The Collaborative Research Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand Onboard M.V. SEAFDEC 2

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Introduction

The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) in collaboration withMember Countries, fisheries agencies, universities and institutions carried out the "Survey on Marine Fisheries Resources and Marine Environment in the Gulf of Thailand." The overall objectives of this collaborative research survey were as follows: to support SEAFDEC Member Countries to conduct marine fisheries and environmental data and information collection using the research vessel, and to promote the offshore fishery resources exploration through the research and human resources capacity by utilization of SEAFDEC's Training and Research Vessel, M.V.SEAFDEC 2.

This collaborative research cruise survey started from 17 September to 18 October 2018, with 73 total number of survey stations (49 in Thailand and 24 in Cambodia). There were 43 research topics that had been proposed for this collaborative research survey.

The major envisage outputs of the survey were the following:

1. Baseline data on marine fishery resources and marine environmental situation for scientific reference as well as the status of marine fishery resources in the Gulf of Thailand;
2. Increasing the number of experienced researchers on marine fishery resources and marine environment of SEAFDEC Member Countries;
3. Strengthening the network of fisheries and oceanography for scientist/researcher in Southeast Asia; and
4. Maximizing the efficiency and benefits of the SEAFDEC research vessel and research equipment to support on marine fishery resources and marine environmental survey of SEAFDEC Member Countries.

Activities

The research activities onboard M.V.SEAFDEC 2 were divided into two (2) main types, namely: Marine Fishery Resources Survey and Marine Environmental Survey. For marine fishery resources survey, Scientific Echo Sounder and bottom trawl were used. While for marine environmental survey, various instruments were used to collect biological, chemical, and physical oceanographic parameters, *e.g.* Conductivity Temperature and Depth (CTD), water samplers, sediment samplers, plankton net samplers, together with other interested issues such as Marine Debris and Meteorology were also observed in this survey.

After collection of samples from the sea, all samples were stored and brought back for analysis at the responsible agencies for each research topic. The analysis process will take around six (6) months to one (1) year depending on the research topics. The results of all research topics will be presented at the technical seminar organized by SEAFDEC in the year 2020.