



**THE FOURTH REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SHARED STOCKS:  
RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT  
IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA**

**Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> January 2000**

**REGIONALISATION OF  
THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES  
PHASE III : FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

**By:**

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# REGIONALISATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES Phase III : Fisheries Management

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## INTRODUCTION

The gradual depletion of commercially important fish stocks due to excessive use of fishing effort has been one of the major problems faced by many countries around the world. This is especially a major concern among fisheries managers whose duties are to ensure that fish stocks are exploited on a profitable but sustainable basis and among fisheries scientists involved in their assessment and enhancement.

It was due to this recognition of the importance of the commercial fish stocks and their respective fisheries on the global scale that the FAO Governing Bodies recommended the formulation of a global **Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries** (CCRF), which could help set the *principles* and *international standards behaviour* for responsible practices, taking into account the relevant biological, technological, economic, social, environmental and commercial aspects. The Code, unanimously adopted on **31 October 1995** by the FAO Conference, provides the necessary framework for national and international efforts to ensure the objectives of ensuring the effective conservation, management and development of all living aquatic resources can hopefully be achieved.

Four years of exhaustive efforts by interested countries of the world have resulted in a consensus on the current comprehensive text of the CCRF. During the negotiation process, however, specific regional issues were diluted, or perhaps even avoided, with a view towards finding acceptable global compromises and consensus on controversial issues. There was also a strong political will by the countries concerned to avoid from interfering on sensitive issues within EEZs which are the prerogatives of national sovereignty, especially in its Articles on Fisheries Management and Fishing Operations.

Eventually the regional or global issues, including those on the high seas and related fisheries, have, in general, been focused upon. Throughout the deliberations of the CCRF, members from the developed fishing nations were comparatively more active, resulting in the CCRF being formulated based mainly on situations more relevant to the developed countries. Now the member countries, SEAFDEC and relevant international Organization and other stakeholders of fisheries are requested to implement the CCRF.

## REGIONALIZATION OF CCRF TO SOUTHEAST ASIA

SEAFDEC supports the formulation and implementation of the CCRF and upholds the general principles and standards provided therein. The Organization realizes that the global consensus on the CCRF is an enormous achievement by the international society to rectify the current practices of fisheries worldwide even though the contained issues have not managed to fully cover all areas of concern for sustainable fisheries in all regions of the world. The region of Southeast Asia, for example, contributes a major proportion of global fisheries production, and is now seriously considering implementing the CCRF for the achievement of sustainable fisheries in its area.

However, before this can be achieved, the Region needs to identify specific fisheries situation in the region prior to the implementation of the Code. The different fishing scenarios and issues that exist within the Southeast Asian region, especially those relating to the multi-species coastal and small-scale fisheries which are rather dominant here but unfortunately only superficially covered by the global Code, need to be firmly addressed.

The following issues are among those identified as relevant to the Southeast Asian region that need further deliberations but considered missing or only partially covered in the CCRF:

- (i) Operation practices of small scale fishing boats, that comprise a major proportion of the fishing vessels of the region, are not proportionally highlighted.
- (ii) Fisheries management for small scale and coastal fisheries are only barely covered in the Article on Fisheries Management.
- (iii) Freshwater, small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, which are extremely important and major sub-sectors contributing to the food security of the region, are also not appropriately covered.
- (iv) Food security aspects of the fisheries have likewise not been fully considered. This has led to the organization of the "Kyoto Conference on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security" by the Japanese Government and FAO in 1996, in order to supplement these important aspects of fisheries, that are a critical base of the fisheries in the region.

SEAFDEC thus supports that *further consideration and elaboration be taken to specifically address these issues*. To fulfill this obligation to the region, the Organization has initiated a rather comprehensive project of what is now known as the ***Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries for Southeast Asia***. Phase I of the Project, which is mainly related to Responsible Fishing Operation, was successfully organized by SEAFDEC TD/Secretariat in June 1998 with a meeting of the regional Core Experts on the subject. This meeting paved the way for the more dignified Expert Consultation on the Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries : Article 8 (Responsible Fishing Operations) held in Chiang Mai, in November 1998. One of the main outputs from this meeting is the set of Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia: Responsible Fishing Operations.

Phase II of the Project is devoted to Article 9 (Aquaculture Development) for the region, a task currently undertaken by SEAFDEC AQD of the Philippines.

To undertake the third phase of this project, which is related to Fisheries Management in the Southeast Asia region, the technically competent SEAFDEC Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department will act as the focal point for regional efforts involving fisheries management experts of the region.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Project on the "Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries: Phase III Fisheries Management" are:

1. To consider inappropriate and missing components with respect to Fisheries Management in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
2. To produce the Regional Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Management, and
3. To disseminate and promote the Regional Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Management among the countries of the region.

Duration : 3 years (1999 – 2001) (tentative)

## **PROJECT STAFF**

Mr Ismail Taufid Md Yusoff (MFRDMD)	Project Director
Dr Yasuhisa Kato (Secretariat)	Project Advisor
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Dr Mansor Mat Isa (MFRDMD)	Project Advisor
Dr Mohd Taupek Mohd Nasir (MFRDMD)	Project Manager
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## **REGIONAL CORE EXPERTS**

The following core experts have been identified and endorsed by the respective governments to effect the success of the Project.

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**Activities & Time Schedule:** To fulfill the objectives of the Project, two series of activities will be undertaken within the time schedule as follows:

**I. The Regional Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Management.**

ACTIVITIES	TIME SCHEDULE
1. Identification of Regional Core Experts	1999
2. Government endorsement of Core Experts	1999
3. Organisation of Pre-Workshop among the Core Experts and Advisors.	27-30 January, 2000
4. Contracts with the Regional Core Experts.	30 January, 2000
5. Preparation of Regional Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Management (Article 7) by the Regional Core Experts.	****
6. Submission of Regional Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Management (Article 7) by the Regional Core Experts.	****
7. Organisation of Workshop among the Regional Experts and the Advisors.	****
8. Governments nominate three representatives excluding the core experts.	****
9. Expert Consultation Meeting	****

**II. The Regionalisation of the Code of Conduct (Article 7) for Responsible Fisheries Management.**

ACTIVITIES	TIME SCHEDULE
10. Preparation on the Draft Regional Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Management (Article 7)	****
11. Regional Government Consultation on the Regional Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Management (Article 7)	****
12. Adoption of the Regional Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries Management (Article 7) at SEAFDEC Council Meeting.	****

**FUTURE OUTLOOK**

MFRDMD is hopeful that a set of similar guidelines covering responsible Fisheries Management can be produced at the completion of this exercise for the benefit of member countries in the region.