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COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS

Twenty-first Session

Copenhagen, Denmark. 1-4 March 2005

Report by SEAFDEC

SEAFDEC Progress Report on Fishery Statistics and Information in the Southeast Asian Region

Presented at the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics
Twenty First Session, 1-4 March 2005
Copenhagen, Denmark

I. 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.

To achieve sustainable fisheries objectives, understanding and knowledge of fisheries industries particularly their status, trend and prospectus need to be enhanced. This is obtained through analysis of reliable and timely statistics and information, which will then be used a basis for the formulation of sound fisheries policies and management strategies. To fulfill this goal, it is generally noted that fishery statistics is still form an important foundation which required improvement of better national fishery statistical system in terms of quality, availability, reliability, accuracy and timeliness of statistics 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 manners for management and decision-making.

II. Progress of Activities on Fishery Statistics and Information in the Southeast Asian Region

During 2003 to February 2005, initiatives and activities on fishery statistics and information have been promoted and implemented by SEAFDEC as follows:

2.1 New Geographical Coverage of SEAFDEC Fishery Statistical Bulletin

The new geographical coverage of SEAFDEC Fishery Statistical Bulletin as the “Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the Southeast Asian Region” was approved by the 36th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council held in April 2004 and further endorsed by the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) in May 2004. The areas of improvement focus on geographical coverage of all ASEAN Member Countries and revised framework in harmonization with FAO as well as classifications and definitions of fishery statistics to be consistent with international standard.

2.2 Partnership to FIRMS

Partnership to the Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) was approved by the SEAFDEC Council during the 36th Meeting in April 2004. The SEAFDEC partnership to FIRMS goals to promote management for sustainable fisheries in the ASEAN region through improving comparable data and information system as well as applying tools/database and presentation in a user's friendly manner which will be benefited to the Member Countries as a whole.

This partnership will assist in meeting the objectives of and in line with the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), including the implementation of International Plans of Action and the FAO Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries.

The partnership was formalized in 2004 and SEAFDEC is on-going collaborated with FIRMS in developing the Inventory on Sharks in the Southeast Asian Region as an initial work of SEAFDEC inputs to FIRMS based on the Annex 2 to the Partnership Arrangement.

2.3 Membership to CWP

Membership to the Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) was approved by the SEAFDEC Council during the 36th Meeting in April 2004. The SEAFDEC membership to CWP is deemed beneficial to the Member Countries to reflect requirements from the developing region when developing common definitions, classifications and standards for the collection of fishery statistics as well as to obtain technical advice on fishery statistical matters. The partnership was formalized in 2004.

2.4 SEAFDEC National Focal Points on Fishery Statistics

In 2004, the SEAFDEC National Focal Points on Fishery Statistics was established. The focal points comprise the representatives of each ASEAN Member Countries specialized in the field of fishery statistics. The terms of reference of the focal points are to involve in planning and implementation of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Program on Fishery Statistics as well as involvement in the review and improvement of the harmonized standard classifications and definitions of fishery statistics in Southeast Asian region.

2.5 Implementation of the Project on “Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms” - Component 1 “Capacity Building for the Improvement of the Fishery Statistical System in the ASEAN Region”

During the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People”, ‘strengthening of national fishery statistical systems and maximizing their use for fisheries planning and management’ has been identified as the priority goals; and this was reflected in the Resolution and Plan of Action adopted at the Conference. Along this line, the project entitled Capacity Building for the Improvement of the Fishery Statistical System in the ASEAN Region was initiated with the support of the ASEAN Foundation (Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund).

Because of the similarity of fishery structure and specificity among ASEAN Member Countries, existing cases, expertise and experience in the ASEAN region will be mobilized and form basis for capacity building of the national fishery statistical systems with emphasis on the CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) to ensure compatibility of fishery statistical systems and fishery structure of the CLMV and other member countries in the region. The project targets at the development of training packages for training of statistical personnel and conduct of on-site training in CLMV countries.

This project aims primarily at improving national fishery statistical systems in ASEAN Member Countries. The project focuses on the development of regional references for human resource development on fishery statistics at all levels. These regional references could be promoted through mobilizing relevant expertise and experience within and beyond the region. The project also aims to promote a fishery statistical system using standardized definitions and terminology, as well as statistical classification, in order to facilitate the compilation of fishery statistics at both the regional and global levels.

2.5.1 Project Activities

Under this project, several activities were conducted to strengthen capacity for improving fishery statistical systems in the ASEAN region, particularly the new ASEAN member countries (CLMV). The project also aimed to reduce technical disparity among the members within the region through mobilization of existing regional experience and expertise.

