



CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF TROPICAL ANGUILLID EEL RESOURCES AND PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE

SEAFDEC/IFRDMD

Executive Summary

Tropical anguillid eels are drawing more attention to compensate the shortage of supply of eel seeds for aquaculture (eel farming) in recent years. However, there are no historical record on the status of tropical anguillid eel resources, catch statistics especially on juveniles for seeds, and eel farming production in Southeast Asia.

The 2-year project, the title: Enhancing Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia (August 2017-July 2019), using Japan ASEAN Integrate Fund, has been conducted by SEAFDEC with full cooperation of AMSs to develop fishery statistics & data collection system, examine the status of tropical anguillid eel species in AMSs, and improve eel aquaculture condition.

SEAFDEC has gathered information on eel fishery and present status on resources management in 5 Countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Viet Nam), and has established the data collecting system for developing the catch statistics (with indices of effort) in 4 countries (Indonesia, Philippines, Viet Nam and Myanmar) for monitoring the trend and fluctuation of eel seed catch in this region.

SEAFDEC has also conducted many consultations and meeting to enhance the Sustainable Utilization and Management Scheme of Tropical Anguillid Eel Resources in Southeast Asia, and to update and discuss on the progress of our works for the preparation of information document and making the policy guidelines. The information document, "Status and Resources Management of Tropical Anguillid Eels in Southeast Asia, which was prepared at the International Technical Workshop on June 7 – 8, 2018, was submitted to the Thirtieth meeting of the CITES Animals Committee held in Geneva, Switzerland on July 16-21, 2018. The policy guidelines for regional conservation and management of tropical anguillid eel resources in Southeast Asia were adopted at the 2nd Regional Meeting on Oct. 18 – 19, 2018. These guidelines were already endorsed by the Councils as *ad referendum*, and will be further submitted to be endorsed by ASEAN side through collaboration with ASEAN Secretariat finally.

However, in order to develop an effective resource management measures, it is important to develop methods to assessment the resources stock of tropical anguillid eel resources and to estimate the total allowable catch level for sustainable use. Therefore, SEAFDEC is preparing to propose a new project, the title: Development of Stock Assessment Methods and Strengthening of Resources Management Measures for Tropical Anguillid Eel in Southeast Asia, using Japan ASEAN Integrate Fund. This new project purpose is to strengthen the current fisheries statistics data collection system, collect biological and ecological data on field, develop mathematical/statistical stock assessment methods, and propose appropriate management policy/measures to secure sustainable use of tropical Anguillid eels in Southeast Asia.

Required Consideration by the Council

- To support SEAFDEC activities on surveys and sampling in each member country.
- To support the establishment of the catch statistics on anguillid eels in each member country.