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**REPORT ON THE
ASSESSMENT OF THE
CONSERVATION
EFFORTS AND
MANAGEMENT
STRATEGIES
OF PELAGIC
FISHERIES
RESOURCES
IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA**



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**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
MARINE FISHERY RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
AND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**



*IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL PLAN OF
ACTION FOR MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY:*

**Report on the Assessment of the Conservation Efforts and Management
Strategies of Pelagic Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia**

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ACRONYMS

AIS	Automatic Identification Systems
ALDFG	Abandoned, Lost, Or Deliberately Discarded Fishing Gear
AMS	Asean Member State
AOIP	ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CFi	Community Fisheries
CMSY	Catch at Maximum Sustainable Yield
DOF	Department of Fisheries
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach Fisheries Management
FAO	Food Agriculture Organization
FCZ	Fisheries Conservation Zone
HCR	Harvest Control Rules
ITQ	Individual Transferable Quotas
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated
LBB	Length-Based Bayesian Biomass estimator
LBSPR	Length-based Spawning Potential Ratio
LMMA	Locally-managed Marine Areas
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)
MFRDMD	Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Government Organization
RTC	Regional Technical Consultation
RBM	Rights-Based Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	Southeast Asia
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SPM	Surplus Production Model
TAC	Total Allowable Catch
VMS	Vessel Monitoring Systems

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pelagic fisheries are of critical importance to food security, livelihoods and economic development across ASEAN Member States (AMS). This report presents current conservation efforts and management strategies and identifies priority intervention for sustainable pelagic resources of AMSs.

AMSs has implemented various conservation efforts and management strategies for pelagic fisheries. Among the efforts and strategies commonly implemented by AMSs are control on gear specification, licensing and vessel registration systems, habitat restoration and rehabilitation and the establishment of the Marine Protected Area. Catch prohibition of certain pelagic species is also common, even though they were currently listed for some sharks, rays and sawfish species. The strategies related to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and quotas and the use of e-logbook and e-navigation are moderately implemented by AMSs. Catch limits (Minimum, maximum and slot limit) as well as ecosystem-based approaches are still uncommon in AMSs. These strategies require more comprehensive fish resource stock data and funding.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains the most critical challenge affecting pelagic fisheries in AMSs, driven mainly by unreported catches and unlicensed fishing vessels. A major related issue is the lack of regular fish stock assessments, as assessments are largely project-based due to financial and technical constraints, resulting in high uncertainty in management decisions and increased risk of overfishing. The continued use of unsustainable fishing gears, including poorly regulated drift nets and excessive light use in lift nets and stick-held dip nets, further increases fishing pressure, particularly on short-lived small pelagic species. Overfishing is exacerbated by weak data collection at landing sites, limited resources, and the dispersed nature of fisheries across AMSs.

Implementation of effective management measures is constrained primarily by limited funding, inadequate Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) coverage, especially for small-scale fisheries, and insufficient human and technical capacity. Limited cooperation from fishers further undermines data quality, compliance and enforcement; weakening both national and regional conservation efforts.

While AMSs have implemented a wide range of conservation and management measures, long-term sustainability of pelagic resources will depend on strengthening human capacity, improving stakeholder engagement and ensuring that management approaches are socially inclusive and economically viable. AMSs have listed a few potential strategies to be explored in the future including:

- train local managers and fishers in data collection and stock assessment,
- engagement with fishers to enhance compliance, inclusive governance involving governments, NGOs, industry, and communities,
- considering socioeconomic of fishers in formulation of management measures,
- establish and strengthen co-management with communities,
- introduction of more sustainable fishing gears; and
- the development of more efficient post-harvest and processing equipment.

Taking into consideration the issues, challenges and gaps in the current conservation effort and management strategies of pelagic fisheries as well as potential strategies, a few capacity-building programs are collectively proposed by AMSs which covers two main areas; stock assessment and data analysis and management. Among capacity building programs proposed are related to the small pelagic stock assessment which covers wide arrays of methods, biological sampling and life-history data training and training on co-management and socioeconomics. Capacity building programs proposed also include fisheries data analytics and visualization training, fisheries database and interoperability programme and Science-to-Policy translation programme.

At the end of the project, AMSs also collectively drafted a recommendation on the future direction of management and conservation of pelagic fisheries (2026–2035). The recommendation is proposed into three phases; The first phase, from 2026 to 2027, focuses on foundation building with the emphasis on strengthening regional technical working groups, agreeing on priority pelagic species, and developing minimum data and sampling standards. During this phase, capacity building in data-limited stock assessment and basic MCS training is critical to ensure all AMSs start from a common technical baseline. The second phase, from 2028 to 2030, moves towards integration and pilot implementation. This is where AMSs can begin conducting sub-regional stock assessments for shared small pelagic stocks and piloting regional data-sharing mechanisms. The third phase, from 2031 to 2035, focuses on consolidation and adaptive management. At this stage, regular regional stock assessments can be normalised, and ecosystem and climate considerations can be integrated into management decisions. Importantly, socioeconomic impacts on small-scale fishers should also be monitored to ensure management measures remain equitable and feasible.

It is imperative that all proposed strategies, programmes and recommendations are implemented with strong commitment and coordinated support from all relevant stakeholders, particularly in securing adequate and sustained financial resources. Such support is essential to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience of pelagic fishery resources across AMSs.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Pelagic fisheries refer to fisheries that target fish species living in the pelagic zone of the ocean—that is, the water column away from the sea bottom and coastal areas. These fisheries typically exploit species that are highly mobile, often form large schools, and inhabit surface or mid-water layers of marine and inland waters, such as tunas, mackerels, sardines, anchovies, and herrings (FAO, 1994; King, 2007). Pelagic fisheries are important, contributing to the global food security, trade and livelihoods where millions are employed in Southeast Asia (SEA). A report by FAO in 2022 stated that pelagic fisheries contribute approximately 40% of global marine catch. In SEA countries, pelagic species often account for the highest share of marine catch. Purse seine is widespread across SEA, especially for schooling small pelagic fishes. Pelagic longlining is widely used for tunas and large pelagic fishes.

Overall, marine capture fisheries in SEA are among the world's most productive, with tunas and small pelagic fishes driving much of this output (Devanto, 2022). Pelagic fish has characteristics that make them very difficult to assess. Small pelagic fishes are typically fast growing and short-lived and can experience large variations in recruitment and growth due to environmental fluctuation.

Small pelagic species such as anchovies, sardines, scads, mackerel and generally schooling species are mostly found above continental shelves. Common small pelagic species of SEA include scads (*Decapterus* spp.), Indian mackerel (*Rastrelliger* spp.), sardinellas (*Sardinella* spp.), anchovies, and others. These species often dominate inshore and shelf catches owing to high productivity in tropical waters. Small pelagic in the South China Sea constitute a significant portion of pelagic landings; they are frequently targeted by purse seines and various net gears. Large pelagic species (e.g., tuna and tuna-like species, billfishes) on the other hand are highly migratory and often occur offshore. Tuna and tuna-like species (e.g., skipjack, yellowfin) are major components of offshore fisheries and are targeted with longlines, purse seines, and pole-and-line gear. Highly migratory species often cross multiple EEZs, creating shared stock issues among ASEAN states.

There is rising demand for tuna and small pelagic species. Duncan (2013), reported that the key species in many areas are overexploited or under excessive fishing pressure. Many predatory fish species are heavily exploited for human consumption and are dependent on small pelagic fishes as prey. Species of small pelagic fishes are also directly exploited by humans, through commercial, recreational; and subsistence and ceremonial harvest (Rooper et al., 2024)

High exploitation rates resulting in overfishing where it is reported that approximately 34% of global stocks are overfished (FAO, 2003). In SEA, some stock recovery is observed in large pelagic due to RFMO actions, while small pelagic declining. For example, the decline in small pelagic stocks (sardines, anchovies, mackerel) in Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia are observed while Tunas (skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye) are heavily exploited, some RFMO-managed recovery.

