

## **COURSE CURICULUM**

### **Course Title:**

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in Southeast Asia

### **Course Period and Venue:**

The course will be held from 22 November to 1 December 2011 at the Training Department, Samut Prakan province, Thailand.

### **Background and Rationale:**

In the Southeast Asian region rapid population growth and economic development have accelerated the pace of fisheries exploitation to the extent that many fishery resources are now overexploited and the integrity of the environment is at risk. The sustainable development of fisheries in the region is threatened and this is posing a risk to food security, employment and trade for both present and future generations.

The Resolution and Plan of Action on Sustainable Fisheries for Food Security for the ASEAN Region towards 2020 were adopted during the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference held in June 2011 to serve as new direction of fisheries development. This eventful accomplishment was a major step towards attaining regional agreement upon which the development of sustainable fisheries could be achieved.

As part of the Plan of Action which was adopted by the Senior Officials of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC member countries, it is stipulated that the promotion of fisheries management based on an ecosystem approach should be accelerated as basis for advancing fisheries conservation and management. Specifically, the Plan of Action advocated that ASEAN countries should develop measures that aim to prevent unauthorized fishing and eliminate the use of illegal fishing practices by building awareness of their adverse impacts, strengthening law enforcement, developing and promoting responsible and selective fishing gears and practices, enforcing regulations, and promoting alternative means of livelihoods.

This regional training course therefore aims to strengthen human capacity and awareness of the ASEAN member countries by providing knowledge on the impacts of illegal fishing on the ecosystem, responsible fishing practices and the concept of ecosystem management as well as the concept and methods of ecosystem approach to fisheries. It is envisaged that through this training course, the participants will gain knowledge on the formulation of appropriate management policies and strategies to achieve the goal of sustainable fisheries development in the region.

### **Course objectives:**

1. To strengthen awareness and knowledge of the participants on the impact of illegal fishing on sustainable fisheries and food security in the ASEAN Region,
2. To familiarize the participants with the principles and concept of responsible fishing, ecologically sustainable development, ecosystem approach to fisheries, precautionary principles, indicators for sustainable fisheries development, and their application in Southeast Asia.
3. To strengthen the capability of the participants in terms of practical competence in planning, and be able to develop simple ecosystem management plans applicable to their respective countries including potential performance indicators relevant to sustainable development.

**Course Description:**

This course aims to build upon the results of the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Conference and present to the participants the current issues related to the effects of fishing on the ecosystem. The participants will also gain understanding of the legal, policy, administrative and management implications of ecosystem function and assessment in relation to the present issues facing the fisheries sector of the ASEAN region.

This course is designed to be interactive with the course participants having ample opportunity to discuss the concepts and issues raised by the presenters. The course presenters are expected to present case studies, introduce related concepts and promote stimulating discussions with the course participants.

A major outcome of the course will be the presentation of basic ecosystem management plans by the course participants. Participants will be divided into groups and on the final day of the course, they will present their plans to the audience.

**Eligible Trainees:**

A total of 15 trainees who are presently fisheries officers; fisheries managers; administrators; or officers or others exposed to marine resource management in administrative, environmental or planning capacities, would be invited to take part in the training. Those with a Bachelor's degree and minimum of 5 years experience may be accepted for training. Fellowships for SEAFDEC Member Countries would be available for one trainee from each country. The course will be conducted in the English language so participants are expected to have a good working knowledge of such language.

**Course Contents:**

The course will include lectures, group discussions, case study presentations and study trip to visit pilot projects related to the application of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in Thailand. The elements of the course will include:

Overview of fisheries and IUU fishing in Southeast Asia,

Illegal fishing and its impacts on marine ecosystems, habitats and sustainable fisheries,

Sustainable fisheries development and its applicable indicators,

Law of the sea, regulations and enforcement on illegal fishing,

Concept and methods of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries,

Concept and approach of co-management and locally-based fisheries management,

Case studies of some existing projects on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries,

Study trip to visit some existing projects on EAF in Thailand.