

RESOLUTION

on Sustainable Live Reef Food Fish Trade for the Southeast Asian and CTI-CFF Member Countries

We, country delegates from the fisheries ministries of the member states of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reef, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) who participated in the Live Reef Food Fish Trade (LRFFT) Inter-Governmental Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand on 31 January and 1 February 2013

Guided by the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action:

Acknowledging the importance of LRFFT as a significant economic activity with huge impacts on the region's valuable reef ecosystems and the food security of people who depend on fisheries for livelihood;

Recognizing that most major LRFFT species have been categorized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as near-threatened, vulnerable or endangered;

Noting that LRFFT continues to spread across the region, largely in response to declining supply, and that supply cannot keep up with demand;

Conceding that supply and demand problems cannot be solved simply by mariculture and aquaculture because mariculture/aquaculture and capture fisheries are highly interrelated and interlinked;

Understanding the complexity of the trade and its trans-boundary nature;

In response to the challenges to sustaining the trade and its resource base and the opportunities for achieving sustainability in the long term;

DO HEREBY RESOLVE, without prejudice to the sovereign rights, obligations and responsibilities of the countries under relevant international laws and agreements, to:

1. Establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that may involve the following actions in support of LRFF:
 - Identification of spawning aggregation areas and other trans-boundary ecosystems that may be included in the Coral Triangle Marine Protected Area System (CTMPAS);
 - Establishment of fish *refugia* to protect LRFF species both inside and outside MPAs.

2. Develop Accreditation System that includes incentives/disincentives designed to encourage LRFF suppliers/traders to follow sustainable and fair trade practices. To complement the system, each country may:
 - Establish a network of cyanide testing laboratories to detect violations and promote compliance;
 - Identify and collaborate with independent bodies to monitor and check LRFF exports and to complement the government's regulatory system;
 - Designate export hubs for shipment of LRFF to simplify trade and streamline regulation;
 - Consider, among others, the following conditions for accreditation: a) Proof that export commodity comes from sustainable sources; b) Proof of sustainable management of reef ecosystem; c) Certificate of compliance issued by an independent body designated to monitor and check LRFF; d) Permit to export from designated shipment hubs.

3. Consider developing and establishing necessary and appropriate reporting system to promote consistency in data collection, reporting processes and traceability. The basic information may include species, date caught, size, fishing area, and others as may be required.

4. Address IUU issues related to LRFF¹ in respective countries and extend cooperation to prevent trans-boundary IUU fishing and illegal trading practices.

5. Promote collaboration among participating countries through a regional forum modeled after the Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) and encourage each country to develop and establish appropriate local and national fora to promote information exchange, collaboration and continuous dialogue among all stakeholders.

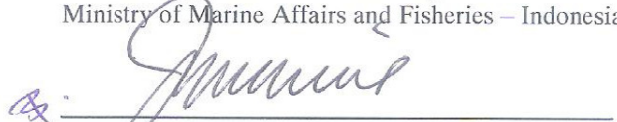
The parties likewise agreed to designate SEAFDEC as the Interim Secretariat with support from CTI-CFF Interim Regional Secretariat and the US CTI Support Program.

¹ Consistent with parties' obligations under RPQA-IUU

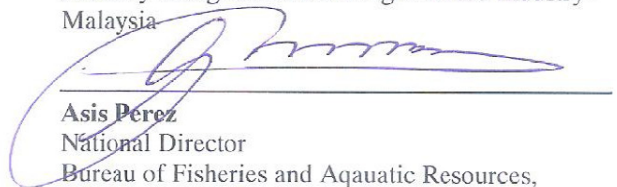
Done this 1st Day of February 2013 at Centrepoint Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand



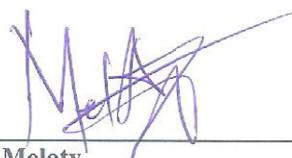
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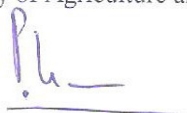
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