Provisional Prospectus

Online Regional Technical Meeting on Reducing Negative Impact to Ecosystem, Optimizing Energy and Fuel Consumption, and Enhancing Safety in Fishing Practices in Southeast Asia

Introduction

SEAFDEC has been promoting a series of environmentally friendly fishing gear and practices which would greatly contribute to the sustainable utilization of marine and coastal fisheries resources and the aquatic ecosystems in the Southeast Asian region since 1990s (*i.e.* Turtle Excluder Devices-TEDs for shrimp trawl, Juvenile and Trash Fishes Excluder Devices-JTEDs in trawl fisheries, circle hooks utilization in tuna longline). Furthermore, the optimization of energy and safety at sea in fishing operations are main concerns as for SEAFDEC's initiatives to conduct 'Energy Audits' in 2015. In general, active fishing gear like trawls and dredges can greatly impact the environment and require more fuel required than other passive fishing gear like traps, hooks and other stationary fishing gear. For many important fisheries, the high consumption of fuel constitutes a major constraint to their economic viability, and also represents a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions. To promote the concept "Low Impact and Fuel Efficient (LIFE) Fishing" as responsible fishing technology, to enhance marine biodiversity and to secure fish for the people as well as to improve the ocean health of the SEAFDEC Member Countries (MCs), SEAFDEC Training Department (TD) would apply technological improvements (*e.g.* LED in light fishing, Marking of fishing gear, Deck machinery and its auxiliary devices) step by step for appropriate fishery machinery onboard of fishing vessels over the traditional fishing vessels. Through the "Regional Technical Meeting on Reducing Negative Impact to Ecosystem, Optimizing Energy and Fuel Consumption, and Enhancing Safety in Fishing Practices in Southeast Asia", gathering and updating information on technological improvements and needs assessment among all MCs to pave the way forward for planning and implementing the project activities on the changes in behavior and fishing practices would greatly result in more responsible fishing manners, mitigate damages to the aquatic ecosystems, reducing emissions and lowering fuel costs, and contributing to more economical and sustainable utilization of fisheries resources and to better human well-being and livelihood of the fisherfolks in the Southeast Asian region.

In the second quarter of 2020, SEAFDE/TD planned to conduct a regional technical meeting on the "Reducing Negative Impact to Ecosystem, Optimizing Energy and Fuel Consumption, and Enhancing Safety in Fishing Practices in Southeast Asia" under the Japanese Trust Fund (JTF) 6 - Phase II at the SEAFDEC/TD, Thailand. It was envisaged that the representatives from the MCs would participate in the planned meeting for fruitful discussions and valuable recommendations as inputs for SEAFDEC to draft a plan of activities for 2021-2023, in order to serve the MCs in the Responsible Fishing Technology and Practices.

In the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the ASEAN region, SEAFDEC considered the most appropriate option to carry out the planned activities to provide its continued support to the MCs. Therefore, SEAFDEC has scheduled to conduct a teleconference on "Regional Technical Meeting on Reducing Negative Impact to Ecosystem, Optimizing Energy and Fuel Consumption, and Enhancing Safety in Fishing Practices in Southeast Asia" on 21 September 2020 (a 1-day online meeting). Prior to the online Regional Technical Meeting, a set of the online survey questionnaires is circulated to the MCs to obtain necessary information for SEAFDEC's planning and effective implementation of the project activities for the years 2021-2023.

Objectives

- To identify the potential fishing gear modification and to develop a work plan for the year 2021-2023 through the necessary information collections and updates, with a special attention to the selection criteria and recommendations to mitigate or stop using negative impact fishing

technologies (*i.e.* fishing gear, fishing accessories, fishing practice) in the project areas and countries in the Southeast Asian region;

- To identify the potential marine engineering techniques to improve fuel utilization and safety in fishing practices and to develop a work plan for year 2021-2023 for providing a guidance to the MCs in the Southeast Asian region;

- To enhance human resource capacities through the updated information on global/regional concerns in fishing technology and marine engineering; and

- To further improve and strengthen a network of fishing gear technologists/researchers and marine engineers in the region (*e.g.* Regional Network for the Reduction of the Impact of Fishing in Coastal and Marine Environments in Southeast Asian Waters - IFCOME network).

Expected Outputs

- Meeting report on the identification of the potential fishing gear modification and a work plan for the year 2021-2023;

- Meeting report on the identification of the potential marine engineering techniques to improve fuel utilization and safety in fishing practices and a work plan for year 2021-2023;

- Enhanced knowledge through the updated information on global/regional concerns in fishing technology and marine engineering; and

- Strengthened network of the fishing gear technologists/researchers and marine engineers in the region as member of the IFCOME network and its member list.

