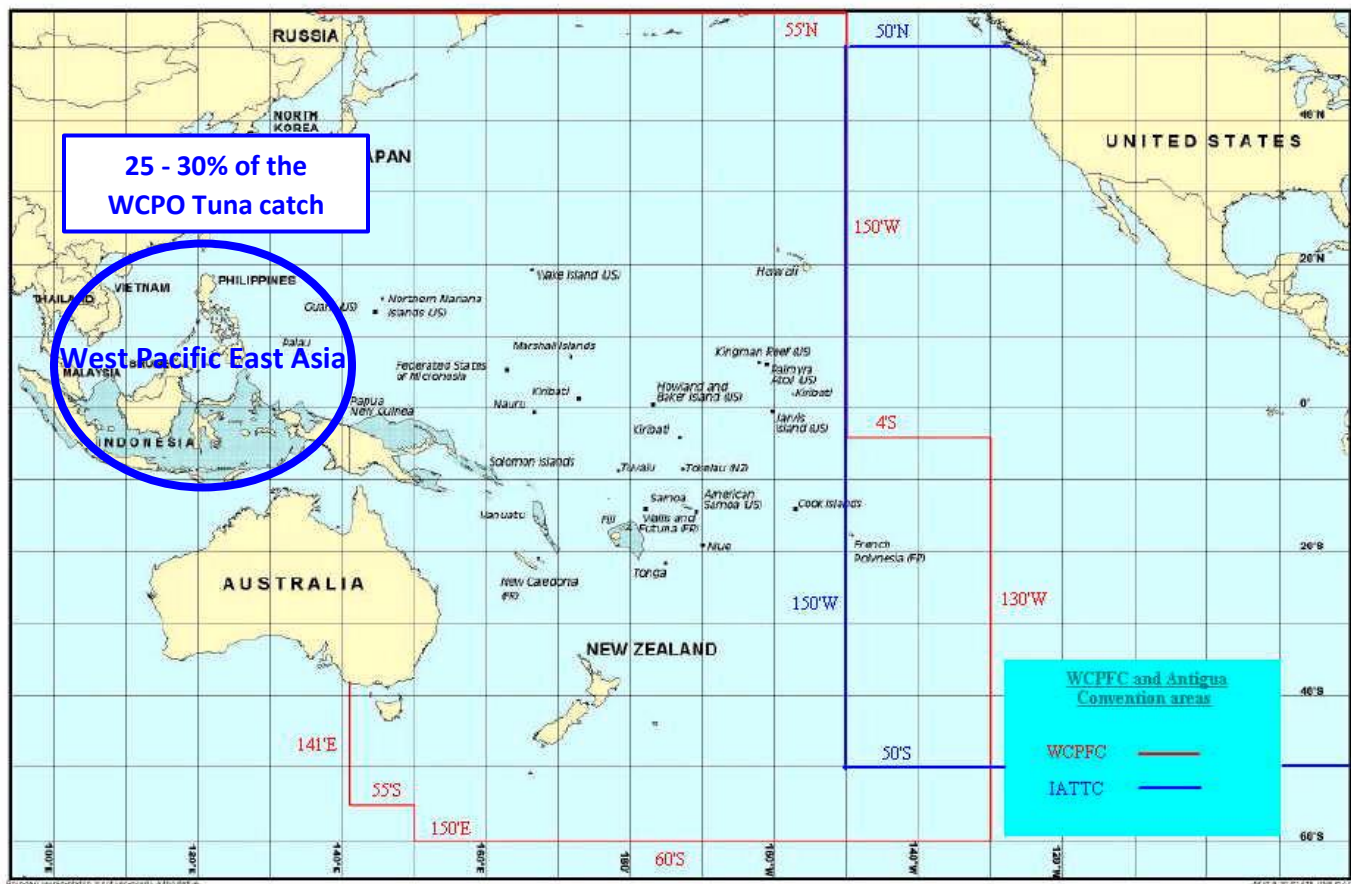




## Sustainable Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the West Pacific and East Asian Seas Project

The Project's main objective is to strengthen national capacities (**Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam**) and regional cooperation to implement fishery sector reforms that will sustain and conserve highly migratory fish stocks in the West Pacific Ocean and East Asian Seas while considering climate variability and change.



### What is this project about - the issue, interventions, and impacts?

Tuna fisheries in the East Asian Seas have been threatened by illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and ineffective monitoring, control and surveillance. The West Pacific East Asia project intends to support government taking an initiative to remove such main barriers and maintain sustainable fisheries management of highly migratory tuna species by strengthening national

capacities in fishery monitoring and management and regional cooperation through the establishment of a regulatory framework. The project has three components:

- i) to strengthen the regional collaborative mechanisms for monitoring and assessment of highly migratory fish stocks including adoptative management against climate change;
- ii) to enforce compliance with existing legal instruments, introduce market-based approach to sustainable fisheries, enhance stock-status-based fisheries management and application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management to tuna management; and
- iii) to establish a regional knowledge sharing platform.



