



## **PROMOTION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHING CAPACITY**

SEAFDEC Secretariat

### **Executive Summary**

Referring to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995), several recommendations on the need to improve fisheries management have been included. Furthermore, the FAO Member States subsequently adopted the International Plan of Action on the Management of Fishing Capacity 1999 (IPOA-Capacity). Some ASEAN Member Countries have developed the National Plan of Action in response to manage the fishing capacity at country level (NPOA-Capacity), while other AMS have included the management of fishing capacity together with efforts to the combating of IUU and the development of NPOA-IUU. Nevertheless, SEAFDEC Member Countries are all aware that the Regional Plan of Action for Management of Fishing Capacity endorsed by the 24<sup>th</sup> ASWGF in June 2016, and adopted by 38<sup>th</sup> AMAF in October 2016 is needed as it will serve as guide for the management of fishing capacity in an ASEAN perspective and also to support the other ASEAN Member States in the development and implementation of their respective NPOA-Capacity. The RPOA-Capacity is also meant to support and enhancing regional cooperation on fisheries management and/or managing of fishing capacity at sub-regional areas in the Southeast Asian region such as the Andaman Sea, the Gulf of Thailand, the South China Sea and the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas. Strengthened regional and sub-regional cooperation on managing fishing capacity would provide an effective platform for the AMSs to support efforts to combat IUU fishing. In this connection 5 provisions mentioned in the RPOA-Capacity are very important steps should be included in the national fisheries framework as follows: 1) Assessment of Fishing Capacity; 2) Preparation and Implementation of National Plans; 3) International Consideration; 4) Required Urgent Measures for Regional Fisheries Management; and 5) Mechanisms to Promote of the Implementation.

Taking into accounts the current FCG/ASSP programs, there are many activities/programs support the implementation of RPOA-Capacity, for instance, capacity building program on Stock Assessment, the strengthening the MCS at sub-regional level or transboundary areas, combating IUU fishing via development of fisheries management tools such as Regional Fishing Vessels Records (RFVR) for 24m in length and over, development of the electronic system for ASEAN Catch Documentation Schemes (eACDS), and promotion of Regional Cooperation to support the Implementation of Port States Measures (PSM), etc. In view of Stock Assessment Programs, SEAFDEC highlights the needs for regional management of shared stocks such as commercially important small pelagic species including neritic tunas (longtail tuna, kawakawa, bullet-tuna, seer fishes, ect.), Indo-pacific mackerel, Indian mackerel, anchovy, sardines, round-scads, and etc. It is important to be aware that from the stock assessment results at sub-regional level, AMSs could come up with national management plan and lead to management of fishing capacity at country level. Most of the international experts suggest that any single country should not come-up with national stock assessments for shared stocks in isolation but include a trans-boundary and coordinated perspective. In addition, the required management measures based on regional stock assessment are also linked to many programs under the current FCG/ASSP that aims for enhancing and strengthening the regional management for shared stock through the establishment of Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas under the ASEAN-SEAFDEC frameworks, and recently the proposed management plan as well as catch quota of shared stock namely longtail tuna (LOT) and kawakawa (KAW) in the Southeast Asia has been endorsed by the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group of Fisheries under the ASEAN mechanism.

This paper therefore aims to strengthen AMSs on the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity while monitoring and supporting some AMSs that do not yet have a NPOA-Capacity in place or similar management approaches. Furthermore, SEAFDEC also encourages the relevant AMSs to implement the existing regional management measures particularly for shared stocks such as longtail tuna and kawakawa in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea sub-regions which has been endorsed in 2017. Noting that some countries have been implementing actions in support of the regional management measures, such as Thailand that have been implementing an approach through the management of fishing capacity for purse seine fishing in both of sub-regions, while Myanmar is in the process in establishment of fish *refugia* as one of the national management plan to protect the spawning ground of neritic tuna in the transboundary areas between Thailand and Myanmar.

The current initiatives, SEAFDEC (through SEAFDEC-Sweden Project) in consultation with the Member Countries made effort on strengthening the sub-regional cooperation by establishment Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Network for Gulf of Thailand, Northern Andaman Sea and Southern Andaman Sea sub-region. It is important that bilateral and multilateral coordination builds upon existing national MCS-Networks and that cooperation also with non-fisheries agencies in the networks are facilitated.

SEAFDEC is also taking an opportunity to follow-up the AMSs activities in supporting the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity. It is expected that the inputs from AMSs would lead to gap-analysis being made on the present management fishing capacity at country level and for further improvement of our support to AMSs in near future (refers to the [Template 1](#) and [Reference A.](#)).

#### **Required Consideration by the Council**

The Council is requested to take note the request from SEAFDEC to all AMSs feedback in implementation of the RPOA-Capacity. In this connection, the relevant AMSs are also encouraged to implement the regional management measures according to the Stock and Risk assessment of Longtail tuna and Kawakawa in the Southeast Asia endorsed in 2017. In addition, SEAFDEC encourage to those AMSs that do not have NPOA-Capacity in place. The Council is also invited to provide advice and suggestions to SEAFDEC for improvement of the effective activity and program in supporting the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity particularly on the regional cooperation in managing fishing capacity at sub-regional and regional levels such as Gulf of Thailand, Andaman Sea, South China Sea, and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.

