



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

REPORT

ON SITE BASE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING IN KEP PROVINCE

KEP, CAMBODIA
17 NOVEMBER 2022

Prepared by

**DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES CONSERVATION
FISHERIES ADMINISTRATION
CAMBODIA**

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT CENTER
TRAINING DEPARTMENT**



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1. Opening a meeting

1.1 The site base management board meeting in Kep province was organized by Fisheries Administration collaborating with Kep Provincial Hall Administration on 17 November 2022 under presided by Mr. Prum Kuntyk, Kep Provincial Deputy Governor.

1.2 The meeting was attended by the member of Technical Working Group (TWG) of Marine Fisheries Management Area including Blue Swimming Crab at Koh Po and Koh Tonsay Archipelago, Kep province consisting of Fisheries Administration, Fisheries Administration Cantonment, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, District Authorities, Provincial Police, Provincial Military Police, and other involved provincial departments. There are 22 participants attending in this meeting (**see Annex 1 &3**).

1.3 Mr. Leng Syvann expressed thanks very much for Mr. Prum Kuntyk, Kep provincial Deputy Governor and all members of this TWG, taking their chances to join this meeting. He informed that this is an important meeting, which the member of TWG reported progressing activities done in past such as 1) Progress Report of Marine Fisheries Management Area at Koh Po and Koh Tonsay Archipelago, Kep province, 2) action plan for deploying concrete boxes at the boundary of blue swimming crab refugia at Koh Po, Kep province, 3) Dissemination of closed season of blue swimming crab at the refugia sites at Koh Po, Kep province, and 4) showing the results of METT Score on MFMA in Kep province.

1.4 Mr. Prum Kuntyk welcomed to all members of the TWG, taking their chances to come that meeting today and he felt happy to work with all members of TWG in order to manage sustainable marine fisheries resources, especially blue swimming crab resource. He added that Kep is a province where is rich of blue swimming crab with good tastes than other provinces, so it is needed to protect and conserve those crabs in sustainability for serving tourism and fishing activities as well.

1.5 In particular, he informed the meeting that on 22 November 2022, we will plan to release blue swimming crab gravid into refugia site at Koh Po in the number of 100kg and also deploy 50 concrete blocks into the refugia site with high ranking participations from MAFF and FiA as well. This is auspicious event for Kep province contributing to marine fisheries resource protection and conservation, especially increasing the stock of BSC in the nature.

2. Progress Reports Presented by TWG Members

2.1 Mr. Ouk Vibol presented progress report of MFMA and BSC Refugia at Koh Po and Koh Ton Archipelago, Kep province. His presentation focused on 1) Strengthening law enforcement to crack down illegal fishing, 2) Training and Public Awareness raising to skill officers, 3) Research studies and monitoring habitat status and main marine resources, 4) Ensuring fund sustainability for management and making livelihood improved, and 5) Strengthening integrated management mechanism to ensure fisheries resources management in MFMA in Kep province.

2.2 He added that regarding strengthening law enforcement to crack down illegal fishing, FiA provided training course on the implementation of SMART Program to FiAC officers, that is tool for controlling and monitoring fishing offending activities, so it is advantage for FiAC officers when they have known and understood this program. Moreover, DFC/FiA collaborating with MCC has deployed 530 concrete boxes into MFMA and BSC refugia to protect sea grass and coral reef, and increase artificial reef for animal and fish species, especially prevent trawler fishing into those area.

2.3 Regarding a public awareness raising, FiA collaborating with MCC and WEA to provide training course on diving skill and marine fisheries resources assessment to FiAC and FiA officers. In addition, FiA collaborating with FiAC disseminated the importance of BSC refugia during closed season and also the importance of endangered fisheries resources. Moreover, FiA has collaborating with MCC to do research study in MFMA to see how about sea grass and coral reef status and dolphin population, and find suitable sites for growing coral reef as well

2.4 After that he informed the meeting that as the result of establishment of MFMA and BSC refugia, it was observed that 1) illegal fishing declines, sea grass status better and better gradually, 3) 41 marine turtles were released, 4) MFMA become great habitat for dolphins, 5) national and international organizations interested and participated in supporting

2.5 Mr. Kuch Vireak reported the meeting about the dissemination and cracking down illegal fishing activities during closed season of blue swimming crab from 01 May to 30 July 2022 based on the proclamation of establishment of management area of blue swimming crab refugia at Koh Po, Kep province dated 12 April 2018.

