CHAIR'S SUMMARY

CTI-CFF Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM)
11th Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting
16 October 2026

Clark, Pampanga, Philippines

1. The 11th Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting was convened on the 16 October 2026 in Clark, Pampanga, Philippines and was attended by Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, and partners; Coral Triangle Center (CTC) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Coral Triangle Program (CTP), and observers.

2. Acknowledged and appreciated the conduct of the CTI-CFF Monitoring and Evaluation Regional Exchange (REX) and Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) Meeting, back-to-back with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) REX and Technical Working Group Meeting, hosted by the Government of the Philippines with support from BMUKN-IKI through the SOMACORE Programme and the United States Government, in Clark, Pampanga, on 12–16 October 2026.

3. Acknowledged and appreciated the opening remarks by the Regional Secretariat, delivered by the Deputy Director for Program Services, Mr. Christovel Rotinsulu on behalf of the Executive Director, Dr. Frank Griffin, emphasizing on the importance of regional collaboration.

4. Acknowledged and appreciated the welcome remarks delivered by Mr. Roy Ortega, on behalf of the Philippines Government, the Chair representative of the CTI-CFF Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Technical Working Group, who welcomed participants and reflected on the value of the preceding two days of EAFM REX engagement, emphasizing the breadth of topics covered and the importance of collaborative working across partners.

5. Acknowledged and appreciated the financial assistance by the US Government to the Regional Secretariat, contributing to the Monitoring Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) Regional Exchange (REX) and MEWG Meeting back-to-back with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) REX, and EAFM TWG Meeting in Clark Pampanga, Philippines on 12-16 October 2026.

6. Acknowledged and appreciated the deliberation of the 11th EAFM TWG Meeting Agenda by the CT6 member delegates. The 11th EAFM Meeting Agenda was adopted by the CTI-

CFF Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Technical Working Group Chair and seconded by the CT6 members at 9:31 AM.

7. Acknowledged and appreciated the CTI-CFF Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Technical Working Group delegates on updating the respective CTI-CFF EAFM focal points, noting the changes provided in this meeting by Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.

8. Acknowledged and appreciated the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat for the reporting and update on the status of the SOM-20 decisions and the CTI-CFF Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Technical Working Group (TWG) workplan and budget 2026.

9. Acknowledged and appreciated the words of appreciation from the CTI-CFF member countries on the report of the CTI-CFF Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Technical Working Group (TWG) workplan and budget 2026.

10. Acknowledged and appreciated Malaysia's recommendations on institutionalizing EAFM support; the Philippines' emphasis on close collaboration among working groups and a holistic approach involving the CTI-CFF and partners in implementing CTI-CFF activities; Solomon Islands on the removal of the MEWG related activity, and Timor-Leste's advice to seek partner support for activities planned for 2027.

11. Acknowledged and appreciated the CTI-CFF member countries' reports through the respective presentations on key highlights of EAFM implementation across the Coral Triangle, including alignment with RPOA 2.0 and national strategies and frameworks; national fisheries management approaches; data management systems; relevant policies and regulations; and key achievements, challenges, and support needs.

12. Acknowledged and appreciated the consolidated feedback by the Chair, Mr. Roy Ortega on the richness of the information and initiatives on the presentations shared by the countries, progress on respective national EAFM implementation which are grounded in national laws and frameworks, noting the importance of national data management on how EAFM activities are implemented. Further, noting the importance of implementation through participatory approach and encourages the CT6 members to develop adaptive plans noting that the fisheries is a dynamic industry which is highly impacted by several externalities; such as economics, climate change, and even the global state of affairs.

13. Acknowledged and appreciated the request from Timor-Leste government representatives for the other CT6 Member Countries to share their respective fisheries legislation through a learning exchange to strengthen Timor-Leste's capacity and facilitate knowledge-sharing among the Coral Triangle.

14. Acknowledged and appreciated the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Coral Triangle Program (CTP) for updating the CTI-CFF Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management

(EAFM) Technical Working Group (TWG) on the progress of their program, highlighting the EAFM Assessment conducted throughout Indonesia.

15. Acknowledged and appreciated the Regional Secretariat for presenting the proposed CTI-CFF Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Technical Working Group (TWG) Workplan and Budget 2027.

16. Acknowledged and appreciated the feedback and recommendations from the CT6 member countries on the proposed CTI-CFF Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Technical Working Group (TWG) Workplan and Budget 2027:

- Indonesia:
    - Encouraged prioritizing operational efficiency and the Regional Secretariat's proactive engagement with partners to secure funding for Monitor, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) and EAFM activities.
    - Emphasized gender-inclusive support and strengthened regional and national capacity building on EAFM and to combat IUU fishing and also encouraged optimizing the existing university network to enhance collaboration and knowledge-sharing.
- Malaysia:
    - Supported the 2027 Workplan and Budget, emphasizing that implementation should incur no additional costs to Member Countries and prioritizing capacity-building activities to strengthen national capabilities.
- Papua New Guinea:
    - Acknowledged the efforts of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and endorsed the proposed Workplan and Budget 2027.
- Philippines:
    - Encouraged the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat to explore partners' support in combating IUU Fishing and cross working group collaboration including Marine Spatial Planning.
    - Emphasizes the close collaboration with other Technical Working Groups.
- Solomon Islands:
    - Acknowledged and appreciated the efforts of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat on the proposed draft Workplan and Budget 2027.
    - Seeks clarification on the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and the NOAA partnership and further enquires on the opportunities to support National Coordinating Committee network including the Community Based Organizations (CBO).
    - Encouraged the practical use of regional exchanges for efficient and practical use of learning and information sharing.
- Timor-Leste:

- Acknowledged the efforts of the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat and encouraged to strengthen the SAG/UP on Seascape sub-group level that has already been established.

17. Acknowledged and appreciated the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat for proposing the draft SOM-21 recommendations, and the deliberation and feedback from the CT6 member countries, capturing the draft to be presented in Pre-SOM.
18. Acknowledged the proposed agenda in "Other Matters" by the Chair on the Country Reporting Template by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat.
19. Acknowledged and appreciated the presentation on the Country Reporting Template by the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat during the "Other Matters" session.
20. Acknowledged and appreciated the intervention of the Chair in proposing that the CTI-CFF Regional Secretariat develop a video tutorial material to assist in filling in the Country Reporting Template.
21. Acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the chair-ship of Mr. Roy C. Ortega, Chief Fisheries Regulations Officer of the Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), Philippines, representing National Director Elizer S. Salilig, and the presence of the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management TWG co-chair, Ms. Faye Siota, Deputy Director, Inshore Fisheries Division from Solomon Islands during the 11th CTI-CFF EAFM Working Group Meeting.