

Toward Addressing Fisheries Concerns through Implementation of Integrated Coastal Management

The East Asian Seas region has a very diverse, multi-species fishery sector. It is also a multi-gear, labor intensive activity and largely composed of small-scale fishers (although the contributions to production from commercial operations are very significant). As such, the harvesting of fish resources supports both food security and livelihood, particularly of coastal communities.

The challenges in fisheries management have always been complex because of the multiplicity of issues that are inherently embedded in larger sociopolitical and economic contexts. As with most regions in the world, overfishing in East Asia has significantly depleted and altered fish stocks and ecosystems (and their capacity to provide food and services as well). Open access has contributed immensely to the problem in addition to increasing population, habitat destruction and land-based pollution. The recent widespread impacts of environmental changes caused by climate change compound this complexity.

To address the challenges, PEMSEA (the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia) has developed and implemented a multi-faceted, comprehensive, ecosystem-based approach—the Sustainable Development of Coastal Areas (SDCA) Framework—to provide as comprehensive a platform as possible by which to achieve sustainable development goals in coastal areas. The SDCA Framework ensures more focus and accountability in coastal