In line with the Resolution and Plan of Action for the ASEAN Region Towards 2030, Malaysia and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (SEAFDEC/MFRDMD) is leading the 'Implementation and Assessment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity project'. Running from April 2024 to March 2026, this project is supported by funding from the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) involving government agencies responsible for fisheries management across AMSs, excluding Lao PDR.

The project's primary objective is to strengthen ASEAN cooperation and enhance regional fisheries information systems by implementing the Regional Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity (RPOA Capacity) in selected pelagic fisheries. Through this effort, it aims to promote sustainable resource management and environmental well-being in the Asian region.

This project aligns with the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2030, and supports the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, particularly under the pillar of Partners for Quality of Life. It also contributes to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Goal 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", while contributing to the principles of ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP), particularly Openness, Good Governance and Mutual Benefits as well supports the AOIP in maritime cooperation to further enhance cooperation for sustainable management of marine resources in ASEAN.

The project has six (6) key outputs representing its direct results. For the Output 4: *Current status and establishment of the closed season, closed areas, or other management strategies of selected pelagic species in AMSs are identified and documented*, MFRDMD carried out three activities.

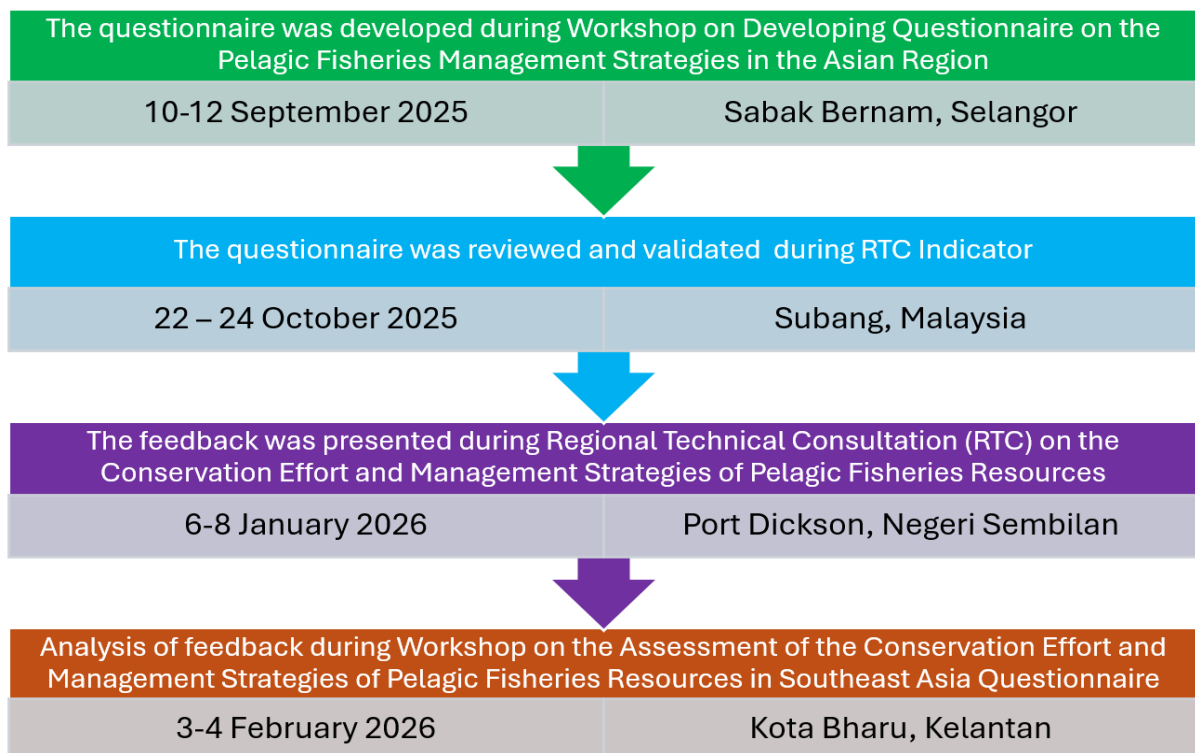
The activities for Output 4 were conducted with the following objectives:

1. To obtain and compile the information on the current conservation efforts and management strategies of pelagic species conducted by AMSs.
2. To analyse the gaps in the conservation efforts and management strategies of pelagic species in AMSs countries.
3. To obtain and compile potential strategies for better conservation efforts and management of pelagic species.

To achieve Output 4, MFRDMD adopted a **questionnaire-based approach**. The process commenced with Sub-Activity 4.1, Workshop for Developing a Questionnaire on Pelagic Fisheries Management Strategies in the Asian Region, held from 10 to 12 September 2025 in Sabak Bernam, Selangor, Malaysia. By the conclusion of the workshop, a draft questionnaire entitled "Current Status of Conservation Effort and Management Strategies in AMSs" was developed. This draft was subsequently validated during the Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) in October 2025 and then circulated to AMS focal points.

The feedback received from AMSs was presented during Sub-Activity 4.2, Regional Technical Consultation (RTC) on the Conservation Effort and Management Strategies of Pelagic Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia, convened from 6 to 8 January 2026 in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia.

Finally, the feedback was analysed during Sub-Activity 4.3, Workshop on the Assessment of the Conservation Effort and Management Strategies of Pelagic Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia Questionnaire, held from 3 to 4 February 2026 in Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia.



In this report, the information on the current conservation efforts and management strategies of pelagic species conducted by AMSs was compiled and the gaps were identified. Potential strategies and capacity building programs are proposed. Finally, the recommendation for future direction of the conservation and management of pelagic fisheries of AMS is drafted.

CHAPTER 2

CURRENT CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES OF AMS

Pelagic fisheries play a crucial role in food security, livelihoods and regional economies across ASEAN Member States (AMS). Recognising the increasing pressure on pelagic resources, AMS have implemented a range of conservation measures and management strategies aimed at ensuring sustainability of pelagic fisheries. This chapter provides an overview of the current conservation efforts, management tools and governance frameworks adopted by AMS to manage pelagic fisheries effectively.

2.1 CURRENT CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED BY AMS

❖ Output Controls: Catch Limits and Quotas

Many AMSs have adopted output control measures to regulate harvest levels of pelagic species as presented in **Table 1**. These include catch limits, and in some countries, the establishment of Total Allowable Catches (TACs) based on available stock assessment information. However, quota allocation systems and size-based limits (minimum, maximum, or slot limits) remain less commonly implemented across the region. In Cambodia, the implementation of slot limit strategies is in the pilot stage.

Catch prohibitions for certain vulnerable pelagic species in AMS currently listed only for sharks, sawfish and rays.

Table 1: Implementation status of catch limits and quotas of AMS

	Total Allowable Catches (TACs) set based on stock assessments	Allocation of quotas among fleets or vessels	Minimum fish size limit	Maximum fish size limit	Slot limit	Catch prohibition of certain pelagic species / endangered species
Brunei DS	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Sharks
Cambodia	✔	✔	✔	✔	Pilot	✔
Indonesia	✔	✔	✗	✗	✗	Sawfish, Rays, Sharks
Malaysia	✔	✔	✗	✗	✗	Sawfish, Rays, Sharks
Myanmar	✗	✗	✗	✗	N/A	Sharks
Philippines	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	Sharks
Thailand	✔	✔	✗	✗	✗	Sawfish, Rays, Sharks
Viet Nam	✔	✔	✔	✗	✔	Sharks

*N/A: The information is Not Available

❖ Gear Regulations and Selectivity Improvements

Gear regulations are among the most widely implemented conservation measures in AMS as presented in **Table 2**. These include controls on gear specifications, restrictions on gear modifications, regulation of fishing aids (such as light usage in purse seine and lift net operations); and the introduction of bycatch reduction or mitigation devices. Some AMSs have also introduced selective fishing gears such as circle hooks, although adoption remains irregular.

