



**Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of
Fisheries *Refugia* in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand**

REPORT

FIELD VISIT IN KOH KONG

KOH KONG, CAMBODIA
05-07 JULY 2017

Prepared by
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SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT



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1. Objective of the Trip

- 1) To Consult and discuss with relevant stakeholders to prepare and develop fisheries *refugia* and visit site at Peam Krasob and Koh Kapi in Koh Kong province.
- 2) Duration of the Trip: 3 days from 05 to 07 July 2017

2. Persons involved

- 3) There are 6 people involving in the field trip including 3 people from fisheries administration and other 3 people from SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF, which name as follow:
 - Mr. Leng Sy Vann, Deputy Director of Department of Fisheries Conservation in charge of Field Project Coordinator;
 - Mr. Chhan Sopheap, Chief of Aquatic Endangered Species Division of Director of Department of Fisheries Conservation;
 - Mr. Horm Radong, Officer of Marine Fisheries Research and Development Institute;
 - Dr. Christopher Paterson, Regional Project Director of the Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand from SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF;
 - Mr. WEERASAK Yingyuad, Fisheries Resources Enhancement Scientist from Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Training Department; and
 - Ms. Nathacha Sornvaree, Administration Officer from Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Training Department.

3. Activities of the Field Trip

3.1 Meeting with Deputy Governor of Koh Kong Province

- 4) The teamwork of fisheries refugia from FiA and SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF met and discussed with deputy governor of Koh Kong province on July 6, 2017. The meeting was held in the provincial meeting room on mechanism and collaboration between provincial authority and the fisheries refugia project.
- 5) **Mr. Leng Sy Vann**, on behalf of the teamwork, introduced to the deputy provincial governor and explained the purposes of the field trip in Koh Kong province and flying drone. The main aim is to get more information related to site for mackerel refugia development, collaborate, and support upcoming project implementation.
- 6) **Deputy Governor of Provincial** expressed thanks for the teamwork from FiA and SEAFDEC/UNEP/GEF. The provincial authority strongly supported the project process and implement in Koh Kong province. For flying drone, the provincial authority has not allowed to fly it because that site is close to maritime armed force base. But the drone can fly as long as permission and agreement from the army force there and the data will be sent to the army for checking.
- 7) **Mr. Chhan Sopheap** added that the project plans to conduct a local stakeholder consultation meeting at Peam Krasob to get more information on site, spawning habitat, and site for mackerel refugia development.
- 8) He requested to study and do research deeply related to sites and mackerel biology, especially mackerel spawning habitat by participating from local authorities and community fisheries.

He added that fisheries refugia project is very important to increase mackerel stock and to ensure sustainable resource use at national and regional level. In particular, local people depending on fishing around or within those area that enable them to catch more fish and that is a main part in order to increase their income.

- 9) Regarding that issue, the provincial authority strongly supported that project process and implement in Koh Kong province and he requested to study and research deeply related to sites and mackerel biology, especially mackerel spawning habitat with participation in local authorities and community fisheries.
- 10) He added that mackerel species migrate from Malaysia to Thailand and then to Cambodia as they are adult during November to December. Fishers can catch from 500-600Kg of fish during these months. He confident that project make recovered of mackerel as other fisheries resources. As for flying drone, he informed that that case provincial authority did not permit to fly drone because that site is close to maritime armed force base that is a place to defend the country at border. But the drone can fly as long as permission and agreement from army there and the data will be sent to the army for checking.
 - A. Site Visit at Peam krasob and Koh Kapi
 - B. Consultation with Fishermen at Village 4



The teamwork meeting with Deputy Governor of Koh Kong province 05 July 2017

- A. Meeting with Fishers in Village 4
 - 11) At the same day at afternoon the team continued to meet and consult fishers in Village 4, Sangkhat Dorng Tong, Khemerin city, Koh Kong province that is an Islamic village with total people of over 1000 households, including 90% of households involving in fishing. Those fishers are happy to support fisheries refugia project which help to increase fish stock of mackerel.
 - 12) Catching fish has decreased since last two years, especially mackerel and sometimes there are mostly not of fish to catch. Regarding mackerel spawning season, those fishers informed that they did not know from where mackerel migrate during its spawning season, but generally mackerel migrates reverse direction to wind which fishers can catch fish during September to

February. Mackerel mostly spawns in November to December based on fishers' experiences and young fish are found in January and adult in February and March.



The teamwork discussed with Fishers in Village 4, Sangkhat Dorn Tong, Khemerin City, Koh Kong province on 05 July 2017

B. Site Visit in Peam Kro Sob and Koh Kapi

13) The teamwork visited the site of Peam Krasob and Koh Kapi fisheries community that lead by chief of Peam Krasob community fisheries and Koh Kong Fisheries Administration Division to visit marine status at Peam Krasob and observe mackerel's spawning habitat.



Teamwork visited site at Peam Krasob community fisheries on 05 July 2017