



**CORAL TRIANGLE  
INITIATIVE**  
ON CORAL REEFS, FISHERIES  
AND FOOD SECURITY



## **Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management Technical Working Group**

### **Regional Workshop on the Sustainable Management of Shared, Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish in the Coral Triangle Region**

*Smallville 21 Hotel, Iloilo City  
7 July 2017*

#### **I. Background**

In the CTI Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) Target 3 of Goal 4, Ecosystem approach to management of fisheries (EAFM) and other marine resources fully applied, states: Effective measures in place to help ensure exploitation of shared tuna stocks is sustainable, with tuna spawning areas and juvenile growth stages adequately protected. To achieve this target, one of the regional actions (RA 2) identified in the RPOA is to establish an informal CTI Forum on Tuna Governance to serve as an informal dialogue and partnership mechanism to share information, advance the above work program, and develop and promote practical solutions toward sustainable management of shared tuna stocks, including through public-private partnerships (PPP).

So during the 5th EAFM TWG meeting on June 1, 2015 in Manado, Indonesia, the working group recommended “the proposed TOR for conduct of the Regional Workshop on the Sustainable Management of Tunas be considered as further venue to discuss the proposed informal Tuna Governance mechanism for CTI-member countries and that planning of the regional event be coordinated through the Regional Secretariat.” Further, SOM11 tasked the EAFM TWG to coordinate with the Regional Secretariat in planning for a regional workshop on Sustainable Management of Tunas in 2016 and SOM12 also endorsed the conduct of Tuna Governance Workshop in 2017 subject to the endorsement of member countries. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) was requested to draft the Terms of Reference for the establishment of an informal CTI Forum on Tuna Governance which was then the basis and reference for the discussion during the regional workshop. The event was an opportunity to discuss and share how the CT6 can best manage together the region’s tuna stocks and straddling migratory species.

#### **II. Introduction**

As the Chair of the EAFM Technical Working Group, Ms. Rosalie Masu welcomed the participants to the Tuna Governance Workshop in Iloilo City. She extended her gratitude towards the Government of the Philippines through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) for hosting the event. She also thanked the CTI Regional Secretariat and WWF for the support given for the conduct of the workshop.

Among the CT6, delegates from the government, private sector and non-government organizations from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste came to join the discussions and workshops. Malaysia was unable to send delegates to the event. Government officials from the marine and fisheries, agriculture and environment sector officially represented the member states. Representatives from the tuna industry from the different countries were also present to share the experiences, views and insights of the private stakeholders. Partners from the various offices of WWF and a representative from USAID Oceans also came to attend the workshop. An external facilitator was engaged to facilitate the whole day event.

The event aimed to provide opportunity for member countries, development partners, private sector and other stakeholders to discuss the establishment of a platform for collaboration on the sustainable management of tuna as well as other important fishery resources that are shared and/or straddling in the Coral Triangle Region. Specifically, it aspired to:

- Bring together key decision makers and stakeholders to discuss the merits of establishing an informal regional tuna governance mechanism
- Define general function, scope and objectives of this informal governance body
- Identify pathways and process

### **III. Rational for the Informal Tuna Governance mechanism in the Coral Triangle**

*Presented by Dr. Jose Ingles*

Tuna management for archipelagic states is very unique and complex. There is a need for a management regime that encompasses Archipelagic Waters since tunas are a significant economic driver, a livelihood generator and are critical for regional food security, particularly the growing sector of tuna handline fishing. It is known that some tunas are shared species like the Bullet and Frigate tunas while others are straddling like the Longtail and Oceanic Bonitos and others are highly migratory like the Skipjack, Yellowfin, Bigeye, Albacore, and Southern Bluefin tuna. Hundred thousands of small-scale fishers are dependent in this multibillion dollar industry.

Some CT countries are members of Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) where the management of Skipjack, Yellowfin and Bigeye is mandatory. Nonetheless, it was suggested that there is a need for a regional cooperation among the CT6 to discuss issues and strategize collective actions in order to find integrated solutions that will create better benefits and empower the small-scale tuna fishers with the goal of maintaining the tuna resources of each country at healthy level. More so, that the small-scale tuna fisheries operate predominantly in archipelagic waters located in the sovereign areas of the countries where WCPFC has highly limited governance influence. Moreover, Timor-Leste, is not a member of any RFMO, hence, this informal forum may provide the needed support to achieve their aspirations to develop their tuna fisheries sustainably.