Malaysia is developing a Fishing Gear Marking Program to identify ownership of fishing gear among fishers. The program will also help address the issue of Abandoned, Lost, or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), commonly known as ghost fishing as well as IUU fishing activities. The program is currently being implemented on a pilot scale in the states of Kedah, Perak, Terengganu and Sarawak; focusing on major fishing gear types, namely drift nets, fish traps, trawl nets, purse seine nets and anchovy purse seine nets.

Table 2: Implementation status of gear regulations and selectivity improvements

	Use of circle hooks	Bycatch/ incidental reduction devices/ mitigation	Control on gear modification	Control on fishing aids in driftnets and purse seine operation	Gear Marking	Control on Gear Specification
Brunei DS	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓ Mesh size, cod-end mesh size, length of net
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ All*
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓ All*
Malaysia	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓ Mesh size, cod-end mesh size, specification
Myanmar	✗	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓ Mesh size, cod-end mesh size, length of net)
Philippines	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ All*
Thailand	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓ All*
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓	✗	N/A	✓ Mesh size, cod-end mesh size, length of net

*All includes Mesh size control, Cod end mesh size, Depth of the net, Length of net.

*N/A: The information is Not Available

❖ Fishing Effort and Input Controls

Fishing effort controls are commonly applied through vessel licensing and registration systems, limitation of fishing vessel numbers, restrictions on the number of fishing gears; and controls on vessel horsepower. In certain cases, regulations also apply to carrier vessels, mother boats and light boats used in pelagic fisheries. **Table 3** presented the strategies related to fishing effort and input controls implemented by AMSs.

Thailand also implements restrictions on the increasing the number of vessels, prohibition on the use of light in specific area. Myanmar controls the numbers, but not the size of the carrier vessel and mother boat.

Table 3: Implementation status of fishing effort and input controls

	Limitation of the number of fishing vessels	Limitation of the number of fishing gears & accessories	Licensing and vessel registration system	Control on the carrier vessel & mother boat	Control on horsepower of fishing vessels	Control the number of light boats	Control of light usage on fishing vessel
Brunei DS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓ Intensity, Colour
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (All)
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ Intensity, Underwater light
Myanmar	✓	✓	✓	Number	✓	✓	✓ Intensity
Philippines	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓ Intensity, Material type
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Viet Nam	✓	N/A	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗

*All means including Intensity of light, Colour of light, Use of underwater light.

*N/A: The information is Not Available

❖ Spatial and Temporal Closures

Spatial and temporal management measures are widely used by AMS as presented in **Table 4**. These include the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), closed seasons and closed fishing areas to protect spawning grounds, juvenile habitats and critical ecosystems for pelagic species.

In addition, some AMS implemented additional closure strategies such as Habitat restoration closures and community-led temporary closures in Cambodia, Spatial and temporal closure for Tuna in Indonesia; and Locally-managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in Myanmar.

Fisheries Conservation Zones (FCZs) are resource management and conservation areas in waters 0 to 1 nautical mile from the coast. The Malaysian Fisheries Department has implemented the FCZ management in three states on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia; namely Kedah, Perak and Selangor since 2014 to conserve fish populations and their habitats. The main aspects of FCZ management include controlling fishing activities, protecting critical habitats, managing fisheries through an ecosystem approach and the latest scientific information as well as active community involvement.

Table 4: Implementation status of spatial and temporal closures

	Marine Protected Area (MPA)	Closed Season	Closed Area	Other Closure
Brunei DS	✓	✗	✗	✗
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	Habitat restoration closures, Community-led temporary closures
Indonesia	✓	✗	✗	Spatial and temporal closure for Tuna
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓	Fisheries Conservation Zone (FCZ)
Myanmar	✓	✓	✓	Locally-managed Marine Areas (LMMAs)
Philippines	✓	✓	✓	-
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	-
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓	-

*N/A: The information is Not Available

Ecosystem-Based Approaches

Several AMSs have begun integrating ecosystem-based approaches into pelagic fisheries management focused on protecting ecosystem services rather than solely managing target species (**Table 5**). However, systematic monitoring of predator–prey dynamics, forage fish exploitation and climate-driven ecosystem changes remains limited. In Brunei Darussalam, monitoring forage fish exploitation was on coral reef ecosystems while in Thailand, the monitoring only of anchovies.

Table 5: Implementation status of Ecosystem-based Approaches

	Monitoring predator-prey dynamics	Monitoring forage fish exploitation	Monitoring climate-driven shifts in pelagic ecosystems	Protecting ecosystem services, not just target species
Brunei DS	✗	✓ (Coral reef)	✗	✓ (MPA)
Cambodia	✗	✗	✗	✓
Indonesia	✗	✗	✗	✓ (EAFM)
Malaysia	✗	✗	✗	✓ (EAFM)
Myanmar	✗	N/A	✗	✗
Philippines	✗	✓	✗	✓
Thailand	✗	✓ (Anchovies)	✗	✓
Viet Nam	✗	✗	✗	✓

*N/A: The information is Not Available

*MPA: Marine Protected Area

*EAFM: Ecosystem Approach Fisheries Management

❖ Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS)

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance systems are a core component of pelagic fisheries management in AMS as presented in **Table 6**. Widely implemented tools include Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), manual logbooks, port state measures and actions to prevent illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Advanced tools such as electronic logbooks, e-navigation, and onboard observers are implemented in some AMS.

The use of electronic logbooks in Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam is in the pilot stage. Cambodia also implements community-based MCS. Cambodia is gradually introducing electronic logbooks for fisheries data collection particularly for larger commercial vessels, to improve monitoring and management.

Table 6: Implementation status of Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS)

	Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS)	Automatic Identification System (AIS)	e- Navigation	Manual logbook	Electronic logbooks	Onboard observers	Port State Measures	Other
Brunei DS	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	-
Cambodia	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	Community-based
Indonesia	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	-
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (Pilot)	✗	✓	CCTV for tuna vessel
Myanmar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	-
Philippines	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	-
Thailand	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓ (Pilot)	✓ (Oversea vessel)	✓	-
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (Pilot)	✓	✓	-

❖ Resource Enhancement Measures

Resource enhancement strategies are actively implemented by most AMSs and include the deployment of artificial reefs, sea ranching, stock enhancement and restocking programmes, habitat restoration and rehabilitation; and the establishment of fisheries refugia to protect critical life stages of pelagic species as presented in **Table 7**.

In addition, Thailand implemented blue swimming crab banks and the establishment of crab and fish shelters as additional resource enhancement measures.

Table 7: Implementation status of Resource Enhancement Measures

	Deployment of artificial reef	Sea Ranching, Stock Enhancement, Restocking	Habitat restoration and rehabilitation	Fisheries Refugia
Brunei DS	✓	✓	✓	✗
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓	✓
Myanmar	✗	✓	✓	✗
Philippines	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	✓
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓	✓

2.2 CURRENT REGULATORY AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

AMS have developed regulatory and governance frameworks to support conservation goals, including national fisheries management plans aligned with regional and international measures. Common practices include the adoption of precautionary approaches, co-management arrangements with fishing communities, adaptive management based on scientific advice, catch documentation schemes and stakeholder engagement initiatives. Eco-certification schemes and rights-based management tools such as individual transferable quotas (ITQs) are applied in a limited number of countries.

