

Programs 2003-2004



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Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

MFRDMD Programs 2003-2004



Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD)
Kuala Terengganu
2003

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Foreword

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be able to make a short contribution to this publication.

The management of capture fisheries is a challenging task that faces me as Chief of MFRDMD SEAFDEC. Within the current scenario of declining fish resources world wide, and the deterioration of the aquatic environment, it seems that the future of the fisheries in our part of the world is following the same trend. Managing fisheries, that are generally small-scale and operated by a large number of fishers using a large variety of fishing gear and small fishing vessels, to achieve sustainability is a challenging task. Although the fisheries themselves are so complex and exploited by fishers from different cultural, social and historical backgrounds, there is one similarity. Across ASEAN, a large proportion of the population depends on fish as a main source of protein in their diet.

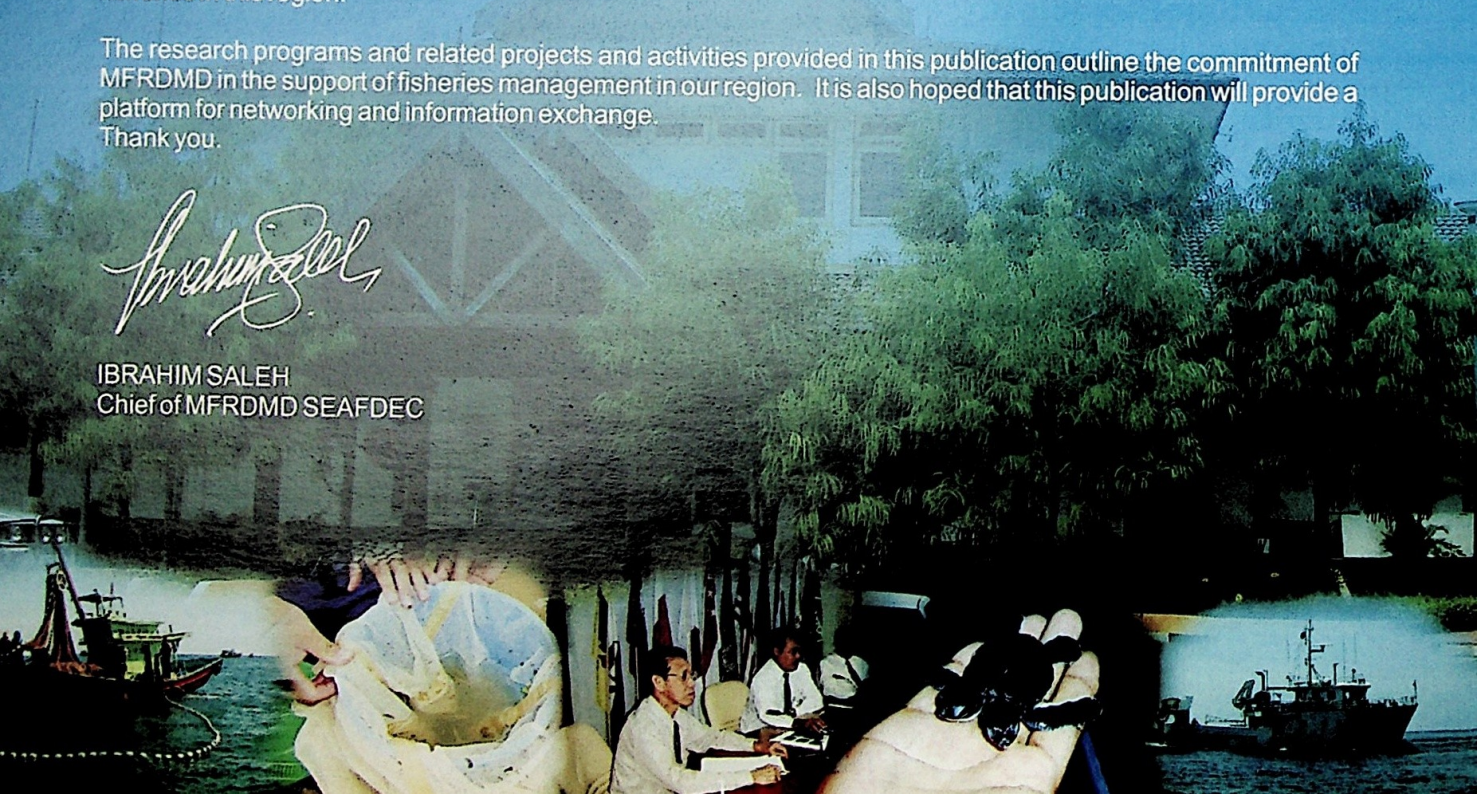
MFRDMD SEAFDEC has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing assistance, technical support and training towards achieving sustainable development and management of fisheries in the ASEAN region. Planning of research programs, related projects and activities is carefully conducted and in consultation with the SEAFDEC Secretariat so as to achieve our goal and mission statement. It cannot be denied that we have an important and significant role to play. However we also seek collaboration and cooperation from our regional partners in facing this daunting task. I am sure that together as ASEAN we will be able to improve the state and management of our fisheries for our own future.

