

Report of The Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database and Sharing Information to Support Eliminating IUU Fishing

23-24 April 2025
Nonthaburi, Thailand

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
Training Department



REPORT OF

**THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON THE REGIONAL FISHING
VESSELS RECORD (RFVR) DATABASE AND SHARING INFORMATION TO
SUPPORT ELIMINATING IUU FISHING**

23-24 April 2025

Nonthaburi, Thailand

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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Report of
The Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) and
Information Sharing to Support the Elimination of IUU Fishing

23–24 April 2025
Nonthaburi, Thailand

I. Introduction

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD) has been implementing a critical project titled "Enhancement of Regional Cooperation and Human Resource Development to Eliminate IUU Fishing" This project is under the Japan Trust Fund (JTF).

To assess the project's effectiveness and identify recommendations for future efforts, a workshop titled the "Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) and Information Sharing to Support the Elimination of IUU Fishing" was held from 23 to 24 April 2025 in Nonthaburi, Thailand. The consultation aims to strengthen and share information on the RFVR Database system including with the discussion on the RFVR Database less than 24 meters which appropriate range of vessel length to reduce IUU fishing in the region to become a more effective tool for monitoring and regulating IUU fishing. The prospectus of the consultation is in **Annex 1**.

Thirty-seven participants attended the consultation. There were 17 representatives from SEAFDEC Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam), 3 SEAFDEC/SEC staffs, 4 SEAFDEC/TD staffs, 12 observers and 1 administrative. The list of participants is in **Annex 2**.

II. Opening of the Consultation

Training and Research Supporting Division Head (TRSDH), *Mr. Suthipong Thanasansakorn* addressed the importance of the two-day consultation on the RFVR 24 meters database among ASEAN Member States (AMSs), which were committed to protecting marine resources, promoting sustainable fishing, and enhancing monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS). His opening remarks appear in **Annex 3**.

III. Introduction of the Consultation

The development of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) began in 2011 and 2012 with meetings that established the principle for compiling minimum data requirements for vessels 24 meters and over. Subsequent workshops in 2014 and 2015 refined the system, agreeing on the inclusion of 28 Key Data Elements (KDEs). By 2017, it was mandated that fishing gear classification follow FAO international standards and that Member States update the RFVR database twice a year. Discussions in 2020 and 2021 focused on enhancing the database with new features, including dashboard summaries and self-updating capabilities for Member Countries, ensuring their understanding of the update process. Most recently, in 2024, there was a significant proposal, supported by the 56th SEAFDEC Council Meeting, to expand the RFVR database to include fishing vessels less than 24 meters in length and to specifically focus on carrier vessel operations within EEZ and high seas, aiming to further combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Kongpathai Saraphaivanich, Training and Information Section Head outlined the consultation's objectives: to update the RFVR database for vessels 24 meters and over, and to discuss the appropriate length range for vessels under 24 meters to help in reducing IUU fishing. The expected outputs included an updated RFVR database for larger vessels, an agreed-upon range for smaller vessels, and

suggestions for developing the RFVR database to focus on carrier vessels less than 24 meters. His presentation appears in **Annex 4**.

IV. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements of the Consultation

The consultation adopted the agenda and arrangements of the consultation.

V. Introduction and Updating of the RFVR Database 24 Meters in Length and Over (RFVR-24m)

Ms. Namfon Imsamrarn, Information and Technology Officer presented a detailed overview of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database for vessels 24 meters and over, underscoring its vital role in the fight against IUU fishing and the promotion of regional fisheries compliance. She noted that SEAFDEC/TD has spearheaded this project since 2011 to develop countermeasures against IUU fishing within the ASEAN region. This initiative received formal endorsement during the 45th SEAFDEC Council meeting in the Philippines in 2013, further strengthened by the 34th SOM-AMAF's support for establishing the RFVR system as a key regional mechanism to curtail IUU fishing in Southeast Asia. She elaborated on the fundamental reasons for SEAFDEC/TD's creation of the RFVR system, highlighting its function as a crucial management tool to combat IUU fishing across the ASEAN region. The system strengthens collaboration among ASEAN Member States (AMSs) through the standardized exchange of fishing vessel information, provides dependable and current data on vessels involved in international fishing, offers practical benefits for relevant authorities within AMSs to eradicate IUU fishing activities, and facilitates synchronized regional actions against IUU fishing.

Ms. Namfon reviewed the developmental timeline of the RFVR Database System from 2015 to 2021, with a specific focus on the improved features of the 2021 version. She provided a comprehensive explanation of the current system's content and functionality, including the operational procedures for both country administrative users and public visitors accessing the system via its web interface. Furthermore, she offered updates on the year 2021 system version, including the data submission timelines for AMSs and the number of fishing vessels recorded by each AMSs in the RFVR System. She also addressed potential technical challenges users might encounter while using the RFVR System, particularly during the data uploading process to the RFVR 24-meter Database System. In her concluding presentation, she strongly urged AMSs to adopt SEAFDEC/TD's standardized Excel format for data submission and to align with FAO international standards for fishing vessel classification to minimize technical issues during information uploads to the RFVR. Her presentation appears in **Annex 5**.

The representative from Indonesia informed the consultation that while they had uploaded information for a larger number of fishing vessels in 2020, they now categorize submissions into fishing vessels and carrier vessels, following instructions from a high-ranking authority within their department. The representative also requested that other AMSs share their experiences with uploading information, as Indonesia had encountered some technical difficulties when inputting data into the RFVR System.

The representative from Thailand inquired with Viet Nam about their data, which was last updated in 2021. Viet Nam explained that frequent changes in their focal points had caused delays in updates but assured the meeting that the data would be updated soon.

The representative from Malaysia proposed that the consultation include a discussion on the optimal timing for data uploads.

The representative from Cambodia asked for clarification on the difference in access rights to the system for country users versus public users.

In response, *Mr. Kongpathai* clarified that country users have access to detailed data within the RFVR System, whereas public users are limited to viewing the total number of fishing vessels and general summary information.

VI. Summary of Questionnaire on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) by AMSs

During this agenda, *Mr. Beverly S. San Juan*, Senior Aquaculturist from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Philippines, and *Mr. Vu Van Tam*, Staff Officer from the Department of Fisheries of Viet Nam, presented their respective countries' questionnaire results.

The Philippines' presentation highlighted their definitions of municipal and commercial fisheries, primarily categorized by gross tonnage. They also shared information about their national regulation for the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). While the RFVR system has not yet been broadly promoted to other agencies within the Philippines, the country has historically been able to detect foreign fishing vessels, particularly those from Taiwan.

Viet Nam reported utilizing three distinct fishing zones for both small-scale and commercial fishing vessels. Currently, Viet Nam has 2,456 fishing vessels measuring 24 meters or more in length. During the discussion, Viet Nam's spokesperson emphasized the requirement for fishing vessels 50 meters and above to register with the VMS. He further clarified that their vessel types are categorized into fishing vessels and logistic (carrier) fishing vessels. Similar to the Philippines, Viet Nam has not yet promoted the RFVR system to other agencies, as their representatives are not authorized to share the system at this time. To facilitate data updates, SEAFDEC has proposed an official letter from Viet Nam's focal point.

Following presentations from the Philippines and Viet Nam, *Mr. Krit Phusirimogkol*, Training and Extension Officer summarized questionnaire results from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand, specifically detailing their respective fishing zones. This revealed a diverse set of approaches across the region: while Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia primarily define zones by distance from shore (with Indonesia also including "High Seas"), Cambodia differentiates between inshore and offshore areas extending to its EEZ. Malaysia employs a unique system that combines operational area with vessel gross tonnage, while Myanmar delineates two main zones with varying coastal limits. Finally, Thailand separates small-scale and commercial fishing operations based on their distance from the shoreline, collectively showcasing the varied fisheries management strategies in Southeast Asia.

Moreover, to define small-scale and commercial fisheries using a variety of criteria, often encompassing vessel size, gear, operational area, and intent. Brunei Darussalam differentiates based on company size, gear sophistication, and engine type, while Cambodia considers family-based operations with small gear versus medium to large-scale gear and vessel engine power. Indonesia defines small-scale by traditional methods, vessels under 5 gross tons, and subsistence fishing, with commercial fisheries requiring licenses for larger vessels targeting industrial quotas. Malaysia classifies by gross registered tonnage (under 40 GRT for small-scale, 40 GRT or more for commercial) and associated fishing zones. Myanmar uses vessel length and engine horsepower, with smaller vessels and less powerful engines for coastal (small-scale) fisheries. Lastly, Thailand defines small-scale by vessels under 10 gross tons operating in coastal zones, while commercial fisheries include vessels 10 gross tons or more, or any vessel equipped with an electric generator, regardless of size.

Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) regulations also vary among ASEAN Member States. Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia currently lack specific VMS mandates, they enforce related requirements such as Brunei Darussalam's Automatic Identification System (AIS) and Malaysia's compulsory Mobile Transceiver Units (MTUs) for vessels in designated zones. In contrast, Cambodia is actively developing new fisheries legislation (Article 54) to make VMS mandatory for medium and large-scale vessels. Indonesia has already implemented mandatory VMS for most fishing vessels under Ministerial

Regulation No. 23 of 2021, though small-scale fishers and aquaculture support vessels are exempt. Myanmar successfully completed VMS installation for its offshore fleet between 2019 and 2020. Similarly, Thailand requires commercial fishing and carrier vessels exceeding 30 gross tons to obtain a license, which likely includes VMS as part of their regulatory framework.

Insights from the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) database questionnaire highlight key challenges faced by some ASEAN Member States in uploading information. Cambodia reported difficulties in data collection from various coastal fisheries administration cantonments in the course of the COVID pandemic, but this problem no longer exists at the present time. Indonesia frequently encounters uploading errors to the system, which may require direct technical support. Malaysia has requested a training session for their newly appointed RFVR focal point, a need that SEAFDEC has acknowledged. Lastly, Thailand raised concerns about the disclosure of personal data fields, such as the captain's/master's name and nationality, and the vessel owner's name, due to national regulations. These points will be addressed by the SEAFDEC team.

Regarding the provision of RFVR Database usernames and passwords to national authorities, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Thailand have successfully created and distributed access to relevant entities within their countries; Indonesia, for instance, specifically provided accounts to harbor masters and fisheries supervisors. In contrast, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Myanmar have not extended RFVR credentials to other agencies. Brunei Darussalam cited a lack of specific recommendations from the Secretariat on sharing, while Malaysia indicated a preference for their existing Malaysian Fishing Vessel Record (MFVR), which is already shared with their Maritime Enforcement Agency. Myanmar, meanwhile, emphasized that its Department of Fisheries retains sole responsibility for issuing all fishing and fish carrier vessel licenses, implying centralized control over this information.

The promotion and utilization of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) database vary among ASEAN Member States. Cambodia and Indonesia are actively leveraging the system; Cambodia promotes it to its Marine Fisheries Inspectorate, relevant Fisheries Administration departments, and coastal fisheries administration cantonments, while Indonesia uses it to help fisheries supervisors verify vessel nationality during violation investigations. Conversely, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand have not actively promoted the RFVR database's use to their respective national authorities or agencies.

Most ASEAN Member States reported no record of fish-carrying vessels less than 24 meters from other ASEAN countries entering their ports. This includes Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Myanmar. Indonesia further supported this by noting that foreign vessels entering their ports in 2024 (according to PSMA Secretariat data) were larger and flagged from Japan, Russia, and South Korea, not smaller ASEAN vessels. In contrast, Thailand indicated that it does receive such smaller vessels

The proposal for SEAFDEC to develop a dedicated small vessel database, specifically for carrier vessels to enhance information sharing between neighboring countries, has received mixed reactions from ASEAN Member States. Myanmar and Thailand expressed support, believing such a system would greatly benefit cross-border information exchange for smaller carrier vessels. However, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia currently see no immediate need for this system. Indonesia further clarified their stance, stating their priority is to maximize the benefits of the existing Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) data, which primarily focuses on fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over.

Analysis of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) database questionnaire revealed a strong consensus among Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and Thailand on the most crucial Key Data Elements (KDEs). The top four overlapping KDEs, unanimously selected by all participating countries, are: Vessel Registration Number, Name of Vessel, Owner Name, and

Nationality of Vessel (Flag). These elements are consistently recognized as fundamental for effective vessel identification, tracking, and management, underscoring their collective importance in promoting sustainable fisheries and combating illegal fishing activities across the region. His presentation appears in **Annex 6**.

Following the summary of the questionnaire, *Mr. Kongpathai*, the chairman, inquired about the validity of the data presented by each representative country. As no major data clarifications were needed, he noted that if any country required training on using the system, they could propose a training program to SEAFDEC, as such programs have been conducted in the past year.

Mr. Worawit Wanchana, Policy and Program Coordinator at the SEAFDEC Secretariat, underscored the importance of system utilization. He emphasized SEAFDEC's need for feedback from each country regarding the system's usefulness and how it can be promoted to other agencies. He added that if there's significant interest, further system development would be pursued. *Mr. Isara Chanrakhij*, Project Planning and Management Division Head and Special Department Coordinator from the SEAFDEC Training Department, further highlighted that the role of each focal point is crucial in facilitating coordination among countries.

VII. Discussion on RFVR Less than 24 Meters

Before discussing the RFVR for vessels less than 24 meters, representatives from each country collaboratively identified key agencies for system promotion and potential challenges to its implementation. This exercise aimed to assess the system's effectiveness and encourage proactive utilization and inter-agency promotion within each nation.

Representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam presented their perspectives on authorizing agencies relevant to using the RFVR database, with most identifying high and medium priority agencies such as fisheries management departments, maritime enforcement centers, and coast guard units. This discussion provided a comprehensive overview of potential authorized users across different maritime agencies and highlighted challenges in enhancing the database's utilization.

Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam highlighted common challenges in database utilization, including limited resources for system dissemination, user training needs, technical compatibility issues, and the complexity of coordinating across multiple government agencies. While each country has unique organizational structures and priorities, they shared a collective goal of improving maritime surveillance and information sharing through the RFVR database, with recommendations focusing on developing robust training programs, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and standardizing database information to maximize the system's effectiveness in combating illegal fishing activities.

Countries discussed the addition of vessel photographs to the RFVR database, acknowledging that most current systems lack this feature. The primary technical obstacle is that the existing CSV file format doesn't support image uploads, meaning each photo would need to be uploaded individually. This would also increase the database size, requiring additional server resources and approval. Despite these challenges, the idea was considered interesting, particularly for inspectors who could visually verify vessel details. The meeting agreed to review the technical implementation and benefits of adding vessel photos in a future session, recognizing its practical value for maritime enforcement, and some ASEAN Member States will provide updated recommendations on this inclusion.

Myanmar raised a specific concern regarding RFVR database submission timing, as their unique fishing season (August 31st to September 1st) causes a one-year delay in data updates. This highlights the broader need for a standardized yet flexible data submission mechanism that can accommodate varied national fishing seasons and regulatory cycles. The group acknowledged that diverse national

practices could impact on the database's real-time effectiveness and agreed to incorporate ASEAN Member States' recommendations for updated submission protocols to ensure comprehensive and current information across all countries.

Countries demonstrated varied approaches to populating the RFVR database with vessels less than 24 meters, ultimately aiming for a flexible reporting framework. While most agreed to initially focus on carrier vessels, individual country contributions vary: Cambodia will only report fishing vessels, Indonesia and Vietnam will share both fishing and carrier vessel information, while Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand will focus solely on carrier vessels. Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia, however, are willing to share all vessel types, with Malaysia specifically limiting its data to vessels operating in deep-sea Zone C2 and the Philippines sharing high-sea vessel information. To ensure a pragmatic start and avoid data inconsistencies, RFVR developers recommended prioritizing carrier vessel data, with the goal of gradually expanding coverage. The meeting ultimately approved the proposed data submission based on ASEAN Member States' recommendations.

The discussion on suitable vessel range aimed to expand the RFVR database beyond the current 24-meter threshold. Most countries agreed to initially focus on the 18 to 23.99-meter range, with some flexibility for reporting vessels up to 15 meters, as suggested by Cambodia. Vietnam also proposed categorizing vessels based on national laws and fishing zones. Key considerations for this expansion included maintaining consistent reporting, minimizing administrative burden, and facilitating cross-border data comparisons. The consensus was a phased approach, starting with data collection for carrier vessels less than 24 meters, with potential future expansion to include fishing vessels and other types.

Finally, *Dr. Worawit* proposed a pragmatic solution to vessel data collection by leveraging existing maritime documentation. His suggestion centered on utilizing vessel registration books, licenses, and official maritime records as primary sources for capturing vessel information, particularly for vessels less than 24 meters. Recognizing that many countries maintain physical documentation with detailed vessel specifications, he recommended extracting length, type, and other critical data directly from these official sources. This approach would not only simplify the data submission process but also help countries with limited digital infrastructure transition to more systematic record-keeping. By using existing paper-based records as a foundation for digital database entry, *Dr. Worawit's* proposal offered a practical, low-burden method to enhance the RFVR database's comprehensiveness and accuracy, while respecting the varying technological capabilities of member countries.

VIII. Conclusion and Way Forward

Mr. Kongpathai clarified and confirmed the name/s of the country's RFVR National Focal Point, position, and email. The list of focal point includes as follows:

- *Mr. Irwan Haji Mohd Noor* for Brunei
- *Mr. Chhuon Kimchhea* for Cambodia
- *Mr. Haryo Topo Yuwona* for Indonesia
- *Mr. Mohd Hazrul bin Muhammad* for Malaysia
- *Ms. Soe Myat Thu* for Myanmar
- *Mr. Beverly S. San Juan* for the Philippines
- *Mr. Vichit Chaisalee* for Thailand
- *Mr. Vu Van Tam*, and *Mr. Nguyen Van Vu* for Viet Nam

The comprehensive update of the submission schedule was established for participating countries as follows:

Key Data Elements (KDEs) of RFVR Database Less Than 24 Meters

The consultation agreed on 28 KDEs for the RFVR Database less than 24 meters in length is the same as 24 meters and over. The 28 KDEs are as follows.

