



**PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS  
RECORD (RFVR) 24 METERS IN LENGTH AND OVER**

Training Department

**Executive Summary**

At the onset, SEAFDEC/TD organized a series of experts meeting as follows: 1) the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Regional Core Experts in October 2011, where the procedures for fishing licensing and vessels registration in Southeast Asian countries as well as the corresponding minimum requirements for obtaining fishing license and vessels registration certificates were discussed as well as ways and means of preventing the fish and fishery products from IUU fishing; 2) the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Regional Core Experts in June 2012, where a principal agreement on the list of required data and information was reached by the SEAFDEC Member Countries on sharing of fishing vessels data/information for 24 meters in length and over. The results and agreed basic information requirements/list from such meetings, and the concept proposal on establishment of the RFVR were presented to and approved by the SEAFDEC Council during its 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting in April 2013 in the Philippines. Later, the concept proposal was supported by the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-34<sup>th</sup> AMAF) to establish a Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for 24 meters in length and over as a tool to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian Region.

The series of activities implementation has been continued from 2014 to present. In 2017, “The Regional Technical Consultation on Evaluation of Implementation and Utilization of the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) for 24 meters in length and over as a Management Tool toward Combating IUU Fishing in ASEAN” was organized from 12 to 14 September 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. The strategies and way forward on improvement, promotion and utilization of the RFVR Database for 24 meters in length and over to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the region is main output from this Consultation (see **ANNEX 1**).

With regard to sharing the information of RFVR with non-AMS under the RPOA-IUU and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), SEAFDEC was guided to develop and establish guidelines or protocols for RFVR data access to be considered by the SEAFDEC Council and endorsed by the ASWGFi, in this connection SEAFDEC proposed the protocols as shown in **ANNEX 2**.

**Required Consideration by the 50<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Council Meeting**

- 1) The Council is requested to take note, and support strategies and way forward on improvement, promotion and utilization of the RFVR Database for 24 meters in length and over to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the region;
- 2) The Council is also requested for consideration, comments and adoption of the Protocols for RFVR-24m Data Access by Non-ASEAN Member States and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) as appeared in the **ANNEX 2**;
- 3) The Council is invited to provide the guidance and policy advise to improve the quality of data and enhance the use of RFVR-24m to support port State measures and against the existing IUU fishing vessel in the ASEAN region.

## ANNEX 1

### THE PROGRESS OF WORK ON REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD (RFVR) 24 METERS IN LENGTH AND OVER

SEAFDEC/Training Department

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the approval by the SEAFDEC Council during its 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting in April 2013 in the Philippines for establishment of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for 24 meters in length and over as a tool to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian Region which implements by the SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) under the project of promotion of countermeasure to reduce IUU fishing. Later, the concept proposal was supported by the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-34<sup>th</sup> AMAF). Moreover, the 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2014 in Singapore also endorsed the proposed RFVR activity plan. The series of activities implementation has been conducted. In 2017, “The Regional Technical Consultation on Evaluation of Implementation and Utilization of the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) for 24 meters in length and over as a Management Tool toward Combating IUU Fishing in ASEAN” was organized from 12 to 14 September 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Consultation came up with 1) situation from AMS to reduce IUU fishing, 2) utilization, issues and problems of the RFVR-24m, and 3) strategies and way forward on improvement, promotion and utilization of the RFVR Database for 24 meters in length and over to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the region.

#### II. STRATEGY AND WAY FORWARD ON IMPROVEMENT, PROMOTION AND UTILIZATION OF RFVR DATABASE FOR 24 METERS IN LENGTH AND OVER

Following the strategies and way forward on improvement, promotion and utilization of RFVR Database for 24 Meters in Length and Over as agreed by AMS at the Regional Technical Consultation on Evaluation of Implementation and Utilization of the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) for 24 Meters in Length and Over as a Management Tool Toward Combating IUU Fishing in ASEAN from 12 to 14 September 2017 are as follows;

##### 1. *Input information on RFVR Database*

- a) The Retention of 28 Key Data Elements (KDEs), for the Shipyard/ shipbuilder must input the country of build. Date of launching/ year of build/year of purchase must input the Year. Put the name of Captain/master if available. Put also the Nationality of Captain/master if available. The number of crew (maximum/minimum) if available and nationality of crew if available, and IMO number if any.