For the year 2003, several programs of research were planned for implementation. Some of these programs, projects and activities are continued from programs started earlier. Following the outcome of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference: "Fish for the People" held in 2001 and the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium, several new research programs were developed. The implementation of these research programs was re-structured beginning 2003. This re-structuring was undertaken with a view to improving the contribution and support of research towards achieving sustainable fisheries in this region.

The research programs and related projects and activities provided in this publication outline the commitment of MFRDMD in the support of fisheries management in our region. It is also hoped that this publication will provide a platform for networking and information exchange.

Thank you.

IBRAHIM SALEH
Chief of MFRDMD SEAFDEC



Our Vision

To be the CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE for the sustainable development and management of fishery resources in Southeast Asia.

Our Mission

To provide assistance to SEAFDEC / ASEAN countries in matters relating to the sustainable development and management of fishery resources in Southeast Asia, through research, training and information

Our Functions

To provide a regional forum for consultation and cooperation in research and management of fishery resources.

To coordinate and implement programs to support the sustainable development and management of fishery resources in SEAFDEC / ASEAN countries through:

- monitoring the condition and exploitation of the state of fishery resources
- providing the scientific basis and appropriate guidelines

To provide training in the field of fishery resource assessment and management to improve the capability of SEAFDEC / ASEAN countries for the sustainable development and management of fishery resources.

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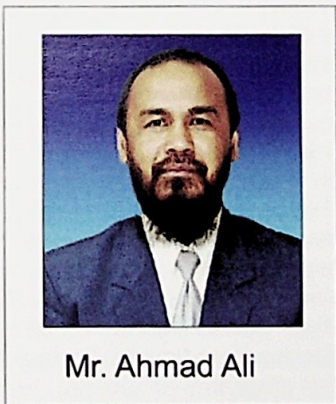
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Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea

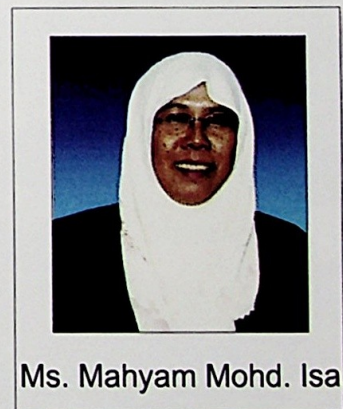
The Use of Indicators for the Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region



Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles in Southeast Asian Countries

Data and Information Collection on Shark Fisheries in the ASEAN Region and Identification of Sharks.

Information Gathering for Inland Capture Fisheries



Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea

This program comprises of three components. Component I of the program consists of the organization of meetings/workshops for effective program implementation. Component II involves survey of the actual status of operation and catches of the purse seine fishery. This component also includes fish biology studies. Meanwhile Component III will examine the possibility of maximizing pelagic fish utilization.

Under Component I, the First Technical Consultation on Information Collection for Sustainable Pelagic Fisheries in the South China Sea was held from 8 – 9 September 2002 in Samut Prakarn, Thailand. The Second Technical Consultation Meeting together with a Training Session on Data Collection and Handling will be held from 22 – 26 September 2003 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. At the Second TCM, the methodology and mechanism of regular data collection and analysis to be implemented in 2004-2006 will be discussed and finalized. Training in data handling and analysis and training in fish processing is being conducted. In addition, the methodology and mechanism of the activities under the Component III will also be discussed and finalized.

A number of projects under the Component II has been implemented in the year 2003. They are:

•Project 1 on survey for actual status of operation and catches of the purse seine fishery includes fishing operation and catch data collection and analysis.

Project 2 undertakes the biological data collection and analysis of mackerels and roundscads. This project consist of three activities:

- Growth and mortality of mackerels and roundscads;
- Reproductive biology of mackerels and roundscads and;
- Identification of stock/population on selected species.



Consultation visits by a team from MFRDMD and Training Department (TD) were carried out to fish landing sites of Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak) and Brunei Darussalam from January to March 2003. A visit will be made to Thailand.

