



Report of the Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)



**SEAFDEC/MFRDMD,
Kuala Terengganu,
Malaysia**

8 December 2020

**Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management
Department (MFRDMD)**



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Prepared by:

Annie Nunis Billy

Mazalina Ali

Adam Luke Pugas

Mohammad Faisal Md Saleh

Wahidah Mohd Arshaad

Hamizah Nadia Alias@Yusof

Muhammad Amirullah Al-Amin Ayob

Dr Masaya Katoh

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department

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**The Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Plan of
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SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
8 December 2020**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) was convened by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD on 8 December 2020 via teleconference. The meeting was attended by participants from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam; resource person from FAO/RAP; Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC; officials from SEAFDEC Secretariat, SEAFDEC Training Department; Chief, Deputy Chief, Special Departmental Coordinator and officials from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD. The list of participants appears as **Annex 1**.

II. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting was officiated by the Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, *Dr Ahmad Ali*. In his speech, he stated that due to growing fishing fleets throughout the region, coupled with a rapid increase in harvesting capacity, there is an urgent need for countries to cooperate to improve fisheries management at national, sub-regional, and regional levels. Hence, the Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) Capacity was developed through series of dialogues and consultations with experts and officials from ASEAN Member States (AMSs). It was supported by the Government of Japan through the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) and the Government of Sweden through the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project. The RPOA-Capacity serves as a guideline for AMSs to manage fishing capacity towards sustainable fishery resources in their respective waters. Thus, the ultimate goal of RPOA-Capacity is to facilitate the development of fishing capacity management to ensure fishing efforts are commensurate with the sustainable use of available fishery resources. His opening address appears as **Annex 2**.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. The agenda was presented to the meeting and adopted without any amendment appeared as **Annex 3**.

IV. INTRODUCTION TO THE RPOA-CAPACITY

4. The Project Coordinator, *Ms Mazalina Ali*, presented "Introduction to RPOA Capacity." She mentioned that the RPOA-Capacity was developed through dialogues, regional consultations, and expert meetings with AMSs. The RPOA-Capacity consists of four (4) main parts; i) rationale, problems on sustainable fisheries management, and the needs for RPOA-Capacity, ii) goals and objectives of RPOA-Capacity, iii) guiding principles in developing RPOA-Capacity, and iv) plan of action.

5. She stated that the primary goal of RPOA-Capacity is to facilitate the development of appropriate fishing capacity management to ensure that the level of fishing effort is commensurate with the sustainable use of available fishery resources. Then, she presented the

implementation status of RPOA-Capacity, which consisted of Part A and Part B. Her presentation appears as **Annex 4**.

V. FAO FISHING CAPACITY RELATED ACTIVITIES IN ASEAN MEMBER STATES

6. The representative of FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP) Bangkok, *Dr Simon Funge-Smith*, presented the "FAO and Capacity Management." He briefed on the historical background of the FAO International Plan of Action (IPOA) for Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity). The IPOA-Capacity was developed in 1998. In 1999, it was adopted by the FAO Committee on Fisheries. Series of technical publications were published, focusing on implementation and the necessity of fishing capacity as a guideline to the member countries. In 2003 and 2004, FAO published two (2) comprehensive technical documents entitled "Measuring and Assessing Capacity in Fisheries" (Volume I and II). The FAO Fisheries Circular. No. 994 was also published as a complementary to the technical documents. This circular provided information on methodology to input/output data of fishing vessels based on the economic theory, *i.e.*, CPUE, variable input utilization, *etc.* Subsequently, all materials and information were compiled in the FAO Technical Guidelines in 2008.

7. He revealed that, although FAO has been steadily supported meetings and programs for fishing capacity management in the past, presently there is no ongoing program for fishing capacity, with the last international meeting convened in 2008. Despite that, the member countries are obliged to report their progress of IPOA-Capacity implementation to the FAO. In fact, the progress is relatively stagnant as very few member countries have implemented and published the NPOA-Capacity. He applauded Malaysia for successfully published the NPOA-Capacity, as well as other AMSs that are showing interest. He informed that there had been renewed interest in the region to manage capacity since over-fishing has led to the degradation of marine resources, and profitability of marine industrial/commercial fleets has been declined over the years. Due to the increasing attention on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, there has been less priority on the fishing capacity even though IUU fishing is linked to fishing capacity as part of concrete bilateral actions. The mechanism to regulate IUU fishing *i.e.*, the EU yellow and red cards, demonstrated that fishing fleets regulation could also be an indirect mechanism for fishing capacity management.

8. In his opinion, he stated that the Southeast Asian region might not be able to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 14 indicators, which specifically link to the overcapacity and IUU issues. The SDG 14 indicators are as follows;

- ***By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics;***
- ***By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that***

appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

9. He also addressed issues on the World Trade Organization (WTO) subsidies negotiation as it requires further understanding of fishing capacity and actions to manage it. Immediate actions are required on i) the assessment of capacity and fishing effort, ii) the status of the stock, and iii) identification of subsidies and economic incentives provided to fisheries. Since RPOA-Capacity endorsement in 2017, he emphasized on subsequent steps needed for its successful implementation. Among them are i) training on capacity assessment, ii) improving data collection and data management, iii) reviewing economic incentives provided to marine capture fisheries, and iv) regional cooperation in fishing capacity management. Additionally, he highlighted FAO's willingness to assist and support AMSs in implementing RPOA-Capacity in the region. His presentation appears as **Annex 5**.

10. The representative of Thailand, *Dr Kamonpan Awaiwanont*, inquired on the requirement to develop NPOA-Capacity since Thailand has established its fisheries management plan (FMP) on fishing capacity as NPOA-Shark and NPOA-IUU fishing. *Dr Funge-Smith* responded that the FMP on fishing capacity itself is sufficient.

11. The representative of Philippines, *Mr Erick Peter M. Cadapan*, inquired whether the FAO has conducted any assessment on the progress of RPOA-Capacity implementation. He also requested capacity development on economic concepts and terms of fishing capacity management absent in the documents. *Dr Funge-Smith* informed that while there is no assessment conducted so far, FAO has continuously monitored the development and implementation of RPOA-Capacity within AMSs. He added that countries should take initiatives to implement the RPOA-Capacity. The FAO is also willing to provide assistance on capacity building for economic concepts as long as there are requests from AMSs.

12. The representative of Cambodia, *Mr Heng Sotharith*, requested FAO to remove Cambodia from the EU red card list. He then emphasized that Cambodian vessels do not have access to the high seas, which contradicted the information provided by international bodies on Cambodian vessels' involvement in IUU fishing. He also requested information on Cambodian fishing vessels on high seas as it is essential for the country's fishery management efforts. *Dr Funge-Smith* responded that FAO has no jurisdiction over the EU red card listing; instead, he suggested Cambodia strengthen its fishing capacity management. He recommended Cambodia cooperate with the regional fisheries management organization (RFMO) and request its assistance regarding vessel management issues. At the same time, Cambodia may request assistance from the EU to support programs on fishing capacity.

VI. ASSESSMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY (PURSE SEINE)

13. Senior research officer, *Mr Mohammad Faisal Md. Saleh* presented "Assessment of Fishing Capacity (Purse Seine)" appears as **Annex 6**. In general, the management of fishing capacity for purse seine is essential to provide information for management strategy. It comprises three (3) parts, namely; i) input control, ii) output control, and iii) technical control. Overall, input control is regulated to reduce the number of vessels, thus, escalating the growth

of specific stock for further resource production, whereas output control is where Total Allowable Catch (TAC) has been allocated, in which the catch quota system can be introduced. For technical control, the main issues are mesh size, the length and depth limit of purse seine, the number of fish aggregating devices (FADs), and the limit of light intensity for each spotlight used to lure fishes. Last but not least, he listed strategies to strengthen purse seine fisheries management, namely; i) review legal framework periodically, ii) establish a fishing management plan, iii) strengthen the monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) activities, and iv) fishing capacity management.

14. *Dr Awaiwanont* inquired about the mesh size for anchovies purse seine in Malaysia. *Mr Mohammad Faisal* explained that Malaysia utilized an 8mm mesh size for anchovies purse seine fishery. The representative of Malaysia, *Mr Ahmad Zuwairi Zainudin*, added that the mesh size for anchovies purse seine is limited to 10mm. Regarding the light intensity utilized in the purse seine fishery, *Mr Ahmad Zuwairi* explained that the light source is limited to 30kw. *Dr Awaiwanont* mentioned that in Thailand, there are about 2,000 light boats providing services for purse seine vessels operated at night time, and there is a need to regulate the number of light boats in order to be proportionate with the number of purse seine vessels. He also inquired on the method to reduce the workforce on purse seine vessels. *Mr Mohammad Faisal* informed that there is no ongoing study on reducing workforce or technology to replace those workers.

VII. FEEDBACK FROM ASEAN MEMBER STATES (AMSs) ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RPOA-CAPACITY (BASED ON QUESTIONNAIRES)

VIII. BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

IX. The representative of Brunei Darussalam, *Ms Zuliza Jolkilfi* highlighted the fish stock status of the country. She mentioned that there is a substantial decline of demersal fish resources in the coastal area of Brunei Darussalam from the recent fishery resource survey conducted by the Department of Fisheries Brunei Darussalam. The main factors that contribute to the decline include i) high demand that leads to the advancement of fishing technology, ii) accelerated commercial fishery development, and iii) IUU fishing, *e.g.*, the encroachment of foreign fishing vessels. Her presentation appears as **Annex 7**, and feedback from Brunei Darussalam appears as **Annex 8**.

• CAMBODIA

X. *Mr Heng* informed that Cambodia Fishery Administration had completed the NPOA-Capacity and Fishing Operation. However, Cambodia may delay the implementation due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He also mentions that the NPOA-Capacity and Fishing Operation is still in the Cambodian language. Recently, there are 7,552 fishing vessels made up of five (5) horsepower (HP) categories operating in Cambodia based on the feedback submitted. The feedback from Cambodia appears as **Annex 9**.

- **INDONESIA**

17. The representative of Indonesia, *Mr Hendri Kurniawan*, informed that Indonesia would encourage RPOA-Capacity to be stipulated in NPOA. He also iterated that Indonesia will commit to improve communication with fishers, simplifying the licensing process, and locate fishing ports and fishing arrangements to the Indonesian Economics Association to protect and encourage fishers to increase their income. Lastly, *Mr Hendri* assured the meeting that Indonesia would submit the feedback on RPOA-Capacity after consulting with researchers and fisheries managers.

- **MALAYSIA**

18. *Mr Ahmad Zuwairi* clarified the Program and Policy Coordinator of SEAFDEC Secretariat, *Dr Worawit Wanchana's* statement that Malaysia has the working paper on a guide implementing and assessing fishing capacity and zoning system for Southeast Asia. As for anchovies purse seine, Malaysia limits the mesh size up to 10mm and the light source up to 30kw. *Mr Ahmad Zuwairi* then presented the feedback for the questionnaire. The feedback from Malaysia appears as **Annex 10**.

- **MYANMAR**

19. The representative of Myanmar, *Dr Than Than Lwin*, presented feedback on the implementation status of RPOA-Capacity in Myanmar. According to her, Myanmar has surveyed pelagic and demersal fish status and environmental condition of fishing ground, which was carried out by Research Vessel (RV) *Dr Fridjof Nansen*. Myanmar also developed a national plan and policies related to fishing capacity such as banning fishing rights for foreign fishing vessels and developing NPOA-Capacity based on RPOA-Capacity and capacity guidelines, including fisheries co-management. The main issues hindering the implementation of RPOA-Capacity in Myanmar are i) lack of expertise and ii) insufficient funding. Myanmar plans on overcomes these problems through consultations and technical support from international and regional organizations. Her presentation appears as **Annex 11**.

- **PHILIPPINES**

20. The representative of Philippines, *Mr Napoleon Salvador J. Lamarca*, has presented the RPOA-Capacity status in Philippines waters. As for the status of implementation, Philippines has established a working group, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)-Technical to manage fishing capacity in Philippines. The BFAR is responsible for gathering information on the fisheries sector's issues and challenges and the corresponding management initiatives to regulate fishing capacity. *Mr Lamarca* also explained that the primary constraints of developing the NPOA-Capacity are i) lack of information on fish stock status and ii) the number of fishing vessels and its drawback on commercial fishing vessels license.

21. To overcome this problem, Philippines had conducted an inventory of commercial and municipal fishing vessels and continued the implementation of the Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 263-Establishment of Fisheries Management Areas (FMA), including the adoption of Reference Points and Harvest Control Rules (HCR). Philippines also cooperated

with Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and National Telecommunication (NTC) to solve commercial fishing vessel license issues. *Mr Lamarca* presentation appears as **Annex 12**.

