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## 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 ASEAN Member States (AMSs) and later endorsed by the 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SEAFDEC Council on April 2015, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (ASWGF). The RPOA-Neritic Tuna was also supported by ASEAN Senior Officials MEETING (S-SOM) 36<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (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, the established by SEAFDEC Council directors.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas (SWG-Neritic Tunas) was held in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia in Selangor, Malaysia from 18 to 20 November 2014. The meeting reviewed the Updating Status and Trends of Neritic Tuna Fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region especially the stock status of the longtail tuna and 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.

In the following year, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the 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 or Action for Sustainable Neritic Tuna Fisheries and Management (RPOA-Neritic Tunas) and ToR for SWG-Neritic Tunas. The meeting discussed on the work plan for genetic study and stock assessment of longtail tuna and kawakawa and reviewed the country status based on existing statistic data. The meeting also discussed the prioritization of capacity building program 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.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the SWG-Neritic Tunas was held in Chonburi Province, Thailand from 27 to 29 June 2016. The Meeting focused on the progress of the result on longtail tuna and kawakawa stock assessment and work plan for genetic study, reviewed paper of biology and ecology of neritic tunas as well as technical/policy recommendations including proposed management measures for consideration by country and also capacity building requirement.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SWG-Neritic Tunas was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 7 to 9 November 2017. The Meeting focused on follow-up the program and the progress of works implemented during the past years and to discuss on the results of the stock assessment for longtail tuna and kawakawa based on the country data compilation and analysis by the resources person. The Advance Training Course on Risk Assessments of Kawakawa and Longtail Tuna in Southeast Asia was also organized back-to-back with the 4<sup>th</sup> SWG-Neritic Tunas Meeting. It is anticipated that the participants will enhance their knowledge on risk assessment of longtail and kawakawa in Southeast Asia.

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD in collaboration with SEAFDEC Secretariat convened the Special Training/Workshop on Stock Assessments of Longtail tuna and Kawakawa in the Southeast Asian Region on 17-25 April 2016 at SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia. Based on outstanding response for the Training conducted in 2016, the first phase of “Advance Training Course on Risk Assessments of Kawakawa and Longtail Tuna in Southeast Asia” hosted by MFRDMD in collaboration with SEAFDEC Secretariat was conducted in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia from 6 to 10 August 2017.

In 2018, SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with TD conducted the Practical Workshop on Stock Assessments of Indo-Pacific King Mackerel and Narrow-barred Spanish Mackerel in the Southeast Asian Waters on 16-20 July 2018 at SEAFDEC/TD in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The training course aimed to enhance their knowledge on risk assessment of Indo-Pacific king mackerel and narrow-barred Spanish mackerel in the Southeast Asian Waters.

To follow-up the program and the progress of works implemented over the past years, and to discuss on the results of the stock assessment for Indo-Pacific king mackerel and narrow-barred Spanish mackerel as analyzed by the resources person. SEAFDEC Secretariat in collaboration with TD and MFRDMD will organize the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SWG-Neritic Tunas Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters on 9-11 January in Bangkok, Thailand.

## **II. Objectives of the Meeting**

- To update the activities recommended by the 4th Meeting of the SWG-Neritic Tunas;
- To discuss final the draft document on Indo-Pacific king mackerel and narrow-barred Spanish mackerel stock and risk assessment;
- To review and discuss on the seerfish stock and risk assessment, and its workplan;
- To discuss and update the results of genetic study for longtail tuna and kawakawa; and
- To discuss on the capacity building requirement to improve neritic tunas statistics Southeast Asia.

## **III. Expected outputs:**

- Final document of Indo-Pacific king mackerel and narrow-barred Spanish mackerel stock and risk assessment;
- Final results of genetic study for longtail tuna and kawakawa; and
- Work plan on neritic tuna and list of capacity building priorities in 2019.

## **IV. Date and venue:**

5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Scientific Working Group on Neritic Tunas Stock Assessment in the Southeast Asian Waters will be held from 9 to 11 January 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

## **V. Participants:**

- Members of the SWG-Neritic Tunas from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam;
- Experts/resource persons from the region on tuna stock assessment; and
- Senior officers and working staff from SEAFDEC Secretariat, TD and MFRDMD.

## **VI. Tentative Agenda**

Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting  
*By Secretary-General, Dr. Kom Silapajarn*

Agenda 2: Introduction and Adoption of the Agenda  
*By Suwanee Sayan, SEAFDEC Secretariat*

Agenda 3: Updated Work on Status and Trends of Neritic Tunas and Seerfish

- National Report by Countries (15 min each):
  - Brunei Darussalam
  - Cambodia
  - Indonesia
  - Malaysia
  - Myanmar
  - Philippines
  - Thailand
  - Viet Nam

Agenda 4: Review on biology and ecology of the neritic tunas: Indo-Pacific king mackerel and narrow-barred Spanish mackerel  
*By Dr Kenji Taki*

Agenda 5: Results on Stock Assessments of Indo-Pacific King Mackerel in the Southeast Asian Waters  
*By Dr. Tsutomu Nishida, Resource Person from Japan*

Agenda 6: Results on Stock Assessments of Narrow-Barred Spanish Mackerel in the Southeast Asian Waters  
*By Dr. Tsutomu Nishida, Resource Person from Japan*

Agenda 7: Results of the Population Study of *Thunnus tonggol* in the Southeast Asian Region  
*By Ms. Wahidah, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD*

Agenda 8: Other Matters

- Neritic Tunas Website *By Namfon Imsamrarn, SEAFDEC/TD*
- Next SWG-Neritic Tunas Meeting
- Others

Agenda 9: Discussion on Work Plan for Research, Capacity Building and Priorities for 2019 and Onward

Agenda 10: Policy Recommendations

Agenda 11: Closing of the Meeting

## **VII. Contact Person:**

Ms. Suwanee Sayan  
Tel: +662 940 6326 Ext. 124  
Fax: +66 2 940 6336  
E-mail: [suwanee@seafdec.org](mailto:suwanee@seafdec.org)