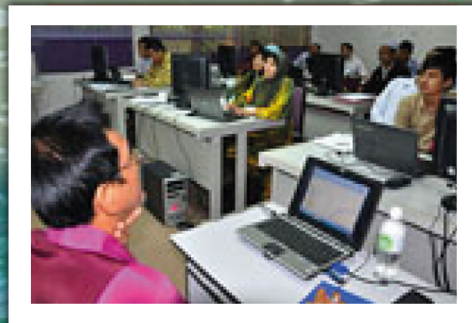
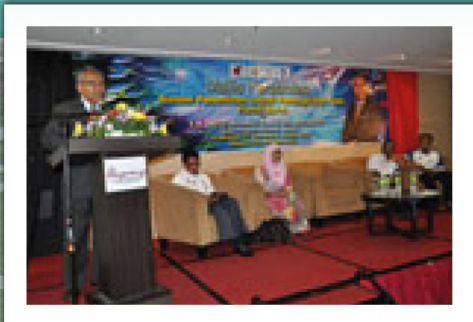


SEAFDEC / MFRDMD HIGHLIGHTS 2011



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A- REGIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

Japanese Trust Fund Program (JTF II):

Tagging Program for Economically Important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea

Mr. Abu Talib Ahmad

Pelagic fishes usually migrate over variable distances across the sea for their spawning and feeding requirements, as well as towards the required optimum environmental conditions, e.g. water current, temperature, salinity, plankton abundance. Tagging is one of the methods for studying the migratory patterns of small pelagic fishes, and the information obtained from tagging activities would be useful for the identification of small pelagic fish stocks and shared stocks in the Southeast Asian region. Since 2008, MFRDMD in collaboration with TD has conducted the “Tagging Program for Economically-important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea” with the involvement of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The tagging program was terminated by middle of 2011 and the program was then focuses on genetic study of Indian mackerel (*Rastrelliger kanagurta*) and Japanese scad (*Decapterus maruadsi*). The achievements in terms of percent tagged fish to the target number are 71% for the South China Sea and 92% in the Andaman Sea. In the South China Sea, only Japanese scad that the tagged fishes exceeded the target number. While, Short mackerel (*Rastrelliger brachysoma*) recorded only 85% achievement, Shortfin scad (*Decapterus macrosoma*) 62% and Indian mackerel which was the most difficult species to be obtained for tagging, only 36%. In the Andaman Sea area, Short mackerel recorded 98% achievement, while Indian mackerel 88%. The program recorded low recovery of released tagged fish i.e. 1.2% for the South China Sea and 1.3% for the Andaman Sea.

On 20 – 22 September 2011, MFRDMD organized the “Fourth Meeting of Core Experts on Tagging Program for Economically Important Pelagic Species in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea” in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Meeting discussed the preliminary findings of the tagging data analysis, finalised these findings and formulated format and contents of the final report. The meeting also agreed on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the tissue sample collection for Indian mackerel and Japanese scad in 14 sampling sites throughout the study area. The partial sequences of the mtDNA cytochrome b (cyt b) gene will be used as molecular marker in this study. Primer RBCyF (5' GGA GAG GGG TTG GAA GCA AC 3') and RBCyR (5' CCC TAA CTC CCA AAG CTA G 3') (Jondeung, personal communication) will be used for mtDNA amplification of a ~1400 base pair (bp) segment. Amplified PCR products will be sent to private laboratory for DNA sequencing to product about

1000 bp for a single sequence reaction. Haplotypes frequency of the 30 samples for every sampling site will be identified. The differentiations between sampling sites will be assessed with Wright's fixation index F_{ST} (10 000 replicates; Wright 1951) based on haplotypes frequency and Amova (analysis of molecular variance approach) by using ARLEQUIN 3.11 to examine genetic structuring among samples from the same site and among samples from different sites in this region.



Participants of the 4th Core Expert Meeting on economically important pelagic fish species held on 20-22 September 2011 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Map showing the distribution of the ten sampling sites for DNA study for Indian mackerel and Japanese scad in the South China Sea and the four sampling sites in the Andaman Sea for Indian mackerel.

