

# **The Effects of the APEC Early Voluntary Sectoral Liberalization (EVSL) on the Fish and Fish Products Sector\***

**Ms. Marissa M. P. Macam  
Ms. Cristina M. Bautista  
Dr. Leonardo Llanzona**

## **Abstract**

This paper examines the likely effects of the EVSL on the fish and fish products sector, including the problems that prevent it from benefiting fully from the proposal. A competitive and efficient sector will not likely experience adverse consequences from the EVSL. The findings of the paper indicate that fresh and frozen shellfish and prepared and preserved fish have shown potential export competitiveness in the world market relative to the other fish sub-sectors and thus can be offered to EVSL. However, although prepared and preserved fish can also be able to compete, these products seem vulnerable to face greater competition.

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\* The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the official views of the Philippine government in general, and/or the WTO/AFTA Advisory Commission in particular. This industry paper was prepared to provide some basic or background information; hence, in no way it is exhaustive. The intent is to offer the initial set of information for discussion and in the process, elicit the ideas that could be helpful in formulating the appropriate strategies in the development of this industry sector.

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