



PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

I. Introduction:

Recognizing the importance of neritic tuna 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 Regional Plan of Action on Sustainable Utilization of Neritic Tunas in the Southeast Asian waters (RPOA-Neritic Tunas) was finalized by all AMSs and later endorsed by the 47th Meeting of SEAFDEC Council on April 2015, the 23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGFi). The RPOA-Neritic Tuna was also supported by S-SOM 36th AMAF in late 2015. One of the key actions in implementation of the RPOA-Neritic Tunas is to enhance the regional cooperation in which aims to develop/enhance Sub-regional Action Plans for neritic tuna fisheries, support the assessment of the status and trends of neritic tuna at sub-regional level. In connection to this the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tuna Assessment was therefore established by SEAFDEC Council directors (refers to 1st list of SWG members since 2014 in **Appendix 1**).

The 1st SWG-Neritic Tunas was held in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries (DOF), Malaysia at BlueWave Hotel, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia from 18-20 November 2014. The meeting reviewed the Updating Status and Trends of Neritic Tuna Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region especially the status of the longtail tuna, drafting of the Term of Reference (TOR) for long term establishment of the working group in which the Member Countries agreed to support its implementation after end of the project. The meeting also discussed the work plan for data improvement, requirement of the capacity building.

The 2nd Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tuna Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters (SWG-Neritic Tunas) was convened in cooperation with the Directorate of Fisheries Viet Nam (D-Fish) at the Research Institute of Marine Fisheries (RIMF), Hai Phong, Viet Nam from 15 to 17 June 2015. The Meeting was updated on Council's decision pertaining to the Regional Plan of Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries and Management (RPOA-Neritic Tunas) and Terms of Reference (TOR) for SWG-Neritic Tunas. The meeting discussed on the work plan - for genetic study and stock assessment of LOT and Kawakawa, reviewed the country status based on existing statistic data. The meeting also discussed the prioritization of capacity building programs particularly on the Stock Assessment to support the future effective neritic tuna fisheries management which is aligned with the implementation of the adopted RPOA-Neritic Tunas.

In response to the recommendations, Secretariat in collaboration with TD organized the basic and advance Stock Assessment Training Courses in January and March 2016 under the funding support from Government of Sweden through the SEAFDEC-Sweden project. The training course focused on general stock assessment to some SEAFDEC Member Countries namely Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. In addition, Secretariat in collaboration with MFRDMD also conducted the Special Training/Workshop on Stock Assessment of the LOT-KAW using the specific software such as CPUE standardization, A Stock-Production Model Incorporating Covariates (ASPIC)-ver.5, Kobe I (Kobe plot) and Kobe II (Risk assessment) and other relevant software. The training/workshop could come up with some recommendations that would be useful for further stock assessment of the LOT and KAW of the Southeast Asian region. It is also noted that the Genetic studies for LOT and KAW was postponed in 2015 due to some revision of the work plan and process for data collection are needed in order to ensure that good in quantity and quality of samples are used for genetic analysis.



To follow-up the program and the progress of works implemented during the past years as well as to discuss on the results of the Stock Assessment for LOT and KAW based on the country data compilation and massaging by resources person, the SEAFDEC secretariat in collaboration with the MFRDMD will organize the 3rd Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters in late June 2016 in Chonburi Province, Thailand.

II. Objectives:

- 1) To update the activities recommended by the 2nd SWG on neritic tunas SA;
- 2) To review the biological and ecological of neritic tunas;
- 3) To discuss and finalize on the results of LOT stock assessment;
- 4) To discuss and finalize on the results of KAW stock assessment;
- 5) To discuss and update the genetic study for LOT and KAW;
- 6) To discuss on the technical/policy recommendations from the LOT and KAW stock assessment and capacity building requirement to improve SA at country level; and
- 7) To discuss other matter related to the neritic tunas program such as SOP for data collection, website, database, etc.

III. Expected outputs:

- 1) The results of LOT and KAW stock assessment;
- 2) Reviewed paper of Biology and Ecology of Neritic Tunas;
- 3) Technical/policy recommendations including proposed management measures for consideration by country;
- 4) Revised work plan for genetic study and stock assessment;
- 5) Capacity building requirement.

IV. Date and venue:

The 3rd Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessment will be organized on 27 - 29 June 2016, the venue of the meeting is Mercure Pattaya Ocean Resort, Pattaya, Chonburi Province, Thailand.

V. Participants:

- SWG-Neritic Tunas Members from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam;
- Experts/resource persons from the Region on Stock Assessment;
- Senior Officers and Working staffs from SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department and MFRDMD;
- Representatives/observers from Regional and International Organizations responsible for tuna fisheries management; and
- Relevant stakeholders on sustainable utilization of neritic tunas.

VI. Contact Persons:

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VII. Agenda and Timetable:

26 June 2016 Arrival of all participants

27-29 June 2015

Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda 2: Introduction and Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda 3: Updated work on Status and Trends of Neritic Tunas and Seerfish by Country and SEAFDEC:

- **Country Report** on Status and Trends of Neritic Tunas and Seerfish
- Recommendations from the SEAFDEC Meetings
- Results of the Capacity Building on Stock Assessments

Agenda 4: Reviews on biology and ecology of the Neritic Tunas: Longtail tuna and Kawakawa

Agenda 5: Results on Stock Assessment for Longtail Tuna in Southeast Asian waters, risk assessment, and proposed management measures

Agenda 6: Results on Stock Assessment for Kawakawa in Southeast Asian waters, risk assessment, and proposed management measures

Agenda 7: Review of Information for other Neritic Tuna Species (Frigate tuna, Bullet tuna, and Seerfish)

Agenda 8: Review/Progress of the Genetic Study and Improve Data Collection, Details of Budget and Work Plan in 2015

Agenda 9: Other Matters

- Neritic tunas database and website
- Role of Scientific Working Group
- Role of Secretariat of the SWG
- Next SWG-Neritic Tunas Meeting
- Others

Agenda 10: Work Plan for Research, Capacity Building and Priorities for 2017 and onward

Agenda 11: Policy Recommendation

Agenda 12: Closing of the Meeting

30 June 2016 Departures of all participants

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