The purpose of these visits is to observe the purse seines landing activities at the fish landing sites, as well as to provide hands-on training to Technical Officers and enumerators stationed at selected fish landing sites. These officers are involved in data collection for fishing operation and catch data as well as for biological data. Demonstrations on the installation and use of the Black Box Onboard (BBO) on selected purse seines were conducted. BBOs will record information on fishing locations and grounds.

For the stock / unit identification of Indian mackerel, requests have been made to Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia to collect tissue samples of this fish from 25-31 May 2003. These samples are to be sent to the MFRDMD laboratory and arrived at the laboratory on 20 June 2003 for analysis. Under Component III, the project and activities below will be implemented mainly by MFRD Singapore who is a partner in the implementation of this program.

Project 3. Development of products and processing technology for maximizing utilization

- Observation at landing sites and processing facilities; and
- Data analysis to identify species for product development

So far the research team from MFRD had visited Malaysia and Thailand to observe the current status of landings of small pelagics in terms of quantity, quality, handling, storage and utilization for processing with the aim to identify target species for product development.

Researchers:

Dr. Mansor Mat Isa (Leader)

Mr. Richard Rumpet,

Mr. Syed Abdullah Syed Abdul Kadir

The Use of Indicators for the Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in ASEAN Region

The use of indicators in the management of tropical multi-species and multi-gear fisheries is an immediate option that can be used by national fisheries managers. This option does not aim to replace conventional stock assessment methodologies that are being used but is aimed at using simple, practical, available and cost-effective indicators in the formulation of management decisions.

The introduction of the use of indicators in SEAFDEC Member countries also stresses on the need for the development of fisheries management plans for specific fisheries and the consultation and active participation of stakeholders, the majority of whom are fishers, in the process of the development of these management plans. This project will also adopt a more "bottom-up" approach in fisheries management.

Pilot studies on the use of indicators will be conducted for selected fisheries in interested countries and basing on the outcomes from these studies, regional guidelines on the use of indicators for the sustainable development and management of capture fisheries will be developed. These guidelines will be formulated to promote the use of indicators to interpret and understand status and trends of fisheries to support fisheries management without aiming to replace conventional stock assessment.

The initial phase of pilot project implementation requires detailed compilation and documentation of existing data on indicators. This role will be conducted by Technical Officers in their respective countries with the support of their National Fisheries Management Authorities and Departments with the cooperation of stakeholders. Currently pilot projects for the trawl fishery will be conducted in Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. Indonesia will conduct a pilot study on the "mini" purse seine fishery while Philippines will study the ring net fishery. A small-scale fishery will be studied in Vietnam. The fisheries management plans for identified fisheries for the pilot studies will be developed together with stakeholders.



The above pilot projects were proposed and accepted at the first Regional Technical Consultation on the Use of Indicators for the Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region that was held from 16 – 18 September 2002 in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia. A second Regional Technical Consultation will be held to monitor the implementation of pilot projects towards the end of 2003 or early 2004.

The success in the use of indicators hinges on to the active participation of stakeholders, thus consultations with stakeholders must be conducted. Technical Officers will also work in close collaboration with MFRDMD for project coordination, monitoring and evaluation as well as in the provision of technical support. A regional platform for data and information exchange has been developed through this project. The use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to enhance information presentation will also be initiated through this project.

- Researchers:
- Ms. Chee Phaik Ean (Leader),
 - Mr. Rosidi Ali,
 - Mr. Ibrahim Johari,
 - Mr. Ku Kassim Ku Yaacob



Research Programs

Shark Fisheries

MFRDMD will implement two studies on sharks beginning 2003. The studies will be conducted as part of a regional project that is being coordinated by the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

Data and Information Collection on Shark Fisheries in the ASEAN region.

Beginning July 2003, MFRDMD will conduct a one-year study to compile catch data by species as well as record biological information on sharks. Trade information together with data on utilization of sharks and shark products will be gathered to understand the status and trend of shark fisheries in the region.

Identification of Shark Products (Shark Fins).

The Regional Technical Consultation on Shark Fisheries held in Lao, PDR from 26-28 May 2003 requested MFRDMD to develop appropriate identification methods for sharks from their fins in the region. This project therefore aims to develop appropriate methods for the identification of sharks through the use of morphological characteristics, such as of denticles on dried shark fins.



The study will first focus on 10 shark species, from the middle to big size range, found in this region and are commonly used for dried shark fins. Fresh sharks will be bought from markets or landing ports. One to two cm-square skin samples will be cut from the center of the dorsal and pectoral fins and the lower lobe of the caudal fin. These will be used for observation of denticles under the compound microscope. Denticles from these fresh skin specimens will be photographed using a camera fixed to the microscope. All fins will be sun-dried for several weeks before the denticles from the dried fins are photographed again. The shapes of denticles will be used as references to identify dried shark fin bought from markets.

