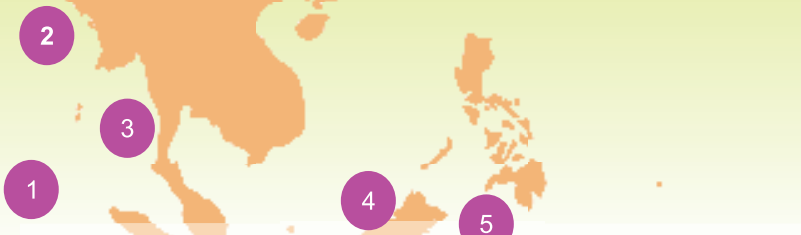
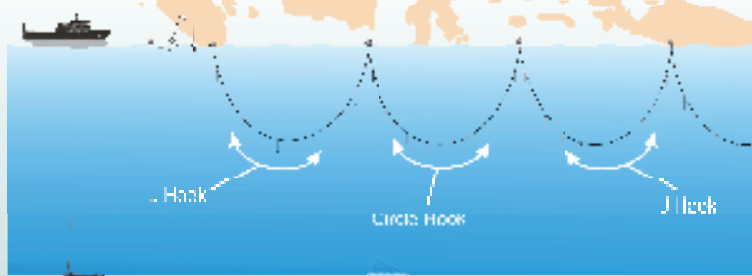


Promotion of the Use of Circle Hook in Southeast Asia

- FIVE EXPERIMENTS IN DIFFERENT SEA AREAS NAMELY
1. North-eastern Indian Ocean
 2. Bay of Bengal (Bangladesh, Srilanka and India waters)
 3. Andaman sea of Thai water, Myanmar waters and Thai-India waters
 4. Brunei Darussalam waters
 5. Celebas sea and Sulu sea of the Philippines.



OPERATION SETTING



INTRODUCTION

Many studies on the use of circle hooks in pelagic longline fishery have demonstrated that the use of circle hooks can significantly contribute to reducing sea turtle interactions compared to industry standard J-hooks. In the Southeast Asian Region, however the impact of circle hooks on pelagic target species and others is still not clear and the efficiency of them in comparison to J-hooks is also unknown. Therefore, SEAFDEC Training Department as a technical agency in promotion of responsible fishing technologies and practices in the Region, considered it important to study the mitigation of fishery-sea turtles interaction particularly focusing the efficiency of the circle hook in comparison with the J-hook in longline fishery.

OBJECTIVES

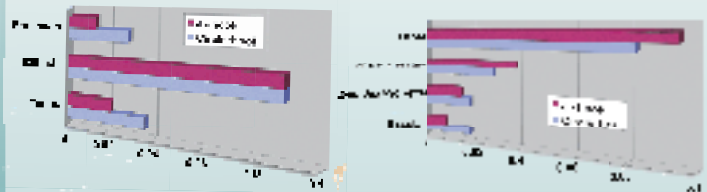
The objectives are to investigate the efficiency of circle hooks in comparison with J-hooks and hooking positions of two different types of hooks. And to investigate the impact of longline fishery on mortality of sea turtle as incidental catch in the waters of Southeast Asian Region.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experiments with both kind of hooks were conducted using SEAFDEC's research vessels, namely, M.V.SEAFFDEC and M.V.SEAFFDEC 2. The number of hooks used was 15-20 each basket and 200-300 baskets were set at the depth ranging from 60-300 m.

RESULT

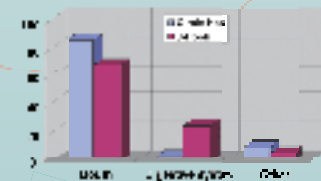
No sea turtle was caught during the experiments. There was a 3% increase in total tunas and other target species caught on the circle hooks compared to J-hooks. In contrast, there was a 22% reduction in the total by catch of sharks-rays and others of no value caught by the circle hooks compared to J-hooks.



The hook rate (%) of target species and bycatch caught by circle hook in comparison with J-hook



HOOKING POSITIONS



Almost 85.4% of fishes caught were hooked at the mouth and only 3.6% found hooked in the digestive system when circle hooks were used while 24.7% of J-hooks were found in the digestive system