The following insights on the benefits of Informal Consultative Forum in Coral Triangle was shared during the regional workshop:

- Increase influence on the RFMOs and CT6 to work collaboratively as a collective voice in the RFMOs

- Discuss attendant issues and solutions on tuna management challenges that are unique to the CT member states
- Develop a collaborative work program on various fisheries issues on protection of spawning and juvenile growth areas, financing mechanisms, research and information sharing
- Develop a strategy to strengthen the fisheries sector as the region gears up as a single economic bloc under ASEAN integration

Further, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (and Vietnam) form the western boundary of WCPFC. There is a gray area that is not well defined by WCPFC convention rules which is a source of uncertainty in reportorial requirements for Indonesia and Philippines. On the other hand, Malaysia, a cooperating member of the IOTC is not a member of the WCPFC while Timor-Leste is not a member of any RFMOs.

The platform can also be helpful in the discussion of managing important, shared and straddling species such as domestic fleets; small tunas which play a significant role in the maintenance of the ecosystem health but with no regional governance body looking after this; the Albacore Tuna, a temperate species that is now appearing in Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippine catches needs some policy considerations; the small-scale tuna fisheries which is unique among several CT countries; and, the border issues which is often the cause of disputed IUU fishing.

Collaborative research and the use of technologies to address issues related to regional management of shared, straddling, and highly migratory stocks can also be tackled in the platform particularly on the management of other important shared non-tuna stocks such as small pelagics; impacts of climate change on major fisheries; and, the application of tools such as certification, catch shares, marine spatial planning, electronic Catch Documentation Systems, etc.

There are many existing inter-governmental governance arrangements today, however, there is no platform that includes all the CT6 to discuss shared, straddling and highly migratory species.

### ***Open Forum***

- The Co-Chair (Timor-Leste) suggested to review the data presented. The speaker said that the data came from UN FAO which usually lags by 3-4 years. However, he said that this is the most accurate data so far.
- Support for Timor-Leste depends with the country because the RFMOs are open to membership. There are requirements for membership application such as a Letter of Intent. The country can apply as a member, a cooperating country, or as an observer. There will also be a background check for the potential member. Timor-Leste can also request guidance from other CTI member countries on this.

### **IV. Setting Priorities**

The objective of this session is to identify and/or agree on potential priority issues for the regional fisheries cooperation. Participants were requested to come up with a list of priorities that can be

addressed in a regional (CT6) platform from 2018 - 2020. The facilitator also suggested to consider the regional actions stipulated in the RPOA if these are still applicable, or base their answers from these.

From the suggestions of the participants at the end of the workshop session, the following statements of priorities was agreed by the group:

- Collaboration and cooperation amongst CT6 members established through information-sharing, technical working group/committee, conduct of regional conferences, and sustainable financing.
- Support the conduct of studies/researches on tuna management, stock assessment, spawning and migratory activities in the Coral Triangle.
- Building capacity among member, non-member, observer countries through trainings/programs on technology application, assessments, and human resource.
- Ensure food security and livelihood through socio-economic research and support to small scale tuna fisheries in local communities.
- Influence policy through strengthening science-based policy development and establishment of action plans for tuna management in Coral Triangle.

Below is a table showing the different priorities to be addressed by the platform as suggested by the participants. These are grouped together based on the above statements of priorities:

**Table 1: List of Priorities by Category**

Collaboration and Information sharing	Research	Capacity Building	Food Security and Livelihood	Policy
Collaborative influence through joint submissions to RFMO	Juvenile research and collaborative management solution	Capacity building for observer countries	Socio-economic research on livelihood	Strengthen science-based policy development (submissions)
Information sharing among CT6 including international	Support regional tuna research (juveniles, nursery grounds) to know whether it is really shared stock or not	Technology trainings to be conducted to assist our actions that will be taken to protect our tuna	Support for small scale tuna fisheries in local communities	Require countries to formulate rebuilding plan for Big Eye tuna
Cooperation among member countries	Provide tagging studies to track tuna migratory in CT region	Build capacity for tuna stock assessment		For CT6 to come up with position paper for WCPFC to set the T/ LRP for the YFT tuna stocks