Information on fishing vessels		Information on fishing vessels	
1. Vessel Registration Number		15. Engine Brand	
2. Name of vessel		16. Serial number of engine	
3. Type of fishing method/gear/carrier		17. Hull material	
4. Fishing License number		18. Date of registration	
5. Expiration date of fishing licenses		19. Area (country) of fishing operation	
6. Port of registry		20. Nationality of vessel (flag)	
7. Gross tonnage (GRT/GT)		21. Previous name (if any)	
8. Length (L)		22. Previous flag (if any)	
9. Breadth (B)		23. Name of captain/master	
10. Depth (D)		24. Nationality of captain/master	
11. Engine Power		25. Number of crew (maximum/minimum)	
12. Shipyard		26. Nationality of crew	
13. Date of launching		27. IMO Number (If available)	
14. International Radio Call sign		28. Owner Name	

Uploading Timeframe of Information in the RFVR Database

Currently, AMSs can upload information on RFVR Database by themselves. The consultation agreed to upload information at least twice per year, except Brunei Darussalam and Viet Nam are available to upload a time per year. The uploading timeframe is as;

<i>Country</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
Brunei Darussalam	October
Cambodia	April and October
Indonesia	January and July
Malaysia	January and July
Myanmar	April, August, and December
Philippines	April and October
Thailand	April and October
Viet Nam	January

Available Type of Fishing Vessel Less Than 24 Meters for the RFVR Database

Based on the agreement from the consultation, Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia appear to possess all three types of vessels: fishing, carrier, and support. Indonesia and Viet Nam both have fishing and carrier vessels, while Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand are indicated as having only carrier vessels. Cambodia is shown to have fishing vessels, but information regarding Carrier and Support vessels is not provided because no have these two types in Cambodia water.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Fishing Vessels</i>	<i>Carrier Vessels</i>	<i>Support Vessels</i>
Brunei Darussalam	/	/	/
Cambodia	/		
Indonesia	/	/	
Malaysia	/	/	/
Myanmar		/	
Philippines		/	
Thailand		/	
Viet Nam	/	/	

Suitable Range Length of Fishing Vessels Less Than 24 Meters in the RFVR Database

The consultation separated the range of fishing vessel lengths less than 24 meters into three categories, aligning with the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels, and Supply Vessels (Global Record). Participants from AMSs noted that Brunei Darussalam appears to operate vessels in the 15-17.99 meters and 18-23.99 meters ranges. Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines have vessels in the 18-23.99 meters category; however, Cambodia and Indonesia's operations are restricted to high seas, while the Philippines operates in high seas and other coastal waters. Malaysia's 18-23.99 meters vessels operate in the C2 zone. In contrast, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam have vessels operating across all three specified length categories (less than 15 meters, 15-17.99 meters, and 18-23.99 meters).

<i>Country</i>	<i>Less than 15 meters</i>	<i>15-17.99 meters</i>	<i>18-23.99 meters</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Brunei Darussalam		/	/	
Cambodia			/	High sea only
Indonesia			/	High sea only
Malaysia			/	C2 zone
Myanmar	/	/	/	
Philippines			/	High sea and other water coastal state
Thailand	/	/	/	
Viet Nam	/	/	/	

Timeline for Development of the RFVR Database Less Than 24 Meters

The consultation agreed the timeline for development of the RFVR Database less than 24 meters that proposed by SEAFDEC/TD as follows

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Report the result of the consultation to 57 th meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	20-22 May 2025
Development of RFVR Database less than 24 meters	May-December 2025
AMS can upload information on the vessels less than 24 meters to the RFVR Database	2026 (depending on uploading timeframe)

IX. Closing of the Consultation

The closing session, led by *Mr. Kongpathai Saraphaivanich*, Training and Information Section Head, delivered the closing remarks on the RFVR consultation.



PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

THE REGIONAL TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON REGIONAL FISHING VESSELS RECORD (RFVR) AND INFORMATION SHARING TO SUPPORT THE ELIMINATION OF IUU FISHING

INTRODUCTION

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major international issue affecting the sustainability of fisheries resources, both within national jurisdictions and on the high seas. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) report, this illegal practice undermines sustainable fisheries management by operating outside legal frameworks, leading to the depletion of fish stocks and hindering sustainability efforts. Estimates suggest yearly global losses of between 11 million and 26 million tons of catch, valued at USD 10–23.5 billion, while the broader economic ramifications, including income losses and tax revenue declines, can range from USD 34 billion to USD 67 billion¹. Southeast Asian countries face increasing pressure on their fisheries resources due to IUU fishing, the consequences of illegal fishing practices threaten the economic stability and sustainability of the region. Addressing combating IUU fishing in the ASEAN Region requires multifaceted approaches, including strengthening regional cooperation, enhancing enforcement mechanisms, and promoting sustainable fishing practices. By working together, ASEAN member states can protect their marine resources, safeguard economic interests, and ensure a sustainable future for their fisheries and coastal communities.

Since 2015, ASEAN, through the technical support of SEAFDEC, adopted the ASEAN Guidelines for preventing the entry of IUU fish and fisheries products into the supply chain. The Regional Fishing Vessels Record for 24 meters in length and over (RFVR-24m) database was developed and established through a series of Regional Expert Meetings and Regional Technical Consultations. The Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) as a Management Tool toward Combating IUU Fishing in ASEAN for monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) and facilitates the efficient sharing of critical information regarding vessel registration, fishing licenses, and related activities among AMSs. By providing a standardized template/format for uploading KDEs using CSV/Excel files, the database ensures that all member states have access to consistent and accurate data. This updated information exchange fosters greater transparency and enables coordinated efforts to identify and mitigate IUU fishing activities across the region.

In other words, establishing and maintaining the RFVR-24m demonstrates a shared commitment among AMSs to protect marine resources and promote sustainable fishing practices. This collaborative effort has built trust among member states, encouraging them to collaborate more closely on other aspects of fishery management. Many ASEAN Member States have significantly improved their monitoring and enforcement capabilities, protected marine resources, and ensured coastal communities' economic and social well-being.

Nonetheless, the number of IUU fishing practices from large vessels has significantly decreased due to leveraging technological advancements to improve monitoring and enforcement; the challenges focus more on vessels less than 24m in length. The issues of less than 24m in length fishing vessels have been discussed several times to be included in the RFVR database, especially the carrier vessels modified from various-sized fishing vessels. In 2018, the SEAFDEC Training Department updated the number of carrier vessels less than 24m in length to 2,704 vessels; among these, 47.5% are less than 15m in length². In addition, the Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia held by SEAFDEC/TD on

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024. Rome: FAO, 2024.

² SEAFDEC Training Department. The Questionnaires on RFVR and Fishing Vessel Information submitted by AMSs in 2018



20–21 March 2024, the discussion came up with recommendations and suggestions for 9 key priority area, actions and ways forward to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia, one of which will address the issue of improving and updating the RFVR database to cover fishing vessels less than 24 meters in length and more focus on carrier vessels operated within the EEZ and across the border. The movement of small carrier vessels across borders can affect regional security. Unregulated vessels can be used for illicit activities. For this reason, effective monitoring and regulations can help authorities detect and prevent these activities, enhancing regional security. The results from the Workshop, including the RFVR for fishing vessels less than 24m and carrier issues, were raised for consideration and recommendations at the 56th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council in the Philippines held in March of 2024: in response to these, the Council supported TD to take further action on updating information of the RFVR database and supporting AMSs in combating IUU fishing.

Therefore, strengthen and share information on the RFVR Database system to become a more effective tool for monitoring and regulating IUU fishing. The Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Fishing Vessel Record (RFVR) Database and Sharing Information to Support Eliminating IUU Fishing will be conducted.