Researcher:
Mr. Ahmad Ali



Research Programs

Conservation and Management of Sea Turtles in SouthEast Asian Countries

This project saw the completion of sea turtle tagging using external tags in 2002. Flipper tagging is a conventional method but is widely used by turtle ecologists. A new type of tag, i.e. the Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag or microchip tag is becoming popular and many scientists now use this to supplement flipper tags. PIT tagging is to be initiated in 2003 for the region. PIT tags and its tagging manual will be distributed to all member countries.

Present pressures and threats to all turtle species in the region deserve quick data acquisition. Satellite tagging or satellite telemetry is another advanced tool for studying turtle ecology. This technique provides quick data on turtle migration and this information is useful for the purpose of protecting offshore feeding and breeding areas as well as migration routes. The findings from satellite tagging have a strong management implication. This activity will be conducted in collaboration with the existing SEASTAR (Southeast Asia Sea Turtle Cooperative Research) Project, lead by Kyoto University of Japan.



Studies on sea turtle hatchery management will be expanded in 2003 to obtain more information which is required for formulating management recommendations. Specifically, the new activities will include the tracking of turtle hatchlings in the water to determine their offshore dispersal and mortality.



New activities are proposed under this project. The first is the assessment of threats on sea turtles. Information will be gathered through questionnaires and field visits will be conducted to selected turtle harvest and nesting areas. Data collected will be analysed and the results will be used as a basis to improve current measures on sea turtle conservation and resource enhancement. The second new proposed activity is on information gathering for sea turtle conservation and resource enhancement. A regional network and database for sea turtle information will be established.

Researchers:
Mr. Ahmad Ali (Leader),
Mr. Zulkifli Talib



Information Gathering for Inland Capture Fisheries

The study on inland capture fisheries is a new and challenging area of study for MFRDMD and SEAFDEC. This project will be implemented at both regional and selected pilot areas. At regional level, information on capture inland fisheries will be compiled and evaluated through consultation visits to respective member countries with the help of appointed core-experts/resource persons. In pilot studies, information will be collected and compiled at selected proposed sites.

Six activities are proposed for this project. These include:

- (i) Compilation and documentation of data on fisheries, fishing gears and methods, fish species, environmental conditions and socio-economic data
- (ii) Implementation of pilot projects for the riverine system, lakes/reservoirs and flood plains
- (iii) Development of database
- (iv) Application of the remote sensing technique and use of Geographical Information System (GIS) for the development and management of freshwater capture inland fisheries
- (v) Capacity building and on-the-job training for freshwater fish taxonomy and freshwater fish larvae identification.



The expected outputs from this project include compiled information on fishing gear and methods used, list of freshwater fish species and fish larvae, biological information of commercially important fish species and social and economic information of fishers exploiting fisheries resources in inland fisheries. The databases for both regional and localized levels will be established. Information will be disseminated to ASEAN member countries. A Standard Operating Procedure and format for data collection and analysis will also be established and distributed to member countries.

Close collaboration has been established with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and FAO to develop the activities for this program.

Researchers:
Ms. Mahyam Mohd. Isa (Leader)
Mr. Jamaluddin Ibrahim
Mr. Zulkifli Talib
Mr. Ibrahim Johari
Mr. Sharum Yusoff



Other Projects Under the MFRDMD Departmental Programs

Resource Assessment and Management

1. Bio-economic analysis in fisheries management.
Mr. Ibrahim Johari
2. Target strength study on tropical fish.
Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan
3. Application of satellite data for fish forecasting.
Mr. Ku Kassim Ku Yaacob
4. Compilation of catch-effort statistics for the South China Sea.
Ms. Chee Phaik Ean
5. Compilation of tuna fishery statistics for the South China Sea area.
Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan
6. Application of Marine Explorer (Marine GIS) to promote sustainable fishing practices.
Mr. Rosidi Ali

Fishery Biology

1. Fish taxonomy studies in the South China Sea.
Dr. Mansor Mat Isa
2. Biology and fisheries of sharks in SEAFDEC Member Countries.
Mr. Ahmad Ali
3. Kinds, abundance and distribution of fish juveniles and larvae in the South China Sea.
Mr. Zulkifli Talib

Marine Conservation and Stock Enhancement

1. Construction and setup of FADs for coastal fishers in SEAFDEC Member Countries.
Mr. Ahmad Ali

Training/Seminar/Workshop

1994

1. Regional Workshop on data collection and Management related to Shared Stocks in the Southeast Asian Region held from 28-30 March 1994 in Kuala Terengganu.

