



RES&POA-2030
ASEAN-SEAFDEC

The Regional Technical Meeting on Responsible Fishing:
The Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) and
Marking of Fishing Gear
15-17 November 2023, Thailand

Provisional Prospectus

The Regional Technical Meeting on Responsible Fishing: The Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) and Marking of Fishing Gear

1. Background

Fishing gear marking has been recognized since the 1990s to improve the overall management of fisheries and prevent and reduce the problem of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG), and potential ghost fishing. It also contributes to improved safety at sea and assists in identifying IUU fishing activities¹. He and Suuronen (2017) summaries the gear marking for ownership, legality, and capacity management is especially important in capacity-controlled fisheries such pots and gillnet fisheries. Traditionally, physical markings, inscriptions, writing, colors, shapes, and tags have been used for ownership and capacity purposes. Buoys, lights, flags, and radar reflectors are used to mark position. More recently, electronic devices have been installed on marker buoys to make it easier for owner vessels to relocate the gear. This paper reviews gear marking technologies with focus on coded wire tags, radio frequency identification tags, Automatic Identification Systems, advanced electronic buoys for pelagic longlines and fish aggregating devices, and re-location technology if the gear becomes lost.

In southeast Asia, gillnet and trap fishers have applied the traditional knowledge and local technologies to mark their gears for positioning and ownership purpose more than five decades. However, active fishing gears such as trawl nets, purse seine nets have not been applied the gear marking techniques yet. The lost active fishing gears cannot be identified the owners when they are found in the sea. In addition, none of systematic fishing gear marking has been applied in the region because there were not any comprehensive references. In 2019, FAO issued Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear. The Guidelines address the purpose and principles, the scope of application and the implementation of a gear marking system and its associated components, including reporting, recovery, and disposal of ALDFG or unwanted fishing gear and commercial traceability of fishing gear. The Guidelines also contain special considerations for developing States and small-scale fisheries with a view to capacity development, as well as guidance on conducting a risk-based approach to implementing gear marking systems. The Guideline is a significant reference for every country to apply with their fisheries to reduce ALDFG and to support combating IUU Fishing.

In the Forty-fourth Meeting of the Program Committee of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (44PCM), which was organized online from 15 to 17 November 2021, Program Committee Member for Myanmar requested SEAFDEC/TD to facilitate the exchange of knowledge on gear marking including the possibility of linking it to the VMS, as well as knowledge on gear modification to mitigate bycatch of marine mammals (partly of Para 20). Additionally, The Program Committee Member for the Philippines

¹ He and Suuronen (2017) Technologies for the marking of fishing gear to identify gear components entangled on marine animals and to reduce abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear

informed the 44PCM that the Philippines is willing to collaborate with the project in the development of the fishing gear marking manual to address ALDFG (partly of Para 63). In 2022, a SEAFDEC fishing gear technologist had the opportunity to participate in the Workshop on Gear Marking and Trial from 29 June to 1 July 2022. FAO called some experts to a workshop to discuss any possible progress in developing methods of marking fishing gear, review the outcome of gear marking trials FAO had conducted, and possible others. The lesson learned from this workshop could be the initiative for SEAFDEC Member Countries to develop methods of marking fishing gear. In response to the requests of Member Countries, SEAFDEC/TD organizes the Regional Technical Meeting on the Marking of Fishing Gear. The meeting aims to build the capacity of fishing gear technologists in the region and to share information about national policies and research activities in fishing gear marking in Southeast Asia. The Meeting is part of the activities under the Japanese Trust Fund Project on Responsible Fishing and Practices, which is organized by SEAFDEC/TD in collaboration with the international organization (e.g. FAO), NGOs (e.g. Global Ghost Gear Initiative-GGGI), and SEAFDEC Member Countries.

2. Objectives

1. Enhance human resources capacity on the ALDFG and Fishing Gear Marking,
2. Update and share information on the national policies, research activities and best practices on the ALDFG and Fishing Gear Marking,
3. Identify the challenge and way forward to combatting ALDFG and promotion on the marking of fishing gear in Southeast Asia,
4. Disseminate information on fishing gear marking.

