



PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS AND AGENDA

I. Introduction:

Recognizing the importance of neritic tunas fisheries in the Southeast Asian waters, the regional or sub-regional cooperation to promote the sustainable utilization of neritic tuna is therefore needed. In this connection, the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council endorsed the proposal of SEAFDEC Secretariat to conduct regular stakeholders' consultations for the development of the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries (RPOA-Neritic Tuna). Thus, SEAFDEC with funding support from the SEAFDEC-Sweden Project together with ASEAN-SEAFDEC Member Countries organized the "Consultative Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries in Southeast Asian Waters" in October 2013 in Songkhla Province, Thailand. The Meeting had provided the platform to initiate and coordinate a process of promoting dialogue and cooperation on "regional" (neritic) tunas resources, while information on the status of neritic tuna in the region and sub-regions were revealed and shared as well as experiences of SEAFDEC and partner organizations at regional and sub-regional level. Issues related to neritic tunas fisheries and trade were also discussed taking into account the current problems/challenges in different sub-regional areas/fishing grounds, i.e. South China Sea, Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea, and Sulu-Sulawesi Seas. One of the outputs from the meeting is the list of priority issues for conservation and management of neritic tunas fisheries at national and regional levels, the priority issues to be used for consideration when drafting the RPOA-Neritic Tunas.

Based on the above inputs, SEAFDEC developed the zero draft of the Regional Plan of Action to be used for discussion and harmonization among AMS at the Expert Group Meeting held on 18-20 June 2014 in Krabi province, Thailand. The meeting was attended by experts from ASEAN countries, namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, including the representatives from the Embassy of Sweden, ASEAN Tuna Working Group, ASEAN-USAID MARKET (Maximizing Agricultural Revenue through Knowledge, Enterprise Development, and Trade) Project, Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia. Officials from SEAFDEC and members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network, also attended the Meeting. The Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the Southeast Asia waters (RPOA-Neritic Tunas) is finalized and adopted by all AMS that attended the meeting. The RPOA-Neritic Tunas was reported to the 17th Meeting of the FCG/ASSP in December 2014, and then later endorsed by the 47th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council in April 2015. The RPOA-Neritic Tunas is developed – taking into account the identified issues/problems facing at national, regional and international concerns – including six objectives as follows:

1. **Determining available data and information, improving data collection and developing key indicators:** two main action plans included in this objective: to improve data collection – analysis for neritic tuna and Assess neritic tuna stocks and develop resource key indicators.
2. **Improving sustainable fisheries management:** several key action plans under this objective are to solves problems on open access, inadequate management of neritic tuna resources in some areas, and Negative impacts of climate change to changes of neritic tuna stocks.
3. **Improving sustainable interaction between fisheries and marine ecosystem:** This objective aims to reduce negative impacts of neritic tuna fisheries to marine ecosystem.
4. **Improving compliance to rules and regulations and access to markets:** the objective is linked to the combating IUU fishing that occurring in the region, improve infrastructure in fishing port, improve post-harvest techniques, product quality, and enhance intra-regional and international trade.

5. **Addressing Social Issues:** in accordance with Inadequate benefits for people involved in neritic tuna fisheries and industries and issues on working condition and labor issues. The objective therefore aims to improve the Benefits for People Involved in Neritic Tuna Fisheries and Industries as well as improving working conditions of labor.
6. **Regional Cooperation:** This objective aims to enhance/develop Sub-regional Action Plans for Neritic Tuna Fisheries, support the assessment of the status and trends of Neritic Tuna at Sub-Regional Level and enhancing intra-regional and international trade.

The other outputs from the meeting are the establishment of the Scientific Working Group (SWG) on stock assessment. In order to follow-up and support implementation of the RPOA-Neritic Tuna by AMS, provision the platform for SWG members to meet and discuss is needed, in this connection the relevant AMS nominated their scientist and senior expert as members of the SWG-Neritic Tunas in September 2014. List of the SWG-Neritic Tunas Members is as shown in Table 1.

With regard to the Work Plan on Stock Assessment, the 1st SWG-Neritic Tunas was held at BlueWave Hotel, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia from 18-20 November 2014, the results from the meeting is the formulation of the Term of Reference (TOR) for SWG-Neritic Tunas for long term establishment of the working group in which the Member Countries agreed to support for implementation after end of the project. The TOR for SWG-Neritic Tunas was also endorsed by the 47th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council held in Chiang-rai in April 2015. In addition, the genetic study lead by MFRDMD for neritic tunas in each Member Country is identified as sampling sites for further implementation. The sampling sites were finalized as follows:

