



Provisional Prospectus
SEAFDEC Strategic Planning Meeting on Fisheries Acoustics for Stock Assessments in
Southeast Asia

17-18 February 2026, SEAFDEC/TD

Introduction

Acoustic techniques are widely recognized as effective and non-destructive tools for fisheries resource assessment, enabling the estimation of fish density, spatial distribution, biomass, and population dynamics. Hydroacoustic activities primarily related to the fisheries are called Fisheries Acoustics. The Fisheries Acoustics are primarily researched and developed using quantitative echosounders or fisheries sonars. While many countries have integrated fisheries acoustics into their assessment systems, systematic application in Southeast Asia remains limited due to constraints in human capacity, technical expertise, and opportunities for sustained technical exchange.

Within SEAFDEC, efforts to strengthen fisheries acoustics capacity, particularly through SEAFDEC/TD, have included training activities, collaborative surveys, and Target Strength (TS) studies. However, the long-term and sustainable implementation of regional fisheries acoustics assessment requires integrated planning, strengthened human capacity, enhanced collaboration, and effective coordination mechanisms.

As a regional intergovernmental organization, SEAFDEC recognizes the strong potential for collaboration among SEAFDEC/TD, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, and SEAFDEC/IFRDMD. In addition, strengthening networks among young and mid-career technical staff involved in fisheries acoustic surveys is essential to promote knowledge exchange, address common challenges, and build a sustainable pool of expertise within the region.

In this context, SEAFDEC will convene the SEAFDEC Strategic Planning Meeting on Fisheries Acoustics Assessment in Southeast Asia to jointly develop short-, medium-, and long-term regional workplans, strengthen collaboration and coordination among SEAFDEC departments, and promote capacity building and professional networking among fisheries acoustic practitioners in Southeast Asia.

Objectives

The meeting aims to develop a regional workplan for fisheries acoustics for stock assessments under SEAFDEC by:

- Reviewing existing fisheries acoustic activities, mandates, and plans of SEAFDEC/TD, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, and SEAFDEC/IFRDMD.
- Conducting a joint situational analysis, including identification of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges (SWOT), related to acoustic implementation within SEAFDEC departments.
- Identifying common priorities, needs, and potential areas for cooperation to support SEAFDEC Member Countries.
Strengthening interdepartmental collaboration and coordination

- Promoting networking and team formation among young and mid-career staff involved in acoustic surveys.
- Defining coordination mechanisms, including roles, responsibilities, and operational arrangements among SEAFDEC departments.
- Jointly formulating short-, medium-, and long-term regional workplans and a roadmap for fisheries acoustics for stock assessments under SEAFDEC.

Expected Outputs

- A regional roadmap and draft workplan for fisheries acoustic for stock assessments under SEAFDEC, incorporating short-, medium-, and long-term actions.
- Clearly defined collaboration and coordination mechanisms among SEAFDEC departments for fisheries acoustics activities.
- A summary meeting report documenting key discussions, situational analysis results, strategic directions, and recommendations for supporting SEAFDEC Member Countries.
- Draft Working report to propose in the 58th Council meeting (CM58)

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of institutional strengths, gaps, and opportunities related to fisheries acoustics for stock assessments within SEAFDEC.
- Strengthened technical cooperation and coordination among SEAFDEC/TD, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD, and SEAFDEC/IFRDMD.
- Improved alignment, effectiveness, and sustainability of SEAFDEC regional fisheries acoustic initiatives.
- Strengthened capacity and professional networking among young and mid-career fisheries acoustic practitioners.
- A solid foundation for coordinated fisheries acoustics support to SEAFDEC Member Countries

Participants

The meeting will bring together personnel responsible for strategic planning and future operational implementation of fisheries acoustic activities, including representatives from:

- SEAFDEC Secretariat (4 persons)
 - SEAFDEC/TD (9 persons)
 - SEAFDEC/IFRDMD (3 persons)
 - SEAFDEC/MFRDMD (3 persons)
- (Approximately 19 participants)

Date and Venue

The meeting will be organized for two days on 17 – 18 February 2026 at the SEAFDEC Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD), Thailand.

Provisional Agenda

Agenda 1	Welcome and Opening of the Meeting
Agenda 2	Fisheries Acoustic Activities and Plans of SEAFDEC Departments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Status of fisheries acoustic activities in each department• Mandates, priorities, and constraints• Ongoing and planned fisheries acoustic-related activities
Agenda 3	Situational Analysis and Discussion on the Regional Fisheries Acoustics Workplan and Collaboration Mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint situational analysis (including SWOT analysis) of fisheries acoustic capacities and challenges within SEAFDEC• Identification of common interests, needs, and priorities• Options for regional workplan and roadmap development (e.g., joint workplan, aligned departmental plans, thematic or phased collaboration)• Networking and knowledge exchange among young and mid-career staff
Agenda 4	Development of the Regional Fisheries Acoustic Roadmap, Workplan, and Coordination Mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consolidation of inputs from situational analysis• Joint development of the regional roadmap and workplan• Roles and responsibilities of SEAFDEC departments• Coordination and operational arrangements for implementation
Agenda 5	Presentation and Adoption of the Regional Fisheries Acoustic Roadmap/Work Plan
Agenda 6	Closing ceremony

Provisional Timetable

Date and time	Agenda	Remarks
17 February 2026 (Day 1)		
08.30-09.00	Registration	
09.00-09.30	Agenda 1: Welcome and Opening of the Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks • Objectives and expected outcomes • Introduction of participants 	SEAFDEC SG/TDC, RDDH, All participant
09.30-10.00	Group photo and refreshment break	
10.00-12.00	Agenda 2: Fisheries Acoustic Activities and Institutional Context of SEAFDEC Departments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current activities • Mandates, priorities, and constraints • Ongoing and planned initiatives 	Department's representatives - TD - IFRDMD - MFRDMD
12.00-13.30	Lunch break	
13.30-15.00	Agenda 3: Situational Analysis and Discussion on the Regional Fisheries Acoustics Workplan and Collaboration Mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint situational analysis (SWOT) • Identification of common interests and needs • Possible areas and modalities for collaboration • Networking among young and mid-career staff 	Facilitator, All participant
15.00-15.30	Refreshment break	
15.30-16.30	Agenda 3 Situational Analysis and Discussion on the Regional Fisheries Acoustics Workplan and Collaboration Mechanisms (continuous) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options for regional roadmap/workplan development • Preliminary views on collaboration mechanisms, expectations, and limitations 	Facilitator, All participant
18.00	Welcome dinner	
18 February 2026 (Day 2)		
09.00-10.30	Agenda 4: Development of the Fisheries Acoustics Roadmap, Workplan, and Coordination Mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidation of SWOT and discussion outcomes • Drafting of regional roadmap (short-, medium-, long-term) 	Facilitator, All participant
10.30-11.00	Refreshment break	
11.00-12.00	Agenda 4: Development of the Fisheries Acoustics Roadmap, Workplan, and Coordination Mechanisms (continuous) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities of SEAFDEC departments • Coordination and operational arrangements 	Facilitator, All participant
12.00-13.30	Lunch break	
13.30-15.00	Agenda 5: Presentation and Review of the Draft Regional Fisheries Acoustic Roadmap and Workplan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation and review of the draft roadmap and workplan • Adoption and Way Forward 	Facilitator
15.00	Agenda 7: Closing Ceremony	SEAFDEC DSG/DTDC

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