Activities started from the First ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on Fishery Statistics organized in June 2003 to develop directions and plan for capacity building of fishery statistics in the region, considering both institutional and human resource aspects. Following-up the recommendations made at the First RTC, the National Workshop on Fishery Statistics was organized in each CLMV Countries to clarifying needs and directions for improvement of fishery statistics in response to the country's fisheries situation and the existing capacity.

Two On-site Trainings were conducted in each Country to train fishery administrators, managers and statisticians in the collection, analysis and reporting of quality fishery statistics. And to follow-up the implementation of activities and identify future directions and activities to be conducted to improve fishery statistics in the ASEAN region, the 2nd RTC was conducted from 15-18 June 2004. The 2nd RTC also came up with directions and considerations for future implementation of fishery statistics to support effective planning and management for sustainable fisheries in the ASEAN region. Summary of project activities appears as Table 1.

Under the project framework, the Standard Training Package on Fishery Statistics and the Regional Handbook on Collecting Fishery Statistics for Inland and Coastal Fisheries were developed, and had been used during the on-site training in the CLMV Countries. Based upon the experience in using these two documents, the two documents were finalized and used in future activities to promote capacity building for the improvement of the fishery statistical system in CLMV and other ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries.

Table 1 Summary of Project Activities

Activities	Duration	Venue	No. of Participants
The First ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics	16 to 19 Jun 2003	Chiangmai, Thailand	42 (2 from each ASEAN Countries)
The National Workshop on Fishery Statistics in Cambodia	8 to 10 Sept 2003	Phnom Penh, Cambodia,	47 (38 NP)
The First On-site Training on Fishery Statistics in Cambodia	17 to 20 Dec 2003	Siem Reap, Cambodia	33 (28 NP)
The Second On-site Training on Fishery Statistics in Cambodia	23-29 Mar 2004	Sihanoukville, Cambodia	32 (25 NP)
The National Workshop on Fishery Statistics in Lao PDR	25 to 28 Sep 2003	Champasack, Lao PDR	37 (30 NP)
The First On-site Training on Fishery Statistics in Lao PDR	29 Oct - 1 Nov 2003	Sawannakhet, Lao PDR	35 (29 NP)
The Second On-site Training on Fishery Statistics in Lao PDR	8-12 March 2004	Vientiane, Lao PDR	23 (19 NP)
The National Workshop on Fishery Statistics in Myanmar	1-3 October 2003	Yangon, Myanmar	39 (34 NP)
The First On-site Training on Fishery Statistics in Myanmar	11-14 February 2004	Yangon, Myanmar	39 (34 NP)
The Second On-site Training on Fishery Statistics in Myanmar	25-30 May 2004	Yangon, Myanmar	35 (29 NP)
The National Workshop on Fishery Statistics in Vietnam	15-17 October 2003	Hanoi, Vietnam	45 (38 NP)
The First On-site Training on Fishery Statistics in Vietnam	26-29 February 2004	Khanh Hoa, Vietnam	37 (30 NP)
The Second On-site Training on Fishery Statistics in Vietnam	18-21 May 2004	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	34 (29 NP)
The Second ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Fishery Statistics	15 to 18 Jun 2004	Prachuab Khiri Khan, Thailand	48 (2 from each ASEAN Countries)

Remarks

NP = National Participants

2.5.2 Project Outcomes

Through series of activities conducted at both national and regional levels, the project had enhanced understanding on the improvement of national fishery statistics through human resource development activities. During the 1st RTC on Fishery Statistics, the ASEAN Member Countries had involved in the project planning and the identification of regional priority issues to be undertaken. Although following activities were focused mainly in developing capacity in

improving fishery statistical systems in the CLMV Countries, the non-CLMV Countries had closely and continuously involved in sharing of expertise and experiences.

During the national workshops and on-site trainings conducted in CLMV Countries, problems and priorities issues of each country were identified. Workshop and training participants had better understanding on the needs and areas for improvement of the national fishery statistical system. Participants were also trained on statistical data collection, using the Draft Regional Handbook on Collecting Fishery Statistics for Inland and Coastal Fisheries as reference document. The Handbook was finalized based upon experience in the CLMV Countries and the recommendation made at the 2nd RTC, and will be used in future activities to promote capacity building for the improvement of fishery statistical system in other ASEAN Member Countries.

At the 2nd RTC on Fishery Statistics, Member Countries had also identified issues and requirements, as well as priority actions/activities to be undertaken for further improvement of fishery statistics. These could also be used as reference for Member Countries to initiate national activities, and formed a basis for further formulation of activities to be conducted for improvement of fishery statistics in the region in the future.

