



# MANAGEMENT OF MARINE POLLUTION

Management of marine pollution including marine debris, microplastics, and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) is one of the most challenging issues in the Southeast Asian region that need to be addressed through global cooperative efforts.

In an effort toward addressing such issues, the SEAFDEC Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) collaborates with relevant organizations and agencies to conduct several activities on assessing the status and impacts of marine debris, microplastics, and ALDFG to provided technical support to the ASEAN Member States (AMSs). With the goal of improving the condition of the marine environment, the activities are geared toward building up the capacity of human resources of the AMSs to undertake sampling surveys and data analysis.

## Activities

- Capacity Building on Marine Debris and Microplastics Sampling Collection and Analysis organized in Thailand in 2019, 2022, 2023, and 2024
- Collaborative Research Survey on Marine Fisheries and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand in 2018 and 2019
- Assessment of floating marine litter flow out from Chao Phraya River by visual observation method during 2022–2023
- field survey on the preliminary investigation to estimate the Abandon, Lost, and Discard Traps (pots) and Gillnets along the Coast of Thailand in 2020 in collaboration with partner universities
- Field Survey to Estimate Levels of Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in Thailand by focusing on gillnets and trap fisheries in 2021 in collaboration with FAO





## Preliminary Results

- 80 researchers in the region improved their knowledge of marine debris and microplastics sampling collection and analysis
- The distribution of microplastics was more in the nearshore than in the offshore areas of Gulf of Thailand
- The minimum contamination volume of microplastics in the Gulf of Thailand is 12 pieces/km<sup>2</sup>
- The main material of benthic marine debris in the Gulf of Thailand is artificial polymer
- A total of 70 students from six partner universities in Thailand gained the knowledge and experiences in the fishing gear and ALDFG survey
- A total of 516 sets of FAO questionnaire on ALDFG have been accomplished covering 10 provinces along the coast of Thailand
- SEAFDEC researchers completely encoded the data from questionnaires to FAO database in November 2021



## Partners

- Fisheries agencies of SEAFDEC Member Countries
- Fisheries Division of FAO
- Japan-ASEAN cooperation
- Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Thailand
- Burapha University, Chanthaburi Campus
- Chulalongkorn University
- Kasetsart University
- King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, Chumphon Campus
- Rajamangala University of Technology Srivijaya, Trang Campus
- Walailak University and Prince of Songkla University, Pattani Campus
- Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology
- Kyushu University