- **THAILAND**

22. The representative of Thailand, *Dr Pavarot Noranattragoon*, presented the data for Thailand's artisanal vessels as of April 2020. A total of 50,508 artisanal vessels (including gill net, falling net, and traps) and 10,392 commercial vessels were operated in Thailand. Section II part 2.1 that the Objective 1 of the FMP is to control fishing effort to a level that can be supported by the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) in Thai waters. In Section II, part 2.2, he stated that Thailand has a buyback scheme for 48 push net vessels implemented in 2015. The push net vessels were sunk for the artificial reefs (ARs) installation in the Gulf of Thailand. There were three (3) phases of the buyback scheme, including Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3. However, Thailand requested clarification from MFRDMD on the durability of fishing vessels as ARs.

23. In section III, *Dr Noranattragoon* mentioned that four (4) fishing vessels had obtained the overseas fishing license. Those vessels are operating in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). He also requested AMSs to continue to share fishing vessels that less than 24m in length to regional fishing vessel record (RFVR) in Phase II. His presentation and feedback appear as **Annex 13**.

24. The Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, *Dr Masaya Katoh*, inquired about the fishing day limit for vessels in Thailand. *Dr Noranattragoon* explained that the catch limit is determined through MSY data. The TAC is based on MSY assessment results. Then, TAC will be allocated to each vessel and specified in fishing licenses. However, the catch is not directly controlled. The allotted catch will be divided by CPUE in kg/day and the annual number of fishing days.

- **VIET NAM**

25. The representative of Viet Nam, *Mr Nguyen Dang Kien*, presented the implementation of RPOA-Capacity in Viet Nam. As of 2019, there are 96,609 fishing vessels with lengths over 6m and 30,474 fishing vessels with lengths over 15m operating in Vietnamese waters. Approximately 3.77 million tons, mostly from marine resources, were produced this year. Currently, there are four (4) significant laws and legislations related to fisheries are implemented in the country, namely; i) Fisheries Law 2017, ii) National Action Plan against IUU Fishing, iii) Agreement on National Measures of Port Fishes (PSMA) and iv) Agreement for the conservation and management of fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks (UNFSA). Viet Nam is also focusing on enforcing fishing quotas and monitoring equipment on board, upgrading ports infrastructure, and strengthening its inspection and control, including a dedicated hotline to report any IUU activities in Vietnamese waters. As part of regional cooperative efforts, Viet Nam shares its fishing vessels information for regional organizations

and national flag regulations and a signatory of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

26. As for issues and constraints implementing RPOA-Capacity, *Mr Nguyen* explained that presently, there is a need to reduce fishing efforts in Vietnamese waters. Hence, the Government of Viet Nam has started to introduce vocational training to fisher folks as an alternative livelihood. Viet Nam also introduced marine conservation zones and no-take zones to reduce fishing pressure. Simultaneously, *Mr Nguyen* commented that it is essential to improve the existing policies or introduce new policies to promote sustainable fisheries. He encouraged AMSs and international fishery communities to share information on their regulations, fishing grounds, and resources. His presentation and feedback appear in **Annex 14**.

VIII. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND WAY FORWARD

27. *Dr Kato* inquired on quota for fishing vessels in Viet Nam and the method employed as a basis for this quota. *Mr Nguyen* responded that the Ministry of Agriculture Viet Nam governs the fishing vessel quota for vessels above 15m in length, and it is compulsory to be equipped with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). For vessels below 15m, the jurisdiction is under the provincial government.

28. *Dr Kato* also requested AMSs to share information regarding resource surveys in each AMSs. *Mr Nguyen* informed that according to Fisheries Law 2017, marine resources are required to be assessed every five (5) years. If resources are decreasing, the government will reduce fisheries production. In Thailand, even though the fisheries stock status is sustainable, limiting fishing days are still applicable. According to *Dr Noranattragoon*, MSY is used as a reference point, with consideration on Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE). Thus, limiting fishing days is reasonable as a countermeasure for fisheries management.

29. AMSs reported the NPOA-Capacity and implementation status in the respective country appears as **Annex 15**. Presently, Malaysia is developing NPOA-Capacity Plan 3, while Cambodia has completed the NPOA-Capacity in the Cambodian language, and implementation is planned from 2020 to 2024. At the same time, Thailand informed the meeting that FMP is utilized to manage fishing capacity. Viet Nam, on the other hand, informed the management of fishing capacity through Fisheries Law 2017.

30. Issues and challenges in developing and implementing the NPOA-Capacity also has been discussed. Brunei Darussalam requested technical assistance from SEAFDEC and Malaysia in developing the NPOA-Capacity, while Cambodia requires capacity training, particularly on fisheries management. Malaysia informed that the lack of younger experts, particularly in fishery taxonomy and stock assessment, to conduct resource survey thus requests collaboration with SEAFDEC. Malaysia also requests taxonomy training, especially deep-sea resources, stock assessment, and determination of fishing capacity methodology. Myanmar sought technical assistance on the deep-sea survey and expressed the desire to collaborate with the regional and international organizations. Philippines informed the meeting of the

completion of zero drafts for NPOA-Capacity and requested technical assistance from SEAFDEC. Additionally, they also seek technical assistance from SEAFDEC for the acoustic survey. Thailand requested clarification from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD regarding the use of fishing vessels as ARs. *Dr Ahmad* informed that wooden fishing vessels only lasted within three (3) years. Currently, MFRDMD is conducting a study on the durability of wooden fishing vessels coated with fiberglass. In addition, Thailand will seek technical assistance from FAO on the application of FMP to manage fishing capacity.

IX. CLOSING REMARKS

31. *Dr Katoh* thanked all the AMSs for their active participation. He is aware of the difficulties faced by AMSs in implementing RPOA-Capacity and NPOA-Capacity due to limited information in the region. However, he emphasized that AMSs should not delay the implementation of policies to control fishing and reduce its level where appropriate in accordance with the precautionary principle using currently available information, and he is looking forward to the progress of all AMSs in the future. Finally, he appreciates the SEAFDEC/MFRDMD staff's tireless preparation for four (4) teleconferences organized by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in the last three (3) weeks. His closing remarks appears as **Annex 16**.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Brunei Darussalam

Matzaini Haji Juna (Mr.)
Senior Fisheries Officer

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Primary Resources & Tourism
Muara Fisheries Complex, Simpang 287-53,
Jalan Peranginan
Pantai Serasa Muara BT1728, Brunei Darussalam
Phone No.: +673 2770066 / 8
Fax No.: +673 2771063
Email: matzaini.juna@fisheries.gov.bn

Muhammad Jumkhairun Haji Jumat (Mr.)
Fisheries Officer

Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Primary
Resources & Tourism
Muara Fisheries Complex, Simpang 287-53, Jalan
Peranginan
Pantai Serasa Muara BT1728, Brunei Darussalam
Phone No.: +673 2770066 / 8
Fax No.: +673 2771063
Email: jumkhairun.jumat@fisheries.gov.bn

Zuliza Jolkilfi (Ms.)

Cambodia

Em Puthy (Dr.)
Deputy Director of Department of
Planning, Finance and International
Cooperation

Fisheries Administration,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
No. 186, Preah Norodom Blvd, Tonle Bassac ward,
Chamcar Mon dist., Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Email: emputhy@yahoo.com
drputhy@gmail.com

Heng Sotharith (Mr.)
Deputy Director of Department of
Fisheries Affairs

Fisheries Administration,
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
No. 186, Preah Norodom Blvd, Tonle Bassac ward,
Chamcar Mon dist., Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Email: hengsotharith747@gmail.com

Indonesia

Sitti Hamdiyah (Ms.)
Deputy Director for Regional and Multilateral
Cooperation
Email: sittihamdiyah.hrp@gmail.com

Hendri Kurniawan (Mr.)
Assistant Deputy Director for Regional
Cooperation
Email: hendrikur16@gmail.com

Devika Rahmasari (Ms.)
Policy Analyst
Email: devikarahmasari.1402@gmail.com

Malaysia

Noor Hasmayana Yahaya (Ms.)
Head of Resource Management Section
Marine Parks and Resource Management
Division
Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Email: hasmayana@dof.gov.my

Ryon Siow (Mr.)
Senior Research Officer
Fisheries Research Institute Kg Aceh
Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Email: ryonsiow@dof.gov.my

Ahmad Zuwairi bin Zainudin (Mr.)
Senior Fisheries Officer
Capture Fisheries and Licensing Division
Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Email: zuwairi@dof.gov.my

Myanmar

Than Than Lwin (Dr.)
Deputy Director
Email: than2lwin@gmail.com

Arkar Myo (Mr.)
Deputy Fishery Officer
Email: arkar.molf2012@gmail.com

Yin Yin Than (Dr.)
Fishery Officer
Email: yinyinthan.fg@gmail.com

Philippines

Francisco B. Torres, Jr (Mr.) National Coordinator, National Assessment Program (NSAP)	Stock	Department of Agriculture-National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA- NFRDI) Corporate 101 Mother Ignacia Avenue, South Triangle, Quezon City 1103, Philippines Email: francisco_torresjr@yahoo.com
Napoleon Salvador J. Lamarca (Mr.) Supervising Aquaculturist		Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), 4 th Floor PCA Building Annex, Elliptical Road, Diliman. Quezon City 1101, Philippines Email: napolamarca@yahoo.com
Erick Peter M. Cadapan (Mr.) Senior Regulatory Officer		Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), 4 th Floor PCA Building Annex, Elliptical Road, Diliman. Quezon City 1101, Philippines Email: pedangs@yahoo.com

Thailand

Pavarot Noranattragoon (Dr.) Fisheries Biologist Senior Professional Level		Email: pavarotn@gmail.com
Kamonpan Awaiwanont (Dr.) Fisheries Biologist Senior Professional Level		Email: kawaiwanont@yahoo.com

Viet Nam

Nguyen Phu Quoc (Mr.) Deputy Director of Capture Fisheries		Department of Fisheries Email: nguyenphuquoc.mard@yahoo.com
Nguyen Dang Kien (Mr.) Official of Capture Fisheries		Department of Fisheries Email: nguyendangkien2001@gmail.com
Nguyen Thi Hong Nhung (Ms.) Official of Science, Technology and International Cooperation Department		Science, Technology and International Cooperation Department Email: nhung.doa@gmail.com

FAO/RAP

Simon Funge-Smith (Dr.)
Senior Fishery Officer

FAO/RAP Bangkok
Email: Simon.FungeSmith@fao.org

Observer

Masanami Izumi (Mr.)
Special Advisor

SEAFDEC Secretariat
Email: izumi@seafdec.org

Sukchai Anupapboon (Mr.)
Fishing Ground and Oceanography Section
Head.

