Good morning,

First of all, I would like to welcome the representatives from all SEAFDEC Departments and officers of the SEAFDEC Secretariat to this Inter-Departmental Consultation on Preparation of SEASOFIA 2022.

I think most of you already knew the publication on SOFIA or the “State of Fisheries and Aquaculture” published by FAO every two years, and the latest SOFIA was recently published in this year. Having similar objective but more regional in context, SEAFDEC also initiated the publication on SEASOFIA or “Southeast Asian States of Fisheries and Aquaculture,” and the first SEASOFIA was published in 2012.

The publication on SEASOFIA 2022 which we will discuss here at this Consultation is the third in our SEASOFIA series; and this Consultation is the very first and substantial step for the preparation of the publication to ensure that it will contain best available information on status and trends of fisheries and aquaculture that could be used by various groups of users from policy makers, researchers, up to general audience and public.

Although the preparation of this SEASOFIA is coordinated by SEAFDEC Secretariat, but I would like to emphasize that this is the publication that belong to SEAFDEC as a whole as it covers all dimensions of fisheries and aquaculture. Therefore, contribution and inputs from all SEAFDEC Department based on your areas of expertise is necessary.

This Consultation is therefore a very good opportunity for the Secretariat and all Departments to sit together and fine tune your understanding on the publication, as well as on the structure and required preparatory works from 2020 until the publication is finalized and published in 2022.

With that, I declared the Inter-Departmental Consultation open, and invite the Secretariat to proceed on the presentation and discussion.

Thank you very much and have a good day.