

Regional Workshop

Towards a new era of support for small-scale fisheries in Southeast Asia

29-31 August 2023, Bangkok, Thailand

I. Background

Small-scale fisheries are small in scale but big in value, as the quote to celebrate the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022 mentioned, because it an essential role in serving as sources of protein and securing food as well as in poverty alleviation, livelihood, and economics to people along the coastal line of the sea, river, reservoir, and lake. The global information shows that there are 492 million people depend at least partially on small-scale livelihood as at least 40 percent of the global catch engages in small-scale marine and inland fisheries and provides employment across the value chain for an estimated 60.2 million people or 90 percent of the total number employed in fisheries globally. The economic value of these fisheries, however, is only a part of their importance: for example, nearly 53 million additional people were estimated to be engaged in subsistence activities in 2016. Asia was the region with the last contribution of small-scale fisheries catch during 2013-2017, accounting for 64 percent of the world catch. Across the Southeast Asian region, small-scale fisheries contribute about 8 million tonnes and engage about 5 million fishers (FAO et al., 2022). That information emphasized how significant small-scale fisheries are for humans.

Small-scale fishers and workers, either full-or, part-time, or just seasonally, are often the direct beneficiaries of utilizing coastal, marine, and inland resources. However, they face a challenge in sustainable viability livelihood due to various factors such as declining fisheries resources, degradation of coastal habitats, and climate change impact (Satumanatpan et al., 2022). And the lack of technology in fish post-harvest and processing also resulted in the low selling price of their catch, especially selling in the modern market to get the high price of the product. Moreover, the resource is dynamic, with the fish output being insecure due to diminishing resources and fluctuating market demand. (SEAFDEC, 2022). All these reasons lead to the fluctuation of small-scale fishers and workers' livelihoods. Therefore, fisheries management is needed to improve governance and management of aquatic resources, to ensure they are sustainable, equitable, and resilient, and to meet the food security and nutrition needs of a growing population as the suggestion at the end of the IYAFA 2022 (FAO,2023) to follow Blue Transformation that mentioned on the elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations (FAO,2022).

For the sustainability of small-scale fisheries resources, the status and challenges must be carefully identified and considered for excellent and appropriate resolution. In this regard, this three-day workshop will focus on discussion in finding current key challenges on small-scale fisheries in the region and find recommendations as good practices as well as find opportunities and ways forward in coping with the challenges for improving the quality of life of a fishing family through effectiveness fisheries management approaches.

II. Objectives

1. Compile the description/recognition/contribution of SSF in the region (or in each country).
2. Obtain the current concepts and approaches of small-scale fisheries management systems in the region.
3. Compile the critical challenges/needs on small-scale fisheries management in fisheries resources, human, governance, socioeconomic contexts etc., in SEAFDEC member countries.
4. Identify the recommendation and ways forward to strengthen small-scale fisheries management in the region that aligns with international norms and regional best practice and guidance (e.g., SDGs, ASEAN policy/strategy, WTO Agreement on fisheries subsidies, Post-2020 global biodiversity framework, FAO Voluntary Guidelines on SSF)

III. Outputs

1. Description/recognition/contribution of SSF for SEA or of each country
2. List of current concepts and approaches of small-scale fisheries management systems in the region
3. List of critical challenges/needs of small-scale fisheries management in the region
4. List of recommendations as good practices to cope with the current challenges of SSF
5. Identification of opportunities and ways forward to support SSF in the SEA region

IV. Organizers

SEAFDEC/TD is the lead organizer of this workshop in collaboration with FAO/RAP, TBTI, academe, SDF, etc.