SEAFDEC/Training Department
Email: sukchai@seafdec.org

Thanyalak Suasi (Ms.)
Fisheries Management Section Head

SEAFDEC Secretariat
Email: thanyalak@seafdec.org

Sallehuddin Jamon (Mr.)
Director of FRI Kg. Aceh

Fisheries Research Institute Kg Aceh
Department of Fisheries Malaysia
Email: sallehudin_jamon@dof.gov.my

SEAFDEC SECRETARIAT

Koichi Honda (Mr.)
Deputy Secretary-General, and Japanese Trust
Fund Program Manager

SEAFDEC Secretariat
Email: dsg@seafdec.org

Worawit Wanchana (Dr.)
Policy and Program Coordinator

SEAFDEC Secretariat
Email: worawit@seafdec.org

Pattaratjit Kaewnuratchadasorn (Ms.)
Senior Policy Officer

SEAFDEC Secretariat
Email: pattaratjit@seafdec.org

SEAFDEC/TD

Suthipong Thanasarnsakorn (Mr.)
Training and Research Support Division Head

SEAFDEC/Training Department
Email: suthipong@seafdec.org

Isara Chanrachkij (Mr.)
Research and Development Division Head

SEAFDEC/Training Department
Email: isara@seafdec.org

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

Ahmad Ali (Dr.)
Chief SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: aaseafdec@seafdec.org.my

Masaya Katoh (Dr.)
Deputy Chief SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: katoh@seafdec.org.my

Abd Haris Hilmi Ahmad Arshad (Mr.)
Senior Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: haris_arshad@seafdec.org.my

Mazalina Ali (Ms.)
Special Departmental Coordinator
SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: mazalina@seafdec.org.my

Mohammad Faisal Md Saleh (Mr.)
Senior Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: mohd_faisal@seafdec.org.my

Wahidah Mohd Arshaad (Ms.)
Senior Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: wahidah@seafdec.org.my

Annie Nunis Billy (Ms.)
Senior Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: annie@seafdec.org.my

Muhammad Amirullah Al-Amin Ayob (Mr.)
Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: amin_ayob@seafdec.org.my

Hamizah Nadia Alias@Yusof (Ms.)
Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: hamizah@seafdec.org.my

Rapporteur

Annie Nunis Billy (Ms.)
Senior Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: annie@seafdec.org.my

Muhammad Amirullah Al-Amin Ayob (Mr.)
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SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: amin_ayob@seafdec.org.my

Hamizah Nadia Alias@Yusof (Ms.)
Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: hamizah@seafdec.org.my

Adam Luke Pugas (Mr.)
Assistant Research Officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: adamlp@seafdec.org.my

Nurul Nadwa Abdul Fatah (Ms.)
Contract officer

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: mseafdec@gmail.com

Mohamad Syahidan Azmi (Mr.)
Contract staff

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email: syahidanazmi0311@gmail.com

Noorhani Syahida Kasim (Ms.)
Contract staff

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email:
hanisyahidakasim.nsk@gmail.com

Raihana Abdul Rahman (Ms.)
Contract Staff

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Taman Perikanan Chendering
21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia
Email:
raihanaabdulrahman97@gmail.com

Meeting Secretariat

Annie Nunis Billy (Ms.) Senior Research Officer	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Taman Perikanan Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia Email: annie@seafdec.org.my
Muhammad Amirullah Al-Amin Ayob (Mr.) Research Officer	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Taman Perikanan Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia Email: amin_ayob@seafdec.org.my
Hamizah Nadia Alias@Yusof (Ms.) Research Officer	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Taman Perikanan Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia Email: hamizah@seafdec.org.my
Abdul Aziz Yusof (Mr.) Assistant Research Officer	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Taman Perikanan Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia Email: abdulaziz@seafdec.org.my
Norharm binti Abdul Rahim Assistant IT Officer	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Taman Perikanan Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia Email: norharm@seafdec.org.my
Adam Luke Pugas (Mr.) Assistant Research Officer	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Taman Perikanan Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia Email: adamlp@seafdec.org.my
Nurul Nadwa Abdul Fatah (Ms.) Contract officer	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Taman Perikanan Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia Email: mseafdec@gmail.com
Mohamad Syahidan Azmi (Mr.) Contract staff	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Taman Perikanan Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia Email: syahidanazmi0311@gmail.com
Noorhani Syahida Kasim (Ms.) Contract staff	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Taman Perikanan Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia Email: hanisyahidakasim.nsk@gmail.com
Raihana Abdul Rahman (Ms.) Contract Staff	SEAFDEC/MFRDMD Taman Perikanan Chendering 21080 Kuala Terengganu Malaysia Email: raihanaabdulrahman97@gmail.com

OPENING ADDRESS

Dr Ahmad Ali
Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

**The Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Plan of Action for the Management
of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)**

**SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
8 December 2020**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Very good morning

Representatives from Brunei Darussalam

Representatives from Cambodia

Representatives from Indonesia

Representatives from Malaysia

Representatives from Myanmar

Representatives from Philippines

Representatives from Thailand

Representatives from Viet Nam

Our Resource Person Dr Simon Funge-Smith Senior Fishery Officer/ FAO Office Bangkok

Representatives from SEAFDEC Secretariat

Representatives from SEAFDEC/TD

All officers from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

First of all, I would like to welcome all of you to **Regional Technical Consultation on
Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity**

Ladies and gentleman

The rapid growing of fishing industry in the Southeast Asia region since late 1970s has led to increase in fishing capacity, especially with the introduction of highly efficient fishing gears such as trawlers and purse seiners as well as the increasing capacities of processing plants. The growing fishing fleets throughout the region coupled with rapid increases in harvesting capacity, has not been matched with the development of national capacities and regional/sub-regional cooperation to manage the fishing effort with due consideration given to the

sustainability of fishery resources. The issue of managing fishing capacity has been raised regionally and internationally for spreading phenomenon of excessive fishing inputs and overcapitalization in fisheries. Therefore, there is an urgent need for countries to cooperate in order to improve fisheries management, especially, with regards to the management of fishing capacity at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

Ladies and gentleman,

Recognizing the importance of management of fishing capacity, the ASEAN sought the collaboration of SEAFDEC to develop the Regional Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity) during the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Fisheries Consultative Forum (AFCF) in 2012 in Indonesia. The development of such activity was supported by the SEAFDEC Member Countries during the 47th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in 2014. The RPOA-Capacity has been developed through series of dialogue and consultation with experts and officials from ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries organized by SEAFDEC with the funding support from the Government of Japan through SEAFDEC-Japanese Trust Fund and the Government of Sweden through the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project.

Ladies and gentleman,

The RPOA-Capacity was endorsed by the 48th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in April 2016, then the 24th Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi) in June 2016, and adoption by the 38th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Fisheries (AMAF) in October 2016. The RPOA-Capacity has been used as guide for the ASEAN Member States in their efforts on management and control of fishing capacity towards the sustainable utilization of fishery resources in their respective waters. Thus, the ultimate goal of the RPOA-Capacity is to facilitate development of appropriate fishing capacity management to ensure that levels of fishing effort are commensurate with sustainable use of available fishery resources.

Objective of the meeting are

- a. To update information regarding the implementation status of fishing capacity (RPOA-Capacity) in ASEAN Member States.
- b. To find way forward for the implementation of NPOA-Capacity and RPOA-Capacity in ASEAN Member States.

We hope that at the end of the meeting we will be able to update information on implementation of RPOA Fishing Capacity by countries and propose and/or revise activity for NPOA and RPOA Fishing Capacity in future in this region.

I would like to take this opportunity to express SEAFDEC/MFRDMD appreciation and gratitude to all of you for attending this meeting and making it a success in spite of your busy schedule. The credits are also given to Dr Worawit Wanchana from SEAFDEC Secretariat, all

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD officers especially Dr Masaya Katoh and Ms Mazalina for their tireless work to ensure this meeting materialized as scheduled. Special thanks to our resource person Dr Simon Funge-Smith Senior Fishery Officer/ FAO Office Bangkok for joining us in this meeting.

With that, I officially open the **Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity**

Thank you



**Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Plan of
Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
(RPOA Capacity)**



8 December 2020

PROVISIONAL AGENDA and TIME TABLE

- 1000 – 1010 Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting and Photo Session
(Malaysia time)
by Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
Chairperson: Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
- 1010 – 1020 Agenda 2: Adoption of Agenda
by Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
- 1020 – 1035 Agenda 3: Introduction to the RPOA-Capacity
by Ms Mazalina Ali, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
- 1035 – 1100 Agenda 4: FAO Fishing Capacity Related Activities in ASEAN Member States
by Dr Simon Funge-Smith, FAO/RAP Bangkok
- 1100 – 1115 TEA BREAK
Chairperson: Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
- 1115 – 1130 Agenda 5: Assessment of Fishing Capacity (Purse Seine)
by Mr Mohammad Faisal Md Saleh, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD
- Agenda 6: Feedback from AMSs on implementation of RPOA-Capacity (based on questionnaire)
- 1130 – 1145 Brunei Darussalam
- 1145 – 1200 Cambodia
- 1200 – 1215 Indonesia
- 1215 – 1230 Malaysia
- 1230 – 1245 Myanmar
- 1245 – 1430 LUNCH

Chairperson: Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

1430 – 1445 Philippines

1445 – 1500 Thailand

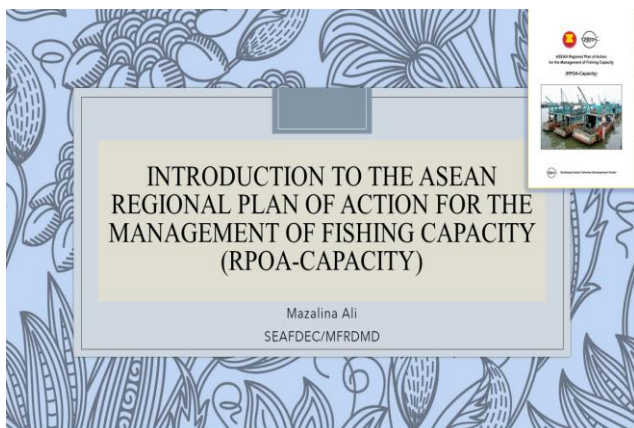
1500 – 1515 Viet Nam

1515 – 1530 TEA BREAK

Chairperson: Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

1530 – 1600 Agenda 7: General Discussion and Way Forward
Moderator: Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

1600 – 1605 Agenda 8: Closing Remarks
by Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD



Introduction

- The ASEAN fisheries sector has played very important role in providing fish.
- The introduction of new fishing gear technologies since 1960s led to the rapid and intensive development of fisheries industry in the region.
- The growing fishing fleets throughout the region has not been matched with the development of national capacities and regional/sub-regional cooperation to manage the fishing effort.
- Management of fishing capacity is the key element that ensures sustainable utilization of the fishery resources.

Introduction

- The RPOA-Capacity has been developed through dialogue with ASEAN SEAFDEC Member Countries such as the regional technical consultations and expert meeting:
 - 1st RTC in February 2015 in Malaysia.
 - Experts meeting in August 2015 in Thailand and
 - 2nd RTC in December 2015 in Thailand
- The Meeting organized by SEAFDEC with the funding support from:
 - the Government of Japan through SEAFDEC-Japanese Trust Fund and
 - the Government of Sweden through the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project.

Introduction

- The RPOA-Capacity contain four (4) parts:
 - Part 1 as an introduction part includes rationale, problems on the sustainable fisheries management, and the needs for RPOA-Capacity;
 - Part 2 include the goals and objectives of the RPOA-Capacity;
 - Part 3 refers to the guiding principle in developing the RPOA-Capacity;
 - Part 4 is the main part of the Plan of Action for Managing Fishing Capacity and this part comprises of 5 Sessions as follows:
 - 1) Assessment of Fishing Capacity;
 - 2) Preparation and Implementation of National Plans;
 - 3) International Consideration;
 - 4) Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management; and
 - 5) Mechanisms to Promote of the Implementation.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- The RPOA-Capacity is intended to serve as guide developing National Plans of Action for Managing Fishing Capacity (NPOA-Capacity)
- Thus, the ultimate goal of the RPOA-Capacity is to facilitate development of appropriate fishing capacity management to ensure that levels of fishing effort are commensurate with sustainable use of available fishery resources.
- The specific objectives of the RPOA-Capacity are to:
 - enhance the effective, efficient, equitable and transparent management of fishing capacity for long-term sustainability;
 - ensure that fishery managers should endeavor to initially limit fishing capacity at the present level and progressively reduce the fishing effort applied to affected fisheries;
 - avoid growth in fishing capacity that undermines the long-term sustainability objectives; and
 - enhance sub-regional cooperation in managing fishing capacity, specifically with regards to trans-boundary species or shared species.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The RPOA-Capacity is developed based on the principles stipulated in international and regional instruments, such as
 - the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF),
 - International Plan of Action for Managing Fishing Capacity (IPOA-Capacity),
 - the relevant rules of international laws that are reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (UNCLOS), and
 - the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region (2001, 2011).



Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity

- 1) States should assess and regularly update the availability of active fishing capacity as basis for cooperation on the management of fishing capacity.
- 2) States should improve collection system for catch and effort data.
- 3) States should regularly conduct national assessments of fishery resources to estimate appropriate reference points.
- 4) States should adopt national measurements and definitions of fishing capacity.

Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
2.1 Development of national plans and policies

- 1) States should establish system(s)/mechanism(s) to develop NPOA Capacity.
- 2) States should not make insufficient information on fisheries resources as the reason to delay the implementation of policies to control fishing capacity and reduce its level where appropriate.
- 3) States should develop measures to be undertaken to address overcapacity:
 - a) Implement schemes to limit the number of fishing vessels and fishing licenses;
 - b) Put into place management systems that would prevent fishing capacity from expanding beyond the optimum level;

Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
2.1 Development of national plans and policies

- c) Develop measures and encourage the use of supporting tools to prevent or eliminate excess fishing capacity;
- d) Consider the application of fishing zones as a robust approach to manage and restrict fishing capacity in certain fisheries;
- e) Consider the use of appropriate reference points as indicators of resource status for the management of fishing capacity;
- f) Encourage industry-based capacity adjustments and implement input and output control, and other management measures;

Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
2.1 Development of national plans and policies

- g) Consider the development of fishing vessel construction and importation control measures as a proactive approach for controlling fishing capacity; and
- h) Consider the introduction or development of fishing fees scheme as basis for fishing vessel registration and fishing licenses.
- 4) States should establish records of fishing vessels registration/licensing, fishing gear licensing system, and
 - a) improve the national procedures for fishing vessel registration and fishing licensing systems;
 - b) share information on registered vessels and issued fishing licenses (if needed); and
 - c) establish national database for fishing vessels registration and fishing licenses.

Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
2.1 Development of national plans and policies

- 5) States should conduct a systematic assessment of the consequences of overcapacity from production and economic perspective.
- 6) States should strengthen, consistent with national fishery laws/regulations and other related domestic laws, mechanisms to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, and ensure that enforcement actions are carried out.
- 7) States should consider to develop and implement fishery resources enhancement programs and/or recovery plans. The following actions are among the key approaches :

Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

2.1 Development of national plans and policies

- a) Coordinate with relevant agencies to regularly compile information on the status and availability of important fish stocks;
 - b) Enhance understanding of the importance of stock enhancement including habitat conservation; and
 - c) Develop fishery management tools, to effectively conserve and manage fish stocks, trans-boundary fish stock and to protect habitats, with the best available scientific information and precautionary approach.
- 8) States should strengthen their respective fisheries related institutions and provide adequate support to research on issues related to the management of fishing capacity. Coordinated international research is also recommended.

Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

2.1 Development of national plans and policies

- 9) States should harmonize and coordinate the implementation of the NPOA-Capacity with other related NPOAs/Policies and Programs.
- 10) States should consider the socio-economic requirements, which bear the burden of reductions in fishing capacity.
- 11) States should develop and promote awareness-raising campaigns and programs to increase the effective implementation of NPOA-Capacity.
- 12) States should work closely with stakeholders in developing and adopting policy framework in the formulation and implementation of the NPOA-Capacity

Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives

- 1) States should assess the effect that some economic incentives to control fishing capacity.
- 2) States should undertake a review of the various subsidies and other economic incentives on fishing capacity.
- 3) States should reduce and progressively eliminate fisheries subsidies and/or incentives that contribute to overfishing, overcapacity and overinvestment.

Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation

- 1) States should provide mutually agreed data on vessels, gears and people engaged in fisheries to provide a complete, accurate and timely way to support efforts to manage fishing capacity.
- 2) States and sub-regions should, inter alia, adopt appropriate measures, based on the best scientific evidence available.
- 3) States should consider the establishment of sub-regional/regional fisheries management arrangements/bodies for the purpose of managing the resources as well as fishing capacity on a cooperative basis.
- 4) States should support co-operation and exchange of information with regional and sub-regional fisheries organizations.

Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas

- 1) States should collaborate with RFMOs by sharing information, participating in and developing harmonized systems of data collection.
- 2) States are encouraged to comply with international agreements which are related to the management of fishing capacity.
- 3) States should ensure that no transfer of capacity to the jurisdiction of another State.
- 4) States should, in compliance with their duties as Flag States, avoid approving the transfer of vessels flying their flag to high sea areas.

Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management

- 1) States should develop policy frameworks for the sub-regional/regional management of fishing capacity.
- 2) States, in collaboration with other States, should assess the extent of overcapacity in defined fishing areas (trans-boundary, sub-regional and/or regional).
- 3) States should develop sub-regional/regional conservation and management measures for fish stocks that are currently unmanaged regionally, in accordance with the best available scientific information on the status of such stocks.

Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management

- 4) States should conduct fishers/stakeholders fora at sub-regional/ regional levels to build awareness on the need for conservation and management of fisheries resources.
- 5) States should enhance the political will and awareness towards subregional/regional fisheries management and conservation.
- 6) States should strengthen sub-regional/regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) networks.

Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation

- 1) States should develop information programs to increase awareness on fishing capacity, and the cost and benefits resulting from adjustments in fishing capacity.
- 2) States should support the sharing/exchange of scientific and technical information on issues related to the management of fishing capacity.
- 3) States should support capacity building and consider providing financial, technical and other assistance to address issues related to the management of fishing capacity.

Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation

- 4) States should report to the ASEAN and SEAFDEC on the progress of assessment, development and implementation of their respective plans for the management of fishing capacity.
- 5) SEAFDEC will support the development and implementation of National Plans of Action (NPOAs) for the management of fishing capacity through specific, in-country technical assistance projects.

RECOMMENDED TEMPLATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR MANAGING FISHING CAPACITY (NPOA-CAPACITY)

I. INTRODUCTION

I. NATIONAL PROFILE ON FISHERIES

- 2.1. Fishing Capacity Assessment
- 2.2. Resources Assessment
- 2.3. Identification Main Issues and Challenges
- 2.4. Basic legal aspects, including institutional frameworks and responsibilities

II. GOAL, OVERALL OBJECTIVES AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

RECOMMENDED TEMPLATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR MANAGING FISHING CAPACITY (NPOA-CAPACITY)

IV. PLAN OF ACTION FOR MANAGING FISHING CAPACITY

- 4.1. Improve Management Policy
- 4.2. Conduct Research and Assessment
- 4.3. Improve Fishing Capacity Management/Measures
- 4.4. Improve Legal and Institutional Frameworks, with Responsibilities and Coordination Defined
- 4.5. Improve Enforcement and MCS
- 4.6. Promote Participation of Relevant Stakeholders
- 4.7. Responsibilities/Implementation

RECOMMENDED TEMPLATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR MANAGING FISHING CAPACITY (NPOA-CAPACITY)

V. STRATEGIES

- Strategy 1: Improve Management Policy
- Strategy 2: Conduct Research and Assessment
- Strategy 3: Improve Fishing Capacity management/ Measures
- Strategy 4: Improve Legal and Institutional Frameworks, with Responsibilities and Coordination Defined
- Strategy 5: Improve Enforcement and MCS
- Strategy 6: Promote Participation of Relevant Stakeholders

V. MONITORING AND EVALUTAION

VI. GLOSSARY



FAO and capacity management

Simon Funge-Smith
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

FAO IPOA - a bit of historical background

- 1998: FAO organized a Technical Working Group (TWG) to discuss issues related to fishing capacity.
 - Measurement and control methods for managing and reducing capacity
 - Developed draft of an International Plan of Action (IPOA) for the Management of Fishing Capacity
 - FAO Fisheries Report No. 586, 1998
- 1999: FAO Technical Consultation was held in Mexico City in 1999.
- 1999: FAO Committee on Fisheries adopted the IPOA Capacity.
 - International Plan of Action on the Measurement of Fishing Capacity (1999)
 - <http://www.fao.org/3/X3170E/X3170E00.htm>



Technical publications

Selected papers from the TWG Meeting (FAO Fisheries Technical Paper No. 386, 1999).

<http://www.fao.org/3/X2250E/X2250E00.htm>

Managing fishing capacity: A review of policy and technical issues. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 409. Rome, FAO. 2001. 60p.

<http://www.fao.org/3/Y0659E/Y0659e00.htm>

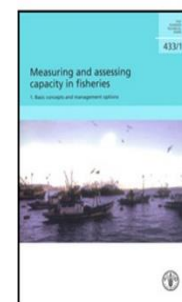
Measuring capacity in fisheries. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 445. Rome, FAO. 2003. 314p.

<http://www.fao.org/3/Y4849E/Y4849e00.htm>



Measuring and assessing capacity in fisheries

- Report in two volumes
- Part 1: overview of basic concepts for the assessment and management of fishing capacity
- Part 2: details on methods for measuring and assessing capacity
- FAO Fisheries Technical Papers No. 433/1 and 433/2, 2004).



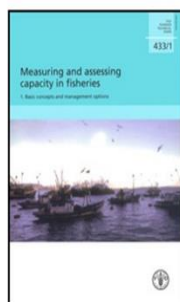
Measuring and assessing capacity in fisheries. 1. Basic concepts and management options.

• FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 433/1. Rome, FAO. 2004. 40p.

• Contents:

- Overview of main concepts involved in the assessment and management of fishing capacity
- Discusses why capacity management and overcapacity have become key issues for fisheries management
- Explains why overcapacity develops in the fishery
- How fisheries management has contributed to overcapacity
- Discussion of methods
- Indicators of overcapacity
- Effectiveness of various capacity management programmes and why they fail
- Management systems that been effective in reducing overcapacity

<http://www.fao.org/3/Y5442e/Y5442e00.htm>



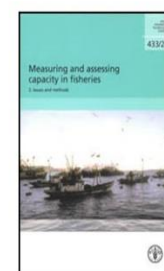
Measuring and assessing capacity in fisheries. 2. Issues and methods.

• FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 433/2. Rome, FAO. 2003. 130p.

• Contents:

- Information necessary for developing a widely accepted definition of capacity for fisheries
- Details various methods for estimating capacity to permit an empirical assessment of fishing capacity
- Based on types of data typically available for fisheries.
- Provides a potential framework for assessing overcapacity

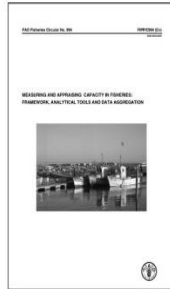
<http://www.fao.org/3/Y5027E/Y5027e00.htm>



Measuring and appraising capacity in fisheries: framework, analytical tools and data aggregation

- FAO Fisheries Circular. No. 994. Rome, FAO. 2004. 39p.
- Complements Technical Paper No. 433
- Two papers on the measurement of fishing capacity
 - Introduction, provides a general framework for measurement and assessment.
 - Practical application of these analyses in a fishing industry setting
- Applying tools to input/output data of fishing fleets, using economic theory
 - catch-per-unit-effort
 - variable input utilization
 - peak-to-peak
 - data envelopment analysis
 - breakeven analysis.

<http://www.fao.org/3/y5443e/y5443e00.htm>

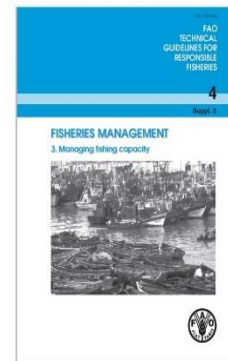


FAO Technical Guidelines

FAO. Fisheries management. 3. Managing fishing capacity. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 4, Suppl. 3. Rome, FAO. 2008. 104p.

- Assist development of National and Regional Plans of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity
- Provide information of the effects of different management programmes on capacity
- Outline key concepts and techniques for monitoring, measuring and assessing capacity
- Outline actions of States to conform with the IPOA-Capacity

<http://www.fao.org/3/i0318e/i0318e00.htm>



FAO-IPOA capacity process

- FAO has no ongoing programme for assessing and managing capacity
 - It is a national responsibility, although FAO stands ready to support member should a strong request be made
 - Some work around the issue is emerging through the Port State Measures Agreement programme
- Annual monitoring of the IPOAs as part of the biennial reporting by FAO members to COFI
 - Development of NPOAs has been slow – very few published NPOAs on capacity
 - Even if published, has action been effective?
 - Has clearly not been a priority for member countries?...
 -until now?

Renewed interest in the region to manage capacity

- Collective realization that over-capacity has led to the degradation of marine fishery resources
 - The productive fisheries of the region can be overfished
 - Profitability of marine industrial/commercial fleets has declined
 - Small scale nearshore fleets also struggling
 - Cost of hidden subsidies not being realized at benefits to the state
- Attention now turning towards regulation and management of fishing

Linking IUU to over-capacity

- As resources decline, increased attention to IUU fishing
 - Stronger MCS and tougher stance on IUU
 - fleets that were previously given access to resources under bilateral agreements, or joint ventures, increasingly scrutinized
- Also part of concrete bilateral actions (e.g. EU yellow and red cards)
 - To demonstrate that there is control over fleets:
 - Requires adequate inventory of fleets
 - Ideally the vessel type
 - Operations, catch
 - Information is linked to capacity assessment

We will not meet the SDG 14 targets

- SDG 14 indicators specifically link to over-capacity and IUU
- <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-14-life-below-water/targets.html>
- **By 2020, effectively regulate** harvesting and **end overfishing**, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and **implement science-based management plans**, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
- **By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing**, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

Subsidies negotiations

- WTO subsidies negotiations also raises questions how it is possible to support unprofitable fleets
- Responding to these negotiations requires a better understanding of fishing capacity and also demonstrated action to manage it
- Urgently required action on :
 - Assessment of capacity and fishing effort
 - Status of stocks
 - Demonstration that fishing is occurring within sustainable limits
 - Identification of subsidies and economic incentives being provided to fisheries

More information:

<https://www.iisd.org/projects/fisheries-subsidies>

Determining the Status of Fish Stocks in Data-Poor Environments and Multispecies Fisheries

<https://www.iisd.org/system/files/publications/fish-stocks-multispecies-fisheries.pdf>

What do you need for the next steps for RPOA-capacity?