❖ Governance

All AMSs have adopted regional regulations and management measures for pelagic resources and periodically revise these measures (**Table 8**). Each AMS has a designated national authority responsible for formulating pelagic fisheries management policies, typically under the Ministry of Agriculture or Fisheries-related departments. In several cases (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines), management responsibilities are shared among multiple agencies, including research institutions and local government units

Fishers' associations are present in most AMSs except for Brunei Darussalam. Precautionary approaches to fisheries management are adopted by several AMSs, though not consistently across all.

The Department of Fisheries Malaysia (DOF) is currently conducting mapping for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), particularly in relation to marine biodiversity, habitat protection and fisheries. The information will be incorporated into the MyFirst application.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) systems are in place in all countries, often implemented through multi-agency mechanisms rather than a single authority

Table 8: Governance of AMS

	National Management Plans	Adopt regional regulation and management measures	Periodically revise regulation or management measures	Main agency in the country responsible to formulate the management measure of pelagic resources (Please specify)
Brunei DS	✓	✓	✗	Department of Fisheries
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	Fisheries Administration of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	DG of Capture Fisheries, MMAF, in collaboration with National Research and Innovation Agency
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓	DOF Malaysia and DOF Sabah
Myanmar	✓	✓	✓	DOF of Myanmar and FFI
Philippines	✓	✓	✓	DA-BFAR, Local Government Units, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓	Department of Fisheries and Surveillance under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
	Country has fishers' association	Country adopting precautionary approach	Country adopting marine spatial planning	Country has MCS system
Brunei DS	✗	✗	✗	✓ (Multiagency)
Cambodia	✓	✓	✗	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	✓	✓	✗	✓ (Multiagency)
Myanmar	✓	✗	✓	✓
Philippines	✓	✓	✗	✓
Thailand	✓	✓	✗	✓
Viet Nam	✓	✗	✓	✓

❖ Right-based management

Rights-Based Management (RBM) in fisheries refers to a management approach in which clearly defined and secure rights to harvest fish resources are allocated to individuals, communities, cooperatives or companies; with the objective of promoting sustainable use, economic efficiency and stewardship of the resource.

“Rights-based fisheries management systems are those in which a specific authority assigns exclusive or preferential rights to fish in a given area or fishery to individuals, groups, or communities.”

— FAO, Fisheries Management 2: The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 4, Suppl. 2, 2003)

Currently, right-based managements implemented by AMS are significantly rare with only Thailand having individual transferable quotas, while Cambodia implemented community-based quota allocations (**Table 9**). On the other hand, co-management with fishing communities is common in AMSs.

Table 9: Right based management of AMS

	Individual transferable quotas (ITQs)	Community-based quota allocations	Co-management with fishing communities, especially for small-scale (artisanal/ traditional) pelagic fisheries.
Brunei DS	✗	✗	✗
Cambodia	✗	✓	✓ (Community Fisheries system - CFI)
Indonesia	✗	✗	✓
Malaysia	✗	✗	✓
Myanmar	✗	✗	✓ (Village-level fisheries committees)
Philippines	✗	✗	✓
Thailand	✓	✗	✓
Viet Nam	✗	✗	✓

❖ Adaptive management

Adaptive management is a structured, iterative approach to natural resource management in which management actions are treated as experiments, and policies are continuously adjusted based on monitoring results, evaluation and new knowledge; in order to reduce uncertainty and improve management outcomes over time.

“Adaptive management is a systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs.”

— Walters, C.J. (1986). *Adaptive Management of Renewable Resources*. Macmillan, New York.

“Adaptive management recognizes that fisheries systems are dynamic and uncertain, and therefore management measures must be flexible and adjusted over time based on monitoring, assessment, and feedback.”

— FAO (2003). *Fisheries Management 2: The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries*. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries No. 4, Suppl. 2.

Table 10 presenting all AMS incorporating new data and scientific advice into dynamic decision-making.

Table 10: Adaptive management of AMS

	Incorporating new data and scientific advice into dynamic decision-making.	Adjusting strategies in response to climate change impacts
Brunei DS	✓	✗
Cambodia	✓	✓ (Pilot)
Indonesia	✓	✗
Malaysia	✓	✗
Myanmar	✓	✗
Philippines	✓	✗
Thailand	✓	✗
Viet Nam	✓	✓

❖ Traceability and market-based tools

Table 11 indicates that some AMSs have begun adopting eco-certification and traceability-related measures. The implementation of comprehensive catch documentation systems and formal trade restrictions on IUU products are common in AMS. Strengthening traceability systems, harmonising documentation requirements and enhancing regional cooperation would improve market access and support efforts to combat IUU fishing effectively.

Table 11: Traceability and market-based tools of AMS

	Eco-certifications [(e.g., Marine Stewardship Council (MSC))]	Catch documentation schemes	Trade restrictions on IUU (illegal, unreported, unregulated) products
Brunei DS	✗	✓	✓
Cambodia	✗	✗	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	✗	✓	✓
Myanmar	✗	✓	✓
Philippines	✓	✓	✓
Thailand	✓	✓	✓
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓

❖ Capacity building and Stakeholder Engagement

Capacity building and stakeholder engagement are fundamental pillars of effective and sustainable fisheries management, particularly in complex and data-limited fisheries systems. **Table 12** indicates AMS excellently engaged with fishers to enhance compliance and displayed inclusive governance involving governments, NGOs, industry, and communities.

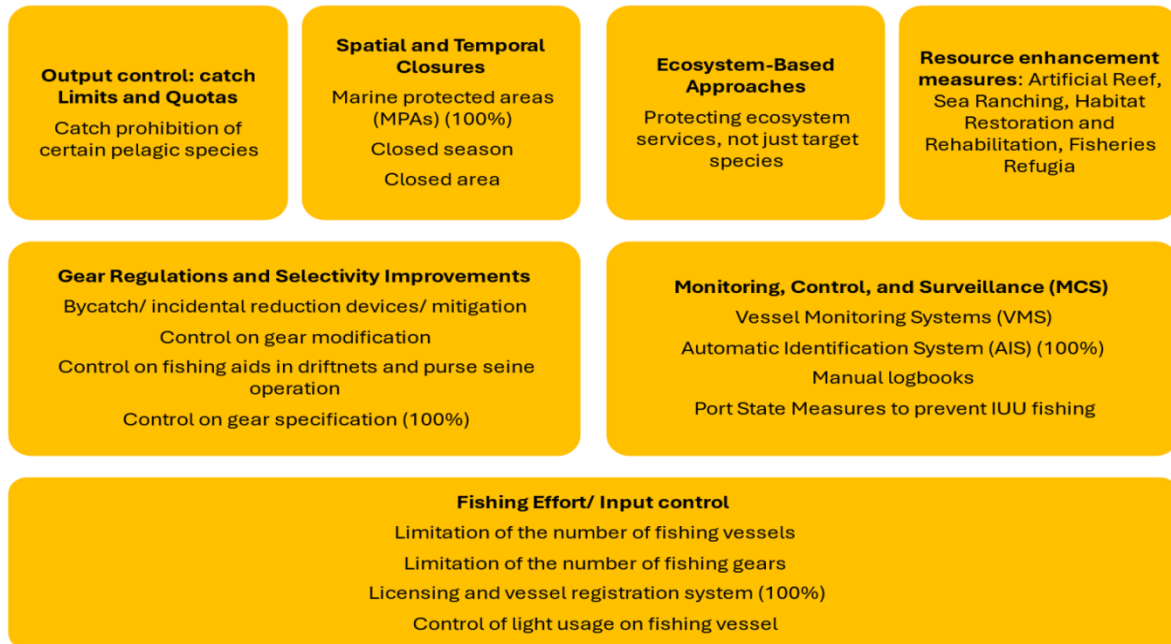
Table 12: Capacity building and Stakeholder Engagement of AMS