Japanese Trust Fund Program (JTF II): Preventing IUU Fisheries Product for Export Mr. Abdul Razak Latun

In 2011 the activities implemented:

1. A set of questionnaires were sent to the SEAFDEC Member Countries to collect information on fisheries trade and fishery product for the countries.
2. The information collected will be analyzed based on feeds back gather from the questionnaires sent to SEAFDEC Member Countries.
3. The Expert Group Meeting on Fishing License was organized with the collaboration SEAFDEC/TD on the 5-8 October 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand



Opening remarks the Group Expert Meeting by Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC



Japanese Trust Fund Program (JTF V):

Research and Management on Sea Turtle Foraging Habitat in Southeast Asian Waters

by Mr. Syed Abdullah Syed Abdul Kadir and Ms. Wahidah Mohd Arshaad

Collecting DNA Tissue Samples of Sea Turtle in Lawas, Sarawak, Sarawak Foraging Habitat
Collecting tissue samples were conducted twice; 7 -10 January and 12-15 February 2011. A special drift net called Belat by local name was use to catch sea turtle in that area. The drift net was assembled at targeted sites in Lawas waters with the length approximately 1000 meters. Sea turtles feed sea grass during high tide at night and will trap in the net during the low tide in the morning. A total of 28 green turtles were managed to catch which various sizes and ages. In this study collaboration with local community is essential especially on chosen the targeted sites and assistance to assemble the drift net.



Assembling drift net



Measuring the curve carapace length



Tagging sea turtle



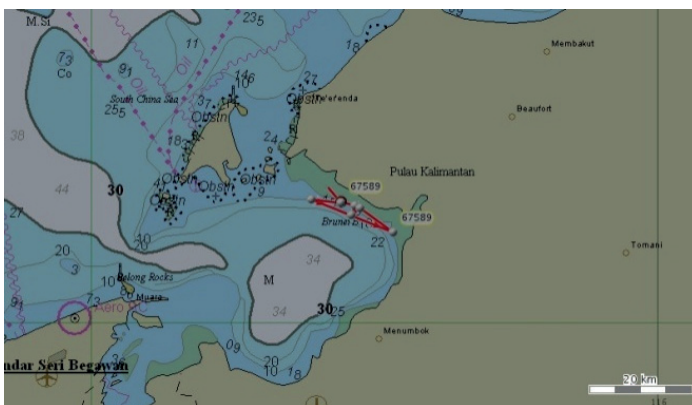
Collecting tissue sample

Conducting Satellite Telemetry Study on Green Turtle in Lawas Foraging Habitat

This study was conducted on 12 February 2011 to an adult green turtle with the size of curve carapace length (CCL) 102 cm, size curve carapace width (CCW) 85 cm and the weight 102 kg. The turtle was deployed with one unit of Platform Terminal Transmitter (PTT). The signal was managed to detect until 18 July 2011 with duration of 154 days. The last position of turtle is 32 km from the original point. This indicates that the turtle is still swimming in Lawas foraging habitat and not migrated beyond the area.



The sea turtle which attached with Platform Terminal Transmitter is ready for releasing to the sea at Lawas foraging habitats



The position of sea turtles on 20 February and 15 May 2011 at Lawas foraging habitat

Training on Scientific Survey in Sea Turtle Foraging Habitat in Mabul and Sipadan Islands of Malaysia

The training on scientific survey was conducted on 26 September to 1st October 2011. This activity was conducted in collaboration with Sabah Parks and Department of Fisheries Malaysia. Twelve (12) participants were involved in this training which include 5 researchers from SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, 2 researchers from Turtle and Marine Ecosystem Center (TuMEC, Department of Fisheries Malaysia), 4 researchers from Sabah Parks and 1 officer from Department of Fisheries Indonesia. A total of 81 green turtles and 3 hawksbill turtles which various sizes manage to collect at 8 sampling sites around Sipadan Island waters. The biological parameters such as curve carapace length (CCL), curve carapace width (CCW), weight and DNA tissue samples of each turtles for genetic study were collected. Water quality parameters were also being collected at 8 sampling sites. As for collecting information from local communities regarding interaction between sea turtles and fishing activities was conducted at Mabul Island.





v) ORGANIZING REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT OF SEA TURTLE FORAGING HABITATS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN WATERS.

The workshop was conducted on 1ST to 3rd November 2011 at Kuching, Sarawak Malaysia. Twenty (20) participants were involved in the workshop which representative from; SEAFDEC Secretariat Bangkok, SEAFDEC/MRFDMD Kuala Terengganu, Departments of Fisheries Malaysia, Sabah Parks and Sarawak Forestry Corporation. Two representative from SEAFDEC Member Countries; Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia are also participated in the Workshop. The major outcome of the workshop is preparing the draft on “Standard Operating Procedure on Conducting Scientific Survey in Sea Turtle Foraging Habitats” and preparing the draft on “Guideline to Develop Management Plan for Foraging Habitats of Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*)”.



