besides that, our recently launched National Policy on Biological Diversity 2022-2030 also outlined seven (7) Targets that emphasized conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity including fisheries resources.

As Malaysia is situated in one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, our fisheries resources are no doubt made up of no less than 1,000 species of fish. These resources are exploited using multiple gears which add challenge to the management. Moving forward, Malaysia hopes that the Sub-Committee on Fisheries

Management will provide guidance on effective management mechanisms of multiple species that are caught using multiple gears. Malaysia also hope that the Sub-Committee could provide recommendations on suitable support measures to encourage adoption of sustainable fisheries practices by traditional fishermen who are usually economically challenged.

Thank you Chair.