	Train local managers and fishers in data collection and stock assessment	Engagement with fishers to enhance compliance	Inclusive governance involving governments, NGOs, industry, and communities
Brunei DS	✗	✓	✓
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓
Myanmar	✓	✓	✓
Philippines	✓	✓	✓
Thailand	✓	✓	✓
Viet Nam	✓	✓	✓

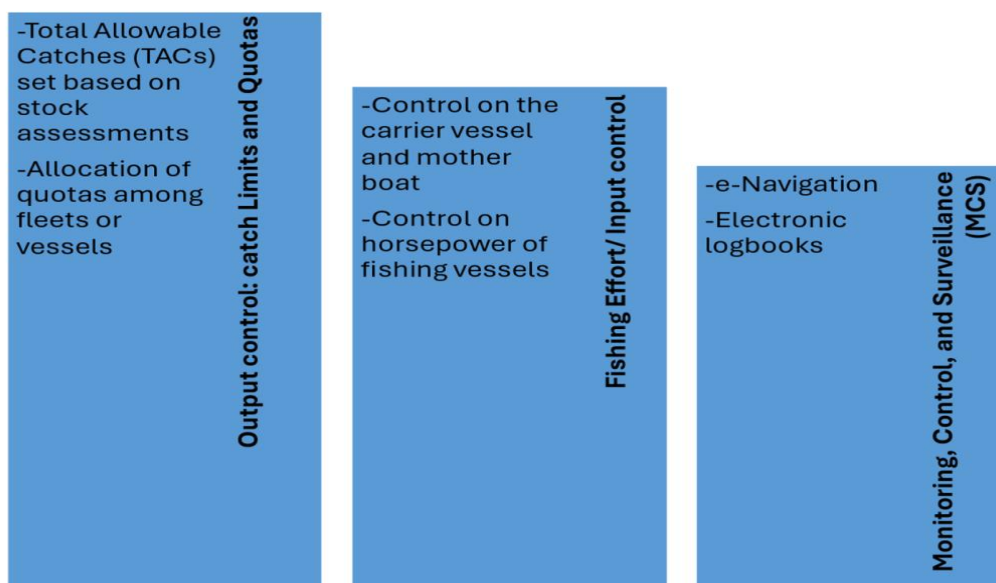
2.3 SUMMARY

The implementation on the conservation efforts and management strategies can be divided into three categories;

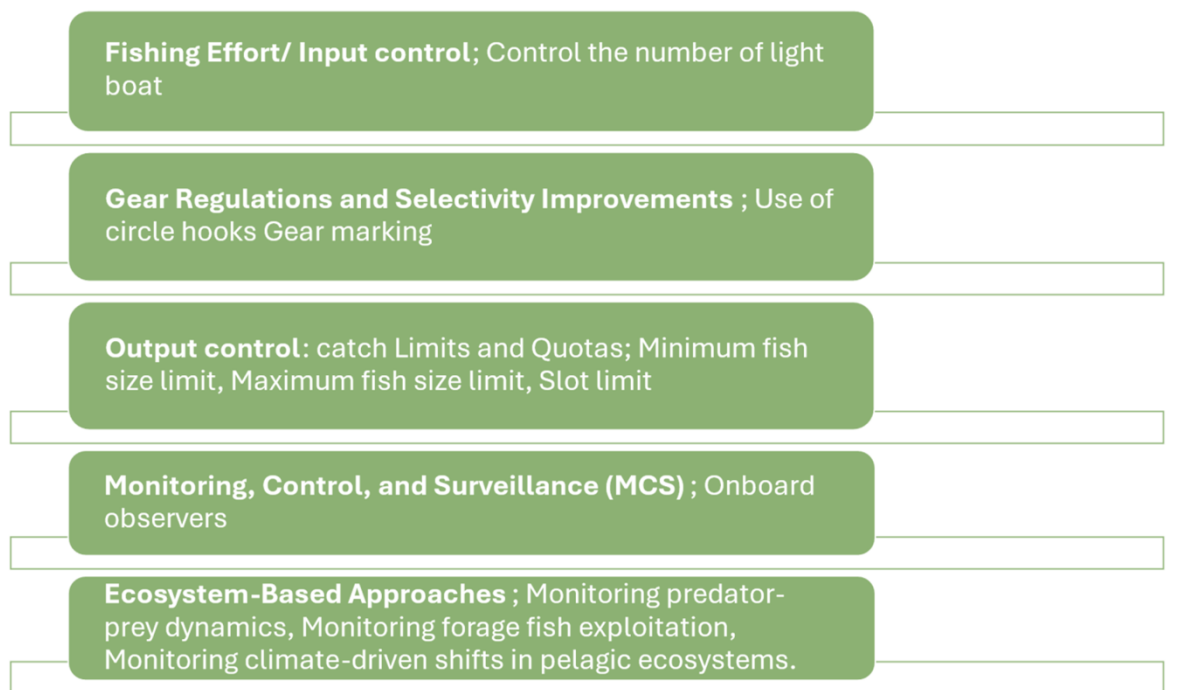
Category 1: The conservation efforts and management strategies in this category are implemented by more than 75% of AMS. Among the efforts and strategies in this category are control on gear specification, habitat restoration and rehabilitation and Marine Protected Area. Catch prohibition of certain pelagic species also in this category, even though currently listed for some sharks, rays and sawfish species.



Category 2: This category represents the conservation efforts and management strategies that are moderately implemented (by 50-75% of AMS). Among the list of conservation efforts and management strategies in this category are the implementation of catch limits and quotas and e-navigation and e-logbook.



Category 3: This category comprises the conservation efforts and management strategies that are least implemented by the AMS.



Overall, AMS has implemented a variety of conservation efforts and management strategies for pelagic fisheries. The list in Category 1 is more extensive than Categories 2 and 3, indicating that AMS has taken excellent steps in management. The list of conservation efforts and management strategies for both categories requires more comprehensive fish resource stock data and funding. AMS is working to increase expertise in fishery stock assessment and fishing gear technology.

CHAPTER 3

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF PELAGIC RESOURCES

Despite ongoing conservation initiatives and the adoption of various management measures, ASEAN Member States continue to face a range of persistent and emerging challenges in the sustainable management of fisheries resources. These issues stem from a combination of biological, socioeconomic, institutional and governance factors; which collectively constrain the effectiveness of existing conservation efforts. This chapter examines the key issues and challenges encountered by ASEAN Member States in implementing fisheries conservation and management strategies.

