

## **SEAFDEC's Views Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 78/69, Paragraph 361, on "Marine Ecosystem Restoration"**

A healthy marine ecosystem is fundamental to ensuring the sustainability of marine resources. In support of marine ecosystem restoration, the following priority areas should be given consideration:

- **Promotion of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (EAFM)** through strengthening national and regional capacities to implement EAFM frameworks that balance ecological well-being, human well-being, and good governance. These initiatives are tailored to the specific needs and socio-economic characteristics of fishing communities in Southeast Asia. Approaches to promote the conservation of critical habitats and ecosystems—such as fisheries refugia, artificial reefs, fish aggregating or enhancing devices, and marine protected areas (MPAs) that incorporate fisheries objectives—represent another key area of importance.
- **Combating IUU Fishing.** Supporting regional cooperation for combating IUU fishing, including the development of tools for fishing vessels' information sharing, enhancing traceability of fish and fishery products, strengthening MCS and port-State measures, regulating transshipment at sea, and the application of artificial intelligence to support the combating of IUU.
- **Development and promotion of environmentally friendly fishing gear and practices** to minimize adverse impacts on fishery resources and marine ecosystems. This includes studies on the impacts and mitigation of impacts from fishing gears and methods on the environment as well as measures to reduce the catch of juvenile and non-target species, including marine mammals.
- **Understanding and mitigating marine debris, including abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG),** by strengthening regional cooperation to address marine debris from fishing activities, particularly the ALDFG, and by promoting fishing gear marking and reporting mechanisms in accordance with relevant international instruments.
- **Enhancing coordination for sustainable exploitation, conservation, and management of the marine living resources** through the joint scientific research program and regional common policies. This includes activities aimed at improving understanding of the status of fishery resources, such as resource exploration and survey, assessment using methodologies appropriate for the mixed-stock fisheries of Southeast Asia, and application of hydroacoustic techniques for stock assessment.
- **Fostering sustainable and climate-resilient technologies,** including the scaling up of innovations such as sustainable seaweed farming; improving understanding of climate variability and environmental change and their impacts on fisheries and marine ecosystems; promoting the use of solar energy in fisheries-related activities; and enhancing energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions, particularly from small-scale fisheries.
- **Ensuring that fisheries interests are adequately reflected in global policy frameworks related to ecosystem and biodiversity protection, the Law of the Sea**

on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), and the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, taking into account their implications for fisheries management and food security.

By addressing these critical and emerging priorities, it is envisaged that the health, resilience, and restoration of marine ecosystems will be further strengthened, thereby supporting sustainable fisheries and long-term food security.