



**The 2nd Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting for
the SEAFDEC/UN Environment/GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of
a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

21st – 23rd May 2019

Thansur Sokha Hotel, Kampot Province (Fisheries Refugia Site), Cambodia

PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

I. INTRODUCTION

The South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand is a global center of shallow water marine biological diversity that supports significant fisheries that are important to the food security and export income of Southeast Asian countries. These fisheries are characterized by high levels of fishing effort from the small-scale sector. Accordingly, all inshore waters of those areas are subject to intense fishing pressure. This situation of high small-scale fishing pressure and declining fisheries resources has contributed to the implementation of unsustainable fishing methods to maintain catch and increase incomes in the short-term. These include the use of destructive fishing gear and practices, such as the operation of demersal trawls and push nets in seagrass areas, and the detonation of explosives and release of fish poisons in coral reef areas. Small-scale inshore fishing pressure has therefore been identified as a significant cause of the degradation and loss of coastal habitats in the South China Sea.

Although action aimed at reducing the rate of loss of coastal habitats has been implemented by countries bordering the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, the decadal rate of loss of such habitats remains high due to many reasons from not only fishing activities but including other human activities and climate changes. This continued decline in the total area of habitats critical to the life cycles of most aquatic species, combined with the high levels of coastal community dependence on fish, has raised serious concerns for the long-term sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the region. With fish production being intrinsically linked to the quality and area of habitats and the heightened dependence of coastal communities on fish, a need exists to improve the integration of fish habitat considerations and fisheries management in the region. This project entitled “Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand” has been developed to meet this need via implementation of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Program for the South China Sea. Executed regionally by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in partnership with the government agencies responsible for fisheries in the 6 participating countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam, the project is comprised of the following 4 project components:

Component 1 will result in the establishment of operational management at 14 priority fisheries refugia, with community-based refugia management plans being key outputs;

Component 2 focuses on strengthening the enabling environment for the formal designation and operational management of refugia;

Component 3 focuses on strengthening information management and dissemination aimed at enhancing the national uptake of best practices in integrating fisheries management and biodiversity conservation, and in improving community acceptance of area-based approaches to fisheries and coastal environmental management; and

Component 4 will strengthen cross-sectorial coordination for integrated fisheries and environmental management and will harness the national scientific and technical expertise and knowledge

required to inform the policy, legal and institutional reforms for fisheries refugia management in the participating countries.

To kick-off implementation of the Project, the Inception Workshop was conducted in Bangkok, Thailand, on 1st – 3rd November 2016 with the aims to introduce the overall project goals, objectives, overview of the Project Management Framework including monitoring and evaluation, sharing of regional and national initiatives related to fisheries *refugia* project, Letter of Agreement (LOA), work plan and finance matters, and other business. The project implementation at country level is based on the status of LOA submission to the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) at SEAFDEC/ Training Department, and presently there are 4 countries namely Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand have signed the LOA and starting the project implementation in 2017.

To facilitate the achievement of the goals and objectives of the project, the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee (RSTC) was established with responsibility for: overseeing the scientific and technical elements of the project; ensuring effective implementation of activities undertaken during project execution; and providing sound scientific and technical advice to the Project Steering Committee. In this connection, the 1st Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting (RSTC1) was held in Trat Province, Thailand from 11 to 13 September 2018. The RSTC1 results are mostly focused on: the TOR for the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee, progress of national and regional activities during 2017-Q3 of 2018, proposed national activities for the following year, baseline survey template, gender mainstreaming to the project implementation, project budgeting and reporting, and etc. The full report of RSTC1 can be downloaded from the link as follows: https://1drv.ms/b/s!AntX_2ae6_259i4zqhrFxAmmvHYL

To follow up the progress works and further discussion on the development of tools such as GIS mappings, simulation of physical oceanographic parameters and other environmental impacts to support the establishment of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia, SEAFDEC/PCU plans to organize the 2nd Regional Scientific and Technical Committee Meeting on 21-23 May 2019 at Kampot Province one of the priority Fisheries Refugia Site of Cambodia.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE RSTC2 MEETING

- To progress the report on the national activities from 2018 till May 2019 by NSTC;
- To discuss on the project evaluation since project started till May 2019
- To discuss on the proposed national activities and costed work plan for Quarterly 3 and 4 of 2019;
- To discuss on GIS Mapping and Ocean Modeling System to support the establishment of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia
- To discuss on management of transboundary species: short mackerel, frigate tuna, etc.
- To discuss on project web-sites at country and regional programs
- Other matters

III. MEETING VENUE

The RSTC2 will be held at Thansur Sokha Boko Hotel, Kampot province, Cambodia during a period of 21st – 23rd May 2019.

IV. PARTICIPANTS

- Refers to the adopted TOR for the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee, SEAFDEC will support a Chair of National Scientific and Technical Committee/focal point from 6 relevant Countries namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam;
- Regional Experts from various institutions (Chulalongkorn University, Kasetsart University, IOC/Westpac-SEAGOOS project/DMRC, SEAFDEC/TD, BFAR/PH, and etc.)
- Other partners from SEAFDEC/Sweden project, SEAFDEC/Japanese Trust Fund, etc.
- The PCU staffs, senior officer(s) from SEAFDEC and relevant consultants from the SCS project to the FR project.

- V. AGENDA**
- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**
- 1.1 WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS
- 1.2 INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS
- 2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**
- 2.1 ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2019
- 2.2 DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE TO THE MEETING
- 2.3 ORGANISATION OF WORK
- 3. ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA**
- 4. REPORT OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR ON PROGRESS WORKS**
- 5. PRESENTATIONS BY THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL DURING JUNE 2018 – MAY 2019**
- 5.1 CAMBODIA
- 5.2 INDONESIA
- 5.3 MALAYSIA
- 5.4 PHILIPPINES
- 5.5 THAILAND
- 5.6 VIET NAM
- 6. PROJECT EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTIVITY FROM 2017 TO MAY 2019 IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRES**
- 7. DATA AND INFORMATION NEEDS TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES**
- 7.1 MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY SPECIES: SHORT MACKEREL, FRIGATE TUNA, ETC.
- 7.1.1 SHORT MACKEREL
- RESULTS FROM THE SEAFDEC/SWEDEN PROJECT ON SHORT MACKEREL (SWEDEN PROJECT)
 - BIOLOGICAL STUDY IN TRAT, THAILAND
 - BIOLOGICAL STUDY IN KOH KONG, CAMBODIA
 - COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORKS
- 7.1.2 FRIGATE TUNA
- FRIGATE TUNA OFF WESTERN LUZON (IN THE SCS)
 - REGIONAL STUDY BY SEAFDEC
 - COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORKS (PCU)
- 7.2 BEST PRACTICE FISHING GEARS AND METHODS
- 7.3 DISCUSSION ON GIS MAPPING AND EXISTING OCEAN MODELLING
- 7.4 INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM
- 7.4.1 PROJECT WEB-SITES AT COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS
- 7.4.2 FISHERIES REFUGIA CENTER(S) AT NATIONAL LEVEL: LESSONS LEARNED FROM MY
- 7.4.3 BASELINE SURVEY DATA

- 7.4.4 DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES REFUGIA DATABASE
- 7.4.5 OTHERS

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 FINANCIAL REPORT
- 8.2 COSTED WORKPLAN FOR 2019-Q3
 - 8.2.1 CAMBODIA
 - 8.2.2 INDONESIA
 - 8.2.3 MALAYSIA
 - 8.2.4 PHILIPPINES
 - 8.2.5 THAILAND
 - 8.2.6 VIET NAM
- 8.3 OTHERS

9. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE 3RD REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

11. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

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