- Training on capacity assessment?
- Better data collection and data management?
- Training on stock assessment to complement assessment of sustainable catch
- Explore the economic incentives being provided to marine capture fisheries
- Report on actions taken to address capacity (i.e. not part of NPOA, but supporting)
- What is the role of regional cooperation?
 - Political will?
 - Joint training?
 - Common regional methods?
 - Information sharing?

ASSESSMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY (PURSE SEINE)

BY:

MR. MOHAMMAD FAISAL MD SALEH

MR. SALLEHUDIN JAMON

MS. MAZALINA ALI

MS. NURUL NADWA ABDUL FATAH

THE 1st CORE EXPERT MEETING ON FISHING CAPACITY
8 DECEMBER 2020

ASSESSMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY (PURSE SEINE)

FISHING CAPACITY ?

In fisheries: related to several specific issues that include harvesting fish by fishing vessels as well as to the biological concept of fishing mortality, fishing technologies, fishing power and economics.

FISHING CAPACITY MANAGEMENT ?

To provide information for the development of a management strategy that will ensure that capacity of targeted fishery is moving in the right direction.

INPUT CONTROLS

OUTPUT CONTROL

TECHNICAL CONTROLS

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INPUT CONTROLS

I. Enhance the licensing scheme.

- Licensing of the fishers, fishing gear and fishing vessels.
- Most AMSs already implemented the fisheries law or act or regulation.
- Recommended to license all categories of PS vessels.

II. Control the number of PS vessels.

- Limit the number of fishing vessels to reduce fishing pressure.
- Indirectly control the number of fishers.
- Effective limited entry into the fishing industry.

III. Limit the size of PS vessels

- Gear specification control.
- Maximum continuous engine power (MCEP) must be declared to the fisheries authority.

IV. Limit the allowable fishing days.

- Reduce the catch.
- Stipulated along with the TACs.
- Drawback: Does not take into account important factors such as the weather.
- I.e.: limit the fishing effort during spawning season for targeted.

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OUTPUT CONTROLS

I. Introduce the catch quota system.

- Effective and efficient method for sustainable PS.
- Total Allowable Catch (TAC) allocation.
- Face many difficulties in implementing successful catch quota system.
- Individual quota (IQ): catch limit of quota is allocated to each vessel.
- IQ is not yet implemented for PS in SEA region.

II. Improve bycatch handling (non-target species).

- Bycatch or non-target species: dolphin, turtles, small whales, sharks and rays.
- A need to improve the handling practices for all bycatch species caught during the PS operation
- Return bycatch to the water as quickly as possible and in a manner which does not reduce its chance of survival.
- Bycatch Management Information System (BMIS) has include the safe release technique of turtles, sharks and rays (Workshop on WCPFC Bycatch Mitigation Problem-Solving, 2018).

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TECHNICAL CONTROLS

I. Use larger mesh size.

- Introducing a larger mesh size than existing mesh used for PS fishery.
- To reduce the catches especially juveniles.
- Commonly used: 18-25 mm
- Recommend: >25 mm for Fish Purse Seine.

II. Limit the length and depth of seine net.

- Limit on the length and the depth of the seine net will help to reduce the catch.

III. Register and control number of Fishing Aggregating Devices (FADs).

- Require all owner of PS vessels to register their FADs.
- Negative of FAD fishing: high mortality of small pelagic and bycatch.
- Reduction of FADs would ultimately result in reduced fishing mortality, especially the juveniles.

IV. Control the total light intensity of spotlights for luring fish.

- Artificial lights (e.g. metal halide, incandescent and LED lamps) are environmental-unfriendly due to catching of immature stocks.
- Total light intensity or lux - limit at maximum of total watt (May differs depending on AMSs fisheries's authorities).
- Control the horsepower allowed on the genset (generator set) used to generate electricity for spotlight.

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TECHNICAL CONTROLS

V. Encourage establishment of a zoning system (with gear specification)

- Zoning system: GRT of fishing vessels, engine power (horsepower, HP) of the vessels, type of fishing gears used and ownership patterns.
- Already implemented: Brunei DS, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.
- AMSs which didn't have zoning systems yet may refer to these countries as guidelines.

VI. Identify and establish closed area for specific species

- Identify areas to be permanently or temporarily closed due to their critical importance to the life cycle of specific species.
- Close area i.e.: MPA and Refugia.
- No take zone - to protect the adult or matured fish.

VII. Encourage AMSs to introduce closed season for specific species.

- A closed season is referred as banning of fishing activity for a certain period of time, usually to protect juveniles or spawners.
- Seasonal fishing closures: mackerels in Thailand, and sardines and herrings in the Philippines.
- For stocks which there is no indication that recruitment is impaired, spawning closures may still be relevant to protect the older (and larger) individuals, protect spawning habitat structure, or prevent evolutionary change.

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STRATEGIES FOR STRENGTHENING PURSE SEINE FISHERY MANAGEMENT

I. Review Legal Framework periodically. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries Act should be reviewed periodically either once for every five or ten years as the fishery resources is rapidly changing. 	II. Establish Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each AMS holds its own responsibility in developing the FMP within the government's authority. FMP is a complex process comprising of multiple aspects such as biological, economic, geo-politic and social aspects. 	III. Strengthen the monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities among national enforcement agencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each AMS should establish its respective national fisheries MCS measure. Law enforcement, observer programs, inspection schemes and vessel monitoring systems (VMS). Implement effective legal and administrative framework at local and national level. To control and combat the overfishing situation for pelagic fisheries in the region. 	IV. Integrate the MCS networking among the AMSs within the same ecosystem. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated MCS networking among countries that share the same ecosystems. Increase the efficiency of the MCS activities. Same standard of procedures (SOP) in their MCS activities. 	V. Assessment on PS fishing capacity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assessment on PS fishing capacity will allow to check for the excess or overcapacity. Only very few countries in the world have undertaken a systematic assessment of their eventual fishing capacity. Each AMSs should assess and revise its own PS fishing capacity based on their stock status.
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Cont'

STRATEGIES FOR STRENGTHENING PURSE SEINE FISHERY MANAGEMENT

VI. Control of fishing capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce moratorium (temporary ban) of new licenses for PS gears and vessels. Beneficial to multi-species fishery - reduce mortality among all species. Drawback: existing fleets still can target the depleted stocks (Harlyan & Matsuishi, 2017). 	VII. Introduce exit plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimed to prevent fishing capacity from increasing. i.e., resettlement of surplus fishers into other economic sectors and the vessel buy-back scheme that has been implemented in Malaysia and Thailand. 	VIII. Enhance the capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and train personnel including young researchers on analytical assessment of pelagic stocks. Training courses could be provided in national, regional and international level. 	XI. Encourage co-management involving coastal fishing community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop coastal fishing communities, i.e. Japanese coastal fisheries (Fisheries Cooperative Association) and Malaysian fishery volunteers (Sukarelawan Perikanan - SUPER). Reduce the monitoring cost and strengthen community awareness to their fishery assets.
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8 DECEMBER 2020

THANK YOU

The Philippines Fisheries Management Establishment of Reference Points (RP)

HARVEST CONTROL RULES (HCR) IMPLEMENTATION

refers to actions or set of actions to be taken to achieve a medium or long term target reference point while avoiding reaching or breaching a limit reference point.



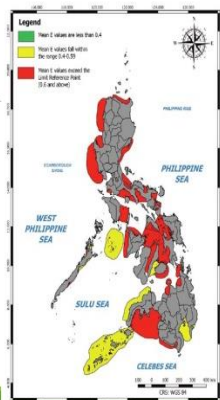
Harvest Control Rules (HCR) for Limit Reference Points (LRP) - Once the LRP is reached, the following HCR shall be implemented;

- Limitation on fishing effort.
- Determination of priority access for renewal of licenses.
- Declaration of a closed season.
- Reduction by attrition.
- Other measures.

Example for LRP using exploitation rate in Philippines

Status of Philippine **small pelagic fishes** by fishing ground based on Exploitation (E) values using NSAP length-frequency data, 2015.

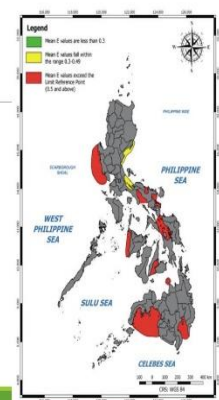
LRP set at E = 0.6



Example for LRP using exploitation rate in Philippines

Status of Philippine **neritic tunas** by fishing ground based on Exploitation (E) values using NSAP length-frequency data, 2015.

LRP set at E = 0.5



Example for LRP using exploitation rate in Philippines

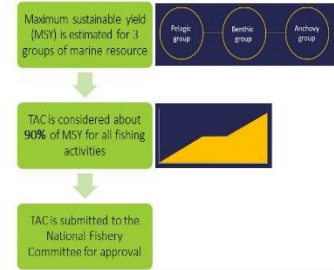
Status of Philippine **oceanic tunas** by fishing ground based on Exploitation (E) values using NSAP length-frequency data, 2015.

LRP set at E = 0.4



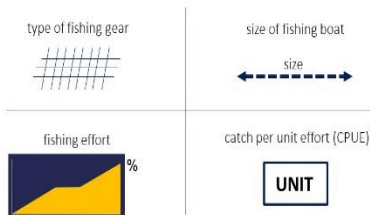
Thailand Fisheries Management Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Implementation in Thailand

- TAC has been implemented since 2016
- Every 2 years, fishing license must be renewed
- Right-allocation is also reconsidered every 2 years
 - (next time in 2018) from MSY and TAC
- MSY and TAC is recalculated every year



Right-allocation of TAC

Approved TAC is allocated to fishers on the basis of:



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TAC for all fishing activities

Example: Right-allocation for anchovy purse seiners in the Gulf of Thailand

Area	Fish group	Approved TAC (t)	Boat (GT)	Allocation (t)	Number of boat	Fishing day	CPUE (kg/day)	Catch (t/year/boat)
Gulf of Thailand	Benthic	715,294	<10	3,516	17	235	880	207
	Pelagic	230,803	10-19	5,758	25	235	980	230
	Anchovy	177,607	20-59	17,146	57	235	1,280	301
Andaman Sea	Benthic	216,467	60-149	36,789	101	235	1,550	364
	Pelagic	110,184	≥150	9,419	24	235	1,670	392
	Anchovy	29,650						

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Limitation of TAC



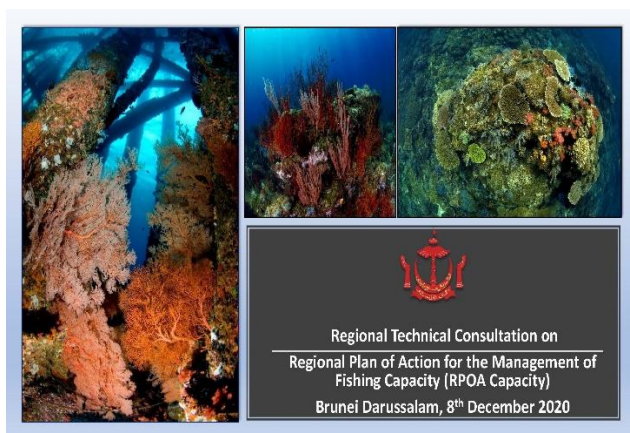
- TAC needs catch monitoring system
- Consequently, TAC was indirectly applied using TAE (Total allowable effort)
- However, the system is still improving

Total Allowable Effort (TAE)

- TAE (fishing day) is easily monitored and controlled by port in - port out (PIPO) system
- Fishing day can be calculated from cruising time
- Fishing vessels ≥ 30GT must report the cruising time of every trip

Improvement on TAC implementation

- Development on catch monitoring system, such as real-time data submission from fishing ports
- Expansion the PIPO system to enforce fishing vessels < 30 GT
- Enforcement on discard ban
- TAC will be fully implemented within 4 years



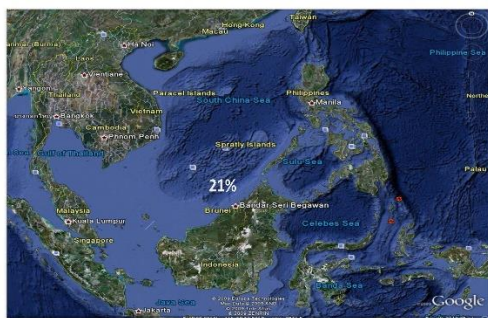
VISION

Towards a Sustainable Growth of Fisheries Output Through Increased Productivity and Export-Oriented.