1995

1. Second Regional Workshop on Shared Stocks in the South China Sea from 18-20 July 1995 in Kuala Terengganu. 2. Seminar on Fisheries Extension and Training from 6-7 June 1995 in Kuala Terengganu.

1996

1. First SEAFDEC Workshop on Marine Turtle Research and Conservation from 15-18 Jan 1996 in Kuala Terengganu.

1997

1. Third Regional Workshop on Shared Stocks in the South China Sea from 6-8 Oct 1997 in Kuala Terengganu.
2. First SEAFDEC Workshop on Marine Turtle Research and Conservation from 21-23 Dec 1997 in Kuala Terengganu.

1998

1. First Regional Workshop on Remote Sensing of Phytoplankton from 17-18 Nov 1998 in Kuala Terengganu.
2. Regional Training Course on Acoustic Methodology from 26 Sept-8 Oct 1998 in Kuala Terengganu.
3. Regional Training Course on Operation of FQ-70 from 9-13 March 1998 in Kuala Terengganu.
4. Regional Training Course on Marine Turtle Research and Conservation from 24-30 Aug 1998 in Kuala Terengganu.

1999

1. The SEAFDEC/ASEAN Regional Workshop on Sea Turtle Conservation and Management from 26- 28 July 1999 in Kuala Terengganu.
2. Regional Training Course on Acoustic Methodology from 18-23 Sept 1999 Kuala Terengganu.
3. Regional Training Course on Operation of FQ-70 from 20-26 April 1999 in Kuala Terengganu.



2000

1. The SEAFDEC/ MFRDMD Fourth Regional Workshop on Shared Stocks: Research and Management in the South China Sea was held, from 24th to 26th. January, 2000 in Kuala Terengganu.
2. The Pre Technical Meeting on the RCCRF: Part I- Industrial Fisheries was held from 27-30 January 2000 in Kuala Terengganu.
3. The First Meeting on Regional Sea Turtle Data Management was conducted from 20-21st November 2000 in Kuala Terengganu.
4. Regional Training Course on Acoustic Methodology from 22-27 May 2000 onboard MV DA-BFAR in Manila.
5. Regional Training Course on Operation EK500 from 22-27 May 2000 onboard MV DA-BFAR in Manila.
6. Workshop on Management of Fishing Capacity was held from 7-9 November 2000 in Penang.
7. Regional Technical Consultation on Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries from 10-11 November 2000 in Penang.

2001

1. The Training Course of the Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries through South-south Cooperation in the ASEAN Region from 1 July-30 September 2001 in Kuala Terengganu.
2. Regional Training Course on Marine Turtle Tagging and Hatchery Management was conducted from 23 – 31st July 2001 in Kuala Terengganu.

2002

1. Regional Training Course in Acoustic Research and Methodology held from 11-15 August 2002 in Kuala Terengganu.
2. The First Regional Technical Consultation on the Use of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture fisheries in the ASEAN Region was held from 16-18 September 2002 in Kuala Terengganu.
3. The Government-Expert Consultation on Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for responsible Fisheries (RCCRF) Phase III was held from 1-5 October 2002 in Kuala Lumpur.

2003

1. The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Regional Technical Consultation on Information Gathering for Inland Fisheries will be held from 4-6 August 2003 in Kuala Lumpur.





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- Mansor, M.I., Kohno, H. etc. 1998. The Field Guide to Important Commercial Marine Fishes of the South China Sea Area. Kuala Terengganu: SEAFDEC MFRDMD. SEAFDEC MFRDMD /SP/2. Proceedings of the First SEAFDEC Workshop on Marine Turtle Research and Conservation. 1997. Kuala Terengganu: SEAFDEC MFRDMD. SEAFDEC MFRDMD /RM/3.
- Report of the First SEAFDEC Meeting on Regional Sea Turtle Data Management held 20-21 November 2000 Kuala Terengganu. 2001. Kuala Terengganu: SEAFDEC MFRDMD SEAFDEC MFRDMD /RM/8.
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- Report of MFRDMD/SEAFDEC First Regional Workshop on Remote Sensing of Phytoplankton. 1999. Kuala Terengganu: SEAFDEC MFRDMD SEAFDEC MFRDMD RM/5.
- The Report of the SEAFDEC/ASEAN Regional Workshop on Sea Turtle Conservation and Management. 1999. Kuala Terengganu: SEAFDEC MFRDMD SEAFDEC MFRDMD /RM/6.
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