

Deep-Sea Fishery Resources Exploration in the Southeast Asian Waters

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The project on "Deep-Sea Fishery Resources Exploration in the Southeast Asian Region" has been active since the 2007s with funding support from the Japanese Trust Fund. The overall objectives of the project are to collect information on deep-sea fishery resources in the Southeast Asian region through the actual exploration using the SEAFDEC and National Research Vessels in cooperation with the SEAFDEC Member Countries; to encourage the SEAFDEC member countries on to initiate deep-sea resources exploration; and to support the issues related to the international concerns on ecosystem approach and avoid misunderstanding of deep-sea fishery management through human resources development.

SUPPORTING THE ACTUAL SURVEYS

The project has been supporting investigations of deep-sea fishery resources in the Southeast Asian waters in close collaboration with the Member Countries. Since 2007, the project implemented a survey using the M.V. SEAFDEC2 for the actual fishing trial of deep-sea beam trawl and IKMT (Isac-Kid Mid-Water Trawl) in the Andaman Sea of Thailand in March 2007; deep-sea resources survey in Brunei Darussalam waters in June 2008 and March 2009; and in the Lingayen Gulf, Philippines aboard the M.V. DA-BFAR in May 2008. The activities in 2010 will be in continued to support the survey in the EEZs of Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam waters.



DEVELOPMENT/IMPROVEMENT OF THE DEEP-SEA SAMPLING GEARS AND TECHNOLOGY

The workshop on the standard operation procedure (SOP) on the methodologies for deep-sea fishery exploration and development/improvement of appropriate samplings gears was conducted from 26 to 28 May 2009 under this program. The workshop address the need to formulate and develop the standard operating procedures for deep-sea fishery resources exploration in the Southeast Asian waters. Experience sharing and standardization of the specific procedures for the operation of sampling gears and data collection were achieved. Moreover, the workshop was also envisaged to formulate future plan of activities on deep-sea fishery resources exploration at the regional and national levels.



HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (HRD)

HRD activities were conducted to encourage the Member Countries to take initiatives in conducting deep-sea resources exploration in their EEZ waters in order to investigate the status and potentials of the deep-sea fishery resources. TD in collaboration with the Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has conducted shipboard training on the survey methodology using three main sampling gears such as deep-sea beam trawl, bottom trawl, and deep-sea trap onboard the M.V. DA-BFAR from 11 to 25 May 2008. Also included was the capacity building on deep-sea fish identification through a training workshop from 18 to 22 January 2009 in order to enhance the participants' ability to identify fish species commonly captured at the depth between 100 m and 900 m through morphology and habitat preferences.



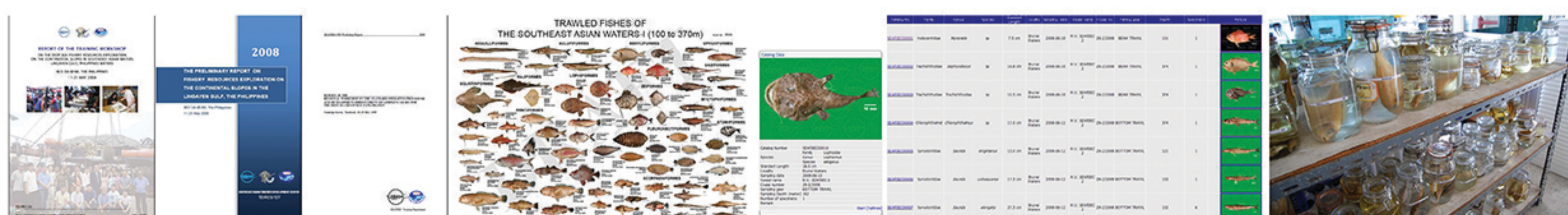
DEEP-SEA ECOSYSTEM AND IMPACT FROM FISHERY

From the point of view of the international concerns on ecosystem approach for the deep-sea fisheries and based on the data collected through the actual surveys since 1998, collaboration and coordination with other relevant initiatives will be enhanced. An expert meeting will be organized in August 2010 to discuss the issues related to the deep-sea ecosystems and impacts from fishing. In addition, the results of the study under this project and other relevant initiatives on the impact from fishery will be discussed during the said expert meeting.



INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

The initial progressreport on the project had been communicated to the project participants and public in the forum of set of preliminary reports on the results of the survey; set of guidelines and standard operation procedures in the level of scientific survey/operation; set of posters of fishes and the initial set of collection and catalogue of fishes collected from the survey. In addition to the several outcomes from the workshop and training, a regional and national network to strengthen coordination, collaboration, and to share information and facilities among the member countries and experts has been established.



More information on the project's current activities and free publications as separate downloadable report and proceedings including catalog of fishes, are available at <http://map.seafdec.org/DeepSea/>.