Collaboration and Information sharing	Research	Capacity Building	Food Security and Livelihood	Policy
Collaboration or share information to combat IUU	Research on spawning ground and season	Tuna exchange programs to support CT6 countries that need assistance on tuna issues		For CT6 to protect the transboundary spawning areas
Convene regional scientific advisory group on EAFM	Encourage the study and development of harvest strategy for member country	Learning exchanges of CT6 to USAID Oceans learning sites for CDT / EAFM		
Conduct once a year tuna workshop among CT6	Archipelagic stock assessments	Workshop to design / develop CDTS; focus on CT Pacific countries		
Strengthen cooperative arrangements of the group	Stock assessment design standard CMMs	Information sharing and networking		
Support the work plan on the harvest strategy process agreed at WCPFC 13 for tuna species	Research on spawning ground and juvenile / nursery ground	Collaborate / share lessons / capacity building on private sector tuna development		
Tuna conference for CT6 countries per year to discuss issues relating to tuna	Tuna stock assessment	Capacity building on stock assessment / status / structure and EAFM		
Sustainable financing of the informal cooperation group	Regional / domestic stock assessment and identified spawning areas	Relevant training for capacity building for resource personnels		
Have a platform such as CT Atlas to map out migratory routes and nursery areas	TORs for research budget	Improve technology usage, improve training continuously, support addressing the issue		
	Tuna research on juvenile and nursery grounds	Support CTI regional e-catch documentation systems, continue these specific actions: juveniles, etc.		

Collaboration and Information sharing	Research	Capacity Building	Food Security and Livelihood	Policy
	Have CTI countries report juvenile tuna catch			
	Research - identify nursery grounds both regionally and country specific for protection			
	Support regional tuna research			
	Region-wide stock assessment of small and other tunas			

## V. Formulation of the Terms of Reference for the Informal Tuna Forum

After all the discussions and the sharing of ideas and insights the group recognized the need to establish an informal tuna forum where all related issues and concerns on shared, straddling and highly migratory species in the CT Region can be discussed and addressed. To establish the informal regional fisheries cooperation platform, the group drafted the following general objectives, functions, and scope and membership.

### Objectives of the Informal Forum

The objectives of the informal forum are shown below in no particular order. The working group agreed that all the objectives are equally important:

- Foster a collaborative and cooperative approach to fisheries management of straddling and highly migratory species in the Coral Triangle
- Strategize collective actions to find integrated solutions that will promote food security and livelihood through: increased social and economic and environmental benefits to the fishing industry, governments and coastal communities; empowerment of small-scale tuna fisheries; and restoration and maintenance of tuna resources of each country at sustainable levels
- Provide an avenue to discuss, empower and collectively communicate, and take leadership to the RFMOs considering individual country needs and policies

### Functions of the Informal Forum

1. Identify priority issues for sustainable artisanal and commercial tuna fisheries management and develop solutions.

2. Increase influence on RFMOs, acting collaboratively as a collective voice e.g. on other attendant issues arising from application of the EAFM approach.
3. Discuss attendant issues / solutions on tuna management challenges unique to CT member states e.g. i) the archipelagic nature; ii) the importance of small scale fishing; iii) the presence of straddling species; and, iv) the significance of small tunas and neritic species that are not addressed by RFMOs.
4. Develop a collaborative work program on fishery issues and providing incentives in the protection of spawning and nursery areas, financing mechanism, research and information sharing. One of the incentive mechanism may be in the form of preferential access on tuna fishing grounds.
5. Identify, explore, secure resources to address management, research and capacity needs for tuna stock recovery and sustainable management.
6. Develop a strategy to strengthen the fisheries sector learning from the experience of the Pacific region as it gears up as a single economic bloc under ASEAN integration.
7. Provide platform for relevant and appropriate information sharing and support.
8. Contribute to food security and livelihood generation for artisanal tuna fisheries and communities.

### **Scope and Membership of the Informal Forum**

The Informal Forum was agreed to be sub-group of the CTI EAFM TWG. The sub-group can be a different set of focal points from the EAFM TWG and maybe composed of government representatives working on tuna. Further, the outcomes of the regional workshop included recommendations for the membership and a roadmap that will lead to the establishment of the informal forum for tuna governance.

1. Core platform members could be official representatives, technical advisers, resource persons, and / or focal point for EAFM of Coral Triangle country national fisheries agencies.
2. Additional members could include national fisheries agency representatives from neighboring countries for bilateral and multilateral cooperation.
3. Technical support could be achieved through participation by national fisheries research organizations and regional organizations e.g. the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA).
4. Technical support provided by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), fishing industries and relevant stakeholders.

### **VI. Planning Workshop**

The last session of the day was about generating ideas, activities, action steps, or events that will lead towards making the informal forum fully operational / functional by 2020. In addition, the identified activities or events should address the five (5) priority areas agreed by the group earlier during the priority setting workshop. Participants were also tasked to think about what needs to happen between 2017 until 2020 with the end goal of having an operational and functional informal platform. Below is the raw output from the session.