OBJECTIVES

1. To share and update information of the RFVR 24 meters in length and over database
2. To discuss on the RFVR Database less than 24 meters which appropriate range of vessel length to reduce IUU fishing in the region

PARTICIPANTS

1. RFVR National Focal Point from AMSs
2. Representative in policy level from AMSs
3. Representatives from the SEAFDEC Secretariat and Training Department
4. Members of the Regional Fisheries Policy Network (RFPN)

DATE AND VENUE

The regional technical consultation will be held on 23-24 April 2025 (2 days) at Best Western Plus Wanda Grand Hotel, Nonthaburi, Thailand

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. Updated information of the RFVR 24 meters in length and over database
2. Agree on the appropriate range of vessels less than 24 meters in length
3. Suggestion on development of the RFVR Database less than 24 meters in focus carrier vessel

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

23 April 2025 (Tuesday)

0830 - 0900	Registration
0900 - 0930	Agenda 1: Opening of the Consultation
0930 - 0950	Agenda 2: Introduction of the Consultation



0950 - 1000	Agenda 3: Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements of the Consultation
1000 - 1030	<i>Refreshment and Group Photo</i>
1030 - 1115	Agenda 4: Introduction and Updating of the RFVR Database 24 Meters in Length and Over (RFVR-24m) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently and Progress Situation of RFVR Database • Problem and Issue with Data/Information Uploading to the RFVR-24m Database
1115 - 1200	Agenda 5: Summary of Questionnaire on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) by AMSs
1200 - 1330	<i>Lunch</i>
1330 - 1600	Agenda 6: Discussion on RFVR Less than 24 Meters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFVR Database Less than 24 Meters which Appropriate Range of Vessel Length to Reduce IUU Fishing in the Region
1700 -2000	<i>Reception Dinner</i>

24 April 2025 (Wednesday)

0900 - 1200	Agenda 6: Discussion on RFVR Less than 24 Meters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFVR Database Less than 24 Meters which Appropriate Range of Vessel Length to Reduce IUU Fishing in the Region (<i>continue</i>)
1200 - 1330	<i>Lunch</i>
1330 - 1630	Agenda 7: Conclusion and Way Forward
1630 - 1700	Agenda 8: Closing of the Consultation



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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23–24 April 2025

at Best Western Plus Wanda Grand Hotel, Nonthaburi, Thailand

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OPENING REMARKS

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The Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record
(RFVR) Database and Sharing Information to Support Eliminating IUU Fishing
Best Western Plus Hotel, Thailand
23 April 2025

Greetings, distinguished delegates from SEAFDEC member countries, SEAFDEC staff, resource persons, ladies, and gentlemen!

I am delighted to welcome you to the "Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database and Sharing Information to Support Eliminating IUU Fishing"

IUU fishing is a major global threat to sustainable fisheries, undermining legal frameworks and depleting fish stocks. FAO reports annual losses of 11 to 26 million tons, valued at USD 10 to 23.5 billion, with broader economic damage reaching USD 34 to 67 billion. Southeast Asia faces increasing pressure from IUU fishing, threatening regional economic stability and sustainability. Addressing IUU fishing in ASEAN requires strengthened regional cooperation, enhanced enforcement, and sustainable practices.

ASEAN, with SEAFDEC's support, has taken action. Since 2015, ASEAN adopted guidelines to prevent IUU fish entry into the supply chain. We have established the Regional Fishing Vessels Record for 24 meters and over (RFVR-24m) database to enhance monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) by sharing vessel information among ASEAN Member States (AMSs). This RFVR-24m demonstrates our shared commitment to protecting marine resources and promoting sustainable fishing.

While RFVR-24m has helped reduce IUU fishing from large vessels, challenges remain with vessels less than 24m, especially carrier vessels. In 2018, SEAFDEC/TD questionnaire recorded 2,704 such carrier vessels, with 47.5% under 15m. A SEAFDEC/TD workshop in March 2024 highlighted the need to update the RFVR database to include vessels less than 24m and focus on carrier vessels operating within EEZs and across borders, addressing potential regional security concerns. The 56th SEAFDEC Council Meeting in March 2024 supported TD's action to update the RFVR database and assist AMSs in combating IUU fishing.

Therefore, this Regional Technical Consultation aims to strengthen and share information on the RFVR Database system, making it a more effective tool against IUU fishing. I trust that our collaboration here will significantly advance our fight against IUU fishing.



In this regard, ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to declare this Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database and Sharing Information to Support Eliminating IUU Fishing officially open.

Thank you, and I wish you all the best for a productive period.

Regional Technical Consultation on Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) and Information Sharing to Support the Elimination of IUU Fishing
 23 – 24 April 2025
Agenda 2: Introduction of the consultation

RFVR Database Development Series

Regional Core Experts Meeting on Fishing License, Boats Registration and Information Gathering on Export of Fisheries Products in Southeast Asia

2011

2012

Expert Group Meeting on Fishing Licensing and Boats Registration

output

Agreement in principle on the compilation of the minimum requirements of data/ and information for the Regional Fishing Vessels Record

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL FISHING VESSEL RECORD (RFVR) FOR 24 METERS IN LENGTH AND OVER

RFVR Database Development Series

2011 2012 2014 2015

Technical Workshop on RFVR Database Development and Management in Southeast Asia

26 KDEs

The Regional Technical Consultation on RFVR: Use and Way Forward of RFVR Database as a Management Tool to Reduce IUU Fishing in Southeast Asian Region

28 KDEs

RFVR Database Development Series

2011 2012 2014 2015 2017

The Regional Technical Consultation on Evaluation of Implementation and Utilization of the RFVR 24 meters in Length and Over to Reduce IUU Fishing in ASEAN

- Fishing gear classification must follow the International standard classification by FAO
- Submission / updating of RFVR DATA, 2 times/year for the whole data

RFVR Database Development Series

2011 2012 2014 2015 2017 2018

12-13 December 2018

The Regional Meeting on the REGIONAL FISHING VESSEL RECORD (RFVR) FOR 24 METERS IN LENGTH AND OVER as a Management Tool toward Combating IUU Fishing in ASEAN

Information submission and utilization by the AMSs to the database system of RFVR-24 meters

Initiation on RFVR Less than 24 Meters in Length

RFVR Database Development Series

2011 2012 2014 2015 2017 2018 2020

Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Tools for Combating IUU fishing in Southeast Asia 27 to 28 August 2020

SEAFDEC MCs agreed to develop new feature for RFVR database such as

- Upload form : MCs can upload their vessel data to the RFVR database system by themselves
- Dashboard : All users can view summary vessel information in graph chart

RFVR Database Development Series

2011 2012 2014 2015 2017 2018 2020 2021

The Teleworkshop on Development and Improvement of Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) for Combating IUU fishing in the Southeast Asia 28 to 30 September 2021

AMSs understand how to upload vessels information in RFVR Database by themselves

RFVR Database Development Series

2011 2012 2014 2015 2017 2018 2020 2021 2023

Send Questionnaire to AMSs "Utilization of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database by the AMSs"

Utilization and information update of the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database

RFVR Database Development Series

2011 2012 2014 2015 2017 2018 2020 2021 2023 2024

The Workshop on the Project End of Strengthening Regional Cooperation and Enhancing National Capacities to Eliminate IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia
 20-21 March 2024

In 2024, the 56th SEAFDEC Council Meeting supported to take further action on updating information of the RFVR database less than 24 meters.

In 2024, "9 key priority areas for action and way forward to combat IUU fishing in Southeast Asia" addressed an issue of improving and updating the RFVR database to cover fishing vessel less than 24 meters and more focus on carrier vessel operation within the EEZ and across the border.

Objectives

1. To share and update information of the RFVR 24 meters in length and over database
2. To discuss on the RFVR Database less than 24 meters which appropriate range of vessel length to reduce IUU fishing in the region

Expected outputs

1. Updated information of the RFVR 24 meters in length and over database
2. Agree on the appropriate range of vessels less than 24 meters in length
3. Suggestion on development of the RFVR Database less than 24 meters in focus carrier vessel

Agenda 3: adoption of the agenda and arrangement of the consultation

23 April 2025

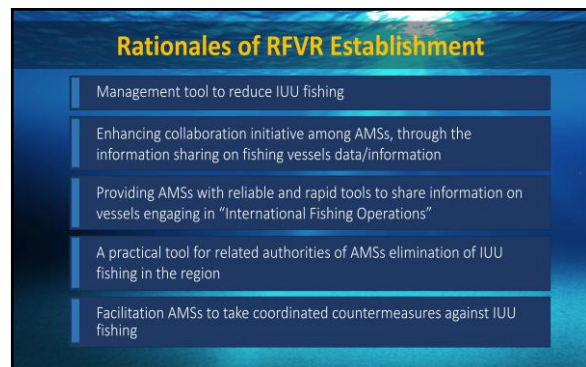
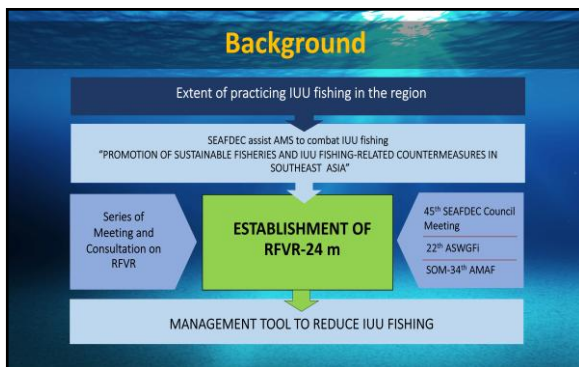
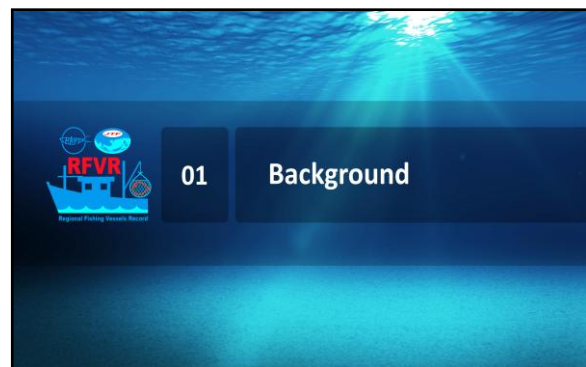
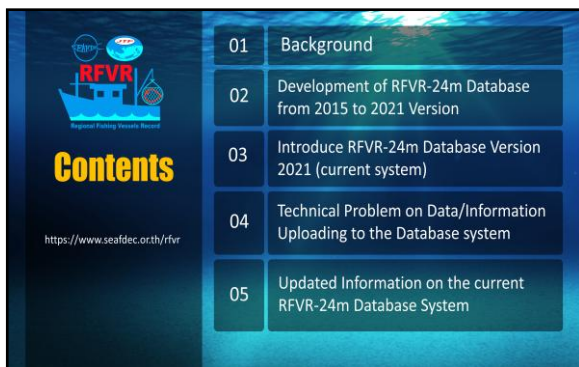
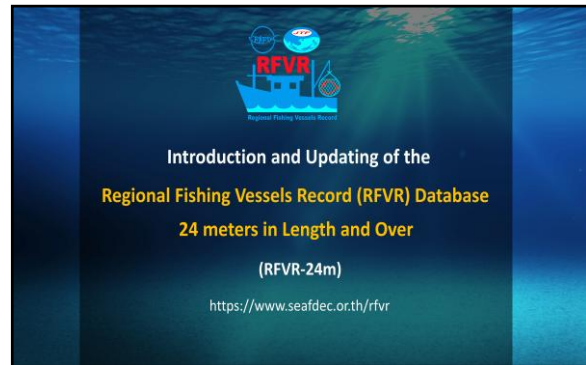
- Agenda 1: Opening of the Consultation
- Agenda 2: Introduction of the Consultation
- Agenda 3: Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements of the Consultation
- Agenda 4: Introduction and Updating of the RFVR Database 24 meters in length and over (RFVR-24m)
 - Currently and Progress Situation of RFVR Database
 - Problem and Issue with Data/Information Uploading to the RFVR-24m Database

