



Southeast Asian Fisheries
Development Center



United Nations
Environment Programme



Global Environment
Facility

**Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia*
in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

**Report
Regional Meeting on Indicators for Fisheries *Refugia* Management
and Discussion on Project Follow-up**

A-one The Royal Cruise Hotel, Pattaya City, Chonburi Province, Thailand
9th – 11th September 2019



SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF
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Report of the Meeting

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1.1 Welcome Speech from the Project Director

- 1) Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon, Project Director of SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project on Fisheries Refugia and as a chairperson of the meeting welcomed all participants to A-one The Royal Cruise Hotel, Pattaya city, Chonburi Province whereas the meeting venue.

1.2 Introduction of Participants

- 2) The Chairperson noted that there were a number of new members attended to the regional working groups, he therefore invited the participants to introduce themselves to the meeting. The list of participants is attached as [Annex 1](#) to this report.

2. BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1 Background and Objectives of the Meeting

- 3) Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon presented the background and objectives of the meeting. He referred to the project requirements on development of the standardized information and data collection procedures in support of longer-term operation of a regional system of fisheries *refugia*, including design of stress reduction and environmental state indicators for managed *refugia* that is one of the regional activities under the SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF Project on Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand. The provisional prospectus is shown as [Annex 2a and 2b](#).
- 4) The meeting also aims to follow-up the project outputs based on activities that have been implemented for 2017 and 2018 by Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. In addition, to consult with all focal points of Fisheries Refugia Project on the development of a new concept proposal on “FishTrawl” before further development and address at the next Project Steering Committee Meeting in Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia in the 2nd week of November 2019.

2.2 Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

- 5) Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon introduced the provisional agenda of the meeting in which later it was adopted with no amendment as shown as [Annex 3](#).

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDICATORS FOR MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES *REFUGIA* IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA

3.1 Introduction of the steps for drafting the indicators for management of Fisheries *Refugia*

- 6) Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon informed the meeting on the steps for drafting the indicators for management of fisheries *refugia* which is support the future implementation by relevant countries after project end. In addition, it is also considered that the adopted indicators are aimed to guide the other ASEAN Member States the way to establish fisheries *refugia* for sustainable fisheries at national and regional levels.
- 7) He suggested 4 steps for this brainstorming session for development of the indicators as follows: 1) Identify the objectives; 2) Identify the dimensions and key issues/problems; 3) Identify the criteria; and 4) Identify the indicators.

3.2 Standardized methodology for data collection and analysis for management of fisheries *Refugia*

- 8) Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon informed the meeting on the importance of the standardized methodology for data collection and analysis to support the establishment and management of fisheries *Refugia*. This information will guide country on what need to do, and how to support holistic approach for establishment of fisheries *refugia*. In this connection, from the literature reviews of regional fisheries issues, the SEAFDEC/PCU identify the knowledge gaps

together with the required actions and methodologies for data collection and analysis in which are necessary to support long term management of fisheries refugia.

- 9) He presented the draft paper on Standardized Methods for Collection and Analysis of Data and Information, for the use in Assessing the Impacts of Fisheries Refugia and in the Designing of Appropriate Indicators for Long Term Management of the Regional System of Fisheries Refugia as shown in [Annex 4](#). Additionally, he pointed out this comprehensive part needed to put together with the Indicators guidebook.
- 10) The meeting supports the idea to include all necessary guides, manual, procedures or standardized methods together in one publication to support the establishment and effective management of fisheries refugia.

4. BRAINSTORMING SESSION

4.1 Identify objectives and dimensions

- 11) From the brainstorming among 6 countries focal points, the meeting considers that objectives should reflect on healthy and sustainability in 4 dimensions including ecosystem, economic, social, and governance issues. After discussion, the experts agreed on 3 objectives for development of the indicators as follows:
 - a. Maintain the fish stock and critical habitat;
 - b. Satisfy fishing community, social needs now and futures; and
 - c. Put in place on effective management system
- 12) However, climate change impacts is one of the key cross-cutting dimension that necessary to include in the discussion. But the focus of climate change impacts is to ecosystem dimension only. This indicator guidebook not include the impacts of climate change to other dimensions such as social, and or economic dimensions.

4.2 Identify key issues/problems in each dimension

- 13) Based on the identified 5 dimensions in para 4.1, the meeting raised up problems and issues facing by countries in the region that are aligned with 5 dimensions as follows:
 1. Ecosystem
 - fisheries resources;
 - habitat (mangrove, coral, seagrass, and other critical habitats); and
 - environment (impact from human act.)
 2. Social
 - livelihoods;
 - stakeholder participation (indigenous people, gender, etc.);
 - education (local knowledge, local wisdom)
 3. Economic
 - economic condition (to community)
 - fisheries production, fishing efforts
 - innovative fisheries technology
 4. Governance
 - fisheries management policy (fishing/user right, precautionary approaches/ science-based management, and synergistic way/strategy)
 - stakeholder cooperation/coordination (regional / national levels)
 - enforcement
 - capacity building
 - funding (infrastructure, enforcement, etc.)
 5. Climate change
 - fish stock
 - impact to habitat
 - impact to environment

4.3 Identify criteria and indicators

- 14) The meeting continuously discussed on the key criteria that link to 17 issues or sub-dimensions. There are 44 criteria and about 89 indicators that need to consider for effective management of fisheries refugia.

