

Chapter 3 PROJECT EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION

3-1 Project Benefits

3-1-1 Direct Benefits

The existing fishery research and training vessels at the SEAFDEC Training Department are superannuated, making it impossible to conduct scientific fishery resource studies and fishery training programs geared to stock management, which form the basis for the comprehensive management of marine resources that is so critical for the ASEAN region, particularly its developing nations. The subject Plan will provide the SEAFDEC Training Department with funding for the construction of a Fishery Research and Training Vessel (of about 208 gross international tons) as well as procurement of fishing gear, fishing machinery, and survey equipment. The Plan is expected to provide benefits to the approximately 10.9 million fishing population in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Based on Plan implementation, it will become possible to carry out fishery stock surveys in coastal waters off Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam and obtain scientific fish stock data for these target areas, thereby deepening understanding in utilizing their marine resources.

These benefits may be described on the basis of the following indices.

a) An increase in the number of research days dedicated to stock surveys in the coastal waters of the five target countries.

It will be possible to conduct 100 days per year of stock surveys in the target waters that have hitherto not been undertaken due to superannuation of the two existing research and training vessels attached to SEAFDEC.

Furthermore, training programs can be conducted in the five target countries to promote the use of new gear and fishing methods and diffuse the responsible fisheries, thereby promoting proper resource utilization. These benefits may be described on the basis of

the following indices.

b) An increase in the number of on board training days per year, oriented to responsible fisheries and targeted at fishers in Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Owing to superannuation of the existing SEAFDEC research and training vessels, on board training days dedicated to sustainable fisheries during 2001 declined to only 12 days. However, with the Plan Vessel, the level can be expected to reach 50 days per year.

3-1-2 Indirect Benefits

In addition to the above direct benefits, the following indirect benefits can be expected from Plan implementation.

a) As a result of an improved understanding in utilizing marine resources in the coastal waters of Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam, governments will be possible to develop appropriate resource management policies, thereby insuring coastal fishermen stable engagement in sustainable fisheries.

b) Based on wider use of gear and fishing methods conducive to responsible fisheries, coastal marine resources can be properly utilized, resulting in higher fishery income levels.

3-2 Recommendations

3-2-1 Funding for the SEAFDEC Training Department

SEAFDEC appropriations from its member nations have been declining. To cope with the financial problems that have arisen from declining revenues, SEAFDEC has been obliged to consider introducing a system of cost-sharing, whereby beneficiary countries would defray a portion of the costs of the particular projects yielding these benefits. Under this system, in the case of the subject Plan as well, the beneficiary countries would be called on to share a portion of vessel operating expenses. However, since, by the very objectives of the project, the beneficiary countries are limited to developing nations, we believe that the shared costs would presumably be confined to local expenses, such as the

provision of food, water, and labor associated with on-vessel survey and training activities.

Operating and maintenance costs for the Plan Vessel during its initial operating year are projected at about 7.6% of average annual revenues and 12.3% of the average annual surplus at the SEAFDEC Training Department over the 1998 to 2000 period, while after 8 years of service, they will rise to about 12.2% of annual revenues and consume almost the entire annual surplus recorded during those years.

If average annual revenues at this Department were to decline some 12% from 1998-2000 levels, there is a possibility that, after 8 years of service, the Department would be hard pressed to cover maintenance costs for the Plan Vessel. Accordingly both the SEAFDEC Secretariat and its Training Department will be required to make stringent efforts to maintain Training Department revenues at recent levels and curtails expenditures.

3-2-2 Connection with Other Donor Programs

The coastal stock survey and training programs, oriented to proper utilization of marine resources, that are to be conducted by the Plan Vessel will be implemented jointly by SEAFDEC and the beneficiary countries. However, were these survey and training programs to be linked to cooperative and funding projects in the beneficiary countries from other donors, universities, and scientific research organizations, we believe that even better results could be obtained from Plan implementation. Furthermore, based on such linkage to other donor programs, the cost-sharing burden for beneficiary countries could also be alleviated. When drafting the research and training programs, therefore, it is hoped that SEAFDEC and the various beneficiary nations will actively pursue cooperative relationships with donors, universities, and research organizations with a view toward tying in these programs with Plan Vessel operations.