

Abstract

SESSION 1:

A Decade of Partnerships in Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia: Synergies and Achievements

WORKSHOP 1.3:

Coastal and Ocean Governance in the Seas of East Asia: from Nation to Region

Capacity Building in Monitoring and Assisting Management of Tuna Fisheries in the East Asian Seas

SungKwon Soh

Science Manager
WCPFC Secretariat
Federated States of Micronesia



Highly migratory fish stocks such as tunas do not recognize man-made boundaries. Hence, stock assessments and fishery management must be conducted on a regional and the whole migratory-range basis. The most fundamental requirement for stock diagnosis and subsequent implementation of management actions is data collection of fishery and scientific survey data. The purpose of this presentation is to share how national capacity has improved to cope with international and regional requirements in collaboratively reducing threats and stress that may impact shared fishery resources in the East Asian Seas, which is connected to the western and central Pacific Ocean.

The current project continues port sampling and data collection activities building on the previous project that targeted two areas: i) data collection and ii) capacity building through government's awareness. To achieve these two targets, a series of sub-projects conducted several workshops to improve government's awareness, to validate collected data and to estimate annual total tuna catches by species and by fishery in the three project participating countries, Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam.

Key conclusions include improved government awareness and institutional arrangements. In Indonesia, the Research Centre for Fisheries Management and Conservation is working to establish a second marine station in Bitung covering the Pacific tuna fisheries, after the Banoa Marine Station that covers Indian Ocean tuna fisheries. Once established, the government will cover all costs for data collection in that area. In the Philippines, all enumerators are now fully supported for data collection through a government budget, part of which was previously supported by the project. In Viet Nam, nine provincial governments related to tuna fisheries agreed to their central government's instruction to reform their 30-year-long data collection procedures by changing to WCPFC's data collection and sampling protocol which is more scientific than their old method.



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Global Targets
Local Benefits

Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

About SungKwon Soh:

Dr SungKwon SOH is the Science Manager of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), coordinating scientific activities since the start of the Commission in 2006. He has also been serving as the Project Manager of the West Pacific East Asia projects for Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam, funded by the Global Environment Facility. His academic backgrounds include B.S. in Mathematics, B.S. in Oceanography and M.S. in Marine Ecology at the Seoul National University in Korea. He received his Ph.D. in stock assessment and fisheries management at the University of Washington, Seattle, USA. Before joining the Commission, he worked at the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Seoul, Korea, covering RFMO negotiations at CCSBT, IATTC, IWC, WCPFC, CCAMLR, etc. He is currently working at WCPFC Secretariat, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.