REPORT OF THE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION ON PREPARATION OF SEASOFIA 2022

Through the Google Meet, SEAFDEC Secretariat
6-7 August 2020

INTRODUCTION

1. The SEAFDEC Inter-Departmental Consultation on Preparation of SEASOFIA 2022 was organized on 6-7 August 2020 through Google Meet and hosted by SEAFDEC Secretariat. The Consultation was attended by the SEAFDEC Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General, as well as Senior Officials and information-related officers from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, and the Special Departmental Coordinators (SDCs) and technical staff who would be responsible for the preparation of inputs for SEASOFIA 2022 from the Training Department (TD), Aquaculture Department (AQD), Marine Fisheries Research Department (MFRD), Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD), and Inland Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (IFRDMD). The List of Participants appears as Annex 1.

I. OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION

2. In his Opening Remarks, the Deputy Secretary-General of SEAFDEC, Mr. Akito Sato recalled that the publication of the Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture (SEASOFIA) 2022 is the third of the SEASOFIA series, and this Consultation is the first step for preparing the publication to ensure that the contents would include the best available information on the status and trend of fisheries and aquaculture that could be useful for various groups of users, from policy makers, researchers, up to general audience and the public. He also emphasized that since the publication covers all dimensions of fisheries and aquaculture, the contribution and inputs from all SEAFDEC Departments would be crucial. This Consultation is therefore a very good opportunity for all Departments to fine tune their understanding on the publication, as well as on the structure and preparatory works of the publication. With that note, he then declared the Consultation open. His Opening Remarks appears as Annex 2.

II. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTATION

3. The representative from the SEAFDEC Secretariat introduced the background, objectives, and agenda of the Consultation. Specifically, it was explained that the discussions would focus not only on the preparation of the draft outline of SEASOFIA 2022 but also on the workplan which would be confirmed and the required inputs from the Departments. Moreover, as the SEASOFIA publication is aimed at providing information on the status and trend of fisheries and aquaculture in Southeast Asia, including important fisheries-related issues, challenges and important initiatives, and future outlook of the region’s fisheries and aquaculture sector, information on SEAFDEC activities could be integrated as part of the information on the regional status and trend. The Agenda of the Workshop appears as Annex 3.

III. DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (SEASOFIA 2022)

3.1 Suggestion on the Draft Outline of SEASOFIA 2022

4. The Consultation took note of the presentations made by the representatives from the Secretariat, TD, AQD, MFRD, MFRDMD, and IFRDMD on fisheries-related subjects that are significant and should be included in the next issue of the SEASOFIA to be published in 2022.
3.2 Discussion on the Draft Outline of SEASOFIA 2022

5. Based on the presentations made by SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments on the priority issues and concerns arising from the status and trend of fisheries and aquaculture in the Southeast Asian region, the Consultation then discussed the draft outline of SEASOFIA 2022. After the deliberation, the initial draft outline was agreed upon as shown in Annex 4. Further, the Departments agreed to conduct internal discussions with concerned departmental staff, particularly the potential contributors, and to subsequently send their confirmation on the draft outline of the SEASOFIA 2022 to the SEAFDEC Secretariat.

6. The SEAFDEC Secretary-General while emphasizing on the importance of the SEASOFIA publication, expressed the view that by the timeline for finalizing the SEASOFIA 2022, countries in the region should have already been able to clearly see the impacts of COVID-19 on fisheries and aquaculture. In this connection, she suggested that such information should be incorporated in the publication as appropriate.

7. The Consultation also took note of the suggested ideas (Annex 5) on how to provide write-ups for the different types of topics and the respective topics to be developed by the Departments.

3.3 Questionnaires for Gathering Information

8. Considering that the subjects under the SEASOFIA 2022 could be broad, the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments could encounter difficulties in obtaining information and in writing-up some topics where information is not sufficient. The Secretariat therefore informed the Meeting on the possibility of developing questionnaires with simple questions that could provide additional inputs directly from the concerned countries. Examples of such questionnaires were prepared by the Secretariat (Annex 6) and noted during the Consultation.

9. While supporting the suggestion that the use of questionnaires could be useful in gathering the necessary supplementary inputs from the ASEAN Member States (AMSs), the Consultation agreed that the Departments should internally discuss this matter after the Consultation to identify the areas of concern from which the questionnaires should be developed. The Secretariat will also communicate closely with the respective Departments in finalizing the questionnaires.

