

PREVENTING A COLLAPSE IN SOUTH CHINA SEA FISH STOCKS



The South China Sea is geopolitically crucial and ecologically vulnerable. Millions of people rely on its fish for their livelihoods and nutrition.

A POTENTIAL CRISIS

Fish stocks have decreased by 70-95% in the South China Sea since the 1950s. Without careful management, stocks could suddenly collapse, damaging the economy, devastating the environment and destabilising societies.

NO ONE COUNTRY CAN MANAGE FISH STOCKS ALONE

Fish move across international boundaries, so their management requires international cooperation. Effective cooperation must be based on shared scientific consensus.



China



Indonesia



Malaysia



Philippines



Vietnam

The Regional Fisheries Science Working Group is a platform for scientists from the key coastal countries to build an evidence base for cooperative action.

1st COMMON FISHERIES RESOURCE ANALYSIS

Government-affiliated scientists in the Regional Fisheries Science Working Group from the five participating countries have completed the 1st Common Fisheries Resource Analysis (CFRA).

The 1st CFRA combines their expertise and analysis to build consensus on the status of Skipjack Tuna. They concluded that Skipjack Tuna is being fished at sustainable levels but risks demand ongoing regional monitoring.

IMPACT AND NEXT STEPS

The Regional Fisheries Science Working Group has demonstrated how countries can address common challenges in the South China Sea consistent with their obligations to cooperate under UNCLOS.

Scientists will continue working together to build the evidence base required to sustainably manage the South China Sea's valuable resources.