

# Small-scale Fisheries

## in the Southeast Asian Region

In the Southeast Asian region, fisheries is considered one of the very important sectors contributing to the development of **national economy, income generation, employment opportunity, livelihood, and food security** for the people.

Small-scale capture fisheries in the region is generally **characterized by tropical, multi-species, multi-gears**, and is operated both in marine and inland waters.

In many countries, large portion of capture fisheries production is derived from the small-scale fisheries sub-sector, and **a major composition of the fishers are from small-scale fisheries**.

In each country, small-scale fisheries have been developed in accordance with their specific cultures, social and economic conditions, utilizing different types of vessels, gears and methods, and targeting multi-species of fishery resources.

**Such diversification makes it difficult to establish a common definition of small-scale fisheries for the region.** However, through the previous consultation processes among countries in the region, a regional common understanding on the small-scale fisheries has been agreed:

**“Small-scale fisheries is broadly characterized as a dynamic and evolving sector, employing labor-intensive harvesting, processing and distribution technologies, to exploit marine and inland water fishery resources.**

**The activities of this sub-sector, conducted full- or part-time, or just seasonally, are often targeted on supplying fish and fishery products to local and domestic markets, and for subsistence consumption.**

**In the context of coastal fisheries in the ASEAN region, the definition of small-scale fisheries is different from country to country due to legal implications of the terms and applied systems of demarcation from that of commercial fisheries.”**



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