Country	Sampling Site/s
Andaman Sea Sub-Region	
➤ Indonesia	1. Banda Aceh (will be confirmed) 2. Belawan
➤ Malaysia	3. Kuala Perlis
➤ Myanmar	4. Myeik
➤ Thailand	5. Ranong 6. Phuket
South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand Sub-Region	
➤ Brunei	1. Brunei Darussalam
➤ Cambodia	2. Sihanoukvill – GN (will be confirmed) 3. Koh Kong – GN (will be confirmed) 4. Kampot – GN (will be confirmed)
➤ Indonesia	5. Pemangkat
➤ Malaysia	6. Tok Bali 7. Kuantan (MFRDMD, 23 April 15) 8. Kota Kinabalu 9. Kuching (MFRDMD, 23 April 15) 10. Tawau
➤ Philippines	11. Masinloc (Zambales) – PS 12. Sta. Cruz (Zambales) – PS 13. Puerto Princesa (Palawan) – PS and RN 14. Antique - GN, PS and RN 15. General Santos City – PS and RN
➤ Thailand	16. Trat 17. Songkla 18. Patani
➤ Vietnam	19. Nghe An – GN and PS (will be confirmed) 20. Danang – GN and PS (will be confirmed) 21. Vung Tau - GN (will be confirmed) 22. Tien Giang - PS (will be confirmed) 23. Kien Giang (GoT) – PS (will be confirmed)

The suggested and agreed data information to be studied and collected for stock assessment will cover the seven (7) species composition of neritic tuna and seerfish caught by all types of fishing gears such as; 1) longtail tuna (*Thunnus tonggol*), 2) eastern little tuna/kawakawa (*Euthynnus affinis*), 3) frigate tuna (*Auxis thazard*), 4) bullet tuna (*Auxis rochei*), bonito (*Sarda orientalis*), Indo-pacific king mackerel and narrow barred Spanish mackerel. However, the Meeting agreed to focus and assess the two (2) neritic tuna species for the Gonado Somatic Index (GSI), stomach content and genetic study which is very prominent to every country was the eastern little tuna/kawakawa and longtail tuna.

To further discussion on the work plan on catch and effort information/data collection including key indicators such as CPUEs to support the stock assessment, SEAFDEC proposed to organize the 2nd SWG-Neritic Tunas in mid of June 2015 in Viet Nam.

II. Objectives of the Meeting:

- 1) To update the Council Decision on the RPOA-Neritic Tunas and TOR for SWG-Neritic Tunas
- 2) To reviews/discuss on work plan for catch and effort collection and indicators/parameters of neritic tunas to support the stock assessment
- 3) To discuss on the budget requirements for genetic study, stock assessment
- 4) To discuss on the capacity building priority to support AMS in implementing the RPOA-Neritic Tunas, and
- 5) Others matters:

III. Expected outputs:

- 1) Catch and Effort data by gear and other information/indicators/parameters of neritic tuna for stock assessment;
- 2) Work plan including budget for genetic study and stock assessment;
- 3) Work plan and list of capacity building priority;
- 4) Finalized SOP for Neritic Tunas Data Collection;

IV. Date and venue:

The 2nd Meeting of the SWG-Neritic Tuna on Stock Assessment will be held (tentatively) at Research Institute of Marine Fisheries (RIMF), Hai Phong, Viet Nam on 15-17 June 2015.

V. Participants:

- SWG-Neritic Tunas Members from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam (**Table 1**),
- One or Two experts/resource persons from the Region on Stock Assessment,
- Senior Officers and Working staffs from SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department and MFRDMD,
- Representatives from Regional/international organizations responsible for tuna fisheries management, and
- Observers from NGOs and other stakeholders

VI. Contact Persons:

Technical Matters: Dr. Taweekiet Amonpiyanantakij Tel.: +66 2 9406326 ext. 107 Fax: +66 2 940 6336 Mobile phone: +66 896079161 E-mail: taweekiet@seafdec.org	Logistic and Administrative Matters: Ms. Suwanee Sayan Tel.: +66 2 9406326 ext. 122 Fax: +66 2 940 6336 Mobile phone: +66 895925540 E-mail: suwanee@seafdec.org
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VII. Tentative Agenda:

14 June 2015

08:00-18:00 All Participants arrived at Noi Bai International Airport (Ha Noi Airport) and transferring to Hai Phong City

15 June 2015

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 1) **OPENING OF THE MEETING** (details will be updated)

09:30-09:45 2) **INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA/MEETING**

09:45-10:00 3) **OUTCOMES FROM THE 47TH MEETING OF SEAFDEC COUNCIL**

- TOR for SWG-Neritic Tunas and other matters
- RPOA-Neritic Tunas
- Others

10:00-10:20 Coffee Break

10:20-12:00 4) **REVIEW/PROGRESS OF THE GENETIC STUDY AND IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION, DETAILED BUDGET AND WORK PLAN IN 2015**

12:00-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-15:00 Continued 4)

15:00-15:20 Coffee break

15:20-17:00 5) **SOPS FOR GENETIC STUDY ON NERITIC TUNAS, AND NERITIC TUNAS DATA COLLECTION**

18:30-21:00 Reception Dinner

16 June 2015

08:30-12:00 6) **REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON STOCK STATUS FOR LONGTAIL TUNA**

6.1) Review on the status of fisheries (trends of landing by gear(s), % of catch in landing, areas, seasons, management measures, etc.)