**Table 2: Informal Tuna Forum Roadmap**

2017	2018	2019	2020
TWG to agree on the Terms of Reference	Initial meeting of informal consultative tuna governance mechanism	CTI members trained on stock assessment	Platform fully operational
Agree and finalize the Terms of Reference	SPC agrees to conduct stock assessment training for CTI member countries to build capacity	Policy and livelihood requirements developed	Conference outcomes of all CTI countries
Consultation with all stakeholders of CT6	Attendance and participation at WCPFC	All RFMOs inviting CT6 tuna participation	Full implementation of the actions
Report to SOM, the (1) results of the informal meeting, and (2) proposed work plan	Budget developed and funding to support work plan secured	Implementation of the Plan of Action	Informal platform adopted as a formal platform
Develop rules of procedure	Undertake all research requirements	Continue and improve assessment on the actions	
Organize a conference to address issues of regional fisheries operations	Conduct meeting to share lessons learned and funding strategy	Workshop to assess / follow-up on proposed activities in workplan	
Present this concept to individual member country's competent authority to gain support for tuna governance in the CT Region	Identify and implement actions to address issues of regional fisheries operations		
SOM to endorse the (1) result of the informal meeting, (2) Tuna Working Group under EAFM Working Group, and (3) work plan and fundraising strategy	Ministerial endorsement		
CTI Secretariat to endorse documents to governments	Establish informal tuna consultative (development) committee		
TOR endorsed by SOM	Identify priority issues for sustainability		

2017	2018	2019	2020
Country representatives / focal points identified and authorized	Develop solutions to address issues		
	Develop regional plan of actions		
	Propose budgeting		
	Tuna conference		
	CTI Secretariat endorse to RFMOs		

## VII. Closing

The Co-Chair of the EAFM TWG, Mr. Horacio Guterres, extended his gratitude to the participants and organizers of the Tuna Governance Workshop especially the Philippine Government for hosting the event. He was glad that the workshop was a productive event given the ideas and experiences shared during the different sessions. He hoped that the ideas will be helpful not just for the working group but also for the individual countries.

The Chair of the EAFM TWG, Ms. Rosalie Masu, also thanked the participants and organizers of the event, particularly the World Wide Fund for Nature for being the technical lead for both the Fishers Forum and the Tuna Governance Workshop. The Chair appealed to all CT6 representatives and officials to socialize the results of the workshop to their respective country. The political support to this effort is also important so the recommendations can be easily passed during the SOM.

## Annex 1: List of Participants

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## Annex 2: Workshop Program

### Regional Workshop on the Sustainable Management of Shared, Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish in the Coral Triangle Region

7<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Smallville 21 Hotel, Iloilo City, Philippines

#### Agenda Outline

##### Overall Objective:

Provide opportunity for member countries, development partners and other stakeholders to discuss the establishment of a platform for collaboration on the sustainable management of tuna as well as other important fishery resources that are shared and/or straddling in the Coral Triangle region.

Time	Agenda	Resource Person
8:30	Arrival and Registration	Secretariat
9:00	Session 1: Opening Ceremonies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening Remarks</li> <li>• Welcome Remarks</li> <li>• Introduction of Participants</li> </ul>	Host Country
9:30	Session 2: Background and Objectives of the Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop Objectives</li> <li>• Context</li> <li>• Presentation: Why the need for an informal Tuna Governance Mechanism in the Coral Triangle</li> </ul>	Facilitator Regional Secretariat EAFM Chair
10:00	Morning Tea / Group Photo	
10:30	Session 3: Facilitated discussion on the merits to establish an informal governance mechanism, such as a Regional Fisheries Co-operation platform  Breakout groups: Identify/agree potential priority issues for the Regional Fisheries Co-operation to address and report back  Reference material: Tuna Governance Discussion Document and draft Terms of Reference on a mechanism for <i>Sustainable Management of Shared, Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish in the Coral Triangle Region</i>	Plenary  By group
12:30	Lunch	

Time	Agenda	Resource Person
1:30	Session 4: Facilitated discussion to define the general function, scope and objectives and membership of this informal regional fisheries co-operation platform  Breakout groups and report back.	By group
3:00	Afternoon Tea	
3:30	Session 5: Facilitated discussion to identify the pathway and process forward including and identifying the Working Group or Task Group to lead the process and to develop a roadmap for the establishment of the Regional Fisheries Co-operation  Breakout groups and report back.	By group
4:30	Summary of the outcomes Decisions Next steps	Facilitator
5:00	Wrap up and close	Facilitator