3. Activities

A three-day meeting will be conducted in person. Some agendas will be arranged online session according to the availability of resources person and funding support.

The Meeting is organized by the Research and Development Division of SEAFDEC Training Department.

The activities will include an introduction of international, regional, and national policies to combat ALDFG and the promotion of the Marking of Fishing Gear. Participants will gain knowledge and experience on the research and trials of the marking of fishing gear from resource persons.

General discussion and the needs of SEAFDEC MCs on the marking of fishing gear will be summarized as a way forward for implementation in the future.

4. Expected Outputs

The expected output is the technical report(s) that will subsequently be used for knowledge sharing and dissemination. The expected information includes.

1. Information on international, regional, and national policies on ALDFG and Marking of Fishing Gear
2. Regional and National activities including best practices, research, trial, awareness building on ALDFG and Marking of Fishing Gear

3. Summary of the way forward to combating ALDFG and promoting the marking of fishing gear in Southeast Asia.
4. Extension materials, such as presentations, video clips, documents, and other resources, to promote the marking of fishing gear.

5. Date and Venue of the workshop:

Tentative Dates: 15–17 November 2023

Venue: SEAFDEC Training Department, Samutprakarn, Thailand (an alternative venue is to be decided, if possible)

6. Participants

1. Fishing gear technologists and researchers of SEAFDEC Member Countries
2. Fishing Technologists of SEAFDEC/TD, IFRDMD and MFRDMD
3. Invited Experts (as resource persons)

7. Provisional Agenda

Agenda 1	Opening and Introduction
Agenda 2	Introduction of the international policies on ALDFG and the Marking of Fishing Gear (FAO, International Maritime Organization-IMO)
Agenda 3	Introduction of the regional policies on ALDFG and the Marking of Fishing Gear (ASEAN, Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia-COBSEA, and SEAFDEC)
Agenda 4	Introduction of the national policies, national activities including best practices, research, and the trials on ALDFG and the Marking of Fishing Gear
Agenda 5	Introduction of the NGO initiatives to combat ALDFG and promotion of the Marking of Fishing Gear (Global Ghost Gear Initiative-GGGI)
Agenda 6	Introduction of Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear
Agenda 7	Introduction of International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships-MARPOL Annex V
Agenda 8	Lesson learned from the research and trials of the ALDFG and the Marking of Fishing Gear (Resource Persons)
Agenda 9	General discussion on the way forward to combating ALDFG and Promotion of the Marking of Fishing Gear
Agenda 10	Wrap up the meeting
Agenda 11	Closure of the Meeting

8. Provisional Timetable

Date and Time	Agenda	Remarks
15 November 2023 (Day 1)		
08.30 hrs.	Check-in the meeting	SEAFDEC
09.00–09.30 hrs.	Agenda 1: Opening of the Meeting	SEAFDEC SG/TDC
09.30–10:00 hrs.	Agenda 1: Introduction of the Meeting	SEAFDEC
10.00–10.30 hrs.	Coffee Break	

