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Thailand Report 2015 - A Summary Report of Progress on Ocean Related Issues

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Thailand report 2015
A summary report of progress on ocean related issues

In light of the increasing challenges, Thailand has been realizing of the need to conserve and sustain the ocean so that it can continue to meet the needs of the present without damaging the interests of future generations. In line with the Xiamen declaration, further progress made over the past year to advance sustainable management and conservation of ocean and coastal resources and ecosystems and sustainable development could be highlighted as following:

- 1) Promotion the sustainable management and protection of marine environment and resources are the prioritized issues of the government policies. Many strategies and activities have been developed and implemented in order to achieve sustainable management of fisheries and marine resources conservation. The most effectiveness is the concept of co-management; marine resources co-management has been promoted and actively involved by communities to work side-by-side with the government. Therefore, since 2006, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources has developed the Integrative Marine and Coastal Resources Act, which focuses on the participatory process of the people to enhance the sense of ownership toward marine and coastal resources, in terms of conservation and rehabilitation, including coastal erosion protection. This act is presently approved by the National Legislative Committee and will be entry into force in May 2015.
- 2) The cabinet approved the draft of the National Strategy on Maritime Security (2015-2019). Two of the most crucial strategies include:
 - a) Building the balance and sustainability of marine resource and environment. Due to the environment has been seriously destroyed in a wide area, resulting to the loss of biodiversity. This will lead to the serious impact in future. In addition the seeking for benefit from the sea without responsibility, the lack of policy or suitable strategy to control the exploitation of marine resources, the inefficient law enforcement and management, as well as the lack of cooperation from many sectors – all of these cause the rapid degradation of the environment.
 - b) Building peace and promoting the seeking benefit of the sea. This is to solve the economic conflict inside/ outside the economies, the law breaking and the lack of integration of using the benefit of the sea.
- 3) In order to cope with the current fisheries situation, revisions to the Fisheries Act (1947) have been made to be an important mechanism to help the fisheries problems in Fisheries sectors, and be a part to help in developing and making a progress in the fisheries sectors. The draft revisions have already been approved by the National Legislative Committee, and will be entry into force in April 2015. Substantial revisions to new Fisheries Act include:
 - a) Fisheries Management Scheme,
 - b) Public Participation,
 - c) Encouraging aquaculture and aquatic animals health (sanitary measures),
 - d) Port State Measures,
 - e) Measures to control Oversea Fisheries.
- 3) Food Security Projects comprising outstanding activities have been done by Department of Fisheries, for the purpose of enhancing dependable sources of food, namely;
 - a) Marine Resources Rehabilitation: the Restocking Program has been implemented by releasing millions of seed into natural waters in order to rehabilitate natural stock and to enhance food sources for human consumption.
 - b) The Research on Development of Breeding Technique and Breeding Program has been developed to help produce good raw materials for seafood production and reduce dependence on seafood derived from natural sources.
 - c) Village Fish Pond Project has been conducted to increase food sources in the rural area.
 - d) Post harvesting and processing technique were transferred to the people concerned dwelling in the abundant area in order to improve and enhance their preservation skill and to maintain good quality of fish, then to transfer their fish products to the deficient area.