Methods

Prior to the online meeting, a set of questionnaires comprising two sections, namely 1) Fishing Technology to Reduce Negative Impact to Ecosystem and 2) Marine Engineering to Optimize Energy and Fuel Consumption, and Enhance Safety in Fishing Practices in Southeast Asia, would be sent to the ten (10) MCs (Total of 20 questionnaires) through the SEAFDEC National Coordinators via email or the SEAFDEC website, and the MCs are requested to reply to SEAFDEC within 2 months or earlier, starting from July 2020. Upon receipt of the completed questionnaires from the MCs, the SEAFDEC would summarize the questionnaire results and prepare draft recommendations for the online meeting discussions with the MCs and invited international resource persons.

In the situation of the Covid-19 pandemic in the region, the online meeting (*e.g.* Google Meet platform) was planned to combine two regional technical meetings "Reducing Negative Impact to Ecosystem, Optimizing Energy and Fuel Consumption, and Enhancing Safety in Fishing Practices in Southeast Asia". The MCs and the international resource persons will be cordially invited to the online meeting tentatively scheduled on 21 and 28 September 2020. It is expected that the meeting results with recommendations for a work plan for the year 2021-2023 and the selection criteria to mitigate negative impact fishing technologies and the fuel utilization and safety in fishing practices in the project areas and countries in the Southeast Asian region.

Tentative Timetable and Agenda

By 2nd Quarter of July 2020	- Sending an invitation letter to 10 SEAFDEC MCs - Sending questionnaires to 10 SEAFDEC MCs
July-August-September 2020	- Receiving the completed questionnaires and feedback
10 September 2020	- Last day of the submission of completed questionnaires by the MCs - Starting summarization and analysis of completed questionnaires
21 September 2020 (a 1-day meeting, approx. 4 hrs.)	Online meeting/discussion with participants and 4 (four) resource persons **Tentative agenda** ❖ Keynote presentations - Conservation in Marine Capture Fisheries (*Pingguo He*, Dr., University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth School for Marine Science & Technology) - The Voluntary Guideline on Marking of Fishing Gear (*Jonathan Lansley*, Mr., Fishery Industry Officer, Fishing Operations and Technology Branch, FAO HQs) - Safety at Sea (*Raymon Van Anrooy*, Mr., Fishery and Aquaculture Officer, Fishing Operations and Technology Branch, FAO HQs) - Optimize Energy and Fuel Consumption, and Enhance Safety in Fishing Practices in Southeast Asia (*Jun Miyoshi*, Dr., Senior Researcher, National Research Institute of Fisheries Engineering (NRIFE), Japan) ❖ Presentation of the Questionnaire results by SEAFDEC
30 September 2020	- Online circulation of the questionnaire results, which will be reported at the 43rd PCM in November 2020
October-November 2020	- Draft report on the Online Regional Technical Meeting

Responsible persons

The online meeting and questionnaires will be prepared and conducted by the Fishing Technology Section, Research and Development Division, together with the Marine Engineering Section, Training and Support Division, of the SEAFDEC/TD under the Japanese Trust Fund-6 Phase II Project entitled "Responsible Technology and Practice for Sustainable Fisheries".

Contact Persons: Fishing Technology Section, Research and Development Division and Marine Engineering Section, Training and Support Division, SEAFDEC/TD

Project Leader	Dr. Taweekiet Amornpiyakrit
Project Advisors	Mr. Isara Chanrachkij Mr. Suthiphong Tanasarnsakorn
Coordinating/Working team	Mr. Thaweesak Thimkrub Mr. Khunthawat Manomayidthikarn Mr. Santiphong Putsa Mr. Weerasak Yingyuad Dr. Nopporn Manajitt
Administrative Officer	Ms. Nathacha Sornvaree
Logistics and Online system arrangement	Mr. Tanapat Sorragittayamate in collaboration with the Training and Information Section (to be decided by the Training and Information Section, to be approved by Training and Research Support Division)

Expected Participants and Resource Persons

- Questionnaire (Recipients):
  - Twenty (20) sets of the questionnaires (Fishing Technology and Marine Engineering) of ten (10) SEAFDEC Member Countries
- Online meeting:
  - 30 Participants (2 participants and 1 National Coordinator) from 10 respective SEAFDEC Member Countries
  - Resource persons: 4 (four) invited resource persons are from international organizations *i.e.* FAO HQs and NRIFE-Japan
  - 12 SEAFDEC Participants (including supporting staffs)

  Total number of participants: approximately 46

Budget requirement

Honorarium (4 Resource persons)	= None
Online meeting material:	= 200 USD
Souvenirs (60 Polo Shirt × 12 USD)	= 720 USD
Miscellaneous	= 400 USD
Total	**= 1,320 USD**
