

Cooperation between SEAFDEC and CITES

Capacity building in Southeast Asia



The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is a Regional Fishery Body (RFB) mandated to develop and manage the fisheries potential of the region by rational utilization of the resources for providing food security and safety to the people and alleviating poverty through transfer of new technologies, research and information dissemination activities.

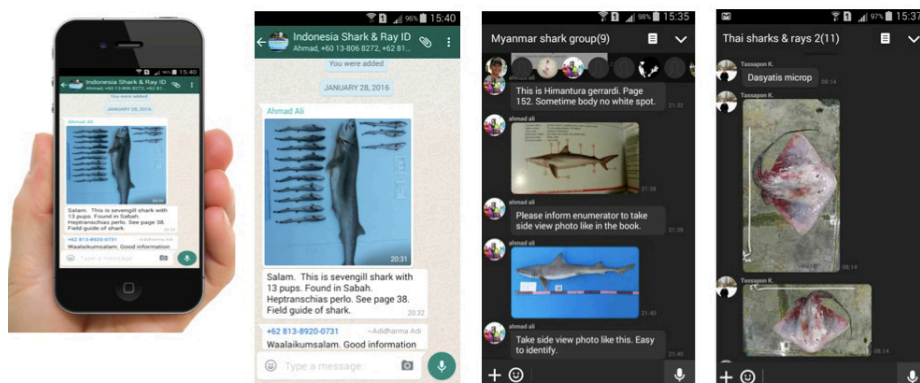
In Southeast Asia, the recent listing of commercially captured shark and manta ray species in the CITES Appendices has led to concerns about the difficulties in assessing the status of sharks stocks and in planning and implementing management measures for sharks. SEAFDEC was asked by its Member Countries to address such concerns.

In Southeast Asia, sharks are considered as non-target catch. Even though the Southeast Asian waters have one of the richest elasmobranch diversity (sharks, rays and skates), the status of these resources and their utilization are still largely undetermined due to insufficient data on catch, landings at species level, and trade as well as limited information on the biological parameters of many elasmobranch species. SEAFDEC has initiated regional activities to improve sharks conservation/management in Southeast Asia.

In 2015, SEAFDEC carried out a one-year regional project on sharks and rays data collection in relevant countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The project consisted of:

- compiling information on shark data collection
- national workshops and training sessions on sharks identification for enumerators
- recording of landing data at species level
- validation of data, mid-term evaluation
- final review of national and regional reports

Data collection at selected landing sites would be completed during the third quarter of 2016. All information is collected based on the Standard Operational Procedures on Sharks Data Collection developed through the project to ensure that recording and analysis are standardized at the regional level.



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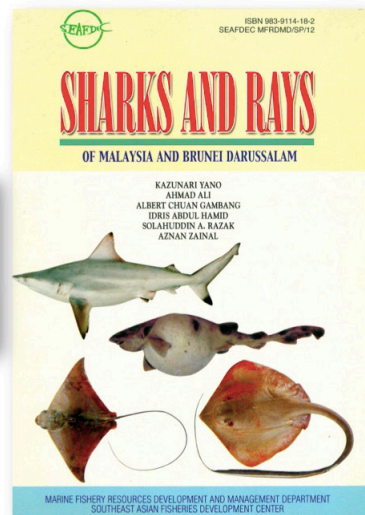
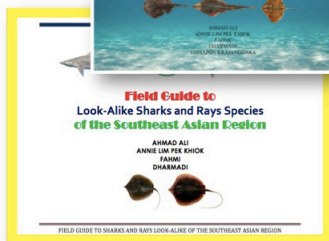
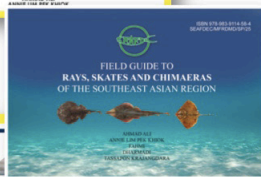
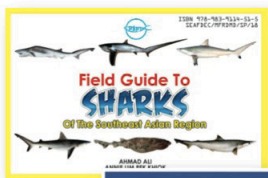
Outcomes and lessons

- ✓ Compiled and published results from one-year data collection in Southeast Asia (total catch and landing of sharks at landing sites; new record of sharks species in the participating countries, etc.)
- ✓ Taxonomic information of sharks and manta rays caught in the Southeast Asian region collected
- ✓ Trained enumerators making correct and valid identification of species at landing sites during data collection activities
- ✓ Compiled information on the utilization of sharks and manta rays
- ✓ Translated field guides on sharks and rays species identification in Vietnamese and Cambodian languages

Looking into the future...

- National activities in recording sharks and manta rays landing by local enumerators could be expanded to cover the whole countries participating in the project
- Data from ASEAN member states on sharks and rays landing up to species level could be included in the compilation of data for the Fishery Statistical Bulletin of Southeast Asia
- Plastic (waterproof) sharks and manta rays species identification sheets for use by local enumerators in Southeast Asian countries

► For more information about SEAFDEC and its activities: www.seafdec.org



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