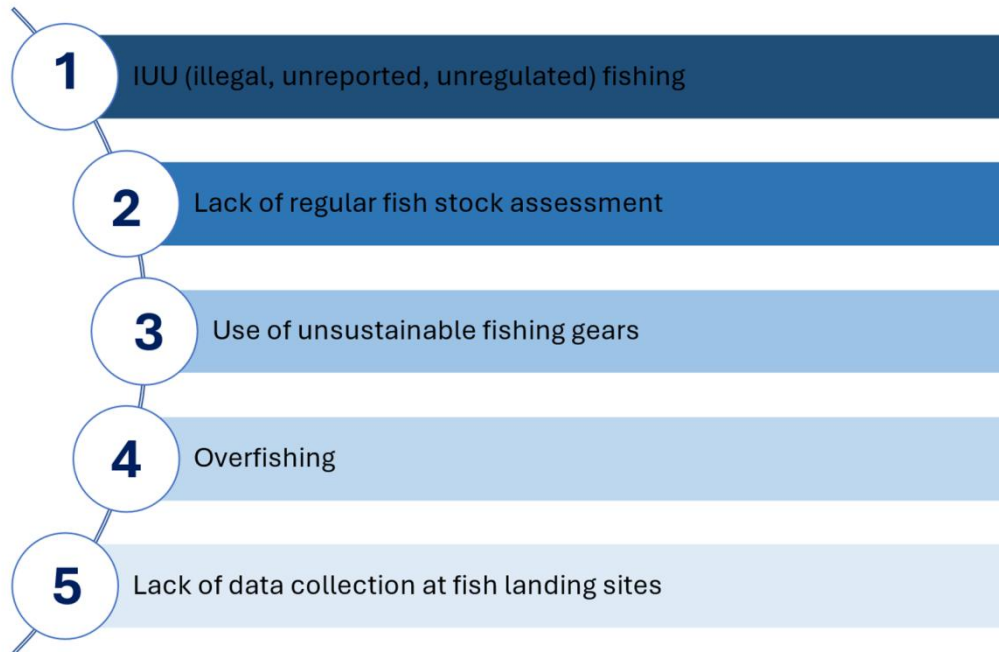
3.1 ISSUES IN PELAGIC FISHERIES OF AMSs

Issues in pelagic fisheries refer to the set of biological, ecological, socioeconomic, technological and governance-related problems that hinder the sustainability of pelagic fish resources. These issues include pressures arising from overfishing, environmental variability and climate change, data and scientific uncertainties, inadequate monitoring, control and surveillance, limited institutional and human capacity; and challenges in regional cooperation for shared and highly migratory stocks.

AMSs are requested to select and rank five issues on pelagic fisheries of their respective states from the issues listed below.

i	IUU (illegal, unreported, unregulated) fishing
ii	Changes in species distribution
iii	Overfishing
iv	Overcapacity
v	Use of unsustainable fishing gears
vi	Increase of fishing effort
vii	Lack of management and conservation measures
viii	Lack of data collection at fish landing sites
ix	Lack of regulated/ authorised fish landing site
x	Lack of capacity in data collection
xi	Lack of systematic data collection
xii	Lack of regular fish stock assessment

From the feedback, the five most issues faced by AMSs related to the pelagic resources are:



The issue on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remains on top of the list where unreported catches and unlicensed fishing vessels contributed to the issues that needed to be solved. The lack of regular fish stock assessment is second on the list where currently the assessment of the stock is based on project, not on regular basis due to the constraint in budget and expertise. Without reliable stock assessments, management decisions are made with high uncertainty regarding stock size, fish mortality and biological reference points. This often leads to inappropriate catch levels or uncontrolled fishing effort, increasing the risk of overfishing and long-term stock depletion.

The third issue on the list is related to the use of unsustainable fishing gears; for example, unregulated fishing gear specification for drift net and intensity of light for stick held dip net and lift net. When gear specifications and fishing intensity are not regulated, fishing efficiency increases without corresponding controls on effort or catch. This can result in growth overfishing and recruitment overfishing, particularly for small pelagic species with short life cycles. Over time, this accelerates stock depletion and increases the risk of stock collapse, especially in multi-fleet fisheries where cumulative impacts are difficult to monitor.

Overfishing remains the main issue in pelagic fisheries of AMS listed at number four. The number five issue is related to the lack of data collection at fish landing ports. This issue is contributed by many factors such as the limited human and financial capacity and high number and dispersal of landing sites in AMS.

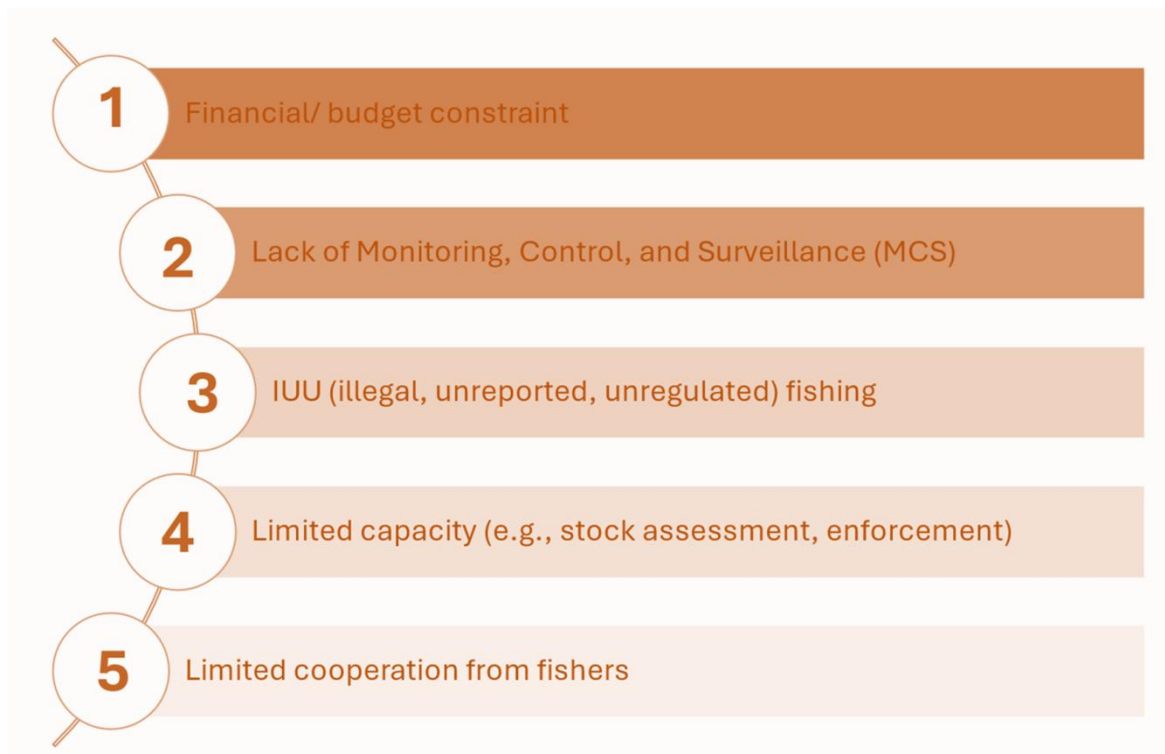
3.2 CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CURRENT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Challenges in conservation efforts and management strategies refer to the constraints, limitations and obstacles that reduce the effectiveness of policies, measures and actions aimed at sustaining fishery resources and ecosystems. These challenges arise from biological uncertainty, limited data and scientific capacity, institutional and governance weaknesses, inadequate compliance and enforcement, competing socioeconomic interests and the complexity of managing shared and migratory stocks across jurisdictions.

AMSs are requested to select and rank five challenges in the implementation of current conservation and management strategies of pelagic fisheries of their respective states. The list of challenges are as listed below.

i	IUU (illegal, unreported, unregulated) fishing
ii	Limited cooperation from fishers
iii	Limited cooperation from other stakeholders
iv	Limited support from government
v	Climate change and distributional shifts of species
vi	Lack of Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS)
vii	Financial/ budget constraint
viii	Overlapping of jurisdiction
ix	Limited capacity (e.g., stock assessment, enforcement)
x	Limited capability (e.g., stock assessment, enforcement)
xi	Regulatory limitation and gaps
xii	Lack of awareness among fishers
xiii	Lack of compliance among fishers
xiv	Inconsistency in governance mechanism

From the feedback, the five main challenges in the implementation of current conservation and management strategies of pelagic fisheries faced by AMSs related to the pelagic resources are:



On top of the list is financial constraint which is crucial for all AMSs. Financial constraints faced by AMSs can significantly undermine the effectiveness of fisheries conservation efforts and management strategies, particularly for pelagic and shared fish stocks where:

- Insufficient funding restricts routine data collection, monitoring programmes and stock assessments.
- Financial limitations reduce enforcement coverage, allowing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing to persist and weakening compliance with management measures.
- Limited budgets affect the training and retention of fisheries officers, scientists and port enumerators.
- Financial constraints may delay or limit the implementation of policies and strategies.