23 April 2025

- Agenda 5: Summary of Questionnaire on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) by AMSs
- Agenda 6: Discussion on RFVR Less than 24 Meters
 - RFVR Database Less than 24 Meters which Appropriate Range of Vessel Length to Reduce IUU Fishing in the Region
- Reception Dinner

24 April 2025

- Agenda 6: Discussion on RFVR Less than 24 Meters
 - RFVR Database Less than 24 Meters which Appropriate Range of Vessel Length to Reduce IUU Fishing in the Region
- Agenda 7: Conclusion and Way Forward
- Agenda 8: Closing of the Consultation




New Features of RFVR-2021 Version

Features	RFVR-2015 version	RFVR-2021 version
Login	OK	OK
Dashboard		OK
View List of Vessels	OK	OK
Export Data to Excel File Format	OK	OK
Data Upload		OK
Manage Users		OK

Key Responsible Person

Activities	RFVR-2015	RFVR-2021
Collect & prepare 28 KDEs	Country	Country
Rearrange vessels data to input in RFVR Template(Excel File) and save as to CSV File	SEAFDEC/TD	Country
Upload vessels data to RFVR database	SEAFDEC/TD	Country
Manage accounts (create, edit, delete)	SEAFDEC/TD	Country and SEAFDEC/TD
IT Support	SEAFDEC/TD	SEAFDEC/TD




03 Introduce RFVR-24m Database Version 2021 (current system)

Key Data Elements for RFVR-24m

There are twenty-eight (28) Key Data Elements for Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) 24 meters in length and over as follows:

Name of Vessel	Vessel Registration Number	Owner Name	Type of Fishing Method/Gear	Fishing License Number	Expiration Date of Fishing Licenses	Port of Registry
Gross Tonnage	Length	Breadth (B)	Depth (D)	Engine Power (kilowatt)	Shipyard/Ship Builder	Date of Launching/Year of Built/Year of Purchase
International Radio Call Sign	Engine Brand	Serial Number of Engine	Hull Material	Date of Registration	Area of Fishing Operation	Nationality of Vessel (Flag)
Previous Name	Previous Flag	Name of Captain/Master	Nationality of Captain/Master	Number of Crew	Nationality of Crew	IMO Number




Fishing Vessels Classification

Fishing vessels category follow the International Standard Classification of Fishery Vessels by Vessel Types (ISSCFV, Rev.1, 2019) by FAO

Fishing vessel type	ISSCFV Code	Standard abbreviation
Vessels	1	000
Other vessels	11	010
200 tonner	12	020
300 tonner	13	030
400 tonner	14	040
500 tonner	15	050
600 tonner	16	060
700 tonner	17	070
800 tonner	18	080
900 tonner	19	090
1000 tonner	20	100
1100 tonner	21	110
1200 tonner	22	120
1300 tonner	23	130
1400 tonner	24	140
1500 tonner	25	150
1600 tonner	26	160
1700 tonner	27	170
1800 tonner	28	180
1900 tonner	29	190
2000 tonner	30	200
2100 tonner	31	210
2200 tonner	32	220
2300 tonner	33	230
2400 tonner	34	240
2500 tonner	35	250
2600 tonner	36	260
2700 tonner	37	270
2800 tonner	38	280
2900 tonner	39	290
3000 tonner	40	300

DESIGNATED USERS

Administrator	Country Users	Public Users
Login	Login	
Dashboard	Dashboard	Dashboard
List of Vessels	List of Vessels	
Data Upload		
Manage Users		
RFVR Manual		
Related Documents	Related Documents	Related Documents
Logout	Logout	



Introduction about RFVR

Go to Login Page for country admins/country users

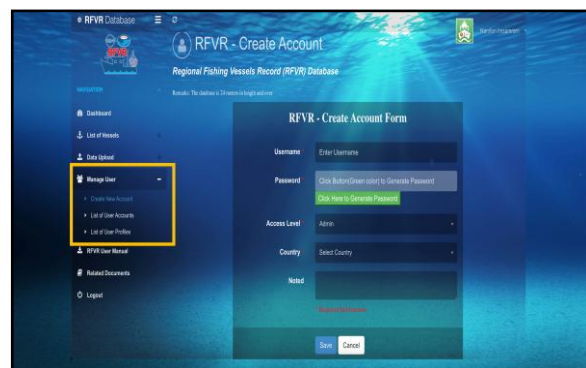
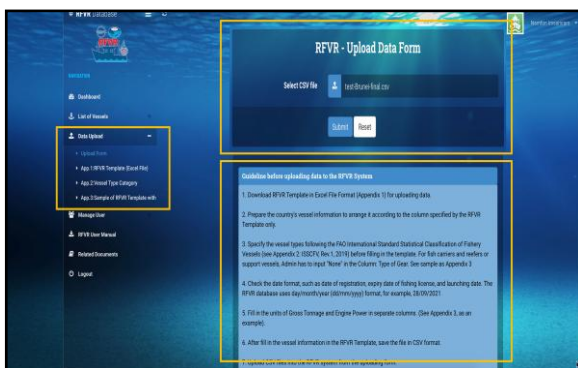
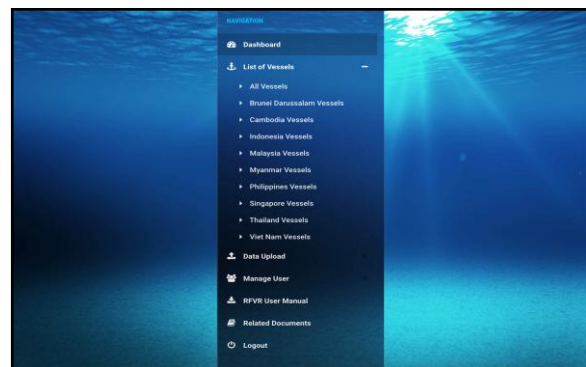
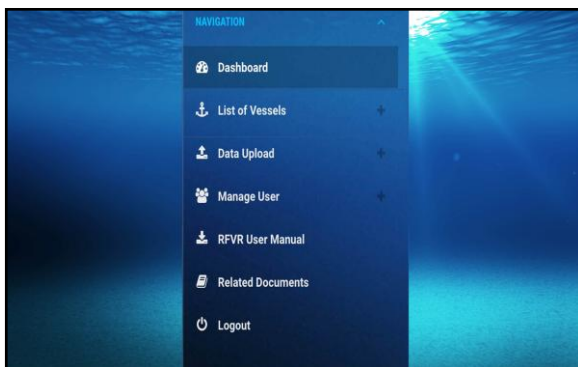
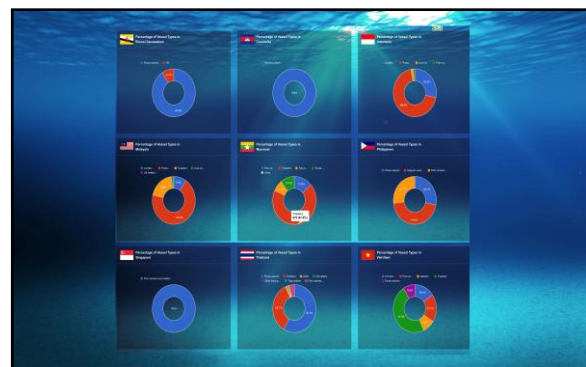
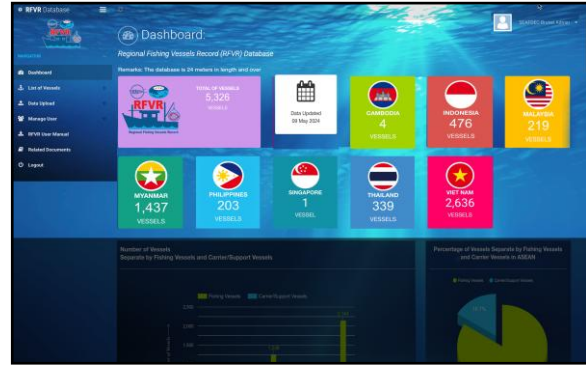
Go to Dashboard for public users