### **Who are the beneficiaries of this project?**

The beneficiaries of the project are the three participating countries (Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam), including key national governmental agencies and appropriate local level (provincial) government offices related with tuna fisheries. However, the role and decision making of the governments are subject to views of fishing industries and associations who are also intensively involve in this project. NGOs are also invited and collaborate with this project to enhance their capacity in tuna management at the regional level. Through this project, sustainable tuna fisheries and ecosystem well-being will provide benefits to all stakeholders and consumers in the end with sustainable employment and food supply.

### **How have project interventions improved people's livelihoods?**

WPEA aims to improve the capacity of the government to properly manage their tuna resources through regional and sub-regional cooperation, including activities among the participating three countries and within the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). Data collection and incorporation of those into regional stock assessments remarkably reduced the highest sources of uncertainties in predicting stock status and subsequent management actions. Although the effectiveness of a good monitoring and management system can be evaluated on a longer term basis, that is, after 5-10 years or for next generation, but the current models of project activities for the monitoring and management of tuna fisheries guarantee a long-term sustainability of tuna fisheries and resources. Such sustainability will guarantee stable supply of seafood for the livelihood not only the fishermen who are involved in tuna fisheries themselves but also all processing companies and consumers.

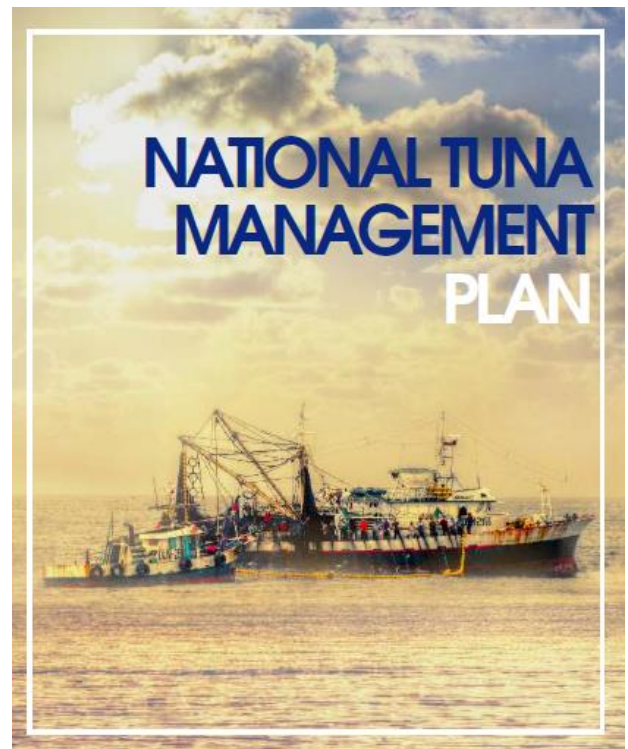
## What are the notable accomplishments of this project?

Tuna catch data collection from port sampling continued in the three countries, especially, the government of the Philippines that continued to provide all financial resources to strengthen data collection and monitoring. There are several heavy topics in this project that can be hardly implemented under the current budget scale. These are adaptive fishery management against climate change, establishment of a harvest strategy framework and market-based approach to sustainable fisheries and application of ecosystem approach to fisheries management. However, through prior studies on these topics, the project team has some confidence on how to address these inherent shortcomings and produce tangible outputs to reach the project targets.



## Most significant change that has resulted from the project

In this project, the major beneficiaries are governments from the three (3) participating countries. Governments are functioning along with their laws and regulations. Establishing a harvest strategy framework in the country including setting reference points and harvest control rules is not an easy task at national level but both Indonesia and Philippines had fishery regulations and orders to establish such management framework within a limited time. In Vietnam, the Legal Office under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development thoroughly reviewed their national tuna management plan (NTMP) for future possibility of legalizing the document. All three countries developed policies on issues related to climate change, market-based approaches to sustainable fisheries, harvest strategies, and application of the EAFM to tuna fisheries, which are reflected into their revised NTMP. It is recognized that one lesson learnt from this project is that any legislation that needs to be implemented by government should undergo thorough public consultation with stakeholders. It is also important to work with key stakeholders and concerned government staff and agencies to let them understand the need of legislating relevant regulations.



## **Project Innovative Solutions to Attain Project Objectives**

The Project identified various activities that would help address project objectives and also attain its targets. These would include activities from various components.

### **Outcome 1: Regional governance for building regional and national adaptive capacity of Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam in the management of highly migratory stocks**

All three countries comply with WCPFC requirements, and relevant CMMs with Members and cooperating non-members are required to comply with WCPFC requirements and relevant CMMs, according to CMM for compliance monitoring scheme (CMS). TCC reviewed and evaluated the status of CCMs' compliance level as noted in the WCPFC's compliance report. The three countries made compliance improvements.