2.6 He informed the meeting that Kep FiAC collaborated with Department of Fisheries Conservation, and Kep Provincial Hall Administration disseminated the noticed letter on closed season of blue swimming crab at the refugia site. The closed season of BSC fishing starts on 01st May to 31st July every year and during that period, Kep provincial hall administration issued noticed letter on the prohibition of using elongated collapsible trap and other electro fishing gear in refugia sites dated on 20 July 2021.

2.7 Regarding dissemination, FiAC broadcasted the noticed letters via local media and face book of provincial hall administration and personal, and also have a meeting with fishers and community fisheries at place about the closed season of blue swimming crab. Moreover, FiAC collaborated with community fisheries to patrol and crack down illegal fishing activities at refugia site as well.

1 MCC's presentation on Strategies of Concrete Block Deploying and Next Plan

4.1. Ms. Lor Somphos presented strategies of deploying concrete block in order to restore ecosystem at Kep Archipelago, reduce illegal fishing, increase fish stock, and protect key habitat such as sea grass and coral reef. Main locations are selected to deploy in sea grass and high biodiversity rich areas around koh Mak Prang, Koh Ses, and Koh Ang Krong. So far, 180 artificial reefs (2000 concrete blocks) have been deployed into MFMA in Koh Po and Koh Tonsay Archipelago, however there are some problems facing such as illegal fishing vessels and irregular weather.

4.2. Then she also showed MCC's next plan including a) MCC still continue to protect sea grass around Koh Po and Koh Tonsay; b) MCC will work closely with Dolphin Teamwork to seek and identify specific area for Dolphin protection; c) MCC will work with partnerships and community fisheries to understand clearly about the good location selection for concrete block deploying, and d) MCC will seek more budgets from partnerships to build and deploy artificial reef.

3. Discussion

3.1 Mr. Chairperson of meeting open a floor for discussion

3.2 Mr. Chhork Sineath informed the meeting that FiAC has worked with MCC and will plan to deploy more concrete boxes into conservation zone in order to prevent trawler into that area.

3.3 Mr. Chairperson of meeting confirmed that so far 520 concrete boxes have been deployed into MFMA and BSC refugia in order to prevent trawler into that area

3.4 Ms. Tay Chen informed the meeting that WEA organization has worked closely with FiA, FiAC, and MCC related to patrolling, disseminating biodiversity conservation and sea grass dissemination in MFMA, protecting marine turtle, and supporting concrete boxes deploying. Thus, she requested Kep Provincial Hall Administration to support project activities implemented by WEA organization in Kep province.

3.5 Mr. Ouk Vibol took this opportunity to express the meeting that as Mr. Chairperson of meeting told us during opening meeting, on 22 November 2022, we will have a special event collaborating with FiAC to release BSC gravid in the number of 100 kg into refugia site at Koh Po in order to increase the stock of BSC in the nature and also inform fishermen to know and understand not to consume and sell BSC gravid.

3.6 Mr. Chhun Chan Vanthorn informed the meeting that Kep provincial administration was happy to work with FiA and FiAC to assist and coordinate this work to get successful.

3.7 Mr. Chairperson of the meeting summarized the results of following meeting:

- Supported reports done by the members of WTG,
- Agreed to continue next meeting will be held next year, and
- Supported and collaborate with FiA and FiAC to organize BSC gravid releasing program into refugia site at Koh Po, Kep province, which will be held on 22 November 2022.

4. Close meeting

4.1 Mr. Chairperson of the meeting expressed thanks very much to all members of TWG, attending this important meeting and appreciated very much for members of this TWG reported to the meeting and supported decision on the establishment of PMC of MFMA from now.