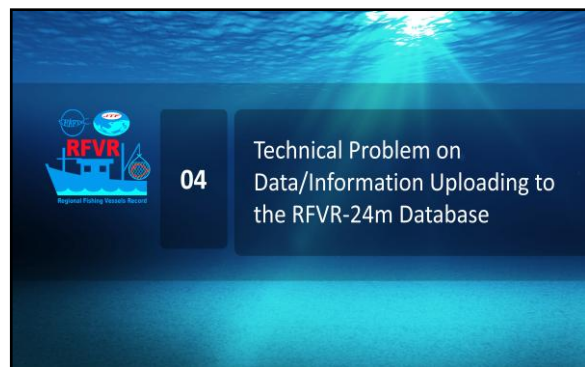
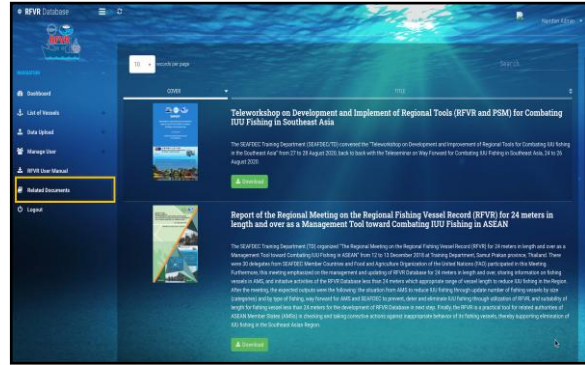
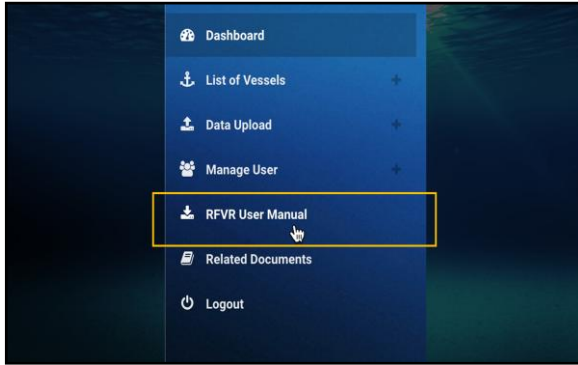
Download RFVR brochure

Related links to combating IUU fishing and IUU vessel list from other organizations

STRUCTURE ON RFVR

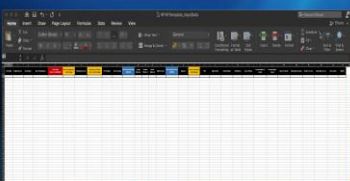
- 1 Main Menu
- 2 Summary Information
- 3 Manage Own Account





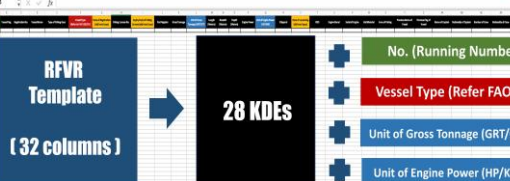
Technical Problem on Data/Information Uploading

1. User don't use the RFVR template (excel file) provided by SEAFDEC



Technical Problem on Data/Information Uploading

2. User modify the RFVR template (excel file)



Technical Problem on Data/Information Uploading

3. Numerical Data are fixed to 2 decimal places e.g. length, width and depth fields

Gross Tonnage	Unit of Gross Tonnage (GRT/GT)	Length (Meters)	Breadth (Meters)	Depth (Meters)	Engine Power	Shipyard
157.71	GT	25.46	7.22	N/A	300 HP	
111.34	GT	25.46	6.42	N/A	425 HP	
145.95	GT	25.45757576	7.72727273	N/A	500 HP	
127.99	GT	25.45	6.49	N/A	500 HP	

Technical Problem on Data/Information Uploading

4. Error caused by country numerical data inputs

Gross Tonnage	Unit of Gross Tonnage (GRT/GT)	Length (Meters)	Breadth (Meters)	Depth (Meters)	Engine Power	Unit of Engine Power	Shipyard
147	GT	26,68	7,8	2,6	380	HP	ND
138	GT	26,23	7,24	2,62	350	DK	ND
163	GT	27,47	7,78	2,9	370	HP	ND
124	GT	26,4	7,65	2,54	370	HP	ND
90	GT	24,1	6,95	2,2	350	HP	ND
133	GT	26,41	7,36	2,46	370	HP	ND
131	GT	26,59	7,57	2,49	370	HP	ND

Technical Problem on Data/Information Uploading

5. "Vessel Type" Code must refer to FAO-ISSCSV

Type of Fishing Gear	Vessel Type Refer to ISSCFV FAO	Type of Fishing Gear	Vessel Type (Refer to FAO ISSCSV)	Type of Fishing Gear	Vessel Type (Refer to FAO ISSCSV)
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	Purse Seine	Purse Seiners	PS/LHP	Purse seiners
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	None	Support Vessels	PS/LHP	Purse seiners
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	None	Support Vessels	PTBLHP	Trawlers
Purse Seines (PS)	Purse Seiners (SP)	None	Support Vessels	APSLHP	Purse seiners
Purse Seines (PS)	Purse Seiners (SP)	None	Support Vessels	PS/LHP	Purse seiners
Purse Seines (PS)	Purse Seiners (SP)	None	Support Vessels	PTBLHP	Trawlers
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	Purse Seine	Purse Seiners	PS/LHP	Purse seiners
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	None	Support Vessels	PS	Purse seiners
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	None	Support Vessels	PS	Purse seiners
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	None	Support Vessels	APSLHP	Purse seiners

Technical Problem on Data/Information Uploading

5. "Vessel Type" Code must refer to FAO-ISSCSV

Type of Fishing Gear	Vessel Type Refer to ISSCFV FAO	Type of Fishing Gear	Vessel Type Refer to ISSCFV FAO
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	Tuna Longline (LL)	LL
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	Tuna Longline (LL)	LL
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	Tuna Longline (LL)	LL
Purse Seines (PS)	Purse Seiners (SP)	Purse Seines (PS)	SP
Purse Seines (PS)	Purse Seiners (SP)	Purse Seines (PS)	SP
Purse Seines (PS)	Purse Seiners (SP)	Purse Seines (PS)	SP
Purse Seines (PS)	Purse Seiners (SP)	Purse Seines (PS)	SP
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	Tuna Longline (LL)	LL
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	Tuna Longline (LL)	LL
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	Tuna Longline (LL)	LL
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	Tuna Longline (LL)	LL
Tuna Longline (LL)	Longliners (LL)	Tuna Longline (LL)	LL

Official Submission Time: 2 Times/Year

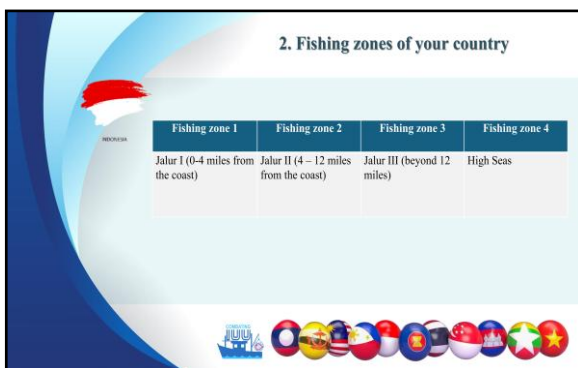
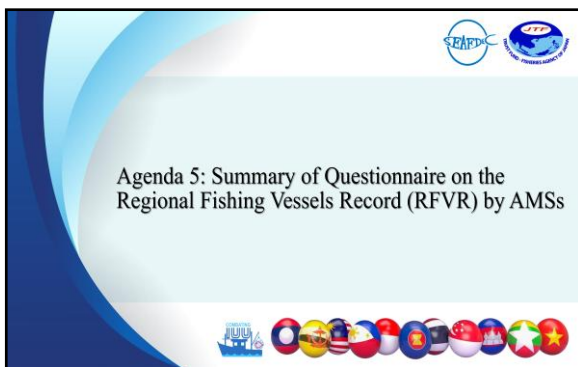
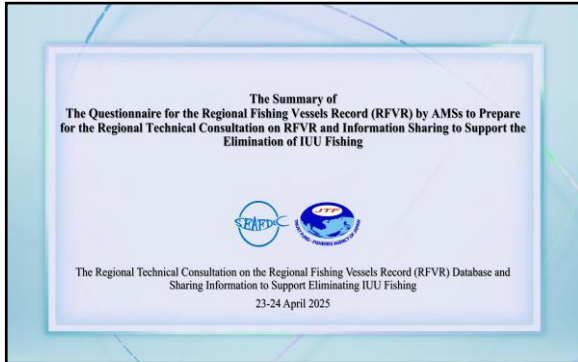
Country	JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	NOV
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM					
INDONESIA					
MALAYSIA					
MYANMAR					
PHILIPPINES					
SINGAPORE					
THAILAND					
VIET NAM					