6.2) Scientific Data for stock assessment *e.g.*

- Catch and effort (series of annual/monthly catch, effort by gear)
- Catch at size (length-weight frequency by month and gear)
- Biological information (growth parameters, spawning pattern, stomach contents)
- Catch at age (otolith, scale)
- CPUE indices and Standardized CPUE indices

12:00-13:30 Lunch break

13:30-17:00 7) **REVIEW OF INFORMATION ON STOCK STATUS FOR KAWAKAWA,**

7.1) Review on the status of fisheries (trends of landing by gear(s), % of catch in landing, areas, seasons, management measures, etc.)

7.2) Scientific Data for stock assessment *e.g.*

- Catch and effort (series of annual/monthly catch, effort by gear)
- Catch at size (length-weight frequency by month and gear)
- Biological information (growth parameters, spawning pattern, stomach contents)
- Catch at age (otolith, scale)
- CPUE indices and Standardized CPUE indices

17 June 2015

08:30-10:00 8) **REVIEW OF INFORMATION FOR OTHER NERITIC TUNA SPECIES (Frigate tuna, Bullet tuna, and Seerfish):**

8.1) Review on the status of fisheries (trends of landing by gear(s), % of catch in landing, areas, seasons, management measures, etc.)



8.2) Scientific Data for stock assessment *e.g.*

- Catch and effort (series of annual/monthly catch, effort by gear)
- Catch at size (length-weight frequency by month and gear)
- Biological information (growth parameters, spawning pattern, stomach contents)
- Catch at age (otolith, scale)
- CPUE indices and Standardized CPUE indices

10:00-10:20	Coffee break
10:20-11:30	9) RESEARCH, CAPACITY BUILDING AND PRIORITIES
12:30-12:00	10) OTHER MATTERS (Neritic tunas database and website, working paper format, next SWG-Neritic Tunas Meeting)
12:00-12:10	11) CLOSING THE MEETING
12:10-14:00	Lunch
14:00-17:00	Study Trip (will be updated)

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Table 1: SWG-Neritic Tunas Members

No.	SWG name	Position	Position
1	Mr. Matzaini Hj Juna	Head	Capture Fisheries Development Division, Department of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam
2	Mrs. Hajah Noorizan Hj Abd Karim,	Head	Capture Fisheries Industry Division, Department of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam
3	Mr. Suy Serywath (Chief Scientist)	Director	Fisheries Research and Development Institute, FiA, Cambodia
4	Mr. Kao Monirith	Deputy Director	Marine Fisheries Inspectorate, Marine Fisheries Research and Development Institute, FiA, Cambodia
5	Mr. Khairul Amri (Chief Scientist)	Senior Researcher	Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Indonesia
6	Mr. Thomas Hidayat	Researcher	Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Indonesia
7	Mr. Hj Samsudin bin Basir (Chief Scientist)	Senior Researcher	Fisheries Research Institutes, Kg. Acheh, DOF/Malaysia
8	Mr. Mohd Noor bin Noordin	Head	Marine Aquaculture Section, DOF/Malaysia
9	Dr. Htun Thein (Chief Scientist)	Assistance Director	Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau, DOF/Myanmar
10	Mr. Nay Myo Aye	Assistance Fisheries Officer	DOF/Myanmar
11	Mr. Noel C. Barut (Chief Scientist)	National Coordinator	National Stock Assessment Program, The Philippines
12	Ms. Grace V. Lopez	Aquaculturist II	Marine Fisheries Research Division Vertebrate Section, BFAR, The Philippines
13	Mrs. Praulai Nootmorn (Chief Scientist)	Director	Marine Fisheries Technology Research and Development Institute, DOF/Thailand
14	Ms. Pakjuta Khemakorn	Fishery Biologist	Marine Fisheries Research and Development Bureau, DOF/Thailand
15	Mr. Nguyen Viet Nghia (Chief Scientist)	Deputy Director	Research Institute for Marine Fisheries, Viet Nam
16	Mr. Pham Hung	Officer	Department Exploitation and Protection of Fisheries Resources, Viet Nam