Sitting from left: Ms. Shirley, Ms. Maznah, Ms. Wahidah, Ms. Lelian Endang, Ms. Mahyam Mohd. Isa, Mr. Wilfred Stephen Landong, Dr. Masaya Katoh, Mr. Danu Wijaya, Mr. Hariel and Mr. Syed Abdullah

Standing from left: Ms. Sharifah Nurulasma, Ms. Nuriddan, Mr. Oswald Braken, Mr. Fazrullah Rizally, Mr. James Bali, Mr. Elbert Chuan Gambang, Mr. Hadanao Watanabe, Mr. Zahari, Mr. Abu Talib, Mr. Taha, Mr. Haseri, Mr. Tony and Mr. Toloy Keripen

B- REGIONAL MEETING

12th ISEP Meeting, 3-4 Nov 2011

SEAFDEC-MFRDMD had hosted the 12th ISEP Meeting from 3-4 November 2011 in Kuala Lumpur. The Meeting was officiated by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General, Dr. Chumnarm Pongsri. The meeting was participated by MFRDMD Chief Ms Hajah Mahyam Mohd Isa, MFRD Chief Mr. Yeap Soon Eong, and as well as information officers of the Secretariat, TD, MFRD, AQD, and MFRDMD. The objective of the meeting is to review and improve SEAFDEC information activities to cope with the recent requirement and situation. The Meeting also wanted to regulate the progress of information strategies and introduced new initiatives related information activities conducted by SEAFDEC Secretariat, and all four departments. MFRDMD were represented by Mr. Abu Talib Ahmad, Mr. Abdul Razak Latun and Mr. Muhamad Nor

Azam Lajin. A technical was arranged to visit PETRONAS Petroleum Resource Centre at the PETRONAS KLCC.

International Seminar on Sustainable Production of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia, 15 Dec 2011

MFRDMD, in collaboration with the Faculty of Fisheries Sciences, Hokkaido University in Hakodate, Japan, organized an International Seminar on Sustainable Production of Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia on 15 December 2011 in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia under the program of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). The Japanese Trust Fund made a financial contribution to the seminar. There were a total of 25 participants including representatives from the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, the Embassy of Japan in Thailand and Hokkaido University, researchers from Fisheries Research Institute Malaysia and staff from MFRDMD. The seminar covered 5 presentations and discussion for future collaboration.

Three professors from Hokkaido University explained about international exchanges by JSPS Asia-Africa Science Platform Program, fish stock management of walleye pollock in Japan, and research activities of fisheries informatics including green technology, artificial reefs and new sonar for coastal seaweed research. Two officers from MFRDMD presented genetic identification of pelagic fishes in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea, and overall research activities at MFRDMD. International exchanges will continue till March 2014 under the JSPS program. The seminar was an excellent starting point for our future collaboration in fishery resources management as well as other related fields.



Participants of the International Seminar

C- NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

Fish Site Identification Program – Toward Better Income for Fishermen

Mr. Raja Bidin Raja Hassan

A drastic increased fuel prices have a major impact on fishing activities of fishermen in Malaysia. The cost of fuel for the commercial fishing operations can reach up to 60% of the total cost of vessel operation. Therefore a new approach in precision fishing known as “Fish Site Identification” (FSI) was developed to increase fish landings while reducing the total operation costs and time spent at sea. FSI system is an output from a collaboration research carried out among the following agencies:

- a. Remote Sensing Agency of Malaysia (ARSM) as the project coordinator,
- b. Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOF),
- c. Fisheries Development Authority Board of Malaysia (LKIM), and
- d. National Fishermen’s Association (NEKMAT).

The main output of this project is the coordinates (latitudes and longitudes) and mapping of the potential fishing zones (PFZ) which can help fishermen to identify potential fishing grounds before going out to the sea. These locations will be disseminated to fishermen through Short Message Services (SMS) and also through online portal.

The development of this project was completed and began operation starting from July 2010 in the waters of the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Application of this system was later expanded to the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia (comprising the states of Perlis, Kedah, Penang, Perak and



Honourable Dato' Ahmad Sabki Mahmood is explaining to fishermen on application of FSI

Selangor), Sabah and Sarawak in 2011.

The main benefits of this system are:

30 % reduction of searching time at sea,
30 % reduction of vessel operating costs
20% increase in net profit for vessel operators and

Better efficiency for vessel enforcement at sea.

D- TRAINING PROGRAMS

In the year of 2011, a number of 79 staffs had successfully attended 4 types of training courses conducted by SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu.

No.N	Training Course/ Workshop	umber of Participants
1	Microsoft Office 2007 Application Course	25
2	Photography and Photoshop C5 Course	18
3	On Site Training On Identification of Deep Sea Fishes	16
4	Introduction to FiSAT II Software	20

Microsoft Office 2007 Application Training Course (Intermediate)

The workshop intended to give the staff on how to explore the Microsoft Office features and application in preparing research data and information usage. The training course was conducted from 3 – 5 May 2011.



Photography and Photoshop CS5 Training Course (Intermediate)

The training course conducted is to give the participants hands on practical course through 'project basis'. This method apply is to give step by step process on how to create simple poster. The workshop was conducted on 12 – 16 June 2011.