DATA UPDATING

Total: 5,326 Vessels

COUNTRY	NO. VESSEL				Data Update
	FISHING VESSEL	CARRIER	SUPPORT	TOTAL	
BRUNEI	11	-	-	11	21 Apr. 2025
CAMBODIA	4	-	-	4	4 Oct. 2024
INDONESIA	471	5	-	476	6 Jan. 2025
MALAYSIA	219	-	-	219	21 Mar. 2025
MYANMAR	1,238	199	-	1,437	18 Feb. 2025
PHILIPPINES	57	55	91	203	14 Jan. 2025
SINGAPORE	-	1	-	1	1 Nov. 2021
THAILAND	325	14	-	339	31 Jul. 2024
VIET NAM	2,144	492	-	2,636	1 Nov. 2021





2. Fishing zones of your country



Fishing zone 1	Fishing zone 2	Fishing zone 3	Fishing zone 4
Rakking Fishing Ground	Ayawaddy Fishing Ground	Mon Fishing Ground	Tanintharyi Fishing Ground

The information from Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia 2022

Fishing zone 1	Fishing zone 2
From shore line to 5 nm in the northern area, 10 nm in the southern area	From outer limit of first fishing zone to EEZ limit



2. Fishing zones of your country



Fishing zone 1	Fishing zone 2
Small-scale fisheries operate within the 3 to 12 nautical mile zone.	Commercial fishing operations are conducted beyond 12 nautical miles from the shoreline




3. Definition of small-scale and commercial fisheries in your country




Small-scale fisheries	Commercial fisheries
Small-scale fisheries consist of individual fishers either full-time or part-time and small enterprises using artisanal fishing gears and outboard engine boats.	Commercial fisheries consist of medium or large enterprises using specific fishing gears with inboard engine vessels.




3. Definition of small-scale and commercial fisheries in your country




Small-scale fisheries	Commercial fisheries
Refers to family or customary fishing by using a small-scale fishing gear or a small-scale vessel combined with a small-scale fishing gear such as small cylindrical drum trap, hooked line, scoop net, small vertical slit trap, oblong trap, and vertical vase trap.	Refers to fishing using either a medium-scale fishing gear or a medium-scale fishing vessel, or a small vessel combined with medium-scale fishing gear such as seine net, river pelagic trawl, deep bag net, marine trawl, anchovy seine net, and purse seine net, or fishing using either a large-scale fishing gear or a large-scale fishing vessel, or a medium-scale fishing vessel combined with large-scale fishing gear such as Diagnet Fisheries, Bagnet for Freshwater Giant Prawn, and marine trawl operated by vessel with an engine capacity exceeding 500 horsepower.




3. Definition of small-scale and commercial fisheries in your country




Small-scale fisheries	Commercial fisheries
Small-scale fishermen in Indonesia are defined as fishermen who use traditional methods and operate boats with a gross tonnage (GT) of ≤ 5 GT. They are exempt from requiring a fishing license on national regulations, as they are categorized outside formal fisheries management measures. These fishermen primarily rely on coastal waters (within 0-4 nautical miles from the shore) for their livelihoods, catching fish and marine resources to meet daily household needs rather than for large-scale commercial purposes.	Commercial fisheries in Indonesia are defined as large-scale fishing activities that require mandatory licensing, including a Fisheries Business License and Fishing License. These fisheries are typically conducted by companies or large vessels, targeting industrial quotas in designated zones such as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Unlike small-scale fishermen (≤ 5 GT, exempt from licenses), commercial fisheries are subject to strict government regulations to ensure sustainable resource utilization.



3. Definition of small-scale and commercial fisheries in your country



Small-scale fisheries	Commercial fisheries
Known as Traditional Fishing Vessel (Fishing zone: A & B) Using traditional fishing gear and vessels with a load of less than 40 GRT	Commercial Fishing Vessel (Fishing zone: C, C2 and C3) Vessels with a load of 40 GRT and above



3. Definition of small-scale and commercial fisheries in your country




The information from Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia 2022


Small-scale fisheries	Commercial fisheries
Coastal fisheries: vessels of less than 30ft or using less than 12 HP engine operating in Zone 1	Industrial fisheries: vessels more than 30 ft or using more than 12 Hp engines operating in Zone 2



3. Definition of small-scale and commercial fisheries in your country



Small-scale fisheries	Commercial fisheries
Fishing vessels of less than 10 gross tonnage that operate in coastal area.	Fishing vessels with a gross tonnage of 10 or more, or fishing vessels of any size that are equipped with electric generators (also known as Light luring vessel)



4. Does your country have any laws or regulations to install the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)?

COUNTRY	Have law or regulations		Remarks
	No	Yes	
BRUNEI	✓		While Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) are not mandatory for commercial fishing vessels, the Automatic Identification System (AIS) is a required installation based on the terms and conditions of the fishing gear licence.
CAMBODIA		✓	The draft of Cambodia's new Fisheries Law Article 54 requires medium and large-scale fishing vessels operating in Cambodian marine areas and beyond to install and continuously use a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). This applies to vessels engaged in fishing or fishing-related activities.
INDONESIA		✓	Indonesia's Ministerial Regulation No. 33 of 2021 mandates Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for most fishing vessels, excluding small-scale fishers (S-GT) and aquaculture support vessels. Non-compliance results in administrative sanctions for both providers and users, with emergency exceptions for specific situations. VMS data is confidential, managed by MMAF, and used for fisheries surveillance and sustainable resource management to combat illegal fishing.
MALAYSIA	✓		The obligation to install the MTU (mobile transceiver unit) and ensure it is active at all times is stated in the license terms and conditions on zone C, C2 and C3 fishing vessels.
MYANMAR		✓	According to NPOA/IU Myanmar (2015) Department of Fisheries has installed VMS on all offshore fishing vessels in 2019-2020 fishing season.
THAILAND		✓	Commercial fishing vessels and carrier vessels with a gross tonnage of 30 or more that must be obtained commercial fishing licence.

The data in the table represents information compiled for April 2025.

5. The number of fishing vessels 24 meters in length and over in your country in each category

COUNTRY	NO. VESSEL			
	FISHING VESSEL	CARRIER	SUPPORT VESSEL	TOTAL
BRUNEI	11	-	-	11
CAMBODIA	4	-	-	4
INDONESIA	599	8	-	607
MALAYSIA	219	-	-	219
MYANMAR	1238	199	-	1437
THAILAND	328	11	-	339

The data in the table represents information compiled for April 2025.

6. The number of fishing vessels less than 24 meters in length in your country in each category

Country	Number of vessels less than 24 meters in length											
	<15 m.				15-17.99 m.				18-23.99 m.			
	Fishing vessels	Carrier vessels	Support vessels	Others	Fishing vessels	Carrier vessels	Support vessels	Others	Fishing vessels	Carrier vessels	Support vessels	Others
BN	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	14	0	4	0
KH	1716	-	-	-	493	-	-	-	115	-	-	-
ID	17	-	-	-	83	-	-	-	219	1	-	-
MY	Zone A	-	108	-	Zone B	-	11	-	Zone C & C2	-	2	-
	± 40,000				± 4,000				± 3,000			
MM	345	4	-	-	309	20	-	-	1157	181	-	-
TH	3,079	25	-	-	2,124	15	-	-	3,378	40	-	-

The data in the table represents information compiled for April 2025.

7. Do you have any problems or obstacles in uploading to the RFVR database in your country?

COUNTRY	Have any problem?		Remarks
	No	Yes	
BRUNEI	✓		
CAMBODIA		✓	Data collection: Difficult to collect update fishing vessel data from coastal fisheries administration cantonments.
INDONESIA		✓	Uploading data to the system: Sometimes, when uploading data to the system, errors frequently occur
MALAYSIA		✓	Uploading data to the system: we request a training session for the new Malaysian RFVR focal point
MYANMAR	✓		
THAILAND		✓	Other: The information regarding the name and nationality of the captain/master, as well as the name of the owner, is considered personal data and therefore unable to disclose.

The data in the table represents information compiled for April 2025.

8. Did you provide or create the username and password of the RFVR database to relevant authorities/agencies in your country?

COUNTRY	Create the username?		Remarks
	No	Yes	
BRUNEI	✓		No suggestion or advice or recommendation by the Secretariat for Department of Fisheries, Brunei Darussalam to share the username and password to other authorities' agencies.
CAMBODIA		✓	
INDONESIA		✓	we recently created RFVR accounts for the harbor master and fisheries supervisors
MALAYSIA	✓		We already have our own Malaysian Fishing Vessel Record (MFVR) system which is shared with Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (APMM).
MYANMAR	✓		DOF Myanmar has full responsibility for issuing License for all fishing and fish carrier vessels.
THAILAND		✓	

The data in the table represents information compiled for April 2025.