Lack of Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) is listed as number two. The MCS system exists in AMS but the coverage is limited, particularly for small-scale, inland and nearshore fisheries. Next on the list is illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing followed by the limited capacity for example in the assessment of stock and enforcement of measures and strategies. Currently, the human resources and technical capacity remain limited for science-based management.

Lack of cooperation from fishers also the main challenges by AMS. Limited cooperation from fishers is a major challenge in the effective management and conservation of pelagic fisheries, where sustainability depends heavily on compliance, accurate data and collective action. The impacts of the lack of cooperation from fishers are:

- When fishers are unwilling to cooperate with logbook reporting, port sampling or observer programmes, data gaps and biases occur, undermining stock assessments and science-based decision-making.
- Limited cooperation often results in low compliance with regulations such as gear specifications, effort limits, closed seasons or spatial restrictions. This reduces the effectiveness of conservation measures and increases the risk of overfishing, particularly in multi-gear and multi-fleet pelagic fisheries.
- Non-cooperation can facilitate IUU fishing activities, including under-reporting of catches, misreporting of species and non-compliance with gear regulations. This undermines both national and regional conservation efforts for shared pelagic stocks.

3.3 SUMMARY

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing remains the most critical issue affecting pelagic fisheries in AMS, driven largely by unreported catches and the operation of unlicensed vessels. The second major issue is the lack of regular fish stock assessments, as assessments are mostly project-based rather than conducted on a continuous basis due to budgetary and technical constraints. This results in high uncertainty in management decisions, often leading to inappropriate catch levels, uncontrolled fishing effort and an increased risk of overfishing and long-term stock depletion.

The use of unsustainable fishing gears is another key concern, particularly the lack of regulation on drift net specifications and the intensity of light used in stick-held dip nets and lift nets. Unregulated gear efficiency increases fishing pressure without corresponding effort controls, contributing to growth and recruitment overfishing, especially for short-lived small pelagic species. Overfishing remains a persistent issue, compounded by inadequate data collection at fish landing ports due to limited human and financial capacity and the large number of dispersed landing sites across AMS.

In terms of implementation challenges, financial constraints represent the most significant barrier to effective conservation and management. Limited funding restricts data collection, stock assessments, enforcement, capacity building and the timely implementation of management measures. This is followed by insufficient Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) coverage, particularly for small-scale and nearshore fisheries, as well as limited human and technical capacity for science-based management. In addition, limited cooperation from fishers undermines data reliability, compliance with regulations, and the effectiveness of conservation measures, while facilitating IUU fishing activities and weakening both national and regional management efforts.

CHAPTER 4

WAY-FORWARD IN THE CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES OF PELAGIC FISHERIES OF AMS

4.1 POTENTIAL STRATEGIES IN THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PELAGIC FISHERIES

In addition, with the current conservation effort and management strategies implemented by AMS, potential strategies also be explored and future implemented.

In this activity, AMS was given a choice of potential strategies to be implemented in the future. The list of potential strategies as listed below is based on the gaps and challenges as described in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3.

Potential strategies in the conservation effort and management strategies are as listed below.

i	Introduction of more sustainable fishing gears
ii	Introduction of new fishing gear technologies
iii	Development of more efficient post-harvest and processing equipment
iv	Monitoring predator-prey dynamics
v	Monitoring forage fish exploitation
vi	Monitoring climate-driven shifts in pelagic ecosystems
vii	Protecting ecosystem services, not just target species
viii	Train local managers and fishers in data collection and stock assessment
ix	Engagement with fishers to enhance compliance
x	Inclusive governance involving governments, NGOs, industry, and communities.
xi	Considering socioeconomic of fishers in formulation of management measures
xii	Deployment of artificial reef
xiii	Adopting artificial intelligence (AI) technology in data collection
xiv	Increase financial/ funding/ allocation
xv	Establish/ strengthen co-management with communities

From the feedback, among the potential strategies are:

✓ **Training local managers and fishers in data collection and stock assessment**

Building the technical capacity of local managers and fishers improves the quality and continuity of fisheries data. Better understanding of basic stock assessment concepts also increases awareness of resource status and supports evidence-based management decisions.

✓ **Engagement with fishers to enhance compliance**

Active engagement with fishers through consultations, outreach and participatory decision-making fosters trust and ownership of management measures. When fishers understand the rationale behind regulations, voluntary compliance and long-term stewardship are more likely to improve.

✓ **Inclusive governance involving governments, NGOs, industry and communities**

Inclusive governance ensures that multiple perspectives and expertise are incorporated into fisheries management. Collaboration among governments, NGOs, industry players and fishing communities enhances transparency, accountability and the effectiveness of conservation measures.

✓ **Considering the socioeconomic conditions of fishers in formulating management measures**

Incorporating socioeconomic factors such as income dependence, employment and food security helps ensure that management measures are practical and socially acceptable. This approach reduces negative impacts on livelihoods and increases the likelihood of successful implementation.

✓ **Establishing or strengthening co-management with communities**

Co-management arrangements that shared responsibility between authorities and fishing communities will empower local stakeholders. Community involvement in monitoring, enforcement and decision-making contributes to better compliance and more adaptive, locally relevant management.

✓ **Introduction of more sustainable fishing gears**

Promoting the use of selective and environmentally friendly fishing gears reduces bycatch, habitat impacts and juvenile catch. Sustainable gears support stock recovery while maintaining fishing productivity in the long term.

✓ **Development of more efficient post-harvest and processing equipment**

Improving post-harvest handling and processing technologies reduces losses and increases the value of landed pelagic resources. Enhanced efficiency contributes to better income for fishers and processors while reducing pressure on fish stocks.

4.2 PROPOSED CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

Targeted capacity building programmes are needed to strengthen technical expertise in stock assessment, data analysis, enforcement and ecosystem-based fisheries management. Regional training platforms and knowledge exchange among AMS can reduce duplication and enhance collective capacity.

Capacity building programmes should focus on practical skills, regional consistency and immediate applicability, particularly for data-limited small pelagic fisheries. In proposing suitable capacity building programs, following aspects are taken into consideration, which are:

- Gaps in the conservation effort and management strategies
- Challenges in the conservation effort and management strategies
- Potential new strategies

The capacity building programs were proposed by AMS during Regional Technical Consultation in January 2026. The proposed programs are divided into two main categories: A) **stock assessment** and B) **Data analysis and management**.

In the capacity building programs related to the stock assessment, four main programs are proposed at regional and national level as presented in **Table 13**. Technical focus for each program varies, taking into consideration the current needs by AMS.