Each country commenced to establish reference points and harvest control rules, the results of which were shared with other countries. A three-country, sub-regional workshop has been convened on annual basis, and a theme of the 2016 sub-regional workshop was introduction and establishment of a harvest strategy framework at national level, where an international expert was invited and the situation and progress of each country on this topic were shared.

WCPFC and PEMSEA signed a Letter of Grant for the development and implementation of a WPEA project portal and monitoring and evaluation reporting system. As a project coordination, a WPEA portal within the PEMSEA Resource Facility is on the process of populating the site and a final report on sustainable tuna fisheries for blue economy will be soon published.

### **Outcome 2: Implementation of policy, institutional and fishery management reform**

Legal instruments fully compatible with WCPFC requirements, and compliance with WCPFC management requirements, including compliance with CMMs, ROP, RFV and application of reference points, and harvest control rules. Sub-regional collaborative governance on tuna fisheries were established.

Establishing tuna fishery governance at sub-regional level is establishing a system covering economic, political and administrative issues. This includes establishing principles and goals, organizations, infrastructure, operational procedure, measures and evaluation process among the three participating countries.



Though this kind of sub-regional governance system cannot be fully realized because of insufficient resources and manpower, the three countries had a sub-regional workshop on an annual basis to discuss common issues, including identification of areas for future cooperation and collaboration.

Sub-regional Workshop covers data issues, IUU fishing and traceability, climate change issues, standardization of CPUE units, collaboration at WCPFC meetings, developing a harvest strategy framework, and reduction of juvenile tuna catch and FAD use. One consultative forum with other regional organizations is planned to be convened in early 2019.

Participation in WCPFC's technical processes enhanced through full participation in WCPFC technical meetings (SC, TCC and other technical WG meetings). WPEA project supports 1-2 delegates from the three countries mostly to SC meetings and only one for Vietnam to attend at a TCC meeting. However, the project supports 1-2 delegates to the Tuna Data Workshop annually to compile their tuna catch data for their annual total catch estimates.

Supply chain characterized for tuna fishery sector, including processing, and custody systems established for tuna fisheries. Individual countries implemented activities to satisfy objectives of this component.



Integration of data from oceanic tuna fisheries in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam into regional assessments of target tuna species. Preliminary sub-regional assessments undertaken with available data and assessment model. This task requires a high-level expertise and resources for data compilation and modeling work, preliminary assessments such as CPUE standardization and analysis, data sharing MOU among the participating countries, among others. Currently, SPC-OFP is conducting stock assessments for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tuna in this region and data from the three countries have been useful inputs for these stock assessments. National level assessments have been conducted by the three countries for their fisheries including tunas.

Documentation and monitoring of retained species and by-catch, including ETP species, in all fisheries/gears are in place through port sampling and observer programs of each country. Risk assessment analysis has been conducted by each country and results were presented during the three country workshop in Vietnam this October 2018.

Incorporation of EAFM principles in national tuna management plan (NTMP) and pilot scale application of EAFM for oceanic species in selected sites/fisheries have been implemented. The structure of the Revised NTMP (Philippines) follows the EAFM framework with three (3) goals: Goal 1: Sustainable Level of Tuna Production; Goal 2: Improved condition of fisherfolk and equitably accessed tuna resources; and Goal 3: Strengthened governance/ management of tuna fisheries. The revised NTMP includes issues, objectives, indicators, management actions and expected outcomes, which conforms to the concepts, principles and priorities of the EAFM framework.

### Outcome 3: Knowledge sharing on highly migratory fish stocks

Countries once a year share information which contributes to development of harvest policy for oceanic tunas across the relevant LMEs and within the WCPFC framework; project coordinates with the EAS Program through the PEMSEA Resource Facility. A Three-country Workshop is convened annually, and there are partial coordination with PEMSEA.

Active website maintained in collaboration with PEMSEA, and commitment to preparation and dissemination of project publication, newsletters and other information products: A WPEA website is under development at PEMSEA Resource Facility.

Increased participation of the three countries in international and sub-regional knowledge sharing events (one per year), such as IWLearn and related activities, the PEMSEA's EAS Congress, and WCPFC technical meetings/workshops were representatives of the three countries used to attend.



#### Website:

The WPEA website has been developed under the PEMSEA ([www.pemsea.org](http://www.pemsea.org)) facility but populating the website is on progress, targeting to finish by the end of 2018: <http://wpea.jaggedperspective.com/user>

Visit WCPFC website meeting pages ( <https://www.wcpfc.int/meetings> ) for the countries annual reports and also refer to WPEA reports on the document list on the meeting webpage.

Size of Poster: W33" (84 cm) x H80" (203 cm)