5. REPORTING AND FINALIZING THE 1ST DRAFT INDICATORS AND STANDARDIZED METHODOLOGY FOR DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS FOR MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES REFUGIA

- 15) The meeting considered the draft overall objectives, issues/problems, criteria and indicators developed based on the 4 dimensions and one cross-cutting dimension as presented by facilitator, Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon. There was some amendment on the draft but later the draft was finalized and adopted in principle by the meeting as shown in [Annex 5](#).
- 16) Refers to the earlier discussion by the meeting that the regional guidebook will include not only the indicators but including the standardized methodology for data collection and analysis to support the management of fisheries refugia.
- 17) Regarding this a completed regional guidebook will be further drafted for consideration by the Regional Scientific and Technical committee and the Project Steering Committee before seek approval from the countries as well as by the ASEAN-SEAFDEC mechanism by end of 2020.
- 18) In this connection, the PCU, Project Director requested all relevant countries to support and further promote the publication when it is in place.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE CONTENTS OF INDICATORS PAPER AND WORKPLANS FOR ADDRESSING TO SEAFDEC/ASEAN FOR CONSIDERATION, ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT

- 19) Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon informed the meeting on the draft table of contents of the regional guidebook on Indicator for management of fisheries refugia for consideration and suggestions.
- 20) The meeting suggested that the regional guidebook should have executive summary, preface, acknowledgement and also references. Additionally, the message from partners or national lead agency from 6 relevant countries. Regarding this the Table of Contents was principle adopted by the meeting as shown in [Annex 6](#).
- 21) The meeting also agree that the guidebook title should be changed to “Sustainability Indicators Framework for Management of Fisheries Refugia In the South China Sea and Gulf Of Thailand.

7. DISCUSSION AND FOLLOW-UP ON THE PROJECT OUTPUTS

- 22) The PCU Project Director refers to the working paper on “Follow-up the Results Framework Outputs” as shown as [Annex 7](#). He encourages relevant countries to submit the progress reports based on quarterly activities. He also pointed out that all implemented activities outputs should be reflected or aligned with the results framework.
- 23) The meeting also was informed on the progress outputs implemented by country that have been submitted to the PCU by each country summarized by the SEAFDEC/PCU. It is also noted that the progress outputs include regional activities implemented by the PCU as shown in [Annex 8](#).

8. CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED NEW PROJECT ENTITLED “IMPROVING ECOSYSTEM HEATH THROUGH THE BEST PRACTICES ON TRAWL FISHERIES”

- 24) The PCU Project Director presented to the meeting a proposed new concept project entitled “Improving Ecosystem Heath through the Best Practices on Trawl Fisheries” or FishTrawl project for consideration and further suggestion by relevant countries in the coastal areas of the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand Large Marine Ecosystem as shown as [Annex 9](#).
- 25) The FishTrawl Project integrates the ecosystem-based fisheries management approach through the development of effective national/regional fishery policies on sustainable

fisheries and innovative technology for bottom trawl gears and methods including reduction of green-house gas emission from fishing activities. Additionally, building partnerships between multiple public and private sectors, e.g. local government/communities, research institutions, net makers, fisheries associations, fish meal industry, fish processors, etc. would be among the approaches to improve and change this production practice into more environmentally positive. The Project also includes resources enhancement activities that aim to create offshore artificial habitats or artificial reefs to protect some demersal fish stocks due to loss of seabed habitats affected by the bottom trawl net. Cooperation among country partners and concerned inter-agencies that have the existing programs to deploy artificial reefs along the coastal areas for small scale fisheries is also needed taking into account the offshore demersal fish stocks that have already been depleted.

- 26) Through the UNEP partnership, the project is planned to seek funding from the Green Climate Fund, however, the endorsed mechanism from eligible countries are needed. This is therefore an objective to introduce the concept note and seek the cooperation from meeting.
- 27) The meeting also suggested that at country level the responsible agency to implement the project should be fisheries agency due to most of the activities related to fisheries aspects which impact on ecosystem.
- 28) The meeting also noted that this is the starting point on drafting of the Concept note by PCU-refugia. It is needed to consult with UNEP for the next steps.

9. CONCLUSION WRAP UP OF THE MEETING

- 29) Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon informed the meeting on budget for this Regional Meeting which used under the regional activity 3.5 entitled: Standardized methods for collection and analysis of info and data on refugia effectiveness (including indicator system). The remaining budget is for hiring the consultants for drafting the publication.
- 30) After the Regional meeting, the results will be addressed at the 2nd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee held on 5-6 November in MIRI, Sarawak, Malaysia. In addition, the 1st draft papers will be consulted with countries again at the 3rd Meeting of the Regional Scientific and Technical Committee in Feb. 2020.
- 31) It is expected that the final completed paper will be addressed for final consideration and adoption by the 3rd Meeting of the Project Steering Committee in November 2020 (tentative).

10. CLOSING THE MEETING

- 32) Dr. Somboon Siriraksophon - on behalf of the Project Coordinating Unit – expressed his sincere attitude to all national focal points for their active intervention for the last three days, that the meeting could come-up the Indicator system including draft standardized methods for data collection and analysis to support the effective management of fisheries refugia. He also wishes to work with all country participants again for finalizing the completed publication by end of 2020.
 - 33) The meeting was closed at 17:20 of 11th September 2019.
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