V. Invited Facilitators/Participants

- Invited Facilitators:**
1. Dr. Kungwan Juntarashote (TBTI)
 2. Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee (TBTI)
 3. Dr. Suvaluck Satumanatpan (Mahidol University)
 4. Dr. Simon Fungesmith (FAO/RAP)
 5. Dr. Angela Lentisco (FAO/RAP)
 6. Ms. Rewadee Prasertcharoensuk (SDF)

Participants: The target participants are the small-scale fisheries managers or the representatives who oversee small-scale fisheries management in each country of SEAFDEC Member Countries (2 participant from each country)

VI. Date and Venue

The workshop will be conducted on 29-31 August 2023 at a hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

VII. Tentative Agenda

Date and time		Facilitator
Day 1: 29 August 2023, Tuesday		
09:00–09:15	Registration	SEAFDEC/TD
09:15–09:45	Session 1: Opening of the Regional Workshop - Opening Remarks - Introduction of the participants	SEAFDEC, FAO, TBTI and other collaboration partners
09:45–10:15	Session 2: SEAFDE/TD presentation on current projects/activities which relevance to small-scale fisheries	SEAFDEC/TD
10:15–10:45	Group photo and coffee break	
10:45–12:00	Session 3: Global and regional context of small- scale fisheries <i>Annotated: The point of views on a small-scale fishery in the global and southeast Asian region, including the suggestion for a new era</i>	FAO and TBTI
1200–13:30	Lunch break	
13.30–16:00	Session 4: The status of small-scale fisheries contribution, current concepts, and approaches of small-scale fisheries management systems in the SEA (short countries presentation: 15 minutes each country) <i>Annotated: SEAFDEC member countries presentation on the following topics:</i> - Description/recognition and contribution of SSF in the country - Fisheries management approaches /measures/tools that are specifically used to SSF in each country. (co-management, zoning, community-based management, decentralization, etc.) - Current of critical challenges/needs on small-scale fisheries management (fisheries resource/fisheries habitats, governance, human and socioeconomic contexts)	SEAFDEC, FAO and TBTI
16:00–16:30	Q & A and wrap-up of Day 1	

Day 2: 30 August 2023, Wednesday		Facilitator
09:00-12:00	Session 5: Current of critical challenges/needs on small-scale fisheries management in SEA: ecological wellbeing context <i>Annotated: Facilitate and discussion in finding the key challenges and the effectiveness of fisheries management approaches /measures/tools for ecological well-being context, including recommendations/ good practices to address the challenges</i>	TBTI and SEAFDEC
12:00-13:30	Lunch break	
13:30-16:00	Session 6: Current of critical challenges/needs on small-scale fisheries management in SEA: good governance context <i>Annotated: Facilitate and discussion in finding the key challenges and the effectiveness of fisheries management approaches /measures/tools for the policy and good governance contexts including recommendations/ good practices to address the challenges</i>	MU and SEAFDEC
16:00-16:30	Q & A and wrap-up of Day 2	

Day 3: 31 August 2023, Thursday		Facilitator
09:00-12:00	Session 7: Current of critical challenges/needs on small-scale fisheries management in SEA: human well-being, socioeconomic context <i>Annotated: Facilitate and discussion in finding the key challenges and the effectiveness of fisheries management approaches /measures/tools for human well-being, socioeconomic context including recommendations/ good practices to address the challenges</i>	FAO/SDF and SEAFDEC
12:00-13:30	Lunch break	
13:30-14:30	Session 8: Opportunities and ways forward to support the small-scale fisheries of Southeast Asia <i>Annotated: Group work/Brain storming to identify the opportunity and way forward to moving toward a new era of support for sustainable small-scale fisheries in Southeast Asia and group presentation</i>	FAO, TBTI, MU, SDC and SEAFDEC

14:30-15:30	Session 9 Overall wrap-up of the workshop <i>Annotated: conclusion on the current of critical challenges/needs on small-scale fisheries management in SEA: ecological wellbeing, good governance, and human well-being contexts, the recommendation as good practices and ways forward to support SSF in the SEA region.</i>	
15:30-16:00	Session 10: Closing of the Regional Workshop	SEAFDEC, FAO, TBTI and other collaboration partners