Date and Time	Agenda	Remarks
10.30–11.30 hrs.	Agenda 2: Introduction of the international policies on ALDFG and the Marking of Fishing Gear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO - IMO-GLolitter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of FAO (FAO Expert Mr. Haraldur Einarsson), - Representative of IMO-GLolitter
11.30–12.30 hrs.	Agenda 3: Introduction of the regional policies on ALDFG and the Marking of Fishing Gear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASEAN, - COBSEA, and - SEAFDEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of COBSEA (Ms. Natalie Harms), - Representative of SEAFDEC (Mr. Isara Chanrachkij)
12.30–13.30 hrs.	Lunch Break	
13.30–14.50 hrs.	Agenda 4: Introduction of the national policies, national activities including best practices, research, and the trials on ALDFG and the Marking of Fishing Gear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brunei Darussalam - Cambodia - Indonesia - Japan 	SEAFDEC MCs present <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) National policy 2) National activities (<i>i.e.</i> research, experiment, trial, and best practices) of the ALDFG and Marking of Fishing Gear
14.50–15.10 hrs.	Coffee Break	
15.10–16.30 hrs.	Agenda 4 (Continued): Introduction of the national policies, national activities including best practices, research, and the trials on ALDFG and the Marking of Fishing Gear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lao PDR - Malaysia - Myanmar - Philippines 	SEAFDEC MCs' presentation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) National policy 2) National activities (<i>i.e.</i> research, experiment, trial, and best practices) of the ALDFG and Marking of Fishing Gear
16.30 hrs.	Wrap up Day 1	SEAFDEC facilitator
16 November 2023 (Day 2)		
08.30–08.45 hrs.	Revisit Day 1	SEAFDEC facilitator
08.45–09.45 hrs.	Agenda 4 (Continued): Introduction of the national policies, national activities including best practices, research, and the trials on ALDFG and the Marking of Fishing Gear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Singapore - Thailand - Viet Nam 	SEAFDEC MCs' presentations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) National policy 2) National activities (<i>i.e.</i> research, experiment, trial, and best practices) of the ALDFG and Marking of Fishing Gear

Date and Time	Agenda	Remarks
09.45–1015 hrs.	Agenda 5: Introduction of the NGOs initiatives to combat ALDFG and promote the Marking of Fishing Gear	- GGGI (Ms. Ingrid Giskes or Mr. Joel Baziuk) - Environment Justice Foundation of Thailand (EJF)
10.15–10.30 hrs.	Coffee Break	
10.30–12.30 hrs.	Agenda 6: Introduction of instrument Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear	Presented by SEAFDEC (under supervision by FAO)
	6.1: Introduction to Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear	
	6.2: Introduction to Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear - Manual for the Marking of Fishing Gear. Suppl. 2.	
	6.3 Introduction of ALDFG questionnaire	SEAFDEC researcher
	6.4 Others (Introduction to the data analysis of the ALDFG)	FAO expert (Mr. Haraldur Einarsson)
12.30–13.30 hrs	Lunch Break	
13.30–14.00 hrs.	Agenda 7: Introduction to MARPOL Annex V	Capt. Sutee Rajruchithong (Formerly Captain of M.V. SEAFDEC)
14.00–1500 hrs.	Agenda 8: Lesson learned from the research and trials of the Marking of Fishing Gear	Invited resource persons
	8.1 Introduction to Indonesia Plan of Action (GLolitter Indonesia)	
	8.2 Survey of ALDFG by SEAFDEC (SEAFDEC)	
15.00–15.15 hrs.	Coffee Break	
	Agenda 8 (Continued): Lesson learned from the research and trials of the Marking of Fishing Gear	
	8.3 Risk-based approach to assist relevant authorities in determining the need for and requirements of a system for the Marking Fishing Gear	Invited resource persons FAO (Dr. Haraldur Einarsson) or GGGI
	8.4 End of Life Fishing Gear (EOLFG) and the way forward to combating ALDFG	FAO EJF Foundation
	8.5 Others	
17.15 hrs.	Wrap up Day 2	SEAFDEC facilitator
17 November 2023 (Day 3)		
08.30–08.45 hrs.	Revisit Day 2	SEAFDEC facilitator

Date and Time	Agenda	Remarks
	Agenda 9: General discussion on the way forward to combatting ALDFG and Promotion of the Marking of Fishing Gear	SEAFDEC facilitators
08.45–10.45 hrs.	9.1 SEAFDEC program to combat ALDFG and Promotion on the Marking of Fishing Gear	
10.45–11.00 hrs.	Coffee Break	
11.00–12.30 hrs.	9.2 Needs of SEAFDEC MCs to combat ALDFG and Promotion on the Marking of Fishing Gear	SEAFDEC facilitators
12.30–13.30 hrs.	Lunch Break	
13.30–14.30 hrs.	Agenda 10: Wrap up the meeting	SEAFDEC facilitators
14.30–15.00 hrs.	Agenda 11: Closure of the Meeting	SEAFDEC DSG
15.00 hrs.	Coffee Break	

9. Responsible contact persons

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