

## **Philippine Comments**

### **Agenda item 18: Building resilience of small-scale fisheries to ensure food security and nutrition in the Pacific**

#### **35th FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific**

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- 1) The Philippines agree that one of the strategies in building resilience in small-scale/near shore fisheries is to redirect their efforts from more vulnerable coastal /reef fisheries to other near shore pelagic resources that are more resilient and adoptive to climatic changes. In particular, these resources include neritic tuna, scads, mackerels, sardines and other small pelagic species.
- 2) Similar to other Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT), the Philippines aims to maximize the potential of nearshore pelagic fish stock to lessen the impact of fishing in most vulnerable coastal habitats and its resource. With this, the Philippines Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) capacitate and improve efficiencies of municipal fisherfolk for them to be able to better benefit from small pelagics resources in coastal/nearshore areas, thereby contributing to food security and improving their socio-economic well-being.
- 3) FAO may extend technical assistance to developing countries like the Philippines in ensuring that these fisheries resources are overexploited and their potentials are sustainably maximized to ensure food availability for domestic consumption.
- 4) The Philippines also agree on the need to address post-harvest losses, especially for small scale fisheries, as effective intervention considering the region's tropical conditions to ensure food availability for wider domestic consumption. The FAO may further technically support the PICT not just in reduction of losses across the supply chain but also in value-adding and product development in small scale sector. In particular, interventions may focus on improvements in the supply/value chains to improve availability of resources for domestic consumption.
- 5) The Philippines assures its support to FAO through technical assistance to other PICT on the responsible use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) as means to accelerate production from the small-scale nearshore fisheries. This is in view also as one of the targeted actions for small-scale fishing of underutilized oceanic species under 2015 Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries. As a model, the country has been using the distribution of FADs as a livelihood support to tuna handline fishing – a selective and sustainable method of fishing.