9. Did you promote the utilization of the RFVR database to relevant authorities/agencies in your country?

COUNTRY	Promote the utilization?		Remarks
	No	Yes	
BRUNEI	✓		
CAMBODIA		✓	We promote the utilization of the RFVR database to Marine Inspectorate, line Department within FIA, Fisheries Administration cantonments in the coastal provinces.
INDONESIA		✓	We have used RFVR to assist fisheries supervisors in determining the nationality of vessels caught while committing violations
MALAYSIA	✓		
MYANMAR	✓		
THAILAND	✓		

The data in the table represents information compiled for April 2025.

10. In the past year, could your country detect for foreigner illegal fishing vessels?

COUNTRY	Detect for foreigner illegal fishing vessels?	
	No	Yes
BRUNEI	✓	
CAMBODIA		✓
INDONESIA		✓
MALAYSIA	✓	
MYANMAR	✓	
THAILAND		✓

The data in the table represents information compiled for April 2025.

10. In the past year, could your country detect for foreigner illegal fishing vessels?

Country	How many foreigners illegal fishing vessel?	What is the flag of foreigner illegal fishing vessels?	What are the information tools that you use for detecting foreigner illegal fishing vessel?
 Cambodia	3 Fishing vessel were detected in 2018 and 2019. One was carrier vessel namely "Kerown Reefer" being suspected conducting IUU activities, arrived Cambodian water on 29 January 2018. This vessel was expelled of the territory of Cambodia, on 22 February 2018. 2 Chinese fishing vessels (trawls) were not authorized to do fishing in Cambodian EEZ.	Honduras and Chinese flag.	For Kerown Reefer Vessel, FIA got information from Australia Fisheries Management Authorities. For Chinese vessel, FIA got information from Ministry of Public Work and Transport.
 Indonesia	There are 28 foreigner vessels	There are 3 from Vietnam, 7 from Malaysia, 17 from Philippines, and 1 from Russia	Directorate General of Marine and Fisheries Resources Surveillance detects foreign fishing vessels committing violations through routine surveillance patrols at sea or report from the local fishermen.
 Thailand	12 fishing vessels	-	Regarding this question, Thailand would like to inform that we mostly receive the information obtained from sea surveillance or inspections at port.

The data in the table represents information compiled for April 2025.

11. Do you have any fish-carried vessels less than 24 meters from AMSs into your port?

COUNTRY	Fish-carried vessels less than 24 meters into your port?		Remarks
	No	Yes	
BRUNEI	✓		
CAMBODIA	✓		
INDONESIA	✓		According to the PSM A Secretariat in Indonesia, during 2024, foreign vessels that entered Indonesia included 39 vessels flagged under Japan, 1 vessel flagged under Russia, and 1 vessel flagged under South Korea
MALAYSIA	✓		
MYANMAR	✓		
THAILAND		✓	Myanmar

12. Do you think, if SEAFDEC develops small vessel database system focus carrier vessels to share information among 2 neighboring countries?

COUNTRY	Small vessel database focus carrier vessels to share information among 2 neighboring countries ?		Remarks
	No	Yes	
BRUNEI	✓		
CAMBODIA	✓		
INDONESIA			Indonesia still focusing on optimizing the benefits of utilizing RFVR data for fishing vessels measuring 24 meters in length and over.
MALAYSIA	✓		
MYANMAR		✓	
THAILAND		✓	

13. What is the importance KDEs for carrier vessel to share information among neighboring countries?

Key Data Elements for RFVR-24m

There are twenty-eight (28) Key Data Elements for Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) 24 meters in length and over as follows:

Name of Vessel	Vessel Registration Number	Owner Name	Type of Fishing Method/Gear	Fishing License Number	Expiration Date of Fishing License	Port of Registry
Gross Tonnage	Length	Breadth (B)	Depth (D)	Engine Power (Horsepower)	Shoal/Ship Bottom	Date of Launch/Year of Build/Year of Purchase
International Radio Call Sign	Engine Brand	Serial Number of Engine	Hull Material	Date of Registration	Area of Fishing Operation	Nationality of Vessel (Flag)
Previous Name	Previous Flag	Name of Captain/Master	Nationality of Captain/Master	Number of Crew	Nationality of Crew	IMO Number

KDEs	Brunei	Cambodia	Indonesia	Malaysia	Myanmar	Thailand
1. Vessel Registration Number						
2. Name of vessel						
3. Type of fishing method/gear						
4. Fishing License Number						
5. Expiration Date of Fishing License						
6. Port of registry						
7. Gross tonnage (G.T.)						
8. Length (L)						
9. Breadth (B)						
10. Depth (D)						
11. Engine Power						
12. Shoal/Bottom						
13. Date of launch/build						
14. International Radio Call Sign						
15. Engine Brand						
16. Serial number of engine						
17. Hull material						
18. Date of registration						
19. Area (country) of fishing operation						
20. Nationality of vessel (flag)						
21. Previous name (if any)						
22. Previous flag (if any)						
23. Name of captain/master						
24. Nationality of captain/master						
25. Number of crew (maximum/minimum)						
26. Nationality of crew						
27. IMO Number						
28. Owner Name						

RFVR	Brunei	Cambodia	Indonesia	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Thailand	Viet Nam
1. Vessel Registration Number								
2. Name of vessel								
3. Type of fishing method/gear								
4. Fishing License Number								
5. Expiration Date of Fishing Licenses								
6. Port of registry								
7. Gross tonnage (G.T.)								
8. Length (L)								
9. Breadth (B)								
10. Depth (D)								
11. Engine Power								
12. Shipyard								
13. Type of launching								
14. International Radio Call Sign								
15. Engine Brand								
16. Serial number of engine								
17. Hull material								
18. Date of registration								
19. Area (country) of fishing operation								
20. Nationality of vessel (flag)								
21. Previous name (if any)								
22. Previous flag (if any)								
23. Name of captain/master								
24. Nationality of captain/master								
25. Number of crew (maximum/minimum)								
26. Nationality of crew								
27. IMO Number								

Conclusion and Way Forward

The Regional Technical Consultation on the Regional Fishing Vessels Record (RFVR) Database and Information Sharing to Support the Eliminating IUU Fishing
 23-24 April 2025

National RFVR Focal Point

Country	Name	Position	E-mail
BN	MR. IRWAN HAJI MOHD NOOR	Senior Fisheries Officer	irwan.noor@fisheries.gov.bn
KH	MR. CHHUON KIMCHEA	Deputy Director of Department of Fisheries Affairs of Fisheries Administration	kimchhea@yahoo.com
ID	MR. HARYO TOPO YUWONO	Chair of the Work Team for Measurement and Registration of Fishing Vessels	abieharya@gmail.com
MY	MR. MOHD HAZRUL BIN MUHAMMAD	Senior Fisheries Officer	hazrul@dof.gov.my
MM			
PH	MR. BEVERLY S. SAN JUAN	Senior Aquaculturist	beyesajuan@gmail.com beverly@seafdec.org
SG			
TH	MR. VICHIT CHAISALEE	Director of Fisheries Resources Management and Measures Determination Division	fishregisdof@gmail.com
VN	1. NGUYEN VAN VU, 2. VU VAN TAM	Staff office at Department of Fisheries Viet Nam	bgvantam@gmail.com, vu.mard@gmail.com

Updating Timeframe at least 2 Times/Year

Country	JAN	APR	JUL	AUG	OCT	DEC
Brunei Darussalam						
Cambodia						
Indonesia						
Malaysia						
Myanmar						
Philippines						
Singapore						
Thailand						
Viet Nam						

CONCLUSION : Suitable range length for less than 24 m ✓

Country	Less than 15	15-17.99 m.	18-23.99 m.	Remark
BRUNEI		✓	✓	
CAMBODIA			✓	High sea only
INDONESIA			✓	High sea only
MALAYSIA			✓	C2 zone
MYANMAR	✓	✓	✓	
PHILIPPINES			✓	High sea and other water coastal state
SINGAPORE				
THAILAND	✓	✓	✓	
VIET NAM	✓	✓	✓	length from 6 to under 12m, from 12m to under 15m, from 15m to under 24m and from 24m and above

CONCLUSION : Suitable vessel type for less than 24 m ✓

Country	Fishing Vessels	Carrier Vessels	Support Vessels
BRUNEI	✓	✓	✓
CAMBODIA	✓		
INDONESIA	✓	✓	
MALAYSIA	✓	✓	✓
MYANMAR	✓	✓	
PHILIPPINES		✓	
SINGAPORE			
THAILAND		✓	
VIET NAM	✓	✓	

Way Forward

Report to 57 th Meeting of the SEAFDEC Council	20–22 May 2025
Develop RFVR less than 24 meters database	May-Dec 2025
AMs can upload vessels information less than 24 meters database	2026 (depend on submission period)



Training Department
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
www.seafdec.or.th

