



Consultation meeting to conduct the ALDFG questionnaire survey in Thailand

9 April 2025, Bangkok, Thailand

Provisional Agenda

1. Background

Abandoned, Lost, or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) is a significant contributor to marine debris, posing threats to marine ecosystems, fisheries sustainability, and coastal livelihoods. ALDFG can entangle marine life, damage habitats, and contribute to ghost fishing, leading to economic losses and reduced fish stocks. The issue is particularly concerning in Southeast Asia, where intensive fishing activities, diverse gear types, and complex fisheries governance create challenges in addressing ALDFG effectively.

Recognizing the growing impact of ALDFG, ASEAN Member States (AMS) have prioritized ALDFG management as part of broader regional efforts to tackle marine debris. The ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris, as well as global commitments under the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14.1 and 14.4), emphasize the need for enhanced data collection, gear traceability, and capacity building to prevent and reduce ALDFG.

In response, the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) has provided support for the Regional Collaborative Research and Capacity Building for Monitoring and Reduction of Marine Debris from Fisheries in Southeast Asia (SEAFDEC-JAIF). This two-year project (1 April 2024 – 1 March 2026) aims to strengthen regional research collaboration and capacity building in the fisheries sector, integrating scientific knowledge into policies and monitoring efforts to address ALDFG. Assessing the extent of ALDFG through information gathering using questionnaire-based field surveys at selected pilot sites in Thailand is a key component of this project.

To advance these studies, SEAFDEC has initiated a technical consultation with the Department of Fisheries, Thailand, to discuss methodologies, approaches, and collaboration opportunities for the effective implementation of this project, with a focus on expanding the results from the pilot study to region-wide application.

2. Objectives

The meeting aims to:

- Assess the feasibility of conducting an ALDFG questionnaire survey.
- Identify target fishing gear types and select pilot sites for research implementation.

3. Date and Venue

9 April 2025, 09:30-12:00hrs, SEAFDEC-NACA Conference Room, SEAFDEC Secretariat, Bangkok

4. Agenda

1. Overview of SEAFDEC's Marine Debris Project.
2. Presentation of lessons learned from FAO's ALDFG questionnaire and findings from the survey conducted in Thailand.
3. Discussion on:
 - Target fishing gear selection
 - Study locations (pilot sites)
 - Potential collaboration between SEAFDEC and the Department of Fisheries, Thailand

5. Participants:

1. SEAFDEC/TD - 5 participants
2. Department of Fishery, Thailand - 5 participants
3. SEAFDEC-JAIF Project Secretariat - 4 participants