PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

The Regional Technical Consultation on Evaluation of Implementation and Utilization of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for 24 meters in length and over as a Management Tool Toward Combating IUU Fishing in ASEAN

INTRODUCTION

The growing domestic and international demand for fish and fishery products has resulted in the excessive exploitation of aquatic resources anywhere in the world including in the Southeast Asian region. The increasing demand for fish has driven fishers to catch more fish by all means even to the extent of practicing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Taking into accounts the forms of IUU fishing appeared and/or performed by ASEAN Member States (AMSs) such as poaching in the waters of neighboring country, illegally across the border for landing of their fish due to high price, double flagged vessel operated within two countries without deregistration. These forms of IUU fishing are problems and affects to the management of fisheries.

SEAFDEC has been assisting the AMSs in their efforts toward combat IUU fishing through the ASEAN-SEAFDEC Strategic Partnership Program entitled "Promotion of Sustainable Fisheries and IUU Fishing-related Countermeasures in Southeast Asia since 2011. The initiative project aims to review and improve fishing license, boats registration, and later, all AMSs agreed to the establishment of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record as a management tool to reduce IUU fishing, starting with vessels size 24 meters in length and over (herein after called RFVR-24m) as effort to engage in international fishing activities/ Operations" (Fishing operations in foreign country's EEZ or in High Seas). The RFVR-24m is a collaborative initiative among the AMSs intending to share fishing vessels identification and other relevant data/information. The purpose of this initiative is to provide AMSs with reliable and rapid tools to identify the foreign vessels among AMSs that engaged in International Fishing operation.

The concept note on establishment of the RFVR-24m as a management tool to reduce IUU fishing in the ASEAN region was endorsed by the 45th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in April 2013 in Philippines. Furthermore, the concept proposal was raised at the ASEAN Meetings and supported by the 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Fisheries (22-ASWGFi), and later by the Senior Officials Meeting of the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-35th AMAF), respectively. The RFVR-24m and its database system were developed through the harmonization from series of Expert Meetings and regional technical consultation during a period from 2011-2015. Currently, the RFVR-24m includes the 28 Key Data Elements as basic information required in effective tools to support the fishing vessel inspection by port State to reduce the IUU fishing vessels entry into port.

It is expected that RFVR will work as a practical tool for related authorities of AMSs in checking and taking corrective actions against inappropriate behavior of its fishing vessels, thereby supporting elimination of IUU fishing in the Southeast Asian Region. For example, AMSs can take appropriate actions against "Double-Flagging Vessels, IUU fishing vessels, Port State Control and pouching" by sharing information and identifying problematic vessels through RFVR database.

According to output from relevant meetings and workshops such as The Regional Technical Consultation on Promotion of ASEAN Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities in to the Supply Chain, The Working Team Meeting on the Results Discussion of Baseline Survey on Monitoring and Control of Fishing Effort and Landing in the Western Gulf of Thailand in March 2016, The 3rd Meeting of the Andaman Sea Sub-region in October 2016, and The Expert Meeting on Regional Cooperation to Support the Implementation of Port State Measures in Southeast Asian Region in February 2016, the meetings and workshops were recommended to expand the RFVR Database to cover fishing vessels less than 24 meters as well as to further develop the advance mobile system to increase the effectiveness of the RFVR to be utilized by AMSs. However, the issues on RFVR-24m was raised again during the 49th SEAFDEC Council meeting in 2017, while the meeting also suggested to SEAFDEC to improve the system to increase the effectiveness of the RFVR to be utilized by AMSs before any expanding the system for less than 24m in length, taking into accounts the different timeframe for submission of the data by AMSs.

Following above recommendations, there is the need for evaluation of implementation and utilization of RFVR-24m Database system, SEAFDEC Training Department therefore proposes to convene **"The Regional Technical Consultation on Evaluation of Implementation and Utilization of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for 24 meters in length and over as a Management Tool Toward Combating IUU Fishing in ASEAN"**

OBJECTIVES

1. Evaluation of implementation and utilization of the RFVR Database for 24 meters in length and over;
2. Promotion of the strategies for utilization of the RFVR Database for 24 meters in length and over in AMS;
3. Lessons learnt from the international initiatives on data exchange;
4. Sharing implementation activities between AMS to reduce IUU fishing

PARTICIPANTS

1. Two officers, **one is RFVR National Focal Point and the other is responsible for policy maker**, from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. A RFVR National Focal Point for Lao PDR,
2. Representatives from the SEAFDEC Secretariat, Training Department and MFRDMD.
3. Representatives from relevant agencies
4. Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN) for 7 countries.

DATE AND VENUE

12-14 September 2017 (3 days) at Bangkok, Thailand

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Situation from AMS to reduce IUU fishing through update number of fishing vessels by size (categories) and by type of fishing
2. Utilization, issues and problems of the RFVR-24m
3. Strategies and way forward on improvement, promotion and utilization of the RFVR Database for 24 meters in length and over to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing in the region