

Capacity Building on Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (E-EAFM)

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Introduction

The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) was advocated in the Southeast Asian region to strike a balance among the diverse societal objectives by taking into account the knowledge and uncertainties of biotic, abiotic, and human components of ecosystems and their interactions and applying an integrated approach to fisheries within ecologically meaningful boundaries (FAO, 2003). EAFM is essentially an integrated management strategy within ecologically defined boundaries, and the integrated systems approach promoted through the EAFM tie together integrated coastal management and ecosystem level perspectives, EAFM is an attempt to do fisheries management in an ecosystem context (Link, 2010) which one method is the training for stakeholder.

Training courses on the Essential Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (E-EAFM) had been organized by SEAFDEC Training Department through the REBYCII CTI Project since 2014 to promote the concept and principles of EAFM in the Asian Member States (AMSs). The objective of the training is to build the understanding of the concept and need for ecosystem approach to fisheries management and acquire necessary skills and knowledge to be able to develop, implement and monitor an EAFM plan for better management of capture fisheries

Method/Activities

Training process

The EAFM training course will be conducted for five days. The process as follows:

Day 1: Understand what EAFM is and why it should be used

Day 2: Understand what moving towards EAFM entails

Day 3: Work through the EAFM planning process

Day 4: Work through implementing EAFM plans and

Day 5: Present and receive feedback on group EAFM plans.

Course content

The content are in the five steps (including start up) that shown in the figure 1.

Step 1: Definition and scope of the Fisheries Management Unit (FMU)

Step 2: Identification and prioritization of the issues and goals

Step 3: Development of the EAFM plan

Step 4: Implementation of the EAFM plan and

Step 5: Monitoring, Evaluation and Adaption.



Figure 1 Five steps of EAFM

E-EAFM and the target participants

For E-EAFM, the target participants are the mid-level managers and staff working with fisheries, environment, economic development and planning departments who are responsible for managing fisheries and the associated marine environment and suitable for fisheries extension officers, junior-level staff or students at fisheries research institutes and colleges.

Training of the Trainer on E-EAFM and the target participants

For further extend and transfer knowledge and information deep down to each country the Training for Trainer (TOT) become the most vital process for all members, learning and understanding all the content and knowing how to transfer appropriately. The target participants for the TOT must be the persons who already passed the E-EAFM training course. The TOT is very intensive and aiming to strengthen knowledge and skill for the selected participants, these to make sure that the participants will be confidence and be able to transfer and apply the concept and principle of the E-EAFM to their own countries in afterward.

Result and way forwards

Since 2015, there have been more than 155 participants from SEAFDEC's member countries were trained for the E-EAFM training courses. Most of the participants (> 90%) mentioned that their course expectation and objectives are fulfilled. For the TOT, there are totally more than 25 participants were trained, (4 persons-Thailand, 7 persons-Myanmar, 7 persons-Cambodia, 7 persons-Lao PDR). SEAFDEC/TD will continue in taking the task to build up and strengthening the fisheries officers of its' member countries on the understanding of the EAFM concept as well as to be able to apply and make use of the concept in afterward.

Reference

SEAFDEC/SEC. 2017. *The Southeast Asian State of Fisheries and Aquaculture 2017*. Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/ Secretariat. SEC/ST/49. 104 pages.