MISSIONS

Accelerate The Growth of The Fisheries Industry Output Through The Use of High Technology, Increased Productivity and The Target Export Market by Encouraging Local Investment and Foreign Direct Investment.

FISHING CAPACITY IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



- The abundance of demersal fisheries resources in Brunei Darussalam has been shown to decline substantially to about 21% of virgin stock levels;
- IUU Fishing – encouragement by foreign fishing vessels.

National Policy on Fisheries Resource Enhancement



Fisheries Order 2009 provide legislative infrastructure for the management of fisheries activities and fishing areas. The overarching policy is the development of a sustainable fisheries industry, which has been translated into operational and field level management programmes to ensure:

- Protection of resources from over-fishing and destructive activities;
- Protection and promotion of recruitment and recovery of breeding grounds; and
- Promotion of responsible fishing and environment-friendly technology.

Objectives:

- To ensure that fishery resources will be recovered and to promote a long-term food security in the country;
- To reduce the pressure of the fisheries resources
- To maintain the exploration of resources are at sustainable level

ACTIONS IN RPOA



Subsidies and economic incentives

Brunei Darussalam does not provide any subsidies to any fishing vessels, may it be commercial or artisanal, locally owned or FDI-related companies.

Regional Considerations and Cooperation

Brunei Darussalam provides information on data on vessels, gears and people engaged in fisheries as well as other fisheries-related information with regards to catches, landing and available stocks to provide a complete, accurate and timely way to support efforts to manage fishing capacity at sub-regional areas.

ACTIONS IN RPOA



International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas

The recognition of Dept. of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam as an authorized agency to validate the ICCAT Bigeye and Swordfish Statistical Document, to met the requirements for export of Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish as stated under ICCAT Statistical Document Programme.

Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management

Brunei Darussalam National Action Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing" was launched in 2011. Its main objectives are in line with those of the Regional Action Plan to Combat IUU Fishing: (i) to enhance and strengthen the overall level of fisheries management in Brunei's waters; (ii) to sustain fisheries resources and the marine environment; and (iii) to optimise the benefit of adopting responsible fishing practices.

ACTIONS IN RPOA



Mechanisms to Promote Implementation

Capacity building and awareness to the fishermen on the policy and legal aspects for the management of fisheries activities and fishing areas was done every years. It is also to develop the knowledge of the fishermen, sustaining the resources.



Rancangan Kemajuan Negara [RKN-8]



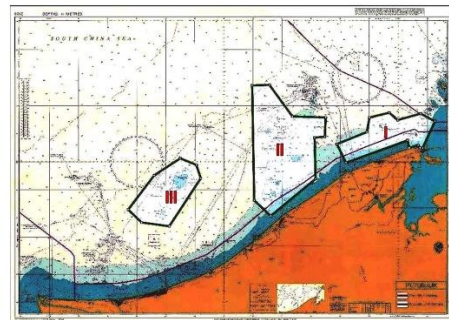
Objectives: provide ecotourism dive sites as well as to promote the sportfishing potential



In 2002, 800 units of ARs, made up of steel pipes, was built by Dept. of Fisheries. Additional deployment of 1,100 units was made in 2003/2004.



Locations: Two Fathom Rocks, Ampa Patches, Brook Patch and others areas within zone 2 (3 – 20nm)



Establishment of Marine reserves or Marine Protected Areas as "no take zone" covering of 20% of the total fisheries management area



Moratorium on the issuance of new fishing licenses for commercial bottom trawlers, since 2000	Imposition of moratorium on small-scale fishing activities in Zone 1 (0 ~ 3 nautical miles from the shore) since 2008.	Establishment of Marine Protected Areas
The implementation of new mesh size regulations using 51 mm square mesh netting for the trawl cod end, since 2001	Prohibitions of destructive fishing implements and activities such as cyanide fishing and use of explosives under the Fisheries Order 2009	Implementation of banning of catches, landings and importation of sharks

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Challenges:

- Implement comprehensive research on all marine habitats and species**
 - Require scientific data to determine effectiveness
- Greater overall cost of surveillance and management**
 - require advanced technological capabilities which are costly;
 - Continuous influx of technical expertise
- NPOA on Fishing Capacity**

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WASSALAM
Thank You

Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism
Muara Fisheries Complex
Spg 287 – 53, Jln Peranginan Panlai Serasa
Muara BT1728,
Brunei Darussalam
Tel: +673 2770067, 2770068, 2770069
Fax: +673 2771063, 2770065
Hotline: +673 7297771





Questionnaire: Part A

Implementation Status of the RPOA-Capacity

Please provide inputs on Implementation Status of RPOA-Capacity in your country.

Country: Brunei Darussalam

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Implementation Status
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity	
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The abundance of demersal fisheries resources in Brunei Darussalam has been shown to decline substantially to about 21% of virgin stock levels. • IUU Fishing – encouragement by foreign fishing vessels.
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	
2.1 Development of national plans and policies	<p>Even though Brunei Darussalam has yet developed NPOA fishing capacity.</p> <p>Under the policy of Sustainable Fisheries Management, Brunei Fisheries Limits, Chapter 130 and Fisheries Order 2009 provide legislative infrastructure for the management of fisheries activities and fishing areas, as well as marine reserves and parks. The over-arching policy adopted is sustainable fisheries industry development. This underlying policy has been translated into operational and field level management programs to ensure:</p>

	<p>i) The protection of resources from over-fishing and destructive fishing activities;</p> <p>ii) The protection of breeding grounds (coral reefs and mangroves) and promote recruitment and recovery;</p> <p>iii) Promotion of responsible fishing and environment-friendly technology.</p>
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	Brunei Darussalam does not provide any subsidies to any fishing vessels, may it be commercial or artisanal, locally owned or FDI-related companies.
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation	Brunei Darussalam provides information on data on vessels, gears and people engaged in fisheries as well as other fisheries-related information with regards to catches, landing and available stocks to provide a complete, accurate and timely way to support efforts to manage fishing capacity at sub-regional areas.
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	The recognition of Dept. of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam as an authorized agency to validate the ICCAT Bigeye and Swordfish Statistical Document, to meet the requirements for export of Bigeye Tuna and Swordfish as stated under ICCAT Statistical Document Program.
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	Brunei Darussalam National Action Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing" was launched in 2011. Its main objectives are in line with those of the Regional Action Plan to Combat IUU Fishing: (i) to enhance and strengthen the overall level of fisheries management in Brunei's waters; (ii) to sustain fisheries resources and the marine environment; and (iii) to optimize the benefit of adopting responsible fishing practices.
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation	Capacity building and awareness programs for fishermen on the policy and legal aspects for the management of fisheries activities

	<p>and fishing areas are conducted every year. The aim of the programs is to develop the knowledge of the fishermen, sustaining the resources.</p>
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Questionnaire: Part B

Issue / Constraint for Implementation of the RPOA-Capacity

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Issues / Constraint	Key Actions / Strategies
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity		
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity		
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity		
2.1 Development of national plans and policies		
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives		
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation		
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas		
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management		
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation		



Questionnaire: Part A

Implementation Status of the RPOA-Capacity

Please provide inputs on Implementation Status of RPOA-Capacity in your country.

Country: Cambodia

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Implementation Status
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity	
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity.	<p>According to the survey of fishing capacity in Cambodia during the preparation of Cambodia NPOA, 7,552 fishing vessels were identified as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. < 50HP = 6699 B. 51-90HP = 279 C. 91-180HP = 440 D. 181-270HP = 83 E. 271-540HP = 51 <p>Note: The NPOA of fishing capacity and fishing operation in Cambodia was adopted by the Government and it is still in national language.</p>
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	
2.1 Development of national plans and policies	<p>The details of Cambodia NPOA management on fishing capacity are below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Registration of all fishing vessels through cooperation with the local governors, 2. Licensing only to authorized fishing vessels, 3. Management of marine fishing

	resources, deployment of an artificial concretes on Marine Protected Areas (MPA), management of fishing ground by zoning fishing areas, fishing gears permission, and fishing activities which abide by fishery law.
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	Since the fishing capacity engages with the fishing operation in Cambodia, even though the old fishery law and new amendment to new fishery law, Cambodia has no subsidies or any incentive to the fishing operation, or its construction.
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation	Cambodia appreciates and supports the regional cooperation to implement the RPOA and its own NPOA and participate and cooperate with the committee to combat IUU fishing.
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	Cambodia hopes to accelerate with ASEAN Member States to promote fishing capacity in the high sea that according to the International regulations and RFMO Competent Areas.
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	Cambodia also required urgent mechanism to take measure for fishing management. It must be together to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exchange information on illegal fishing vessels, 2. Strongly taken measure on MCS to combat IUU fishing, and 3. Control and surveillance on marine fishing capacity must be gone by law enforcement.
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation	AMSs must be cooperated and promote fishing law enforcement even in the EEZ and high seas.



Questionnaire: Part B

Issue / Constraint for Implementation of the RPOA-Capacity

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Issues / Constraint	Key Actions / Strategies
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity		
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	Concerned on implementation of NPOA 2020-2024 due to Covid-19 pandemic.	-identify the fishing activities and fishing capacity. -expenditure for implementation by year from 2020 to 2024.
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity		
2.1 Development of national plans and policies	Limited of Capacity building	Implement of NPOA
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	No subsidy and economic incentive on fishing activities and other measurement on fishing operations.	
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation	- Covid-19 pandemic - Limited resource	Cooperating with AMS to combat IUU fishing in the region.
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	Cambodia fishing vessel not be able to access fishing in High Seas	Cooperate with AMS or relevant agencies to protect the competent areas.
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	- Covid-19 pandemic - Limited resource	Cambodia is taking actions to follow RPOA-Capacity and other competent agencies to combat IUU fishing and measures on Regional Fishing Management.
Section V: Mechanisms to	- Covid-19 pandemic	To promote fishery law

Promote Implementation	-Limited of resource	enforcement in Cambodia EEZ and High Seas.
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Questionnaire: Part A

Implementation Status of the RPOA-Capacity

Please provide inputs on Implementation Status of RPOA-Capacity in your country.

Country: MALAYSIA

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Implementation Status
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity	
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malaysia has conducted fisheries resource surveys in 2013-2016. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The outputs from this survey were four volumes of survey reports covering demersal, small pelagic, tuna and prawn fisheries in Malaysian waters. An executive summary report was also produced from the reports. ii. Aside from the surveys, additional fisheries and biological studies were also carried out by DOFM during the 2015-2020 periods covering species such as anchovies, <i>Rastrelliger</i> spp., Threadfins, Hilsa shad, squids, bivalves and tunas. • In 2017, Malaysia has established the National Fish Stock Committee (steering and technical) to ensure that all decisions are consistent with the current policies and fishing effort is commensurate with the national fisheries resource status thus strengthening good governance.

Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity

2.1 Development of national plans and policies

- Malaysia is currently in the midst of developing the National Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity in Malaysia (Plan 3).
- In Plan 2, Malaysia had underline 3 strategies to implement and managing fishing capacity:
 - i. Review and Implement effective conservation and management measures.
 - ii. Strengthen capacity and capability for monitoring and surveillance programme.
 - iii. Promote public awareness and education programme.
- Malaysia had enforced the condition of 38 mm cod-end mesh size for trawl net in all fishing zone.
- Conduct regular assessment on the level of fishing capacity.
- Ongoing implementation of restructuring the operation area for trawlers.
- Malaysia has introduced a conservation zone (*one nautical mile buffer zone from the coastline*) for fishing operation in the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia (encompassing Kedah, Perak and Selangor).
- Malaysia has put in place a fishing vessel register and procedures to manage vessel registration and licensing. All fishing vessels and fishing appliances records are maintained in data bases (*Sistem ELesen*) and Malaysian Fishing Vessel Record (MFVR) managed by DOFM.
- DOF has made mandatory since beginning January 2017, the requirement to obtain feedback from previous flag state before considering ex-foreign-flagged fishing vessel to be licensed as local fishing vessel.
- Malaysia has undertaken several initiatives to promote an EAFM mechanism as a tool of fisheries management.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malaysia has participated in the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (Fishery Refugia) since 2013. • The total area of the MPA in Malaysia is 1,510,037.3 hectares including 42 islands that have been gazetted as Marine Parks. • Artificial reefs (ARs) have been established in Malaysian fisheries waters since 1975 as a tool for fisheries management in maximizing resource enhancement, resource conservation, habitat rehabilitation and mitigation as well as one of the steps to alleviate the problem of depleting fisheries resources in the coastal waters. • Malaysia actively conducted public awareness programs on sustainable fisheries including importance of managing fishing capacity, conserving and restoring of fisheries resources and habitat.
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	Any assistance from the Government to the fisheries industries had gone through thorough assessment and after taken into consideration the impact to fishing capacity.
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation	Information are shared through DOFM official websites at www.dof.gov.my and also in the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) for sharing vessel data among ASEAN Member States.
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	Being a Contracting Party to the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) since 1998, Malaysia reported on conservation and management measures (CMM) and data collection to IOTC on annual basis.
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened stock enhancement program through habitat improvement, establishing protected breeding and nursery grounds, installing artificial reefs and releasing juveniles into the sea (sea ranching). • Establishment of Fishing Gears Technical

	<p>Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Besides being a member to the 2007 Regional Plan of Action -IUU to promote regionally responsible fishing practices including combating IUU fishing, Malaysia is also involved in the ASEAN Network on IUU fishing (AN-IUU).
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation	Engagement with stakeholders through consultation programs.



