

OVERALL FRAMEWORK AND LINKAGES AMONG SEAFDEC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT RELATED PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

Suriyan Vichitlekarn
Policy and Program Coordinator, SEAFDEC Secretariat

Fisheries Management in the ASEAN Region

The long-term sustainability of fisheries resources using appropriate management mechanisms is vital to ensuring stable fish supply and achieving food security and related benefits in the ASEAN region both now and in the future. Although ASEAN Member Countries have their own policy, legal and institutional or regulatory frameworks to manage their respective fisheries, these systems are generally based on short-term objectives and increasing production levels, rather than the long-term comprehensive and sustainable management of fisheries. Therefore, there is a need to improve national fisheries management frameworks in order to accommodate the various requirements for sustainable fisheries development in the region. Since fisheries regulation and conflicts among resource users are usually locally based problems, and the need for more timely implementation of management measures and actions has been identified, the decentralization of selected functions and responsibilities to appropriate local institutions is proposed. This concept can be considered a policy option for inclusion into the national fisheries management framework.

Another important policy option is the replacement of open access regimes with limited access regimes and the provision of fishing rights. It is clear that management measures and regulations are currently not effectively implemented in open access fisheries of the region, and this is a major contributor to over-exploitation and environmental degradation. The implementation of fishing rights compliments the concept of decentralized fisheries management, as well as co-management with local institutions and resource users. This important issue will also need to be accommodated into the innovative fisheries management framework.

The optimized harvesting of fisheries resources requires that an effective management regime is in place to prevent levels of fishing capacity and effort from exceeding that required to maintain sustainable yields. Part of innovative options to the region includes regulation and control of fishing capacity and fishing effort. In this regard, the use of vessel numbers as a proxy for fishing capacity is viewed as a first step towards the control of fishing effort, and is a proposed indicator of sustainable development for fisheries in the region. The effectiveness of the above-mentioned options requires the effective and timely analysis of fisheries data and the application of close monitoring systems to provide appropriate feedback and assist the decision-making process. To date, the utility of fisheries statistics has been limited mainly due to problems associated with the collection and analysis of fisheries data. This has hampered the development of appropriate policies and clear management objectives.

To enhance the productivity of fisheries resources in inshore waters, particularly those that have been degraded due to human intervention, the replenishment of these resources should be considered. A comprehensive program for the restoration and enhancement of coastal habitats together with appropriate management systems is discussed as an option to increase fisheries production levels.

The use of illegal and destructive fishing gears and practices is a serious threat to fisheries resources and the aquatic environment. There is a need to eliminate these practices and redirect or remove this fishing effort from the fishery, and appropriate management measures together with promotional work to use responsible fishing gears and practices are discussed. The options for maintaining and enhancing the resource base through appropriate management actions including habitat rehabilitation are considered for fisheries in the region.

ASEAN Member Countries must make greater progress toward the full and sustainable utilization of the region's fisheries resources. Overcoming the problems highlighted here is a step in the right direction, and only then will it be possible to increase production from sustainable fisheries resources and provide 'fish for the people' for both present and future generations.

SEAFDEC Initiatives Related to Fisheries Management and Future Challenges

The development and establishment of sustainable fisheries systems particularly in coastal areas is rapidly emerging as the focused area of fisheries management concerns in the ASEAN region. This is reflected in the recently adopted ASEAN-vision “*To be the leader in sustainable tropical fisheries for the people*” as the typical tropical fisheries in the ASEAN region is small scale and takes place mostly in coastal areas.

Currently, most of the ASEAN member countries have developed a fisheries management policy and mechanism, which are generally applicable to all sectors of the fisheries and similar to those developed in the developed countries. However, the small scale/coastal fisheries are quite specific and unique to the ASEAN region which may have different requirements, including socio-economic situation and unavailability of financial and technical resources compared with the industrial fisheries sector. Besides, small-scale coastal fisheries is a dominant or major sector of the fisheries in the region. If the national fisheries management policy and mechanisms remain as they are, the implementation of sustainable management of fisheries will not be appropriately focused and may result in ineffective enforcement of the management measures for the particular sub-sector.