2.6 Implementation of the Project on “Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms” - Component 2 “Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms in the ASEAN Region”

Besides the capacity building activities for the improvement of fishery statistical system in the CLMV Countries, other activities were implemented under the project component 2 on the Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms in the ASEAN region as follows:

2.6.1 Core Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics

The Core Expert Meeting on Fishery Statistics was organized from 21-24 December 2004 with objectives to discuss and develop the draft Minimum Requirements and Framework of the New SEAFDEC Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the Southeast Asian Region, the new Draft of the Regional Guidelines on Fishery Statistics in Southeast Asia (more simple and target to managers) based on the original Regional Handbook for Collecting Fishery Statistics for Inland and Coastal Fisheries and the Regional Guidelines on Responsible Fisheries - Fisheries Management (RCCRF: FM). These two documents were used as the base documents to be discussed and further developed at the FAO-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on the Improvement of Data and Information Collection Systems organized from 15 to 18 February 2005 in Bali, Indonesia.

2.6.2 The FAO-SEAFDEC Regional Workshop on the Improvement of Fishery Data and Information Collection Systems

The joint workshop was co-organized by FAO and SEAFDEC and hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Bali, Indonesia from 15 to 18 February 2005 with the view to achieve the ultimate goal for the improvement of national fishery statistical systems as a tool for fishery planning and management, which in line with the Resolution and Plan of Action and the promotion of the implementation of the Strategy-STF.

The Workshop discussed the regional synthesis of fishery statistics and data collection systems in the Southeast Asian region, and information requirements for sound policy-development, better decision-making and responsible fisheries management, Minimum Requirements and Framework of SEAFDEC Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the Southeast Asian Region, as well as the Regional Guidelines on Fishery Statistics in Southeast Asia. The Workshop concluded with identifying future directions, considerations and immediate follow-up actions for the improvement of fishery statistics in the ASEAN region, recommendation for further finalization of the Minimum Requirements and framework of SEAFDEC Bulletin as well as the Regional Guidelines of Fishery Statistics in Southeast Asia.

Major outcomes from the workshop:

1) Implementation of the FAO FishCode-STF Project

Potential future collaboration with the FAO FishCode-STF Project:

- a. The Strategy-STF outlines the importance of capacity building of developing countries, which need to be enhanced so that they can fulfill existing commitments to collect fisheries statistics and to conduct fisheries research. The regional analysis indicates that, in the Southeast Asian region, some countries have advanced monitoring systems while others are just starting to develop their systems. It is therefore recommended to make use of the regional expertise for capacity building.
- b. Recommended actions described above are in line with the main activities envisaged by the FAO FishCode-STF Project, and will therefore be supported in close coordination with on-going and planned SEAFDEC activities.

2) Minimum Requirements and Framework of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the Southeast Asian Region

In finalizing the draft Minimum Requirements and Framework of Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the Southeast Asian Region, the Workshop suggested the follow-up actions to be followed up by SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Southeast Asian Countries (SEA countries).

3) Draft Regional Guidelines on Fishery Statistics in Southeast Asia

The Workshop reviewed the draft regional guidelines on fishery statistics in Southeast Asia and suggested that the draft should, in close consultation with the SEA countries, be further reviewed and finalized in future opportunity. The Workshop also suggested that the current draft could be used as a basis to formulate future follow-up activities in implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in improving fishery information and statistics in the region.

4) Streamline Reporting of Fishery Statistics to FAO and SEAFDEC

The Workshop supported the proposed streamline reporting of fishery statistics by the Southeast Asian countries to FAO and SEAFDEC and suggested the follow-up actions to be proceeded for further streamline reporting of fishery statistics from the member countries to SEAFDEC and FAO.

III. Issues for Information to CWP21

New Project on “Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region”

The Project on “Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region” was agreed at the Regional Program Planning Meeting for the Special 5-year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region (2006-2010), jointly organized by the ASEAN Secretariat as well as SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments from 22 to 25 February 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand as the new proposed project to be implemented from 2006 to 2010. The Meeting was a follow-up program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region (2002-2005) which was formulated to pursue the initiatives launched by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: “Fish for the People” held in November 2001.

The Meeting was organized to review implementation and achievements of the program covering the period from 2002 to 2005 and to formulate its future program activities from 2006 to 2010 to ensure continuous process of implementation of the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region by the Member Countries.

Based on the inputs from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries, the Meeting identified twelve projects as a basis for detailed formulation of program proposal by SEAFDEC Secretariat and the Departments. The proposed projects for the Special 5-year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region from 2006-2010 include the project on “Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region under the Component 1: Fisheries Management.