*Updated basic information requirements for RFVR database for 24 meters in length and over*

Information on fishing vessels	Information on fishing vessels
1. Name of Vessel	15. International Radio Call sign
2. Vessel Registration Number	16. Engine Brand
3. Owner Name	17. Serial Number of Engine
4. Type of Fishing Method/Gear	18. Hull Material
5. Fishing License Number	19. Date of Registration
6. Expiration Date of Fishing Licenses	20. Area (country) of Fishing Operation
7. Port of Registry	21. Nationality of vessel (flag)
8. Gross Tonnage (GRT/GT)	22. Previous Name (if any)
9. Length (L)	23. Previous Flag (if any)

10. Breadth (B)	24. Name of Captain/Master (if available)
11. Depth (D)	25. Nationality of Captain/Master (if available)
12. Engine Power	26. Number of Crew (maximum/minimum)
13. Shipyard/Ship Builder	27. Nationality of Crew (if available)
14. Date of Launching/Year of Built/ Year of Purchase	28. IMO Number (If any)

- b) For the fishing gear classification and fishing gear name, must follow the International standard of classification by FAO. Communication with Indonesian expert for translation of local name of the fishing gear to English.

<b>Fishing gear classification</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
<b>SURROUNDING NETS</b>	
Purse seines	PS
Surrounding nets without purse lines	LA
Surrounding nets (nei)	SUX
<b>SEINE NETS</b>	
Beach seines	SB
Boat seines	SV
Seine nets (nei)	SX
<b>TRAWLS</b>	
Beam trawls	TBB
Single boat bottom otter trawls	OTB
Twin bottom otter trawls	OTT
Multiple bottom otter trawls	OTP
Bottom pair trawls	PTB
Bottom trawls (nei)	TB
Single boat midwater otter trawls	OTM
Midwater pair trawls	PTM
Midwater trawls (nei)	TM
Semi-pelagic trawls	TSP
Trawls (nei)	TX
<b>DREDGES</b>	
Towed dredges	DRB
Hand dredges	DRH
Mechanized dredges	DRM
Dredges (nei)	DRX
<b>LIFT NETS</b>	
Portable lift nets	LNP
Boat-operated lift nets	LNB
Shore-operated stationary lift nets	LNS
Lift nets (nei)	LN
<b>FALLING GEAR</b>	
Cast nets	FCN
Cover pots/Lantern nets	FCO
Falling gear (nei)	FG
<b>GILLNETS AND ENTANGLING NETS</b>	
Set gillnets (anchored)	GNS
Drift gillnets	GND
Encircling gillnets	GNC
Fixed gillnets (on stakes)	GNF
Trammel nets	GTR
Combined gillnets-trammel nets	GTN
Gillnets and entangling nets (nei)	GEN

<b>Fishing gear classification</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
<b>TRAPS</b>	
Stationary uncovered pound nets	FPN
Pots	FPO
Fyke nets	FYK
Stow nets	FSN
Barriers, fences, weirs, etc.	FWR
Aerial traps	FAR
Traps (nei)	FIX
<b>HOOK AND LINES</b>	
Handlines and hand-operated pole-and-lines	LHP
Mechanized lines and pole-and-lines	LHM
Set longlines	LLS
Drifting longlines	LLD
Longlines (nei)	LL
Vertical lines	LVT
Trolling lines	LTL
Hooks and lines (nei)	LX
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GEARS</b>	
Harpoons	HAR
Hand implements (Wrenching gear, Clamps, Tongs, Rakes, Spears)	MHI
Pumps	MPM
Electric fishing	MEL
Pushnets	MPN
Scoopnets	MSP
Drive-in nets	MDR
Diving	MDV
Gear (nei)	MIS
<b>GEAR NOT KNOWN</b>	
Gear not known	NK

- c) For the vessels types, no need to identify in details, for Carriers/Reefers/ Refrigerated Transport Vessels (any vessels authorized/ under purview of DOF)
- d) Fishing areas of each country