The ASEAN-SEAFDEC Millennium Conference on Fish for the People held in 2001 highlighted the socio-economic/cultural importance of the effective management of fisheries for regional food security from the point of view of the regions long-term objective for food and livelihood security. The Millennium Conference also pointed out the importance to create separate management policy and mechanism at the national level in addition to the current policy which are not focused on the coastal fisheries. The Resolution and Plan of Action on Contribution of Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region adopted at the Millennium Conference provide a policy framework and priority action to investigate two issues: 1) decentralization of management authority to the institutions which are physically close to the resources users, and 2) terminate the current “open access” regime for alleviating local conflicts and effective implementation of coastal fisheries management, by providing the appropriate kinds of “fishing right” to the appropriate institutions as a direction to elaborate appropriate management policy and mechanism for coastal fisheries.

SEAFDEC as a regional inter-governmental organization and ASEAN's partner in realizing the above ASEAN vision and directions for change, for many years has been one of the leading agencies in promoting sustainable coastal and small-scale fisheries in the region through

numerous programs and projects. Currently SEAFDEC Secretariat and the four SEAFDEC departments are actively involved in various programs, projects and initiatives (Annex 1 - Summary Information and Linkages of SEAFDEC Fisheries Management (CFM) Related Programs) - all of which aim at promoting sustainable fisheries systems in coastal areas. The various activities carried out within these programs, projects and initiatives workshops, training courses, resource surveys, consultations, *etc.* often have similar or even the same objectives and target groups, generally aiming at improving and building human capacity for fisheries management.

To increase the effectiveness of these activities and help these projects to inspire innovative and appropriate management approaches for small-scale fisheries management in the region, ***it is crucial, to identify the linkages between them and place them in a common framework for the promotion of such fisheries management systems.*** This will then help ensuring impacts of SEAFDEC programs and initiatives to sustainability of coastal fisheries and livelihoods of small-scale coastal fishermen.

**Summary Information and Linkages of SEAFDEC Fisheries Management (CFM) Related Programs
(As of January 2004)**

Programs	Contribution to Overall CFM	Linkages with RES¹	Linkages with POA²	SEAFDEC Lead Departments
1. Regionalization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries	Encourage investigation on the application of the CCRF in regional fisheries context through a series of regional consultation. Provides general principles, framework and guidelines for implementation of overall fisheries management. Acts as the core program to coordinate all CFM related programs. Supports HRD particularly fishery managers to be able to apply concepts and appropriate management actions to ensure sustainable fisheries.	RES-1 (CCRF) RES-2 (Harmonized fisheries policy and plan) RES-3 (HRD and stakeholder involvement) RES-15 (Common ASEAN positions) RES-16 (Safeguard ASEAN interests)	POA-A1 (Innovative fisheries management) POA-A5 (Fishing capacity) POA-A9 & A10 (Fishery statistics) POA-E1 (Guidelines/standards) POA-E2 (Safeguard ASEAN interests)	Secretariat
2. Fish Trade and Environment (Fisheries Subsidies)	Provides guidelines for the use of government subsidies in fisheries to ensure sustainable development and management of fisheries.	RES-2 (Harmonized fisheries policy and plan) RES-15 (Common ASEAN positions) RES-16 (Safeguard ASEAN interests)	POA-A5 (Fishing capacity) POA-B9 (Aquaculture for rural development) POA-D2 (Fisheries subsidies) POA-E1 (Guidelines/standards) POA-E2 (Safeguard ASEAN interests)	Secretariat
3. Coastal Resource Management	Provides comprehensive practical experience and strategies in effective introduction and adoption of CFM at local level through implementation of pilot cases. Investigates potential community fishing gear such as set net for sustainable use of coastal fishery resources.	RES-3 (HRD and stakeholder involvement) RES-5 (Delegation of management functions) RES-6 (Right-based fisheries)	POA-A1 (Innovative fisheries management) POA-A2 (Stakeholder consultation) POA-A5 (Fishing capacity) POA-B1 (Aquaculture zoning) POA-B9 (Aquaculture for rural development) POA-D2 (Fisheries subsidies)	TD

¹ & ² RES/POA refers to the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region adopted at the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security in the New Millennium: "Fish for the People", held in November 2001, Bangkok, Thailand.