10. Moreover, it was also emphasized that the use of questionnaires should not create too much burden on the AMSs, and thus, should be developed only for areas and subjects where additional information is deemed necessary. In addition, in order to also reduce the burden of the AMSs, the use of multiple-choice questions could also be considered as appropriate. Furthermore, the Departments were also encouraged to incorporate as much as possible, in their compiled information, those aspects that emanate from their relevant on-going projects.

IV. DISCUSSION ON WORKPLAN FOR FINALIZATION OF THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF SEASOFIA 2022

11. During the discussion, the Consultation took note of the Workplan in 2020 and 2021 as shown below:

**Workplan in 2020:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Consultation</th>
<th>After Workshop</th>
<th>PCM43</th>
<th>After PCM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Early August: • Initial suggestions</td>
<td>August-September: • Departments to</td>
<td>November: The Secretariat will present:</td>
<td>December: Secretariat will</td>
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on the draft outline of SEASOFIA 2022
• Initial identification of contributors
• Examples of questionnaires on issues where additional inputs from the AMSs are necessary
work further on the draft outline and to develop questionnaires for some issues, as necessary
• Secretariat to organize series of discussions with concerned Departments (by September)
End of September:
• 2nd Inter-Departmental Consultation

• Outline of SEASOFIA 2022
• Set of questionnaires
• Workplan after PCM – activities in 2021-2020
send the set of questionnaires to the AMSs for them to respond (by March 2021)

Workplan in 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021</th>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dept. to start preparation of input text</td>
<td>Reporting the progress, and outline of SEASOFIA 2022 to the 53rd CM</td>
<td>Departments to finalize input text and submit to Secretariat</td>
<td>November: Submission of the Draft SEASOFIA 2022 to 44th PCM</td>
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V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12. After the deliberations, the Consultation agreed on: 1) the initial Draft Outline of SEASOFIA 2022 which include the responsibilities of SEAFDEC Secretariat and Departments; 2) Workplan in 2020 and 2021; and 3) the use of questionnaires for gathering relevant supplementary information from the AMSs, of which the sample questionnaires prepared by the Secretariat were considered.

13. The Departments were also asked to conduct internal works to finalize the Draft Outline of SEASOFIA 2022, and develop the questionnaires for some issues that need supplementary inputs from the concerned AMSs, in close communication with the Secretariat. Furthermore, it was also agreed that in finalizing the Draft Outline, the Departments should also take into consideration the Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security Towards 2030.

14. The Consultation also noted the suggestion that after the outline and questionnaires are finalized by the Departments, the Secretariat will invite the Departments for the 2nd Inter-Departmental Consultation to conclude the outline, workplan and the set of questionnaires before their submission to the 43rd Meeting of SEAFDEC Program Committee.

15. The Consultation took note of the following List of Main Contact Persons from the Secretariat and Departments for the development and finalization of SEASOFIA 2022:
Secretariat  Ms. Saivason Klinsukhon/ Ms. Nualanong Tongdee
TD  Ms. Panitnard Taladon (cc: Mr. Isara Chanrachkij, Mr. Suthipong Tanasarnkorn, Dr. Taweekiat Amornpiyakrit, and Mr. Kongpathai Saraphaivanich)
MFRD  Mr. Ong Yihang (cc: Ms. Chan Huili)
AQR  Ms. Joesyl Marie dela Cruz (cc: Dr. Leobert D. de la Peña)
MFRDMD  Mr. Ahmad bin Ali (cc: Ms. Mazlina binti Ali)
IFRDMD  Dr. Dina Muthmainnah (cc: Mr. Siswanta Kaban)

(The contact persons would be responsible in coordinating with other contributors within the Departments for the information needed to finalize the inputs that would be submitted to the SEAFDEC Secretariat. In addition, the contact persons should also coordinate with other concerned Departments, particularly in providing inputs on the issues and concerns that require supplementary information from more than one Department)

VI. CLOSING OF THE CONSULTATION

16. The SEAFDEC Deputy-Secretary General, Mr. Akito Sato congratulated the participants of the Consultation for their active participation in the discussion on the direction for the preparation of SEASOFIA 2022. Although the SEASOFIA would focus on the status and trend of fisheries and aquaculture, not necessarily on the SEAFDEC activities, he recognized that results from several SEAFDEC projects could be analyzed and integrated with other information on the status and trend of fisheries and aquaculture, for additional inputs for SEASOFIA 2022. This could also contribute to enhancing not only the visibility of SEAFDEC but also the usefulness of SEAFDEC programs and activities to several users and audience. He also expressed the appreciation to the Departments for their cooperation in the preparation of the SEASOFIA as well as their contribution to the publication which should be sustained in the future, and declared the Consultation closed. His Closing Remarks appears as Annex 7.