<b>Country</b>	<b>Fishing Areas/Management Areas</b>
CAMBODIA	Zone 1: 0-20 m depth Zone 2: > 20 m depth Zone 3: within EEZ Zone 4: Outside EEZ Zone 5: High sea (International Water)
INDONESIA	1) Malacca Strait and Andaman Sea 2) Indian Ocean (West Sumatera) and Sunda Strait 3) Indian Ocean (South Java, South Nusa Tenggara, Sawu Sea, North West Timor) 4) Karimata Strait, Natuna Sea, and South China 5) Java Sea 6) Makassar Strait, Bone Bay, Flores Sea, Bali Sea 7) Tolo Bay, and Banda Sea 8) Tomini Bay, Maluku Sea, Halmahera Sea, Seram Sea, Berau Bay 9) Sulawesi Sea, Northern Part of Halmahera Island, 10) Cenderawasih Bay and Pacific Ocean 11) Aru Sea, Arafura Sea, North East Part of Timor

<b>Country</b>	<b>Fishing Areas/Management Areas</b>
MALAYSIA	1) West Coast of Peninsula Malaysia/C2 2) East Coast of Peninsula Malaysia /C2 3) Sarawak waters/C,C2 4) East Coast of Sabah 5) West Coast of Sabah 6) C3 (Indian Oceans)
MYANMAR	1) Rakhine fishing area / zone 2 2) Ayeyawaddy fishing area/ zone 2 3) Tanintharyi fishing area/ zone 2 4) Mon fishing area/ zone 2  Remark: Zone1 : shoreline to 10nm Zone2 : beyond 10nm to EEZ
THE PHILIPPINES	Zone 1: Shoreline-15 km Zone 2: Beyond 15 Km Zone 3: High seas
SINGAPORE	Territorial waters of Singapore
THAILAND	1) Gulf of Thailand (T) 2) Andaman Sea (A) 3) Overseas (H)
VIET NAM	1) Coastal Zone 2) Inshore Zone 3) Offshore Zone Remark: need official letter to ask confirmation from Viet Nam government

2. *Submission / updating of RFVR DATA, 2 times /year for the whole data and start up new development of RFVR database will be on April 2018.*

<b>Country</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>
<b>Indonesia</b>												
<b>Malaysia</b>												
<b>Myanmar</b>												
<b>Singapore</b>												
<b>Thailand</b>												
<b>Viet Nam</b>												

3. *Communication mechanism between SEAFDEC and MCs by sending an official letter from SEAFDEC to Council Director / cc: National coordinator, NFP of RFVR. The official letter to confirm NFP of RFVR will be send to Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Philippines.*
4. *Web-based Application is needed to ACCESS to the system. For security of the system, it must have the User Account + Password, Captcha Code, and Lock user Account in case wrong user account/ and password inputs for 3 times, then user account will be locked.*
5. *For the promotion of utilization to all relevant agencies, Conduct by National Focal Point, SEAFDEC, and in case of monitoring the utilization of RFVR database, SEAFDEC will send quarter summary of utilization of RFVR database to NFP by e-mail.*

## ANNEX 2:

### **Protocols for RFVR-24m Data Access by Non-ASEAN Member States and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)**

*(drafted paper for consideration by 50CM)*

#### **SEAFDEC/Secretariat**

##### **1) Background:**

The Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) Database System for vessels 24 meters in length and over (RFVR-24m) is an online system, established with the collaboration among the ASEAN Member States under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership Program on Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries and IUU Fishing-related Countermeasures in Southeast Asian region since 2011-2019 with the funding supported by Japanese Government. At the onset through a series of expert consultations, a principal agreement on the list of 28 basic data and information of fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over was reached by the SEAFDEC Member Countries for sharing into the database system. The concept proposal on establishment of the RFVR-24m were presented to and approved by the SEAFDEC Council during its 45<sup>th</sup> Meeting in April 2013 in the Philippines. Later, the concept proposal was supported by the Special Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (Special SOM-34<sup>th</sup> AMAF) to establish a Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for 24 meters in length and over as a management tool to combat IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian Region. In principle, the database is shared with all AMSs including Cambodia, Lao PDR even though both countries do not have vessels of 24m in length and over.