In terms of the need for capacity building programs for data analysis and management (**Table 14**), three programs are proposed. This includes:

- Fisheries Data Analytics & Visualization Training
- Fisheries Database & Interoperability Programme
- Science-to-Policy Translation Programme

Table 13. Proposed capacity building program related to **fish stock assessment**

No.	Programme Title	Technical Focus	Target Participants	Format	Key Outputs / Deliverables	Suggested Timeframe
1	ASEAN Small Pelagic Stock Assessment Training Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data-limited methods (LBB, LBSPR, CMSY, SPM, Length-based indicator, TropFish-R) • Length-frequency analysis, uncertainty & precautionary reference points • Reproductive biology • Gear selectivity • Mapping fishing ground • Standardization method of fishing effort • Ecosystem Traits Index • Ecopath and Ecosim • Harvest Control Rules (HCR) design tool • Method Evaluation for Risk assessment for data limited fisheries • Ecological Index • Fishing capacity (e.g: gear marking) 	Fisheries scientists, research officers, fisheries officer	Regional workshop & hands-on exercises	Trained national focal points; pilot assessments for priority species	Short-term
2	Biological Sampling & Life-History Data Training	Standardised sampling protocols (length, maturity, age), sampling design	Field enumerators, researchers, Fisheries Officer	Training & field-based practicum	ASEAN sampling protocols; improved biological datasets	Short-term
3	Regional Training on Co-management & socioeconomics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-management • Supply Chain of Fisheries Resources • Socioeconomic related to 	Fisheries scientists, research officers, Fisheries Officer	Regional workshop & hands-on exercises	Trained national focal points; pilot assessments for priority species	Short-term

		fisheries management and policy (<i>indicators</i>)				
4	National / regional Training for stock assessment	Stock assessment	University students, Fishers, Communities	Workshop & hands-on exercises	Trained related stakeholders (fishers, locals)	Short terms

Table 14. Proposed capacity building program related to **data analysis and management**

No.	Programme Title	Technical Focus	Target Participants	Format	Key Outputs / Deliverables	Suggested Timeframe
1	ASEAN Fisheries Data Analytics & Visualization Training	Data cleaning, time-series analysis, visualization (R, QGIS), dashboard and Artificial Intelligence	Data analysts, scientists Fisheries Officer	Hands-on regional training	Standard analysis scripts; improved national reporting	Short-term
2	Regional Fisheries Database & Interoperability Programme	Database design, metadata standards, data governance	Fisheries IT & data officers	Technical workshops + peer learning	Agreed data standards; roadmap for regional database	Short term
3	Science-to-Policy Translation Programme	-Translating stock assessments, socioeconomic, ecological into management advice; HCRs, -Regulatory Impact Assessment Indicator -Marine Spatial Planning	Scientists & managers	Joint-workshops	Policy briefs; improved uptake of science	Short term

4.3 RECOMMENDATION ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF PELAGIC FISHERIES

Since 2024, four activities have been conducted related to the conservation efforts and management strategies of pelagic fisheries of AMS which are:

1. Implementation status of the RPOA-capacity, fishing capacity profiles, fishing effort and stock status in Asean Member States (AMSs) and assessment of fishing capacity
2. Compilation and enhancement of relevant existing fisheries information systems/mechanisms
3. Harmonization of indicators for sustainable pelagic fisheries in Southeast Asia
4. Conservation and management strategies of pelagic fisheries

The outputs of the activities provided a lot of information related to the fishing capacity profile of AMS, existing fisheries information systems/mechanisms, the determination of initial indicators that will be utilized by all AMS and finally related to current and future conservation efforts and management strategies of pelagic fisheries that will benefit all AMS.

Therefore, a recommendation on the future direction of management and conservation of pelagic fisheries (2026–2035) is drafted. This recommendation is proposed as a guiding framework to help ASEAN move from national-level efforts towards more coordinated regional action for small and non-tuna pelagic fisheries. The direction is structured in three phases over a ten-year horizon, recognising that many pelagic species are shared, climate-sensitive and often data-limited.

The first phase, from 2026 to 2027, focuses on foundation building. The emphasis here is on strengthening a regional technical working group, agreeing on priority pelagic species, and developing minimum data and sampling standards. During this phase, capacity building in data-limited stock assessment and basic MCS training is critical to ensure all ASEAN Member States start from a common technical baseline.

The second phase, from 2028 to 2030, moves towards integration and pilot implementation. This is where ASEAN can begin conducting sub-regional stock assessments for shared small pelagic stocks and piloting regional data-sharing mechanisms.

The third phase, from 2031 to 2035, focuses on consolidation and adaptive management. At this stage, regular regional stock assessments can be normalised, and ecosystem and climate considerations can be integrated into management decisions. Importantly, socioeconomic impacts on small-scale fishers should also be monitored to ensure management measures remain equitable and feasible.

Overall, this recommendation is not intended to replace national management, but to complement it by identifying where regional collaboration adds value.

RECOMMENDATION ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PELAGIC FISHERIES (2026–2035)

PHASE 1: FOUNDATION (2026–2027)	PHASE 2: INTEGRATION & PILOTS (2028–2030)	PHASE 3: CONSOLIDATION (2031–2035)
<p>Objective: Build common ground and technical capacity</p> <p>1. Strengthen Scientific Working Group on Stock Assessment for neritic tunas in the Southeast Asian waters “SWG-Neritic tunas”</p> <p>2. Agree on 3–5 priority pelagic species/indicator</p> <p>3. Conduct regional capacity building programs</p>	<p>Objective: Implement joint regional actions</p> <p>1. Conduct regional capacity building programs</p> <p>2. Conduct regional / sub-regional stock assessments</p> <p>3. Pilot regional data-sharing mechanisms</p>	<p>Objective: Institutionalise and adapt</p> <p>1. Regular regional/national stock assessments</p> <p>2. Integrate climate & ecosystem indicators</p> <p>3. Monitor socio-economic impact</p>
<p>Key Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Trained national focal points ✓ Agreed data standards ✓ Regional baseline understanding 	<p>Key Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regional assessment reports 	<p>Key Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Regional Assessment reports ✓ Climate-responsive management

4.4 SUMMARY

Overall, AMS has identified potential strategies that are appropriate and need to be implemented in the future to ensure the sustainability of pelagic fish resources. In addition, AMS collectively has proposed several capacity-building programs related to stock assessment and data analysis and management. These planned programs take into account issues, challenges and gaps in the current conservation efforts and management strategies of pelagic fisheries of AMS. However, to ensure that these planned recommendations can be implemented, financial allocations need to be secured. The lack of sufficient allocations will result in program implementation being delayed.

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APPENDIX

1) Workshop for Developing Questionnaire on the Conservation Efforts and Management Strategies in AMSs Grand Sabak Hotel, Sabak Bernam, Selangor, Malaysia, 10 - 12 September 2025



2) The Regional Technical Consultation on The Conservation Efforts and Management Strategies of Pelagic Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia, at Port Dickson, Malaysia, 6-8 January 2026



3) Workshop on the Assessment of the Conservation Effort and Management Strategies of Pelagic Fisheries Resources in Southeast Asia Questionnaire, at Kota Bharu, Malaysia, 3-4 February 2026



Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

What is SEAFDEC?

SEAFDEC is an autonomous intergovernmental body established as a regional treaty organization in 1967 to promote sustainable fisheries development in Southeast Asia. SEAFDEC currently comprises 11 Member Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Vision

Sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihood of people in the Southeast Asian region

Mission

To promote and facilitate concerted actions among the Member Countries to ensure the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia through:

- Research and development in fisheries, aquaculture, post-harvest, processing, and marketing of fish and fisheries products, socio-economy and ecosystem to provide reliable scientific data and information.
- Formulation and provision of policy guidelines based on the available scientific data and information, local knowledge, regional consultations and prevailing international measures.
- Technology transfer and capacity building to enhance the capacity of Member Countries in the application of technologies, and implementation of fisheries policies and management tools for the sustainable utilization of fishery resources and aquaculture.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the regional fisheries policies and management frameworks adopted under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC collaborative mechanism, and the emerging international fisheries-related issues including their impacts on fisheries, food security and socio-economics of the region.



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