

Review

## Role of SEAFDEC/MFRDMD toward food security in the Southeast Asian region

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### Introduction

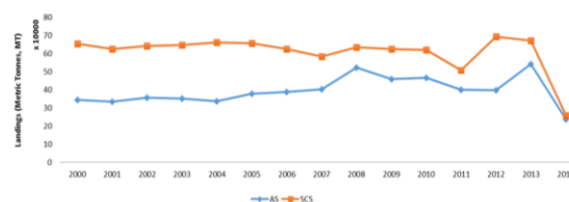
The Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department (MFRDMD) is the 4<sup>th</sup> department under the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre. Located on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, facing to the South China Sea, one of the richest marine ecosystem in the world. MFRDMD was established in 1992 after the endorsement by the Government of Malaysia and approval by the SEAFDEC Council in 1990. Our vision is to be a center of distinction for sustainable development and management of fishery resources in the Southeast Asian region. MFRDMD in carry out her mandate, will provide assistance to the SEAFDEC member countries in matters leading to the sustainable development and management of the fishery resources through innovative management. MFRDMD will hold some values on integrity and trust, courageous, excellence togetherness, teamwork and inspire one ASEAN's spirit in order to achieve her ultimate goal for food security.

Marine resources especially pelagic fishes need proper conservation and management regimes in order to sustain their exploitation for food security. Therefore SEAFDEC/MFRDMD is responsible to provide management guidelines and recommendations to Asean Member States (AMS) through workshops, regional consultations, meetings and bilateral dialogues.

### R&D for Capture Fisheries

As the functions indicated in the Plan of Operation, MFRDMD is continuing implementing research on marine resources especially for capture fisheries, training, and information dissemination activities as approved by the Council of the Center with emphasizes on the management of shared stocks. These activities will serve to promote sustainable development and management of fishery resources in Southeast Asia.

In the past, MFRDMD in collaboration with the Training Department (TD) had conducted collaborative surveys on pelagic resources assessment in the South China Sea covering the waters of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Gulf of Thailand, Western Philippines and Viet Nam. Pelagic resources were observed in homogenous density with few fishing grounds recorded more than 10 tones/km<sup>2</sup> especially coastal areas in Indonesia and Malaysia. Based on statistical information [1], these pelagic resources are quite stable in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea areas, however was declined in 2014 (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** Landings of small pelagic in the South China Sea and Andaman Sea waters.

Beside small pelagic, studies on marine turtles, sharks and rays were also conducted by MFRDMD during the last 5 years.

### Information Dissemination

MFRDMD is also mandated to produce and disseminate information. This is done through organizing workshops, core expert meetings, consultations, technical fora and technical assistance programs. In 2017, MFRDMD has organized 6 Technical fora and to date has published 35 publications including standard operation procedure, proceedings, guidelines and books.

MFRDMD also was involved in providing technical assistance to the Department of Fisheries Bangladesh

The JSFS 85th Anniversary-Commemorative International Symposium  
 “Fisheries Science for Future Generations”

*Symposium Proceedings, No. 13002*

that focused on marine capture fisheries as their future potential industry to support livelihood and protein supply in line with population growth. Beside that MFRDMD has play an important role under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP) which involve less developed nations in Asia.

### **Capacity Building Program**

In order to achieve target for a center of distinction and excellent in marine capture fisheries, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD spent effort in upgrading her manpower especially on stock assessment, fish biology, genetic and oceanography. To achieve this MFRDMD offers an array of capacity building programs including special training courses, workshops participation, on-site training, internship and on-the-job training courses either locally or at international level. MFRDMD also encourage her staff to pursue post graduate study where possible.

### **National and International Networking**

To pursue its goals, vision and mandates, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD actively collaborates with local government agencies, international organizations, local universities, as well as non-government organizations to implement MFRDMD’s activities and programs of common interest. Among others, SEAFDEC/MFRDMD collaborate with Hokkaido University, Japan for Purse Seine Management Project and Asian Fisheries Acoustic Society (AFAS) on pelagic stock assessment.

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD also actively participates and provides inputs in consultations or discussions of issues of international concern especially related to CITES, neritic tuna resources and IUU fishing.

### **Way Forward**

SEAFDEC/MFRDMD is going to focus on several emerging issues under the 7<sup>th</sup> Japanese Trust Fund (JTF7) projects, i.e. IUU related program, fishing capacity, electronic catch documentation system and management plan for specific fisheries. MFRDMD also will continue providing technical advice on management of marine resources in collaboration with international organization and ASEAN member states. MFRDMD also implements activities that support the member countries, especially in the compilation of information on small pelagic species [2], and establishment of indicators that could be used for the sustainable development and management of fisheries

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### **References**

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2. SEAFDEC (2016) Annual report for SEAFDEC 2016