Sharing such information with the public, particularly the RPOA-IUU Secretariat has been addressed since 2015 at the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council where the Council Director for Malaysia raised the concern on sharing the information in the RFVR Database with non-AMS and suggested that a mechanism should be developed for non-AMS (*e.g.* RPOA-IUU member countries which are not members of SEAFDEC) to share information on their vessels in the future. In addition, the recommendations made by the SEAFDEC Council at its 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting on sharing of information in the RFVR Database with non-AMSs. Regarding this, the Council Director for the Philippines suggested that the reasons for such request should be considered while same security measure for accessing the RFVR Database by the AMSs should be applied with the authorized non-AMSs as well as RFMOs by providing them with the corresponding security password. In this connection, while agreeing that the database could be shared with non-AMSs under the RPOA-IUU and RFMOs under such principle, the Council requested the SEAFDEC Secretariat to seek approval from the ASEAN on this matter. In response to this recommendation, at the 24th Meeting of the ASWGFi, the issues recommended by the 48th Meeting of the Council have been raise by SEAFDEC, while the 24ASWGFi agreed in principle the sharing of RFVR on the condition that guidelines or protocols for data sharing are in place, *e.g.* to specify the level of authority to grant approval for data sharing, assure data security, and that data would not be used as barrier to trade in the future. SEAFDEC therefore is guided to develop and establish guidelines or protocols for data access.

##### **2) The objectives of this Document:**

- a) to provide protocols for sharing confidential RFVR data to the RPOA-IUU and relevant RFMOs;
- b) to assure the data security and avoid the data should not be used as barrier to trade in the future;
- c) to enhance the use of RFVR database against the illegal fishing vessels operating beyond the country's EEZ and/or outside the Southeast Asian region.

### 3) Explanation:

- a) **non-AMSs** refers to the RPOA-IUU member countries which are not ASEAN Member States *i.e.* Australia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste.
- b) **RFMO(s)** refers to any relevant RFMOs *i.e.* WCPFC, IOTC, and etc. that may be affected by the fishing vessels from the AMSs.
- c) **RFVR Data** refers to 28 basic data/information for fishing vessels 24m in length and over.
- d) **Protocols** refers to procedures for RFVR data access and confidentiality in which divided into two groups of party: one is non-AMS and another one is RFMOs. The protocols are not intended to be a substitute for formal legal advice which will be obtained where necessary.

### 4) Protocols for RFVR Data Access and Confidentiality:

#### A. For non-AMSs

- i. non-AMS shall request for RFVR Data Access through the RPOA-IUU Secretariat to the SEAFDEC Secretary-General;
- ii. those non-AMS mentioned in para 4A-i shall share the countries fishing vessels data (**Template 1**) into the RFVR database within two months after receiving the approval by SEAFDEC;
- iii. For security purposes, accessing the RFVR-24m Database System requires Username and Password from SEAFDEC through the web address (URL) *www.seafdec.or.th/rfvr/index.php* (refers to the User's Manual);
- iv. those non-AMS mentioned in para 4A-i shall receive 5 user accounts and passwords from SEAFDEC after their country data uploaded to the RFVR database for sharing;
- v. Sharing of non-AMS fishing vessels information will be made once a year;
- vi. those non-AMS mentioned in para 4A-i should not use the RFVR data as barrier to trade in the future, while shall share and/or notify to AMS, in case non-AMS found the IUU fishing vessels that carried the AMS flag operating in their waters;
- vii. non-AMS shall not opened access for other non-AMS, should keep the data confidentiality;

#### B. For RFMOs

- i. RFMOs shall request for RFVR Data Access directly to the SEAFDEC Secretary-General for the purpose of checking the suspected fishing vessels which might be carried AMSs flag and conducted the IUU fishing in their RFMOs area of competence;
- ii. After receiving the approval from SEAFDEC, the RFMOs shall receive a user account and password for accessing the RFVR-24m Database System through the web address (URL) *www.seafdec.or.th/rfvr/index.php* (refers to the User's Manual);
- iii. RFMOs should not use the RFVR data as barrier to trade in the future, while shall share and or notify to AMS, in case RFMOs found the IUU fishing vessels that carried the AMS flag operating in the RFMOs area of competence.
- iv. RFMO shall not opened access for other RFMOs, while should keep the data confidentiality within the Organization.

### 5) Cancellation to Access the RFVR Database:

- i. Failure to follow these protocols may lead to unauthorised disclosure of RFVR information;
- ii. SEAFDEC will report to SEAFDEC Council for consideration and decision when the non-AMS and /or RFMOs failure to follow these protocols.