On Site Training on Identification of Deep Sea Fishes

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD and SEAFDEC/TD co-organized the “On-Site Training on Identification of Deep-Sea Fishes, 18-21 July 2011” under the program entitled “Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources Exploration in the Southeast Asia” , with the aim to:

1. Enhance the human resources capacity on deep-sea fish identification;
2. Assist DOF Malaysia to confirm the identification results and;
3. Collect information/data on the distribution of deep-sea fishes in the Southeast Asian waters to the project.

This training provides a comprehensive set of knowledge on the identification of deep-sea demersal fish species with emphasis on the species found in waters of Sabah and Sarawak, Malaysia. The training will enhance the capacity of the participants to identify species that commonly found at water depths between 100m and 300m by using morphology and habitat preferences. Within four days of in-class identification experience, presentations and hands-on laboratory exercises, the participants would be familiarized with the characteristics used in distinguishing families, genera, and/or to the lowest taxa. Participants’ skills in counting, measuring, and examining the pertinent external anatomical structures that are necessary keys to be used in identifying the deep-sea fishes will be developed

The training program was carried out at the SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia from 18 to 21 July 2011. The workshop is designed primarily for Malaysian taxonomists, field biologists, and/or persons involved in the deep-sea fish identification. Participants should have some basic knowledge on fishery biology and/or taxonomy. An understanding of fish biology and marine ecosystem would be helpful. Maximum number of participants is 10 persons.



Introduction to FiSAT II Software

FiSAT II (FA0-ICLARM Stock Assessment Tools II) is a program package consisting of methodologies for use with computers, enabling users to formulate some management options for fisheries, especially in data-sparse, tropical contexts. The FiSAT II was developed for computers running on Microsoft Windows operating systems. The new version utilizes the standard Windows graphic user interface. FiSAT II was developed mainly for the analysis of length frequency data, but also enables related analyses, of size-at-age, catch-at-age, selection and others. 20 participants have attended the training course (SEAFDEC/MFRDMD-12, FRI, Penang – 1, Industrial Training from local universities-7) The was conducted by Mr. Ibrahim Bin Johari, Senior Researcher from Fisheries Research Institute (FRI), Batu Maung, Penang from 27-29 December 2011. The purpose of the training is to familiarize the participant in using FiSAT II program for analyzing data gathered for JTFII project.

Industrial Training Students

Industrial Training for University and College Students
(18 Dec. 2010 – 20 Mac 2011)

Every year SEAFDEC/MFRDMD receive a number of university students to conduct their Industrial Training. In previous year the numbers of student ranges between 10 - 20 students at one time from various local universities.

Starting from 18 December 2010, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD received 6 Diploma of Fisheries students from University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). Most of them have to undergone their industrial training for a period of 8 – 12 weeks and they were assigned to the specific tasks under the supervision of MFRDMD Research Officers. The main objective of Industrial Training Program is to expose them to real time working experiences and to enhance their basic knowledge during their attachment to office works. They were exposed to the field works



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VISITORS to SEAFDEC-MFRDMD

In the year 2011, a number of visitors have visited SEAFDEC/MFRDMD.

No.	Visitors	Date	Remarks
1	Students from SM Baroh Pial Rantau Panjang Kelantan	23 June 2011	35 students, 4 teachers
2	Mr. Toshio Kawai Hokkaido University Museum Japan	20 July 2011	Visit
3	Accountant General Terengganu	3 Aug 2011	3 August 2011
4	Mr. Ahmad Habibulah Habil LKIM	10 Aug 2011	3 officers
5	Mr. Rosly Hassan FRI Batu Maung	14 Sept 2011	Discussion
6	Mr. Hideo Mochizuki (IPMB) UMS Sabah	4 Oct 2011	Meeting
7	Mr. Katsutushi Arai Faculty Fisheries Sciences Hokkaido University Japan	15 Dec 2011	Visit
8	Mr. Novuo Kimura Faculty Fisheries Sciences Hokkaido University Japan	15 Dec 2011	JSPS Seminar
9	Mr. Takashi Matsuishi Faculty Fisheries Sciences Hokkaido University Japan	15 Dec 2011	JSPS Seminar
10	Mr. Tetsuya Muzakami, Embassy of Japan in Thailand	15 Dec 2011	JSPS Seminar
11	Mr. Ghulamsarwar Jam Muhammad DOF Malaysia	15 Dec 2011	JSPS Seminar
12	Mr. Ismail Ishak FRI Batu Maung	15 Dec 2011	JSPS Seminar
13	Mr. Hussin Mat Ali Pulau Sayak	15 Dec 2011	JSPS Seminar