Questionnaire: Part B

Issue / Constraint for Implementation of the RPOA-Capacity

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Issues / Constraint	Key Actions / Strategies
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity		
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost of carrying out resource surveys are very high and require use of special fishing vessel and gears especially to cover deep sea area • technical expertise particularly in taxonomic knowledge of uncommon fish species is lacking among newer DOFM staff • knowledge in in stock assessment and determination of fishing capacity methodologies is lacking among newer DOFM staff • Managing multispecies marine resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOFM is planning the procurement of a new research vessel beginning year 2021 to facilitate future resource surveys • Regional collaboration for use of M.V. SEAFDEC 2 vessel in complement of DOFM vessels during future fisheries surveys • National/regional training workshops for DOFM staff in taxonomic identification of fish species • National/regional training workshops for DOFM staff in stock assessment and determination of fishing capacity methodologies • Establishment a new Fisheries Management System (FMS) to cater for the development and management of various Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). The fisheries will manage based on the species-area specific, rather than gear-based management as

		<p>practiced before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct regular fishery resource monitoring program and fishery resource survey.
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity		
2.1 Development of national plans and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited funds for exit policy implementation. • Fishers have limited knowledge to operate different fishing gears than the current fishing gear used. 	Continuous engagements and consultation with fishers.
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	No significant issue	Malaysia participate in the negotiation of fisheries subsidies at WTO level.
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation	No significant issue	Malaysia will continue to cooperate in accordance manner.
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	No significant issues	Continue to adhere to the Resolution set by the IOTC
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	Insufficient measures to manage transboundary species	Participated in the discussion at sub-regional/ regional level regarding the management of transboundary species.
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation	No significant issues.	Engagement with stakeholders through consultation programs.



Questionnaire: Part A

Implementation Status of the RPOA-Capacity

Please provide inputs on Implementation Status of RPOA-Capacity in your country.

Country:

Myanmar

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Implementation Status
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity	
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	<p>-Three main fisheries, marine offshore fisheries; marine inshore fisheries and inland fisheries.</p> <p>- In 2019, 3216 offshore fishing vessels and 19320 inshore fishing vessels were operated in marine water and use purse, trawl, drift net, squid net and trap</p> <p>- Surveys carried out by R/V Dr Fridtjof Nansen are integral part of the EAF-Nansen Program which, through different phases and objectives, has been running since the mid-1970's. In 2013, 2015 and 2018 survey estimated the assessment of pelagic and demersal fish and environmental condition of the survey area.</p>
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	
2.1 Development of national plans and policies	- DoF needs to develop the national plan of action (NPOA- capacity) but the following activities are implemented in relation with

	<p>fishing capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building of new trawl fishing vessels and all is not allowed. • Fishing rights of foreign fishing vessels are banned since 1 April 2014. • Establishment of VMS system • Development of NPOA-capacity based on RPOA-Capacity including fisheries co-management.
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	<p>- Myanmar has not support any fishery subsidies to any fisheries.</p> <p>- Myanmar is participating in WTO subsidies negotiation under the LDC group.</p>
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation	<p>- Myanmar cooperates with regional and sub-regional organizations in the following areas;</p> <p>RFVR, NPOA of Sharks and Rays, RPOA-IUU, AN- IUU, eACDS and EU- Catch Certification scheme</p> <p>-Bilateral fisheries cooperation MoU with DoF Thailand</p> <p>-BOBLME phase-2</p>
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	<p>-Myanmar has no fishing operation at high sea for both national and foreign fishing vessels</p>
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	<p>- Myanmar will follow measures developed by ASEAN, SEAFDEC, RPOA-IUU</p> <p>- AN-IUU/ ASEAN Roadmap on Combating IUU fishing, PSMA</p>
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation-	<p>-Develop information programs such as sharing fish abundance, composition and catch effort data of marine fish.</p> <p>-Training and awareness programs on responsible fishing technology for sustainable fisheries.</p> <p>-Establishment of MCS taskforce</p> <p>-Develop the TOR for joint inspection with Navy and maritime police</p>



Questionnaire: Part B

Issue / Constraint for Implementation of the RPOA-Capacity

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Issues / Constraint	Key Actions / Strategies
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity		
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Inadequate updated data on fisheries resources -Capacity for data analysis -Limitation of recruitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eACDS - Land base catch data application - Extend organization structure
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity		
2.1 Development of national plans and policies	-Lack of expertise to develop the plan as well as financial resources	-Need technical consultant and financial support from international organizations (e.g. FAO) and regional organization (e.g. SEAFDEC) to develop NPOA- Capacity for the country
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	Not practicing	No consideration
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation		
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas		
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional	- sharing experiences and lesson learn on fisheries	- Regional/sub-regional workshop on information

Fisheries Management	management activities among AMSs	exchange
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - technical support for information sharing, training program and consultation program on fishing capacity to support the NPOA-capacity - Systematic data collection system and analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building to improve fishing capacity management - Technical support for systematic data collection and analysis.



Questionnaire: Part A

Implementation Status of the RPOA-Capacity

Please provide inputs on Implementation Status of RPOA-Capacity in your country.

Country: Philippines

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Implementation Status
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity	
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	<p>Creation of the BFAR-Technical Working Group for the Management of Fishing Capacity (BFAR TWG-Fishing Capacity)</p> <p>The BFAR TWG-Fishing Capacity shall have the following responsibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulate/Finalize the National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (NPOA-Fishing Capacity); 2. Deliberate and provide technical advice/recommendations to the BFAR Management on the matters relating to fishing capacity; 3. Responsible in the roll-out, institutionalization, and implementation of the NPOA-Fishing Capacity; 4. Conduct meetings, consultations, and other activities as maybe necessary in the performance of its responsibilities; and 5. Perform other tasks as maybe

	<p>assigned by the Director.</p> <p>Technical consultation aimed at gathering information on the issues and challenges facing the fisheries sector, and the corresponding management initiatives to control fishing capacity.</p>
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	
2.1 Development of national plans and policies	Zero Draft of the NPOA-Fishing Capacity structure/outline
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation	
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	PH is a member to several RFMOs, will be part of the NPOA-Fishing Capacity
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation	



Questionnaire: Part B

Issue / Constraint for Implementation of the RPOA-Capacity

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Issues / Constraint	Key Actions / Strategies
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity		
<p>1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity</p>	<p>Intrusion of commercial fishing vessel into municipal waters</p> <p>Moratorium on new fishing vessels excluded existing commercial fishing vessels that were not able to get license due to lack of documents requirements of registration agency</p> <p>Lack of information on the total number of fishing vessels (commercial and municipal)</p> <p>Insufficient information on the status of the fish stock</p>	<p>Strengthen law enforcement Implementation of Vessel Monitoring Measure (VMM) Assisted LGUs in filing cases Enforcement of Municipal Ordinances Areal & Seasonal Fishing Closures in municipal waters</p> <p>Coordination with the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) regarding the requirements</p> <p>Conducted inventory of commercial and municipal fishing vessel</p> <p>Ongoing implementation of the Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) 263- Establishment of Fisheries Management Areas (FMA),</p>

	<p>Delay in the renewal of Commercial Fishing Vessel License (CFVL) due to the pandemic</p> <p>Inaccessible and/or inaccurate catch data/ logsheet</p> <p>Carrier vessels operating in territorial waters and EEZ are not covered by VMM/VMS program</p> <p>Lack of countrywide Electronic Catch Documentation and Traceability System</p> <p>Limited information on the number of deployed Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)</p>	<p>including adoption of Reference Points and Harvest Control Rules (HCR)</p> <p>Consolidation of information on the status of fish stock in FMAs</p> <p>Coordinated concerned agencies (Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) and National Telecommunication (NTC) to consider the situation</p> <p>Logsheets are stored for safekeeping and recommended to be analyzed by proper authority;</p> <p>Adoption of FAO 266 requiring all commercial fishing vessel with VMM and Electronic catch Reporting System (ERS)</p> <p>Adoption of FAO 261 requirement for Fisheries Observers for commercial vessels</p> <p>Limited catch validation on unloading vessels Recommended the deployment of fisheries observers to cover tuna as well as small pelagic catcher vessels</p> <p>Recommended that the carrier vessels should be</p>
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	Several Commercial Fishing Vessels (CFVs) conduct fishing activities within municipal waters because they are small and cannot go beyond 15 kilometers	<p>covered by VMM</p> <p>Recommended to install Electronic Reporting System (ERS) to all catcher vessels</p> <p>Conduct of inventory of FAD and compliance to FAO 244 (National FADs Mgt Policy)</p> <p>Dialogues were conducted including inviting LBP representative to discuss the DA-ACEF loan program for the CFV owners/operators to avail.</p> <p>Advised operators to change also their fishing gears in order for them to operate within the MW.</p>
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity		
2.1 Development of national plans and policies		
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives		
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation		
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	WCPFC High Seas Areas are closed to fishing	<p>Access of 36 Tuna purse seine catcher vessels with onboard Fisheries Observers, and equipped with VMM in WCPFC High Seas Pocket 1.</p> <p>The fishing access is a self-imposed initiative to reduce the catch of juvenile tuna especially the BET in PH EEZ</p>

Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management		
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation		



Questionnaire: Part A

Implementation Status of the RPOA-Capacity

Please provide inputs on Implementation Status of RPOA-Capacity in your country.

Country: Thailand

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Implementation Status
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity	
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	(Presented in the attachment)
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	
2.1 Development of national plans and policies	Currently, FMP is the national fisheries management plan and policy. FMP is approved by the cabinet. Regarding the capacity control measures, they are specified in the Objective 1 of the FMP which is to control fishing effort to a level that can support the MSY in Thai waters. The target is to maintain fishing effort below the Fmsy. There are eight measures under this objective, e.g. to control number of fishing day for each vessel and to implement vessel buyback scheme.
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	- Buyback scheme for 48 push net vessels implemented in 2015. They were sunk for artificial reef installation in the Gulf of Thailand. - Buyback scheme for 3,073 FVs for sustainable management of fishery

	<p>resources.</p> <p>Phase 1 - 305 vessels : implemented in 2019-2020</p> <p>Phase 2 - 263 vessels : implemented in 2020-2021</p> <p>Phase 3 - 2,505 vessels : on process</p>
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation	Sharing FVs 24 m in length and over to Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) (Phase I)
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	Currently, there are 4 fishing vessels obtained oversea fishing license. They are operated in the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	Request AMSs to continue to share FVs <24 m in length to RFVR (Phase II)

Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation

Mechanisms to Promote Implementation

- Fishing gear is classified to low and high efficiency fishing gear
- High efficiency fishing gear and commercial FVs are prohibited in the coastal area (3 NM)
- Implementation of standard of fishing gear to control length/size/number of fishing gear allowed
- Set up PIPO center for controlling $FV \geq 30GT$ and all size of vessel operation high efficiency fishing gear
- $FV \geq 30GT$ must equip with VMS and reported by Logbook
- Prohibition of new FV construction and register

Other measures

1. Fishing license control

- Fishing license is issued every two years. For high efficiency fishing gear, i.e. trawl, purse seine, anchovy purse seine, anchovy purse seine, and anchovy falling net, the applicants need to hold valid fishing license of the same gear.
- New fishing license is not issued for high efficiency fishing gear. Number of high efficiency fishing gear have been reducing since 2017.

2. Limitation of fishing day

Fishing day is limited and specified in the fishing licenses for high efficiency fishing gear, i.e. trawls, purse seine, anchovy purse seine and anchovy falling net.

Fishing day is controlled by PIPO.

3. Fishing license combination

- Number of fishing days for high efficiency gear is limited. The license holders can have their license combined with another license in order to increase the number of fishing day. Then, one license will be cancelled and fishing vessel will be destroyed.