This project is aimed to continue providing 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.

To fulfill the achievement on sustainable fisheries and food security, it is generally noted that fishery statistics is still form an important foundation which required improvement of better national fishery statistical system in terms of quality, availability, reliability, accuracy and timeliness of statistics 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.

1) Project Objectives

Overall objective: 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.

Specific objectives: Responding to the above overall objective, the project will focus on the following specific objectives:

- i To develop strategies and initiatives by strategic planning/system review to support improvement of national statistical system for fisheries and aquaculture
- ii To improve management of national statistics and information systems through the application of database and Information Technology
- iii To promote statistics and information sharing and usage among the Member Countries through compilation of fishery statistical bulletin and development of the Southeast Asian Status of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA)

2) Project Management and Administration: SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Member Countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand as core countries) and the Departments

3) Proposed Activities:

Activity I: Development of guidelines and standards

- Development of regional guidelines on fishery statistics in the ASEAN Region
- Development of minimum requirement on fishery statistics and harmonization of standard definitions and classification for fishery statistics in Southeast Asia

Activity II: Research and Pilot Studies:

- Improvement of national fishery statistical system through introduction of appropriate methodology for collection of statistics for marine and inland fisheries in selected areas

Activity III: Capacity Development:

- Capacity building for national institutions through review/update of fishery statistics and information system
- Regional workshop on fishery statistics and information to identify important/emerging issues and improvement strategies
- Training on data collection, processing, analysis and reporting for marine and inland fisheries, and aquaculture

Activity IV: Information Dissemination:

- Management of web-based knowledge and information related to fisheries in the region
- Annual compilation of regional fishery statistical bulletin for the Southeast Asian region focusing on data required for supporting development planning and management of fisheries

- Development of biennial/triennial analytical information for status and trend of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia (SEASOFIA) including trade statistics and information

IV. Issues to be considered by the CWP21

4.1 Minimum Requirements and Framework of the Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the Southeast Asian Region

In finalizing the draft Minimum Requirements and Framework of Fishery Statistical Bulletin for the Southeast Asian Region, there are certain issues suggested by the Workshop as the following actions to be followed up by SEAFDEC Secretariat and the SEA countries through the national focal points of fishery statistics. In this regard, SEAFDEC would like to invite any advise, suggestions as well as welcoming cooperation and assistance from CWP and the RFBs members of the CWP on the following issues:

- The proposed adjustment of Geographical Areas for Fishery Statistics Reporting. This matter will be further formalized after seeking formal confirmation from Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam on the proposed adjustment of the demarcation line in between Area 71 and 57 for the Malaysian water in the Malacca Strait by using demarcation of east and west coast Peninsular Malaysia as well as Area 71 and 61 for the Tonkin Gulf by using the Vietnam-China boundaries.
- Reviewing classification of species for marine and freshwater including that of aquaculture used for the SEAFDEC Bulletin.
- Reviewing the classifications of fishing gear (including national/local name), fishing boats, water bodies, types of aquaculture and types of processing.
- Developing conversion ratio from horsepower to gross tonnage, in case of countries that use horsepower for classification of fishing boats.

4.2 Streamlining of Reporting of Fishery Statistics to FAO and SEAFDEC

For further development of the process on the proposed streamlining of reporting of fishery statistics by the Southeast Asian countries to FAO and SEAFDEC, the following issues are proposed to be consulted with the CWP:

- 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.

V. Invite Cooperation to SEAFDEC Future Activities

Based on the proposed activities of the project on “Improvement of Statistics and Information for Planning and Management of Fisheries in the ASEAN Region under the Component 1: Fisheries Management of the Special 5-year Program on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the ASEAN Region to be implemented from 2006-2010, SEAFDEC would like to invite and welcome cooperation from the CWP and the RFBs Members in particular on the following activities:

Activity I: Development of guidelines and standards

- Development of regional guidelines on fishery statistics in the ASEAN Region
- Development of minimum requirement on fishery statistics and harmonization of standard definitions and classification for fishery statistics in Southeast Asia

Activity II: Research and Pilot Studies:

- Improvement of national fishery statistical system through introduction of appropriate methodology for collection of statistics for marine and inland fisheries in selected areas

Activity III: Capacity Development:

- Training on data collection, processing, analysis and reporting for marine and inland fisheries, and aquaculture

Activity IV: Information Dissemination:

- Management of web-based knowledge and information related to fisheries in the region
- *Development of biennial/triennial analytical information for status and trend of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia (SEASOFIA) including trade statistics and information*