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### TRANSBOUNDARY FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND COOPERATION ACROSS THE LOWER MEKONG BASIN

**SESSION 2 : TRANSBOUNDARY FISHERIES AND WATER MANAGEMENT** 

Dr. Lai Tung Quan

**Fisheries Management Specialist – MRC Secretariat** 



### What does transboundary mean?



- Transboundary is often assumed to mean at international borders, however no universal agreement of what 'transboundary' means
- MRC approach to use "transboundary" to mean cooperation between MCs in all fields of sustainable development, utilisation, management and conservation of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin
  - Tonle Sap is example of key fish area but not at or near an international border.
- Successful transboundary management measures are determined by cumulative national actions.

## What is MRC mandate for fisheries management

- As an advisory body to LMB governments, MRC strives to foster regional efforts towards sustainable management and development of the Mekong fisheries, including through
  - sharing of technical know-how on fisheries management,
  - raising awareness on the sector's significance for the Mekong's environment and its people, and
  - promoting an integrated approach with other sectors.

# A Standard Contraction

# **Fish monitoring**

- evaluate the status and trends in fish stocks in the LMB for management purposes;
- monitor spatial and temporal changes in fish catch composition and abundance;
- evaluate the contribution of fish species, guilds and fishing habitats/ecological zones to the fisheries of the LMB and improve understanding of the environmental factors driving fish species composition and abundance;
- evaluate the status of species of conservation concern; and
- evaluate diversity and abundance of introduced (nonnative) species in the LMB.



# **Fish monitoring**

- 38 fisheries dependent monitoring stations
  - Total catch rates (Catch Per Unit Effort CPUE)
  - Species diversity indices (Richness, Evenness)
  - Population structure (Length-frequency distribution)
  - Relative abundance (number and biomass by species)







a) Total catch, b) Total hours fished, c) Average hours fished per fisher and d) CPUE: 2018-2022

#### Fish monitoring 2018-2022





#### Fish monitoring 2018-2022



# Fish monitoring 2018-2022









# Fish market survey

- Species traded
- Quantity
- Prices







|          | Small           | Medium          | Large     |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Cambodia | $1.05 \pm 0.46$ | $1.93{\pm}0.56$ | 2.39±0.66 |
| Lao PDR  | $2.87 \pm 1.04$ | 4.57±1.06       | 6.5±1.29  |
| Thailand | $5.65 \pm 0$    | $2.33 \pm 0.25$ | 5.16±1.18 |
| Vietnam  | $1.16\pm0.42$   | $1.94{\pm}1.34$ | 2.84±1.54 |





## **Fisheries Yield Assessment**

- Conduct every 5 years
  - Frame survey method
  - Fulltime, parttime, occasional fishing
  - Fish consumption
  - Floodplain, Rain-fed rice field, Permanent water body, Estuarine
- Fisheries Yield Assessment 2020
  - Finfish 1.51-1.71 million tonnes/year
  - OAA 443,000 tonnes/year
  - \$2.7 to \$2.9 billion based on first sale values (\$7-8.3 billion based on market value)



# **Threats to LMB Fisheries**

- Habitat degradation in the Mekong basin
- Loss of connectivity and migratory pathways
- Overfishing
- Climate Change
- Pollution



# What are issues preventing sustainable capture fisheries in the LMB

- Significantly undervalued capture fisheries.
- Under value of freshwater wetland ecosystems and its multiple services
- Cross sector coordination for transboundary fisheries resources management
- Weak national and regional mechanisms for replicating and scaling up successful outcomes/initiatives
- The lack of enforcement and inadequate institutionalization of national level legislation at local levels, such as co-management, sustainable harvesting and post-capture processing and good wetlands stewardship

#### Addressing the issues through Regional Coordination

- MRC supports its Member Countries through:
  - Basin-wide strategies such as the Mekong Basin-wide Fisheries Management and Development Strategy (BFMS) 2018-2022 which promotes dialogue, understanding, and learning to foster sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquatic resources in the LMB.
  - Monitoring programmes to track the status and trends of fisheries in the LMB to support national and regional planning and management.
  - Technical guidelines such as fisheries yield assessment, comanagement, etc to promote best practices for fisheries management and sustainable use of fisheries resources in the LMB.
  - **Studies and assessments** that increase knowledge and evidences for better management of fisheries.





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## Mekong Basin Development Strategy 2021 - 2030



#### five strategic priorities



related resources

condition



3

Enhance optimal and

development of water

and related sectors

sustainable

4

CLIMATE CHANGE

13 🚟

Strengthen resilience

against climate risks,

extreme floods and

droughts



5

Strengthen cooperation

among all basin

countries and

stakeholders





STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AMONG ALL COUNTRIES AND STAKEHOLDERS



#### Mekong Basin Development Strategy 2021 – 2030 MRC STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025



#### PRIORITY 5: STRENGTHEN COOPERATION AMONG ALL COUNTRIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

| MRC effective implementation of 1995 egreement |                                   | Joint efforts & pertnerships |               |                |                      |                        |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| Implementation of the                          | Organisational development of the | Joint Basin                  | Mekong water  | Negotiation of | Savin-wide           | Common understanding   |  |
| MRC Procedures                                 | Mekang River Commission           | Expert Groups                | part nerstöps | joint projects | stakeholde: platform | on Mekong institutions |  |



# Thank you!