**Template 1: Monitoring the Member Countries activities in supporting the implementation of the RPOA-Capacity**

**Component 1: Improve Management Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks**

Issues and Challenges	Key Actions	Time Frame

**Component 2: Conduct Research and Assessment on Fish Stock**

Issues and Challenges	Key Actions	Time Frame

**Component 3: Improve Capacity and Capability to Manage Fishing Capacity**

Issues and Challenges	Key Actions	Time Frame

**Component 4: Improve Enforcement and MCS**

Issues and Challenges	Key Actions	Time Frame

**Component 5: Promote Participation of Relevant Stakeholders**

Issues and Challenges	Key Actions	Time Frame

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**Reference A: Identified key issues and feasible measures as a basis reference for development of the RPOA- capacity (Results of the RTC on RPOA-Capacity).**

Issues	Feasible Measures	Technical Assistances
<b>Policy and Legal Framework in Managing Fishing Capacity</b>		
1) Ineffective policies, legal framework in managing fishing capacity ❖ Decisions inconsistent with current policies ❖ Lack of political will and awareness towards conservation and fisheries management ❖ Subsidies vs incentives	❖ Strengthen good governance ❖ Voice out in ASEAN platform ❖ Identify gaps and issues in legal framework ❖ Consistency in policy and implementation (both national and regional levels)	❖ Consultations to improve understanding by politicians/policy makers using recommendations based on scientific evidence ❖ Capacity building
<b>Information for Fishing Capacity Management (vessels, gears, and fishers)</b>		
2) Insufficient information for fishing capacity management ❖ Data on concerned fishing capacity (e.g. no. of fishing boat, gears, fishers) ❖ Incomplete information of gear specification and documentation (e.g. length of fishing gear)	❖ Identify gaps ❖ Develop common database ❖ Economic and financial studies on the impacts of capacity management	❖ Review works ❖ Organize trainings/workshops/consultations ❖ Develop appropriate gear specification and design for sustainability of resources ❖ Provide guidance technology systems including VMS, Automated Identification System (AIS) databases, GRMS (mobile telephone system), etc. ❖ Information sharing on active fishing capacity
<b>Information for Fishing Capacity Management (fishery resources)</b>		
3) Inadequate data and information on fisheries resources ❖ Lack of policies/systems to deal with fisheries management in data poor situation ❖ Lack of expertise to assess fishing capacity	❖ Identify gaps ❖ Develop common SOP (feasible and effective method) for data collection ❖ Capacity building program	❖ Reviews ❖ Organize trainings/workshops/consultations ❖ Stock assessment, improve data collection and methodologies for both marine and inland fisheries
4) Lack of research and assessment of migratory shared stocks	❖ Capacity building ❖ Conduct research and assessment of migratory shared stocks ❖ Information dissemination	❖ Organize the regional fora ❖ Conduct trainings/workshops/consultations
<b>Capacity and Capability to Manage Fishing Capacity</b>		
5) Inadequate capacity and capability for monitoring, control and surveillance ❖ Encroachment of local fishing vessel into prohibited area ❖ Encroachment of foreign fishing vessels	❖ Strengthening MCS ❖ Inter-agencies and inter-countries coordination ❖ Utilization of “Fishermen eyes” (co-management) ❖ Improve law enforcement ❖ Information sharing on MCS	❖ Organize trainings/workshops/consultations ❖ Flag and Port State Measures trainings and inspections ❖ Safety inspections ❖ Legal and regulatory technical assistance ❖ Development of NPOA-

Issues	Feasible Measures	Technical Assistances
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Capacity building program</li> <li>❖ Promote co-management, decentralization, EAFM</li> <li>❖ Input control (vessels, licenses, gears, days at sea)</li> <li>❖ Output control (TAC, quota, MPA, zoning, spatial and temporal measures, minimize discards)</li> <li>❖ Increase license fees (for commercial scale fisheries) Cooperation with relevant authorities to ensure safety of fishing vessels (inspection and certification as part of fishing license requirements)</li> <li>❖ Promote alternative livelihood (other than fishing)</li> <li>❖ Reduce low cost labors on fishing fleets</li> </ul>	<p>capacity and determination of target fishing capacity</p>
<b>Public Awareness</b>		
<p>6) Insufficient public awareness and participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Fishers</li> <li>❖ General public (exclude fishers <i>e.g.</i> consumers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Fishers/stakeholders forum (at local, national and regional levels)</li> <li>❖ Media and awareness campaign</li> <li>❖ Information, education and communication program (IEC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Organize the regional fora</li> <li>❖ Conduct trainings/</li> <li>❖ workshops/consultations</li> </ul>
<p>7) <b>Market-driven pressure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Demand for fish promoting unsustainable fishing practices (<i>e.g.</i> high price fish, endanger fish, trash fish)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Promote EAFM</li> <li>❖ Public awareness to consume fish from sustainable fisheries</li> <li>❖ Requirements for aqua feeds and raw materials for export causes pressure to the fishing capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Support training courses</li> </ul>