

Statement of the Republic of the Philippines  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES SUB-COMMITTEE ON  
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (COFI-SCFM1)  
15 January 2024

## **Agenda 2. Current fisheries management practices with special consideration for small-scale fisheries**

Our delegation wishes to thank the Chair for the opportunity to speak regarding current fisheries management practices in the country with special consideration for small scale fisheries.

Pursuant to the Provisions of the Amended Fisheries Code, the country adopts the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management as principle in balancing economic/social well-being of various users with ecological well-being of the resources thru good governance.

The Philippines already delineated its entire waters into 12 Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs) for a science-based, participatory and transparent governance framework. This platform of fisheries governance enables both the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the agency which is mandated to manage the national fisheries and fishery resources, and the Local Government Units, together with concerned stakeholders in the co-management of shared fisheries stock within and beyond municipal/near-coast waters.

As we are now operationalizing our FMAs, there is a need to capacitate the science aspect as we rely on determination of stock status, such as the reference points to implement harvest strategies for the sustainable utilization of our fisheries resources.

The Philippines is also starting to embark on Capacity-based fisheries management. With this, the Philippines recognizes the need to enhance our CAPABILITY to determine status of stocks (thru stock assessment-models) and determination of appropriate reference points as well as harvest control rules and measures for the multi-species stocks.

We also recognize the need for regional cooperation on data/information sharing, which is important for the management of straddling fish stocks. The Philippines welcomes data sharing mechanisms, especially for the management of multi-species and multi-gear fisheries in our region.

Thank you very much.