4.2 There was not any comment from participants, Mr. Deputy Provincial Governor declared to close the meeting on 5.20pm.

ANNEX 1: List of Participants in the Site Base Management Board Meeting in Kep province on 17 November 2022

No.	Name	Sex	Title	Organization	Telephone
1	Mr. Prum Kuntkyk	M	Deputy Governor of Kep Province	Kep Administration	012974816
2	Ouk Vibol	M	Director	DFC/FiA	012908121
3	Tay Chhen	F	Field Research Technical Officer	WEA	0965327417
4	Lor Sam Phos	F	Coordinator	MCC	0963831649
5	Sok Cheda	F	Deputy Director	PDoAFF	087422298
6	Chhork Sineath	M	Chief of Division	Kep FiAC	012828926
7	Kyng Sophany	M	Vice Director	Kep FiAC	012494269
8	Chhun Chan Vanthorn	M	Director of Division	Provincial Administration	017861444
9	Sok Sophea	F	Officer	Kep FiAC	0962261804
10	Kuch Vireak	M	Director	Kep FiAC	012875587
11	Ouk Vuthy	M	Director of Inter Sector Division	Kep Provincial Hall Administration	077926511
12	Pheun Phalla	M	Deputy Director	Kep FiAC	012947378
13	Theng Borin	M	Director	PDoAFF in Kep	
14	Gnoun Udom	M	Director of Department	Maritime Open Committee	077990044
15	Va Sotepy	F	Vice Chief of Division	DFC/FiA	016877729
16	Kao Monirith	M	Deputy Director	Marine Fisheries Administration Inspectorate	012583828
17	Leng Sy Vann	M	Deputy Director	DFC/FiA	017446373
18	Tan Socharly	M	Officer	Kep FiAC	098635018
19	Keuth Sarom	M	Director of Division	Kep Provincial Police	012927868
20	Theng Borin	M	Director	Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries	077410103
21	Luch Sam Sak	M	Deputy Director	Provincial Department of Planning	012714200
22	Kim Sokha	M	Director of Division	DFC/FiA	012784687

ANNEX 2: Schedule for the Site Base Management Board Meeting in Kep province on 17 November 2022

Date/Time	Description	Responsible person
16 November 2022		
10:00am-2:30pm	Leaving Phnom Penh for Kep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ouk Vibol Mr. Leng Sy Vann Mr. Kao Monirith

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Va Sotepy • Mr. Kim Sokha
17 November 2022		
8:00am- 8:30am	Registration	All
8:30am-9:00am	Organization of a meeting	Mr. Leng Syvann Deputy Director of Department of Fisheries Conservation
9:00am- 9:15am	Welcome speech and Open a meeting	Mr. Prom Kunti Kep Provincial Deputy Governor
9.150am -10.30am	Progress Report of Marine Fisheries Management Area at Koh Po and Koh Tonsay Archipelago, Kep province reported by Director of Department of Fisheries Conservation	Mr. Ouk Vibol Director of Department of Fisheries Conservation
10:30am-11:00am	Snack break	All participants
11:00am-11:30am	Dissemination of closed season of blue swimming crab at the refugia sites at Koh Po, kep province reported by FiAC-Kep	Mr. Kuch Vireak Director of Fisheries Administration Cantonment in Kep
11:30am-12:00am	Strategy of concrete boxes deployment and next plan presented by MCC	MCC Representative
12:00am-2:00pm	Lunch break	All participants
2:00am-3.30pm	Discussion together	Facilitated and led by Mr. Prum Kunti Kep Provincial Deputy Governor
3:30am-3.50pm	Snack break	All participants
3.50pm-5.00pm	Discussion together	Facilitated and led by Mr. Prum Kunti Kep Provincial Deputy Governor
5:00pm-5:20pm	Closure of a meeting	Mr. Prum Kunti Kep Provincial Deputy Governor
18 November 2022		
9:00am -1:30pm	Leaving Kep for Phnom Penh	All

ANNEX 3: Participants' Photos in the Site Base Management Board Meeting in Kep province on 17 November 2022