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4. Toward Decentralized Management for Sustainable Fisheries in the ASEAN Region	Provides approaches for innovative fisheries management focusing on introduction of decentralized management and right-based fisheries as well as guidelines on institutional arrangement and strategies to ensure sustainable fisheries under limited access regime of management.	RES-3 (HRD and stakeholder involvement) RES-5 (Delegation of management functions) RES-6 (Right-based fisheries)	POA-A1 (Innovative fisheries management) POA-A2 (Stakeholder consultation) POA-B1 (Aquaculture policy and regulatory frameworks) POA-E1 (Guidelines/standards)	Secretariat
5. Improvement of Fishery Statistical Systems and Mechanisms	Provides guidelines and HRD for sustainable national fishery statistical systems to support development and management planning and actions as well as effective usage of statistics. Introduces the use of statistical data to understand status and trend of fisheries. Provides linkages and coordination between routine and non-routine data collection.	RES-3 (HRD and stakeholder involvement) RES-4 (Technical disparity) RES-5 (Delegation of management functions) RES-7 (Fishery statistics) RES-16 (Safeguard ASEAN interests)	POA-A9 & A10 (Fishery statistics) POA-E1 (Guidelines/standards) POA-E2 (Safeguard ASEAN interests)	Secretariat
6. Responsible Fishing Technologies and Practices	Helps changing fishers attitudes towards responsible fishing, provides guidelines for alternative fishing devices/practices towards responsible/selective concepts to reduce discards and mitigate illegal and destructive fishing gears and practices.	RES-2 (Harmonized fisheries policy and plan) RES-3 (HRD and stakeholder involvement) RES-4 (Technical disparity) RES-11 (Maximizing utilization of catch)	POA-A3 (Responsible fishing) POA-C1 (Maximizing utilization of catch) POA-E1 (Guidelines/standards)	TD
7. Resource Enhancement	Provides practical and effective tools/strategies to enhance coastal resources for the long-term benefits of small-scale coastal fisheries with particular emphasis on involvement of local community.	RES-3 (HRD and stakeholder involvement) RES-5 (Delegation of management functions) RES-6 (Right-based fisheries) RES-9 (Resource enhancement)	POA-A2 (Stakeholder consultation) POA-A4 (Resource enhancement) POA-A3 (Responsible fishing) POA-E1 (Guidelines/standards)	TD
8. Identification of Indicators for Sustainable Development and Management of Capture Fisheries in the ASEAN Region	Provides a practical and effective tool for management planning and actions particularly applicable for tropical multi-fisheries, which are easily understood by fishery managers, fishers and other stakeholders to ensure their cooperation and compliance. Also provides a tool to tackle with the excessive fishing capacity. Provides close linkages between statistical data and information and their usage.	RES-3 (HRD and stakeholder involvement) RES-5 (Delegation of management functions) RES-7 (Fishery statistics)	POA-A1 (Innovative fisheries management) POA-A5 (Fishing capacity) POA-A6 (Indicators) POA-A9 & A10 (Fishery statistics) POA-E1 (Guidelines/standards)	MFRDMD

9. Harvesting of Under-exploited Resources	Provides insights on potential resources that can be sustainably utilized to reduce excessive fishing capacity in coastal areas. Provides techniques to reduce post-harvest losses particularly focusing on fish handling at sea and at landing sites.	RES-2 (Harmonized fisheries policy and plan) RES-4 (Technical disparity)	POA-A3 (Responsible fishing) POA-A7 (Under-utilized resources) POA-C1 (Maximizing utilization of catch)	TD
10. Digitized Atlas	Provides a comprehensive mapbased information system using information technology and development of databases, which could be used to facilitate research and development of CFM as well as to publicize initiatives and seriousness of the ASEAN Member Countries in ensuring sustainable fisheries.	RES-2 (Harmonized fisheries policy and plan) RES-7 (Fishery statistics)	POA-A9 & A10 (Fishery statistics) POA-E1 (Guidelines/standards)	Secretariat
11. Special Publication on Fish for the People (Center-wide Information supported by Japanese Trust Fund)	Provides an effective publicity tool using layman language that is easily understood by policy makers, research and interested public to clarify common regional directions and strategies to ensure sustainable development and management of fisheries particularly in coastal areas as well as to publicize initiatives and seriousness of the ASEAN Member Countries on the issue.	RES-2 (Harmonized fisheries policy and plan) RES-4 (Technical disparity) RES-15 (Common ASEAN positions) RES-16 (Safeguard ASEAN interests)	POA-E2 (Safeguard ASEAN interests)	Secretariat