



“Strategies for Trawl Fisheries Bycatch Management”
GCP/RAS/269/GFF

REBYC-II CTI INDONESIA

Cross Learning Visit:
Knowledge and Experience Sharing
on Australia Fisheries Certification

22 – 29 January 2017

**Directorate General of Capture Fisheries
Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries
2017**

1. Background

Developing countries have significantly contributed for providing fisheries resources to their human populations. However, the high emphasis on increasing productivity sometimes has led to inadequate management and control of fishing activities, especially in trawl fisheries, resulting in excessive fishing effort and environmental degradation.

In the global market, continuous shrimp supply is needed by shrimp industry from desirably sustainable fishing. Furthermore, certain markets require fishery certifications to ensure traceability data and information of the fishery products.

Several countries such as the USA and Australia have implemented certification of fishing activities. Indonesia has implemented some fishery certification programs such as catch certification and good handling practices on board (mostly required by EU), catch documentation schemes (mostly required by RFMO / CCSBT on tuna products). Through the fishery certification it is expected to increase the price (premium price) and achieve expansion of market.

The application of fishery certification is also encouraged for prawn fishery especially in the Aru and Arafura Seas to ensure sustainability of existing prawn resources. In 2012, the Research and Development Agency of the MMAF worked together with WWF-Indonesia on a study that resulted in six recommendations for application of a certification standard (in this case MSC) for prawn fishery in Aru and Arafura Seas, as follows:

1. To strengthen fisheries governance systems which relate to the shrimp trawl fishery;
2. To create a management framework which ensures the sustainability of the target species;
3. To ensure that the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management is integrated into shrimp management policy;
4. To provide a system of strong compliance and facilitating industry participation in all aspects of decision making;
5. To facilitate the development of positive business and social drivers linked to improved fishing practices and market incentives;
6. To create a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess results of blue-print implementation.

In line with this, there is a need in Indonesia to learn from countries that have implemented fishery certification such as Australia, where its fishery industry has applied certification (prawn trawl and tuna fishery certifications) done by Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

2. Objectives of the mission

- a. Learn minimum requirements needed to implement the principles and procedures of certification (to be compared with FAO guideline for the eco-labelling of fish and fishery products from marine capture fisheries);
- b. Learn the steps of implementing certification and the impact on fishing industry;
- c. Learn regulations for implementing certification; and

- d. Learn the advantages of fishery certification and the benefit to the company when they implement fishery certification;

3. Summary of the activities and outcomes

3.1 Cross Learning Visit: "Knowledge and Experience Sharing on Australia Fisheries Certification" was conducted on 22-29 January 2017. Six participants from Indonesia engaged in the activity including REBYC-II CTI project' National Project Coordinator (Endroyono) and National Technical Officer (Imron Rosyidi) and two Members of National Working Group (Wahid, Chandra Nainggolan and Andi Sardy Safri) and one Member of Local Consultative Group (Abu Darda Razak).

3.2 Places of visits included (*see the attachment for details*):

- a. The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA);
- b. MSC Regional Office – Asia Pacific;
- c. Queensland Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;
- d. Queensland Prawn Trawl Fisheries;
- e. Northern Prawn Fisheries (NPF);
- f. Gold Coast Fishermen Cooperation;
- g. Sydney Fish Market;

3.3 Lessons learnt from trawl fishery in Australia:

- 1) Management of trawl, put limit on fishing capacity (at NPF = 52 units, at East Coast = 280 units of otter trawl and 50 units of beam trawl), and put limit on total swept area for all trawls are 35,000 mile²/year. The size of the swept area determines the amount of levies;
- 2) *Closed season* at 22° S and above from December to March every year (4 months) and 22° S and below from September to November every year (6 weeks). During closed season, vessels are permitted to fish in other fishing areas. Monitoring on abundance of fish based on the size of the targeted catch, when the size is lower than expected, the schedule can be shifted.
- 3) The prawn trawlers in Australia use Turtle Excluder Devices (TED) and tickler chain without bobbin. No other fishing gears that can catch shrimp with best quality and textures. Prawns are then kept in the vessel in two (2) forms: frozen and cooked and stored in cold storage (-30°C) and the chilling water.
- 4) The trawlers (LoA 20 - 24 meter) use double rig / two boom system. Based on research at research center in Tasmania for energy savings, fishermen can use trawlers with as much as 2 (two) or 4 (four) net trawlers on each rig. Trawlers operated on the beach and offshore are handled by 2-3 fishermen. When the trawl is operated offshore, production is transferred into carrier vessel to be taken to the base port
- 5) *Fishing Logbook* is filled and submitted monthly. The composition of *bycatch* and shrimp is 10:1 and bycatch is not allowed to be landed. Under the regulation, only little amount of fish can be taken. Violation of this regulation will result in A\$ 5,000 fine.
- 6) The application of MSC certification in Northern Prawn Fisheries/NPF (initiated by fishing association in 2012) is to ensure the sustainability of the fishery

business and increase the value of fishery products. The MSC pre-assessment involves external consultant and it takes a long time. The certificate is valid for 5 years (full assessment) and audit is to be conducted annually. The fee for the full assessment is A\$ 80,000 and for the annual audit is A\$ 5,000. The progress of MSC certification is attached.