Questionnaire: Part B

Issue / Constraint for Implementation of the RPOA-Capacity

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Issues / Constraint	Key Actions / Strategies
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity		
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	Fishing license is not required for artisanal fishing vessels. Fisheries data is collected by sampling survey.	1. Sampling size is defined based on statistical principle 2. To develop simplified logbook for artisanal vessels
	Overcapacity	Limitation of number of fishing day for highly efficiency fishing gear, i.e. trawl, purse seine, APS, AFN
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity		
2.1 Development of national plans and policies		
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	Buyback scheme needs a large amount of budget and takes a long period of time.	- To propose annual budget to ensure that budget is available for buyback scheme
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation	Need AMS collaboration	Sharing FVs <24 m in length to RFVR (Phase II)
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	Reference point required for SIOFA competent area where Thai fishing vessels operated	1. Analysis of historical fishing effort data 2. Data collection from Thai fishing vessel from logbook, observer onboard, ERS, etc.
	No expertise in tuna fishing in the IOTC competent area	

Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	Need neighboring countries' collaboration for management of transboundary species	Implementation of Fishery Improvement Project (FIP)
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation	Fishing capacity control is implemented based on legal framework, i.e. Royal Ordinance on Fisheries 2015 and Fisheries Management Plan.	

**Number of artisanal vessels by gear types and sizes in Thailand
(as of April 2020)**

Fishing gear	< 5 GT	5-9.99 GT	Total	Percentage
Gill net	28,268	2,204	30,472	60.33
Anchovy falling net	140	76	216	0.43
Squid falling net	1,765	426	2,191	4.34
Other lift net	618	66	684	1.36
Squid trap	835	204	1,039	2.06
Octopus trap	157	30	187	0.37
Fish trap	553	69	622	1.23
Crab trap	3,239	240	3,479	6.89
Other trap	127	6	133	0.26
Krill push net	777	174	951	1.88
Hand line	5,865	445	6,310	12.49
Squid jigging	290	34	324	0.64
Longline	349	53	402	0.80
Jellyfish scoop net	314	31	345	0.68
Shell collection	391	43	434	0.86
Other	2,440	279	2,719	5.38
Total	46,128	4,380	50,508	100.00

**Number of commercial vessels by gear types and sizes in Thailand
(as of April 2020)**

Gear	Size				Total	Percentage
	S (<30 GT)	M (30-60 GT)	L (60-150 GT)	X (>150 GT)		
Otter board trawl	660	797	511	16	1,984	19.09
Pair trawl	4	277	842	5	1,128	10.86
Beam trawl	169	195	79	-	443	4.26
Purse seine	38	150	577	45	810	7.80
Anchovy purse seine	64	20	77	16	177	1.70
Anchovy falling net	156	284	117	-	557	5.36
Anchovy lift net	10	21	-	-	31	0.30
Low efficiency gear	2,176	994	155	6	3,331	32.05
Light luring vessel	1,752	178	1	-	1,931	18.58
Total	5,029	2,916	2,359	88	10,392	100.00

MSY and fishing effort status in the Gulf of Thailand, 2019

Group	MSY (ton)	Fishing effort at MSY	Catch in 2019 (ton)	Fishing effort in 2019	Status of fishing effort
Demersal fish	790,985	22,606,170 hours	545,363	17,342,281 hours	76.71% Fmsy
Anchovy	202,077	172,480 days	112,701	52,476 days	30.42% Fmsy
Pelagic fish	251,547	133,991 days	246,496	113,705 days	84.86% Fmsy

MSY and fishing effort status in the Andaman Sea, 2019

Group	MSY (ton)	Fishing effort at MSY	Catch in 2019 (ton)	Fishing effort in 2019	Status of fishing effort
Demersal fish	230,115	5,328,625 hours	174,717	3,979,939 hours	74.69% Fmsy
Anchovy	33,007	55,158 days	32,442	31,588 days	57.27% Fmsy
Pelagic fish	118,344	67,269 days	111,688	44,423 days	66.04% Fmsy



Questionnaire: Part A

Implementation Status of the RPOA-Capacity

Please provide inputs on Implementation Status of RPOA-Capacity in your country.

Country: Viet Nam

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Implementation Status
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity	
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of 30 December, 2019, Vietnam has 96,609 fishing vessels operating from 6 meters or more in 28 coastal provinces with main occupations: trawl, purse seine, gill net, handling and long line fishing, tuna fishing, shooting, services need fishing. - Vietnam has 30,474 fishing vessels of 15m or more in length, exploiting offshore. - The output of exploiting aquatic products in 2019 reached nearly 3.77 million tons, increase 4.5%, in which the main products come from marine exploitation.
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity	
2.1 Development of national plans and policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vietnam has issued the Fisheries Law 2017 with many guiding documents and have effect from 2019 to manage the fisheries towards sustainable development. - Vietnam's sea area is divided into 3 fishing zones (coastal areas, open areas, high seas) and manages the operating area of fishing vessels in the maximum length.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management of fishing licenses by quotas (the central government manage quotas for ships of 15m or more; provinces manage quotas for ships of less than 15m). - Compulsory installation of cruise monitoring equipment for fishing vessels with maximum length of 15m or more. - So far, implementing the task of pilot research and assignment of tuna catch quota on Vietnamese waters. - The Prime Minister has issued a National Action Plan against IUU fishing. - Vietnam has joined the Agreement on National Measures of Port Fishes (PSMA) and Agreement for the conservation and management of amphibian and migratory fish stocks (Agreement for the conservation and management of fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks UNFSA), A national action plan has been issued to implement the above agreements. - Currently, Vietnam is developing a draft of the Fisheries Development Strategy to 2030 and a vision of 2045; Projects to develop seafood processing and value enhancement.
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently, Vietnam is implementing the fishing port planning to invest in upgrading technical infrastructure to meet the tasks under the Agreement on National Measures with ports and inspect and supervise fishery products at port. - Focus on training and vocational training for fishermen. To encourage coastal fishermen to change jobs.
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vietnam and Indonesia and the Philippines participate in the project to manage migratory fish stocks (tuna) of WCPFC. - Organized a mission to learn experiences against IUU fishing in countries such as the Philippines, Korea, Chile, and Thailand. - Update processing information related to

	<p>foreign ships docking in Vietnam;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share fishing vessel information for regional organizations and national flag regulations.
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO Competent Areas	Negotiate with countries in the region and internationally to encourage Vietnamese fishing vessels to legally operate in foreign waters
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vietnam has negotiated and signed a hotline against illegal fishing with countries in the region. - Share fishing vessel information for regional organizations and national flag regulations.
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation	Vietnam strengthens the inspection and control of the implementation of the Fisheries Law 2017 in localities and among fishermen.



Questionnaire: Part B

Issue / Constraint for Implementation of the RPOA-Capacity

Action in RPOA-Capacity	Issues / Constraint	Key Actions / Strategies
Section I: Assessment of Fishing Capacity		
1.1 Diagnosis and identification of fisheries and fishing capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The number of coastal fishing vessels is still abundant; - Aquatic resources decreased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are programs and schemes for job change for ships in coastal exploitation; - Construction of marine conservation zones; research for suitable forbidden fishing area and duration.
Section II: Preparation and Implementation of National Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity		
2.1 Development of national plans and policies	Some policies and regulations are not yet consistent with reality	Continue to improve policies and research new policies towards sustainable fisheries development
2.2 Subsidies and economic incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education level of fishermen is low. - The income of fishermen is low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing to have programs to support training and raising awareness of fishermen. - To adopt policies to support fishermen in exploiting and preserving products and stabilizing the market price of aquatic products
2.3 Regional Considerations and Cooperation		Continue to exchange information and experience in fisheries management
Section III: International Considerations and Fishing in High Seas or RFMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information on fishing grounds and resources - Information on legal 	Exchange and update information on fisheries and aquatic resources, legal

Competent Areas	regulations	regulations of the region's fishing and cooperation regions
Section IV: Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need timely and accurate information - Handling cases at sea in the humanitarian spirit. 	Coordination among countries in the region;
Section V: Mechanisms to Promote Implementation	National interests and commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to ensure the interests of participating countries in the region. - Develop a mechanism for sharing information and experience among countries and come to the regional compliance commitment.

**Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Plan of Action for the Management of
Fishing Capacity (RPOA Capacity)**

8 December 2020

Way Forward for the Implementation of NPOA-Capacity in AMSs

No.	Country	Status Development NPOA-Capacity (Publish / Draft / In progress)	Way Forward
1.	Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam not yet develop NPOA fishing capacity.	Needs guide from Malaysia to develop NPOA fishing capacity.
2.	Cambodia		
3.	Indonesia		
4.	Malaysia	NPOA for the Management of Fishing Capacity in Malaysia: Plan 1 in 2008 Plan 2 in 2015 Plan 3 in progress	Currently, Malaysia is reviewing to develop Plan 3.
5.	Myanmar		
6.	Philippines	Zero draft NPOA-Capacity Outline	1. Writeshop 2. TWG review 3. Stakeholders consultation 4. Presentation and deliberation at National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (NFARMC)
7.	Thailand	Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) is used instead of NPOA-Capacity	FMP version I, 2015-2019 FMP version II, 2020-2023
8.	Viet Nam		

No.	Country	Implementation of NPOA-Capacity	Way Forward
1.	Brunei Darussalam		
2.	Cambodia		
3.	Indonesia		
4.	Malaysia	Plan 1 was partly implemented, Plan 2 under review to develop Plan 3.	
5.	Myanmar		
6.	Philippines		
7.	Thailand	Implemented FMP version I	Implement FMP version II
8.	Viet Nam		

No.	Country	Issue and Challenge of Implementing NPOA-Capacity	Notes
1.	Brunei Darussalam		
2.	Cambodia		
3.	Indonesia		
4.	Malaysia		
5.	Myanmar		
6.	Philippines		
7.	Thailand	The Objective 1 of the FMP is to control fishing effort to a level that can support the MSY in Thai waters. The target is to maintain fishing effort below the Fmsy. There are 8 measures under this objective, e.g., to control number of fishing day for each vessel and to implement vessel buyback. The challenge would be the annual stock and fishing effort assessment which requires intensive data collection program.	
8.	Viet Nam		

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr Masaya Katoh
Deputy Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD

**The Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Plan of Action for the Management
of Fishing Capacity (RPOA-Capacity)**

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia
8 December 2020

Mr Koichi Honda, Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, Dr Ahmad Ali, Chief of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Dr Simon Funge-Smith, FAO Senior Fishery Officer in Bangkok, distinguished representatives from ASEAN Member States and my colleagues from SEAFDEC/Secretariat and departments and Ladies and Gentlemen, Good afternoon

Thank you very much for active participation from SEAFDEC Member Countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the pandemic, we cannot host face-to-face international meetings. Instead, we had a video meeting today. RPOA-Capacity and NPOA-Capacity are challenging for AMSs because the limited information in the region. However, RPOA-Capacity states "States should not make insufficient information on fisheries resources as the reason to delay the implementation of policies to control fishing capacity and reduce its level where appropriate, and in accordance with the precautionary principle using currently available information." We look forward to seeing the progress in all AMSs in future. Finally, I appreciate tireless preparation by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD staff for four teleconferences organized by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in the last three weeks. Now, I declare the meeting closed. Thank you very much.



The South Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is an intergovernmental organization established in December 1967 to promote sustainable fisheries development in the region. Its current Member Countries are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Representing the Member Countries is the Council of Directors, the policy-making body of SEAFDEC. The Chief administrator of SEAFDEC is the Secretary-General whose office, the Sectarat is based in Bangkok, Thailand.

SEAFDEC undertakes research on appropriate fishery technologies, trains fisheries technicians and disseminates fisheries information. Five Departments, namely Training Department (TD), Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), Aquaculture Department (AQD) Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), Inland Fishery Resources Development Management Department (IFRDMD) were established in Thailand, Singapore, The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, respectively, to pursue the objectives of the Center.

Since 1998, technical cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC towards sustainable fisheries development has been initiated under the regional **ASEAN-SEAFDEC Fisheries Consultative Group Mechanism (FCG)** framework; and the promotion of sustainable fisheries development through this mechanism is well accredited within the ASEAN.

To assure that the efforts of ASEAN and SEAFDEC in tackling a number of challenges that have impacts on the development and management of the fisheries sector are sustained, and in support of various activities for the benefit of Member Countries, the **ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership (ASSP)** was formalized in November 2007. ASSP is envisaged to enhance closer cooperation between ASEAN and SEAFDEC and its Member Countries, paving the new phase for ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaboration in achieving long term common goals towards collective regional development and management of sustainable fisheries.

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