- 7) The auction at the Sydney Fish Market showed the allowable size of the fish that meets the standard and with good quality. Auction participants must be registered and make a deposit in order to participate in the auction electronically. Auction participants also came from Indonesia for the exports to Indonesia.

4. Conclusions

- 1) The outcomes for REBYC-II CTI can be the basis for fishery development at Aru and Arafura Sea and lessons learnt from fishery trawl in Australia may be adopted by applying the certification in order to ensure the sustainability of shrimp stocks at Aru and Arafura Sea.
- 2) The series of activities and REBYC-II CTI project's indicators are in line with the MSC certification pre-assessment process.

Attachments

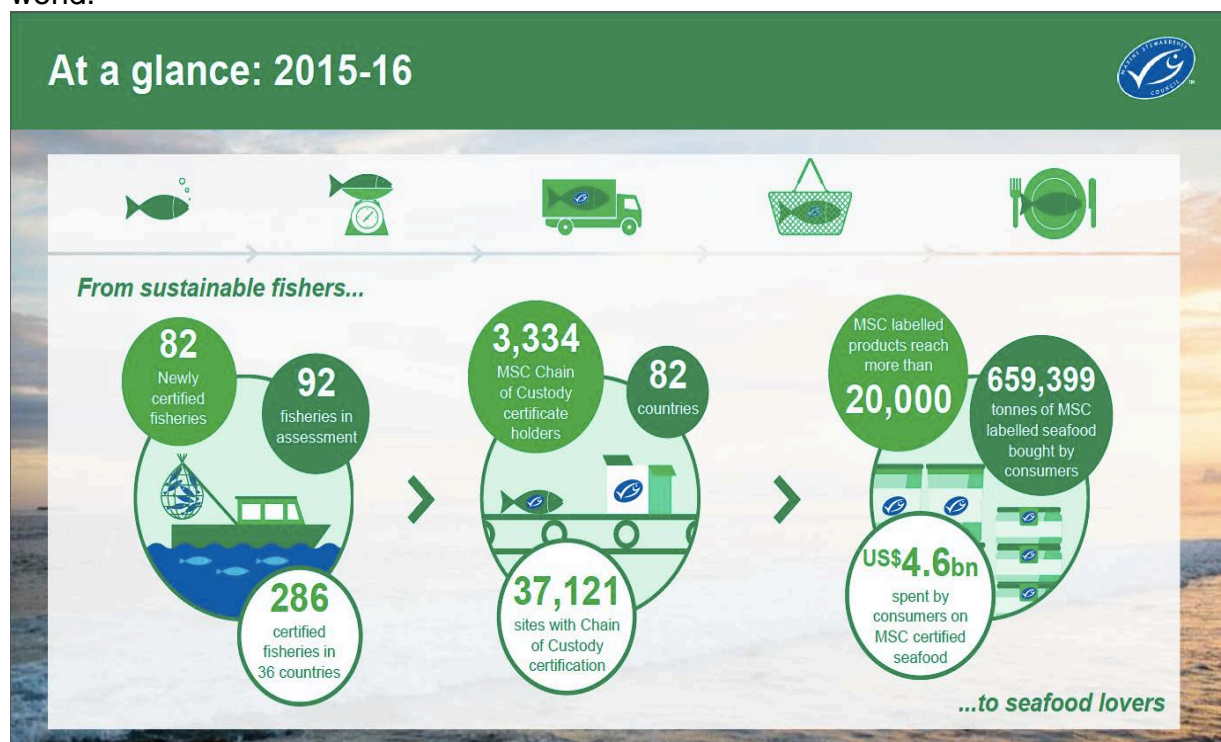
1. Details of Cross Learning Visit: Knowledge and Experience Sharing on Australia Fisheries Certification (22 – 29 January 2017)

No	Institution	Focus of Discussion	Date of Implementation
1	<i>The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)</i>	1) Introduction on AFMA; 2) Fishery management policies in Australia (standards, certificates and audit); 3) Management of bycatch; 4) Fishery management regulations in Australia; 5) Prawn fishery in Northern Prawn Fishery area; 6) Monitoring of fishery activities in Australia; 7) The policies on gear marking and management of ghost fishing;	23 Jan 2017
2	<i>MSC Regional Office – Asia Pacific</i>	1) Basic principles of MSC certification; 2) Certification procedures (pre-assessment, assessment, audit); 3) Advantages of certification (price, market opportunity, sustainability of fishery resources);	24 Jan 2017
3	<i>Queensland Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</i>	1) Management of prawn trawl fishery in East Coast (target species, open / closed season system, fishing license); 2) Fishery regulations in Queensland; 3) Methods of operation of prawn trawl vessels;	25 Jan 2017
4	<i>Northern Prawn Trawl Fisheries</i>	1) The history of trawling in Northern Prawn Fishery; 2) Determination of shrimp fishery quota (number of vessels, lengths of gear); 3) Management of bycatch for prawn fishery in Northern prawn fishery (regulation on the maximum bycatch that may be allowed); 4) Trawl fishery in Northern Prawn Fishery only for the industry; 5) Gear marking in Northern Prawn Fishery;	25 Jan 2016
5	<i>Gold Coast Fishermen CO-OP</i>	1) The role of fishery cooperatives in the operational of prawn trawl fishery; 2) Management of fishery cooperatives (rights and obligations of the members);	26 Jan 2017
6	<i>Sydney Fish Market</i>	1) Fish auction mechanism and system; 2) Types of auctioned fish; 3) Auction time;	27 Jan 2017

2. The topics of the discussion during visits: minimum requirements, procedures, basis of regulations, impacts and benefits of certification for business:
 - 1) The certification in fishery has been implemented by the fishery industry in Australia for both prawn trawl fishery and tuna fishery, with the certification issued by Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and fully supported by the Commonwealth of Australia in the form of regulations and data support required for the certification;
 - 2) Implementation of the certification is an initiation of business actors as they are aware about fisheries business sustainability, to increase the price of the products and to expand market opportunities in various global regions, with the tendency and the behaviour of consumers who want to consume fisheries products from the responsible fishery and in ensuring the sustainability of fishery resources;
 - 3) The certification requires a fairly long time, depending on the completeness of the data and the regulations, including pre-assessment, assessment and issuance of certificates. The pre-assessment for MSC involves external consultant and takes a long time. The certificate is valid for 5 years (full assessment) and audit is to be conducted annually. The fee for the full assessment is A\$ 80,000 and for the annual audit is A\$ 5,000.
3. Other information may be used as basis in considering the policies on prawn fishery management in Indonesia, including:
 - 1) Trawl fishery is only allowed for particular zones (such as Northern Prawn Fishery) by regulating the quota of fishing vessels and the lengths of gear's swept area based on reported data on catches, fishing ground and operational costs submitted regularly to the government by the prawn fishery trawl associations (Northern Prawn Fishery). Determination of the number of fishing vessel's quota may change based on catches reported by prawn fishers;
 - 2) The regulated prawn fishing quota refers to the total number of catches per year based on a scientific study which states that the number of catches is still guaranteeing sustainability. The arrangement includes:
 - a. The number of shrimp trawler allowed in Northern Prawn Fishery is 52 (fifty two) vessels and in East Coast is 330 (three hundred and thirty) vessels (These numbers can be increased or decreased in a certain period of time according to the data reported by the business);
 - b. The swept area is limited to 35,000 mile² per year for all vessels with double rig and each rig may use 2 or 4 gears;
 - c. The number of prawn catch is at least 500 kg/vessel/day for banana prawn and 350 kg/vessel/day for tiger prawn (when it exceeds the lower threshold, there will be a quota reduction in the number of vessels);
 - d. The restriction of prawn catch at above 22° Southern latitude from December to March every year (4 months) and below the coordinate of 22° Southern latitude from September to November annually (6 weeks);
 - e. The average number vessel crew is 3 (three) persons/vessel with vessel size of >30 GT;

- 3) Gear marking for Northern Prawn Fishery was once conducted in the form of tagging, but there were some difficulties occurring during the operational activities (gears often replaced) and high costs.
- 4) Management of missing or lost gears during the operational activities is based on the reports from fishers to the supervisor (when and where the gear is missing).
- 5) The auction at the Sydney Fish Market showed the allowable size of the fish that meets the standard and with good quality. Auction participants must be registered and have to make a deposit in order to participate in the auction electronically. Auction participants also came from Indonesia for the exports to Indonesia.

4. The MSC Certification Implementation's progress in some of the countries in the world.



Source: Patrick Caleo, Marine Stewardship Council, 2017

5. Documentation



The Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA)



MSC Regional Office – Asia Pacific



Queensland Government, Dep. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry;



Northern Prawn Trawl Fisheries



Gold Coast Fishermens CO-OP



Sydney Fish Market



Type of fish auctioned



Type of fish auctioned



Type of fish auctioned



Type of fish auctioned